



**TO:** Hyun Kim, Interim City Manager  
**FROM:** Vicky McLaurin, Interim Director  
Neighborhood & Community Services Department (NCS)  
**COPY:** **Community Vitality & Safety Committee**  
**PRESENTERS:** Caleb Carbone, NCS, Community Resources Analyst, Principal  
**SUBJECT:** Review of City of Tacoma 5-year Homelessness Strategy  
**DATE:** February 12, 2026

**PRESENTATION TYPE:**

Other

**SUMMARY:**

Neighborhood and Community Services, Homeless Strategy, Systems and Services will present an overview of the City of Tacoma 5-year homelessness strategy and the progress of implementation. Additionally, staff will present a timeline for updating the current and future strategies.

**BACKGROUND:**

In September 2022, the City of Tacoma published [The City of Tacoma's Homelessness Strategy](#), which focuses on collaboration with citywide initiatives and strategies, and regional partners to support long term permanent housing and provide supportive services to people experiencing homelessness in Tacoma. The plan acknowledges that homelessness remains a central issue across Tacoma as the conditions that contribute to homelessness have continued, significantly worsening due to the housing affordability crisis, the Covid-19 pandemic, and significant disparities with certain populations. Additionally, statewide has also shown a huge increase in both chronic homelessness and unsheltered homeless in the last several years that requires us to implement a homeless strategy. In March 2022, Pierce County also published the strategy [Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness](#). This plan aims to document the scale of the need and design a system to end homelessness in Pierce County, and the City of Tacoma also took the opportunity to see how it could align strategically with the County, leading to a path of a regional response.

**ISSUE:**

[The City of Tacoma's Homelessness Strategy](#) describes the significance of thinking strategically about aligning with a regional and local approach, especially with the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness. This approach is to not only help increase shelter capacity and services across the system, but additionally to relieve the heavily weighted shelter capacity in the city while shifting our efforts to a central solution resulting in increased homeless services and resources.



Along with aligning our strategic approach with Pierce County, the City also recognizes that there have been significant shifts of focus on the response system in the last three and half years. One major subject in our region is the Pierce County investment on launching a more unified regional response to homeless across the county and are currently transition from a design phase to implementation. Secondly, the area has seen more consistent effort to helping address people experiencing homeless during inclement weather and how the system can leverage existing services while also providing timely resources for both acute care and consistent services that the community can rely on. Lastly, as the city has stood down sheltering in the last couple of years, the City will need to continue to evaluate how services are delivered throughout the response while making sure the response system has adequate available sheltering while investing in housing interventions as well.

Though there are many factors are necessary to having an effective homelessness response system and as we continue to implement the strategy, we need to continue to open up avenues to invite feedback from our partners to ensure alignment in our objective and actions, and we will continue to stay nimble and flexible in our response as needs change.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

There are no alternatives presented.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact at this time.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

We are looking for input and potential changes that Council may want to consider for updating the strategic implementation plan moving forward through 2028 and considerations for long-term planning.