Homeless Services and Strategy Update

City of Tacoma | Neighborhood and Community Services

City Council Study Session
December 10th, 2024

1

Overview

- Inclement Weather Response
- State of Washington Homeless Housing Strategic Plan 2024-2029
- Shelter Update
- Strategy Update
  - Strategy Implementation in 2024
  - Strategy Implementation in 2025

2

2

Inclement Weather Response

Type	Shelter	Number of Beds	Household Type	Opening Date	Anticipated Standdown
Seasonal	Valeo Vocation 813 MLK Jr. Way	53	Single Adults	November 22nd, 2024	March 31st
Inclement Weather	Catholic Community Services Nativity House	20	Single Adults	Ongoing	Ongoing
Inclement Weather	Saint Vincent de Paul Extended Motel Capacity	20	All Household	Ongoing	Ongoing
Inclement Weather	Valeo Vocation Beacon Young Adult Shelter	20	18-24	Ongoing	Ongoing
	Total Additional Capacity	113			

3

3

Homeless Strategy Alignment

Washington State's 5-year Strategy

- Objective 1: Promote an equitable, accountable and transparent homeless crisis response system
- Objective 2: Strengthen the homeless service provider workforce
- Objective 3: Prevent episodes of homelessness whenever possible
- Objective 4: Prioritize those with the most significant barriers to housing stability and the greatest risk of harm
- Objective 5: Seek to house everyone in a stable setting that meets their needs

City of Tacoma's 5-year Strategy

- Goal 1: Ensure affordable housing is available and accessible to Tacoma residents
- Goal 2: Everyone experiencing homelessness in Tacoma, or impacted by homelessness, can access services and support
- Goal 3: The shelter system in Tacoma offers Tacoma residents a safe and dignified experience that is easy to access.
- Goal 4: Tacoma homeless service system provides households with access to a continuum of tailored supports to prevent and end homelessness.
- Goal 5: Tacoma's homeless service system provides households with access to permanent, stable housing

4

4

Shelter Update

Shelter Type	Shelter	Capacity	Anticipated Project Standdown
Temporary	Bethlehem Baptist Church	40	June 2025
Temporary	Altheimer Memorial Church	32	June 2025
Temporary	Shiloh Baptist Church	40	March 2025
Emergency	Stability Site - Catholic Community Services	100	Ongoing
Emergency	Tacoma Emergency Micro-Shelter Site #3 - Low Income Housing Institute	60	June 2025
Emergency	Holy Rosary Safe Parking - Catholic Community Services	40	June 2025
Emergency	Forging Path Community - Tacoma Rescue Mission	135	June 2025
Emergency	Freedom Project - Brotherhood Rise	32	June 2025
Permanent	Nativity House - Catholic Community Services	167	Ongoing
Permanent	The Rescue Mission Adams Street Family Shelter	120	Ongoing
Permanent	The Rescue Mission Adults Shelters	160	Ongoing
Permanent	The Salvation Army	40	Ongoing
Permanent	Beacon Young Adult Shelter - Valeo Vocations	50	Ongoing
Permanent	Youth Crisis Residential Center	8	Ongoing
Permanent	YWCA Domestic Violence Shelter	56	Ongoing
Permanent	Korean Women's Association Domestic Violence Shelter	19	Ongoing
		1,099 Total beds	

5

Strategy Implementation

2024 Highlights

Goal 1: Ensure affordable housing

- Earmarked a portion of new or expanded funding that will provide support services in new development (Objective 1.3)
- Leveraged public and partner-owned land for affordable housing (Objective 1.1)

Goal 2: Access services and support

- Created a "By-name List" (Objective 2.2, 2.3)
- Created and implemented outreach processes and capacity that allowed for on-demand services (Objective 2.2)
- Directly funded expansion of detox center for immediate access to treatment (Objective 2.3)

6

6

Strategy Implementation

2024 Highlights

Goal 3: Shelter system offers a safe and dignified experience

- Published daily, weekly, and monthly reports for shelter bed utilization, capacity, and availability (3.1)
- Increased shelter staff workforce by funding training academy (Objective 3.2)

Goal 4: Continuum of tailored supports

- Prioritized funds that provided tailored interventions that reduce racial disparities (Objective 4.1, 4.2)
- Collected data and disaggregated racial demographics that collaborate with other supportive systems (Objective 4.1, 4.2)
- Invested in direct MHSUD interventions that met best-practice standards (Objective 4.1)

Goal 5: Access to permanent, stable housing

- Invested Permanent Supportive Housing services to support new units (Objective 5.1)
- Supported existing service and shelter providers in their transition to providing housing and housing services to maintain continuum of care (Objective 5.2, 5.3)

7

7

Summary of Measurements

Point-in-Time Count
The Point-in-Time count continues to clarify an overall year to year trend of people who are experiencing homelessness

Homeless Management Information System
This tracking is entered by all shelter providers and needs less active management while still giving a window into the number of individuals experiencing homelessness and there is some consistency in data input.

By-Name List (Preferred Method)
A universal by name list has been proposed by the Pierce County Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness and has been discussed with jurisdictions to align in practice on how to accurately count people who are experiencing homelessness. This list would include all people who are experiencing homelessness in Pierce County who stay in a shelter, work with an outreach provider, and include anyone who is included in our response system.

8

8

By-Name List
List Management

Active Status (last 6 months)

- People new to Homelessness
- People who are returning to homelessness from housing
- People who are returning from inactive status

Inactive Status (last 6-12 months)

- People who have not been in contact with the response system

No Longer on the List

- Archived: people who have not been in contact with the response system longer than 12 months
- Exited homelessness into permanent housing through the response system
- Exited response system without assistance from the response system

9

9

By-Name List
Racial and Ethnicity Demographics

Outreach Breakdown

As of 12/01/2024	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	White	Two or more racial categories	Unknown or other Race	Hispanic	Total
By-Name List *(Active & Unsheltered)*	10 (5%)	3 (1%)	53 (24%)	10 (5%)	101 (45%)	7 (1%)	35 (16%)	10 (5%)	**222**
Tacoma Population	2%	9%	10%	1%	61%	13%	4%	12%	
2024 Point-in-Time Count	4%	2%	26%	3%	43%	9%	15%	9%	**1,864**

10

10

By-Name List
Gender and Age Demographics

Outreach Breakdown

As of 12/01/2024	Female	Male	Gender Non-conforming	Unknown	Total
By-Name List (Active and Unsheltered)	90 (41%)	94 (42%)	0 (0%)	38 (17%)	**222**
City of Tacoma population	50%	50%	NA	0%	
2024 Point-in-Time Count	719 (39%)	1,054 (57%)	2 (0%)	89 (5%)	**1,864**

As of 12/01/2024	Under 18	18-44	45-64	65+	Unknown	Total
By-Name List (Active and Unsheltered)	0 (0%)	100 (45%)	69 (31%)	5 (2%)	48 (22%)	**222**
City of Tacoma population	15%	47%	16%	22%	NA	
2024 Point-in-Time Count	229 (12%)	945 (51%)	572 (31%)	118 (6%)	2 (>1%)	**1,864**

11

11

Strategy Implementation

2025 Focus

Goal 1: Ensure affordable housing

- Increase the range of resources for households experiencing a housing crisis (Objective 1.3) (WHHSP Objective 3)

Goal 2: Access services and support

- Coordinate internal and external partners before people exit facilities into homelessness (Objective 2.2) (WHHSP Objective 4)
- Develop a targeted approach for BIPOC populations from homelessness into sustainable housing (Objective 2.2, 2.3) (WHHSP Objective 3 & 4)
- Implement protocol to strengthen the referral process to shelter and services (Objective 2.2) (WHHSP Objective 2)
- Continue to work with local stakeholders to collaborate and develop solutions for supportive housing units in Tacoma/Pierce County (Objective 2.4) (WHHSP Objective 5)

12

12

Strategy Implementation

2025 Focus

Goal 3: Shelter system offers a safe and dignified experience

- Expand permanent shelter capacity with existing providers and shelters (Objective 3.1) (WHHSP Objective 1 & 5)
- Continue to engage with targeted populations to identify needs and find alternative solutions and providers (Objective 3.3) (WHHSP Objective 4)

Goal 4: Continuum of tailored supports

- Address racial disparities and disproportionalities in behavioral health, mental health, and substance use disorder treatment models (Objective 4.1, 4.2) (WHHSP Objective 4)

Goal 5: Access to permanent, stable housing

- Increase services to enhance life skills and maintain adequate housing (Objective 5.2) (WHHSP Objective 5)

13

13

Homeless Services and Strategy Update

City of Tacoma | Neighborhood and Community Services

City Council Study Session
December 10th, 2024

14