



# Media Update

From the City of Tacoma, Washington  
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## Temporary Emergency Aid and Shelter Plan Update for the Week of August 21-25

### This Week:

- The Tacoma City Council received an update on the Temporary Emergency Aid and Shelter Plan during their Aug. 22 study session. In the presentation, staff provided an overview of the actions that have been taken to date, a report on the latest metrics associated with the response and management of the mitigation and stability sites, and a review of the current conditions of the encampments throughout the city.
  - The presentation satisfied the requirement of Ordinance No. 28430 that City Council “review the conditions that have given rise to this public health emergency to determine if such conditions warrant keeping in place the extraordinary measures authorized herein to respond to the is public health emergency.”
- The City is continuing to evaluate all options for more permanent short-term transitional housing solutions.
- Media access to the Stability Site will remain limited to outside the fence perimeter.
- For inquires or to setup an interview, please contact the City’s Media and Communications Office.
- The City welcomes assistance and support from residents, community partners and neighboring jurisdictions to help address issues surrounding homelessness.

### Background:

- Catholic Community Services is providing onsite management at the Stability Site, which opened on June 26.
- The Tacoma City Council approved a motion on June 6, 2017 that accepted staff's recommendation to implement two non-consecutive mitigation sites and one stability site through December 31, 2017 as part of the Temporary Emergency Aid and Shelter Plan for an investment of up to \$3.4 million.

- The Temporary Emergency Aid and Shelter Plan is temporary. The Declaration of Public Health Emergency, which the Tacoma City Council passed on May 9, 2017 will be in effect for six months.
- Visible homelessness is growing and is resulting in unsafe human living conditions for people who are living in encampments or in their cars as well as for people who live and work around encampment areas. In response to growing concerns from residents, businesses, property owners and service providers, Mayor Marilyn Strickland and the City Council determined the City needed to explore new approaches to address the public health and safety needs in the community.
- The majority of people experiencing homelessness in Tacoma are from Tacoma and surrounding Pierce County communities. According to the 2017 Pierce County Point-In-Time Count, which counts the number of people in the county experiencing homelessness, almost **80% of people reported they had lived in Pierce County before becoming homeless.**

**Future Emergency Temporary Aid and Shelter Program updates will be released on Fridays. This update and past updates are available online at [cityoftacoma.org/homelessupdates](http://cityoftacoma.org/homelessupdates).**