

Glossary of Terms

Emergency Temporary Aid and Shelter Plan | THREE-PHASE APPROACH



Basic Human Amenities – Amenities include portable toilets, waste receptacles, potable water and handwashing stations.

Chronically Homeless – Federal definition which defines a chronically homeless person as “either (1) an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has been continuously homeless for a year or more, OR (2) an unaccompanied individual with a disabling condition who has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.”

Emergency Shelter – The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development defines emergency shelter as “any facility, the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary or transitional shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless.”

Emergency Temporary Aid and Shelter Plan – The City of Tacoma’s three-phased approach to addressing public health and safety concerns resulting from growing concentrations of people living in encampments.

Encampment Cleanup – The removal of debris and waste created by people living outdoors on public or private property and the reclamation of the site.

High Barrier Entry – More requirements are in place to access services at sites with high barrier entry.

HOT – Homelessness Outreach Team, which is a cross function team of Tacoma Police Officers, EMS personnel, mental health providers and outreach staff who work with people experiencing homelessness to connect them with services while also enforcing laws.

Low Barrier Entry – Fewer requirements are in place to access services at sites with low barrier entry.

Mitigation – Alleviating and/or reducing the health and safety impacts on people living in encampments and those who live or work in surrounding areas.

People Experiencing Homelessness – The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development defines people experiencing homelessness as “an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; as well an individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations, an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.”

Rapid Resource Pop-Up – The temporary placement of basic health amenities at encampments to reduce the impact on the surrounding community while community service providers provide resources and prepares encampment inhabitants for departure to the Temporary Transitional Centers and prepares the encampment for cleanup.

Short-Term Transitional Housing – Housing options for people who have been experiencing homelessness that provides stable housing while they receive services to find permanent housing solutions.

Site Reclamation - the process of making public and private spaces safer and more welcoming for people who live or work in the area to be, while discouraging criminal activity and loitering.

Declaration of State of Public Health Emergency – Officially declared by the Tacoma City Council on May 9, 2017 to address the risk to the health and safety of the occupants of homeless encampments in Tacoma, including families and unaccompanied youth, and the general public at large.

Temporary Transition Center – Phase 2 of the Emergency Temporary Aid and Shelter Plan which will include managed temporary sites for people experiencing homelessness to stay at with access to basic human amenities, showers, laundry, human services and 24-hour on-site security.

Stability Site – Is a low barrier entry site established for people considered chronically homeless, people who are having a mental health crisis and people with substance use disorders.

Transition Site – Is a high barrier entry site established for people experiencing homelessness who need minimal assistance to be permanently housed such as families, recently housed individuals and individuals who are unemployed or underemployed.

Unaccompanied Minors – People ages 12-17 who do not have a parent or guardian with them.

