



Homelessness Strategy and Services

City of Tacoma | Neighborhood and Community Services

Study Session
February 3, 2026
ITEM #5



Overview



City of Tacoma 5-Year Homelessness
Strategy (2022- 2028)

Shelter Overview

Encampment Response

Next Steps





Current Critical Issues

Access to Low Barrier Shelter Sites & Additional Safe Parking

Workforce Development & Strategies

Regional Homelessness Response & Strategic Alignment



Homeless Strategy Overview

The strategy vision is driving us to reach “Functional Zero.”

City of Tacoma Homelessness Strategy

Aspires to making it rare, brief and, when it happens to someone, they do not experience it again.

Pierce County Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness (CPEH)

“A state where people have access to immediate shelter and an effective permanent housing program.”

Unified Regional Approach Pierce County

“A unified regional approach to substantially reduce homelessness so that it is rare, brief, and non-recurring.”



Homeless Strategy Overview



Goals:

1. Ensure affordable housing is available and accessible to Tacoma residents. (CPEH, Goal 6)
2. Everyone experiencing homelessness in Tacoma, or impacted by homelessness, can access services and support. (CPEH, Goal 1 & 5)
3. The shelter system in Tacoma offers all people a safe and dignified experience that is easy to access. (CPEH, Goal 5)
4. Tacoma’s homeless service system provides individuals and families with access to a continuum of tailored supports to prevent and end homelessness. (CPEH, Goal 2 & 4)
5. Tacoma’s homeless service system provides individuals and families with access to permanent, stable housing in order to end the cycle of homelessness. (CPEH, Goal 1 & 3)



2025-2026 Shelter Update



Funding	Shelter	Capacity	Current Funding
2025-2027 Legislative Support	Bethlehem Baptist Church	40	June 2026
2025-2027 Legislative Support	Tacoma Emergency Micro-Shelter Site #3 - Low Income Housing Institute	60	June 2026
2025-2027 Legislative Support	Holy Rosary Safe Parking- Catholic Community Services	40	June 2026
Baseline Budget	Stability Site- Catholic Community Services	100	Ongoing
Baseline Budget	Nativity House- Catholic Community Services	167	Ongoing
Baseline Budget	The Rescue Mission Adams Street Family Shelter	120	Ongoing
Baseline Budget	The Rescue Mission Adults Shelters	160	Ongoing
Baseline Budget	The Salvation Army	40	Ongoing
Baseline Budget	Beacon Young Adult Shelter- Valeo Vocations	50	Ongoing
Baseline Budget	Youth Crisis Residential Center	8	Ongoing
Baseline Budget	YWCA Domestic Violence Shelter	56	Ongoing
Baseline Budget	Korean Women’s Association Domestic Violence Shelter	19	Ongoing
Total beds		860	

Additional Shelters in the City of Tacoma



Funding	Shelter	Capacity	Current Funding
Washington State Commerce, Encampment Resolution Program	Oasis Inn, Low Income Housing Institute	45	June 2027
Washington State Commerce, Encampment Resolution Program	Kingfisher Village, Low Income Housing Institute	70	June 2027
Washington State Commerce, Encampment Resolution Program	Calyx at Altheimer, Valeo Vocations	16	June 2027
Washington State Commerce, Encampment Resolution Program	Calyx at MLK Jr Way, Valeo Vocations	50	June 2027
Pierce County Homeless and Housing Program Funding	Safe Parking, Homeward Bound (Scattered Sites)	20	June 2026
Pierce County Homeless and Housing Program Funding	The Loft, Coffee Oasis	12	June 2026
Total additional beds		213	

Average Costs of Sheltering



	Micro-Shelter (50)	Safe Parking	Mitigation Site (50)
Capital Costs (One-Time)			
Shelter Units	\$450,000	\$0	\$25,000
Infrastructure	\$375,000	\$60,000	\$375,000
Total	\$825,000	\$60,000	\$400,000
Operating Cost (Yearly)			
Staffing	\$850,000	\$250,000	\$675,000
Operational Fix Costs	\$310,000	\$170,000	\$260,000
Agency Administration	\$174,000	\$48,000	\$140,250
Total	\$1,334,000	\$468,000	\$1,075,250

Encampment Response Overview



2025-2026 Issue Statement

Goal: Increase access to resources through outreach and address public health and safety concerns.

Increase homeless outreach and navigations services

Making vital connections for individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness to essential community resources.

Trauma-informed, culturally competent, and will include a focus on council priority of Access

Support individuals in encampments but also contribute to long-term solutions by guiding individuals towards shelter alternatives and stable housing options.

Encampment Response Overview



Encampment Coordination & Response

The intent of this work is to provide consistent processes and procedures for removing unauthorized encampments from City of Tacoma property and rights of way.

Alternative Response and connections to shelter and services

Regularly coordinate outreach efforts, trash abatement crews, site hardening, while monitoring properties of high utilization

Jurisdictional collaboration and coordination with services providers

Implementation of TMC 8.19



HEAL Team Outreach Stats



	2025 Total	2024 Total	2023 Total	Total Since Implementation (Nov. 2022)
Encampment Removals	506	373	172	1,059
Encampment Removals in prohibited areas	353	220	119	700
Debris Removed in pounds	1,742,300	1,920,320	5,014,250	8,950,390
Outreach Stats				
Contacts Made	1,810	2,856	3,021	7,943
Interested in Services	1,123 (62%)	1,289 (45%)	1,768 (59%)	4,318 (54%)
Placed in Shelter	231 (13%)	276 (10%)	291 (10%)	850 (11%)



311 Requests Related to Homelessness



Prohibited Areas	3 ½ months before implementation	3 ½ months after implementation	4 th Quarter 2023 Update	4 th Quarter 2024 Update	4 th Quarter 2025 Update
Request Category	August 1 st -November 14 th 2022	November 15 th , 2022-Feb. 28 th 2023	September 1 st -November 30 th , 2023	September 1 st -November 30 th , 2024	September 1 st -November 30 th , 2025
Request for Outreach	1,135	775↓	716	920↑	436↓
Living on Public Property in Vehicle	841	718↓	903	853↓	324↓
Illegal Dumping on Public Property	969	783↓	638	805↑	608↓
Contact Us	170	74↓	76	125↑	41↓
Prohibited Areas Total	3,115	2,350↓	2,333	2,703↑	1,409↓
Citywide Total	4,758	3,934↓	4,161	4,475↑	3,882↓



311 Requests Related to



Non-Prohibited Areas	3 ½ months before implementation	3 ½ months after implementation	4th Quarter 2023 Update	4th Quarter 2024 Update	4th Quarter 2025 Update
Request Category	August 1st- November 14th 2022	November 15th, 2022- Feb. 28th 2023	September 1st- November 30th, 2023	September 1st- November 30th, 2024	September 1st- November 30th, 2025
Request for Outreach	458	356↓	436	540↑	820↑
Living on Public Property in Vehicle	529	591↑	883	523↓	549↑
Illegal Dumping on Public Property	679	586↓	445	636↑	1,051↑
Contact Us	68	51↓	64	73↑	53↓
Non-Prohibited Areas Total	1,734	1,584↓	1,828	1,772↓	2,473↑
Citywide Total	4,758	3,934↓	4,161	4,475↑	3,882↓



Next Steps



Future Presentations:

Community Vitality and Safety Committee

- February 12th, 2026: *5-Year City of Tacoma Homelessness Strategy Review (Goals, Objectives, and Actions)*
- February 26th, 2026: *Neighborhood and Community Services 2027-2028 Issue Statement Briefing*
- February 26th, 2026: *Opioid Settlement Funds*

Study Session

- March 3rd, 2026: *Neighborhood and Community Services Department Overview*

Future Meetings:

Unified Regional Approach

- February & March: Elected Leadership Meetings(Continuous)
- Staff Planning Group (Monthly)



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