



Tacoma MHSUD Funding Assessment and Strategy

Presentation to Community Vitality and Safety Committee | September 14, 2023



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Introduction & Presentation Overview

ABOUT US



Helping communities and organizations create their best futures.

Founded in 1988, our passion is working in the public interest, helping public and nonprofit agencies address complex challenges and position themselves for success

TONIGHT'S PRESENTATION

- About the Sales and Use Tax for Chemical Dependency or Mental Health Treatment Services or Therapeutic Courts ([RCW 82.14.460](#))
- Project Objectives
- Project Approach and Timeline
- Question and Answer

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Mental Health & Chemical Dependency Sales Tax

- **A sales and use tax authorized for counties and Tacoma in 2005 to support communities in implementing cost containment measures by:**
 - Eliminating chronic jail recidivism
 - Assuring substance abuse and mental health treatment for vulnerable populations
 - Gaining appropriate use of community safety and emergency services
- **Must be used for new or expanded programs and services**
- **Allowed tax uses:**
 - Providing chemical dependency or mental health treatment programs and services
 - Therapeutic court programs and services
 - Modifying existing facilities to address health and safety needs for the provision of eligible services (added in 2019)

Programs and Services Include

Components of a coordinated chemical dependency or mental health treatment program or service, including but not limited to,

- treatment services,
- case management,
- transportation, and
- housing

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Tacoma's MHSUD Funding Timeline

<p>2005 Washington authorizes new sales tax for mental health and chemical dependency services, therapeutic courts, and housing.</p>	<p>2012 Tacoma City Council authorizes a 0.1% sales tax</p>	<p>2015 City Council adopts Tacoma 2025</p> 	<p>2017 - 2018 City dedicates \$10.0M for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder (MHSUD) services</p>	<p>2019 - 2020 City dedicates \$13.2M to MHSUD Services</p>	<p>2021 - 2022 City dedicates \$12.4M to MHSUD services</p>	<p>2023 - 2024 City dedicates \$17.1M to MHSUD services</p>
<p>2008 - 2010 State budget deficits lead to reduced funding at the local level. Limited services and rising need lead to increased demand on high-cost interventions such as jail and emergency rooms.</p>		 <p>2017 Tacoma City Council declares a state of emergency related to the condition of homeless encampments.</p>	<p>2020 Pierce County authorizes a 0.1% sales tax for behavioral health and therapeutic court programs.</p>	<p>2022 - 2023 Pierce County awards \$19.1M for behavioral health (BH) services.</p>	<p>2024 - 2025 Pierce County awards \$30M for behavioral health services.</p>	

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Current Funding Guided by Council Goals

2023 – 2024 Funding Priorities

- **Housing and Homelessness**– More affordable housing, increase homeownership, decrease in cost-burdened households/prevent homelessness, fewer encampments in Tacoma, reduce negative impacts of encampments, and increase transitional and stable housing.
- **Safety** – Improve perception of safety, and reduce the number of crimes committed.
- **Livable Wage Jobs** – Increase and improve workforce development, increase number of jobs in Tacoma, and increase support for local (small) business surviving through the pandemic.
- **Belief and Trust** – Build trust with police and community, increase (non-police) presence in the community, find ways to engage with community to build belief and trust, and communicate more clearly and more often.
- **Health** –Increase access to health opportunities and conditions, increase access to healthy food, achieve [Climate Action Plan](#) goals, keeping Tacoma’s environment clean and healthy, and improving mental and behavioral health outcomes.
- **Access** – Use an equity lens to improve access to investments, increase language access, and increase access to transportation and mobility.



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Project Purpose

KEY QUESTIONS

1. **How have MHSUD funds been used?**
 - Who has received funding?
 - For what is the funding used?
 - Who are the direct beneficiaries?
2. **How do the funded programs support the community goals and priorities?**
3. **What are the direct outcomes of the funding?**
4. **How can the City optimize its funding to achieve its priorities?**

Tacoma MHSUD Funded Agencies

- A Common Voice
- AHAT Home Care
- Bethlehem
- Bio Management
- Castele, Williams & Associates
- Catholic Community Services
- Community Youth Services
- Comprehensive Life Resources
- Consejo Counseling
- Point Defiance AIDS Projects
- Diversified
- Greater Lakes Mental Health
- House of Matthew
- Life Enrichment Group
- Lightstone Data
- Metropolitan Development Council
- Multicare Behavioral Health & Outreach Svcs
- New Phoebe House Association
- Pediatric Interim Care Center
- Pierce County Alliance
- Pierce County Juvenile Court
- Recovery Cafe
- Sentinel Pest Control
- Shiloh Baptist
- Sound Security/SONITROL
- Sound Sound Outreach Services
- Tacoma Community House/REACH
- Tacoma Fire Department
- Tacoma Pierce County Chaplaincy
- Tacoma Pierce County Health Department
- Tacoma Police Department
- Tacoma Public Schools
- Tacoma Urban League
- TeamChild
- The Rescue Mission
- The Salvation Army
- United Site Services of Nevada
- United Way of Pierce County
- Valeo Vocation



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Project Approach

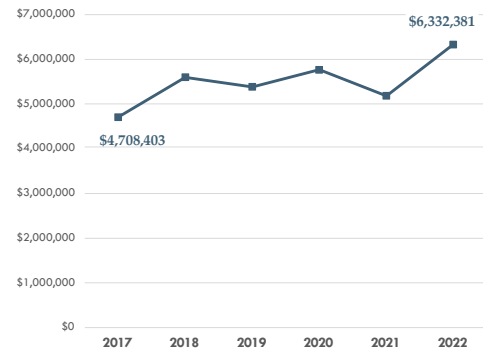
PART 1

- **Analyze historical fund use including:**
 - Proportion of funds by priority
 - Changes and patterns in organizations
 - Size and reach of programs and service

PART 2

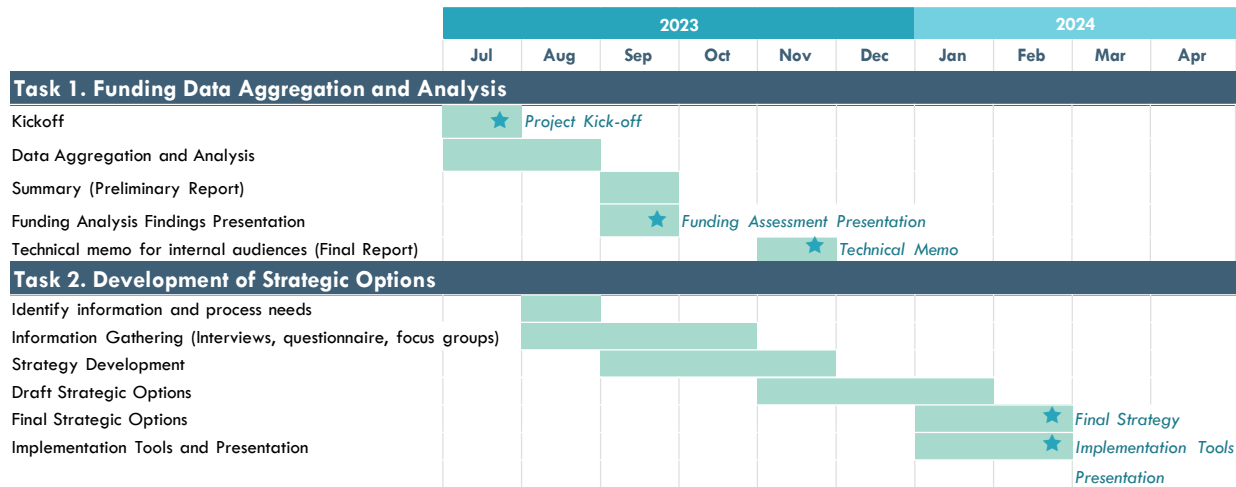
- **Gather feedback to inform future funding strategy:**
 - Role of MHSUD funding in the current ecosystem of services
 - Comparison of city and county MHSUD funding
 - System constraints and opportunities
 - Beneficiary preferences for types of services
- **Identify strategic options for improving funding process to increase effectiveness and address highest needs.**

**Tacoma MHSUD Contracts
2017 - 2022**



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Timeline



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Questions, Feedback, or Requests?



Community Vitality and Safety			
Committee Members: Ushka (Chair), Blocker (Vice-Chair), Rumbaugh, Daniels, Alternate-Hines		2nd and 4th Thursdays	CBC Assignments: Community's Police Advisory Committee • Human Services Commission • Human Rights Commission • Housing Authority • Commission on Disabilities • Library Board • Tacoma Community Redevelopment Authority • Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs
Executive Liaison: Jacques Colon; Staff Support - D'Angelo Baker		4:30 p.m.	
		Room 248	
	Topic	Presenter	Description
September 28, 2023	Crystal Judson Family Justice Center Update	Craig Roberts, Assistant Director at Crystal Judson Family Justice Center	Informational briefing/update on the work being done by the center.
	Health Metrics, Environmental Justice, and Achieving Equity	Jacques Colon, Office of Strategy	This presentation will examine how the City of Tacoma and partners are using health metrics to ensure progress is being made in achieving health equity and environmental justice in our community. This presentation will highlight data used in the Equity Index, Community Health Needs Assessments, Health Equity Assessment, and Climate Action Plan.
October 12, 2023	Amendments to Tacoma Municipal Code Chapter 8.17 - False Reports of Crime	Keith A. Echterling, Deputy City Attorney, City Attorney's Office	Staff recommends amending the TMC to adopt by reference the state law of False Reporting, RCW 9A.84.040, to update and expand the application capabilities of the TMC, to include appropriate prosecution of the knowing misuse of 911.
	Placeholder: Rental Housing Code Research		
	Rental Property Data Project	Danielle Larson, Tax & License Division Manager	Staff will provide an update on the efforts and timeline to develop a system that will enable the City to capture certain rental property data through the business licensing process.
October 26, 2023	Placeholder: Rental Housing Code Research		