



# Homeless Services Update

City of Tacoma | Neighborhood and Community Services

**City Council Study Session**  
**April 19, 2022**





# OVERVIEW



- NCS Staffing
- Encampment Removals
- Inclement Weather Response
- Shelter Progress
- City 5-Year Homelessness Strategy



# NCS PROGRAM STAFFING



- Homeless Strategy Systems and Services Manager
  - Systems Analyst
- Homeless Engagement Alternatives Liaisons (HEAL)
  - HEAL Manager
  - Outreach staff lead
- Code Compliance
  - Code Compliance Supervisor

# PUBLIC PROPERTY ENCAMPMENT REMOVALS



- Authorization based on:
  - Emergent public health and safety impacts
    - Size of encampment or type of activity
  - Unmanageable environmental impacts
  - Planned public work needs
- City has initiated six removals from public property since January 2022 (City and State property)



# PRIVATE PROPERTY ENCAMPMENT ABATEMENT PILOT PROGRAM



- Council authorization for funding and program launch in December 2021
- Provides support for trespass and removal of debris
- Performed nine private property encampment abatements since launch

# INCLEMENT WEATHER RESPONSE



- Lighthouse Activity Center
  - Activated December 2021 for extreme inclement weather
  - Temporary shelter operations began in January 2022
    - Extended through April 30, 2022
  - No disruption to senior meal service
- Planning underway for Summer/Winter 2022

# CITY FUNDED SHELTER STATUS UPDATE



SHELTER TYPE	SHELTER	NUMBER OF BEDS/UNITS	STAND DOWN DATE
Temporary	Bethlehem Baptist Church	40	Extension underway
Temporary	Althiemer Memorial Church	32	Ongoing
Temporary	Shiloh Baptist Church	40	September 2022
Emergency	Aspen Court	100	December 2023
Emergency	Stability Site	100/58	To be determined
Emergency	Tacoma Emergency Micro-Shelter Site #3 (6 <sup>th</sup> and Orchard)	60/40	July 2023
Emergency	Tacoma Emergency Micro-Shelter Site #4 (69 <sup>th</sup> and Proctor)	85/66	December 2023
Permanent	Nativity House	167	N/A
Permanent	The Rescue Mission Adams Street Family Shelter	100	N/A
Permanent	The Rescue Mission Adults Shelters	179	N/A
Permanent	The Salvation Army	76	N/A
Permanent	Beacon Young Adult Shelter	40	N/A
Permanent	Youth Crisis Residential Center	12	N/A
Permanent	YWCA Domestic Violence Shelter	56	N/A
Permanent	Korean Women's Association Domestic Violence Shelter	18	N/A

**Total 1,105**



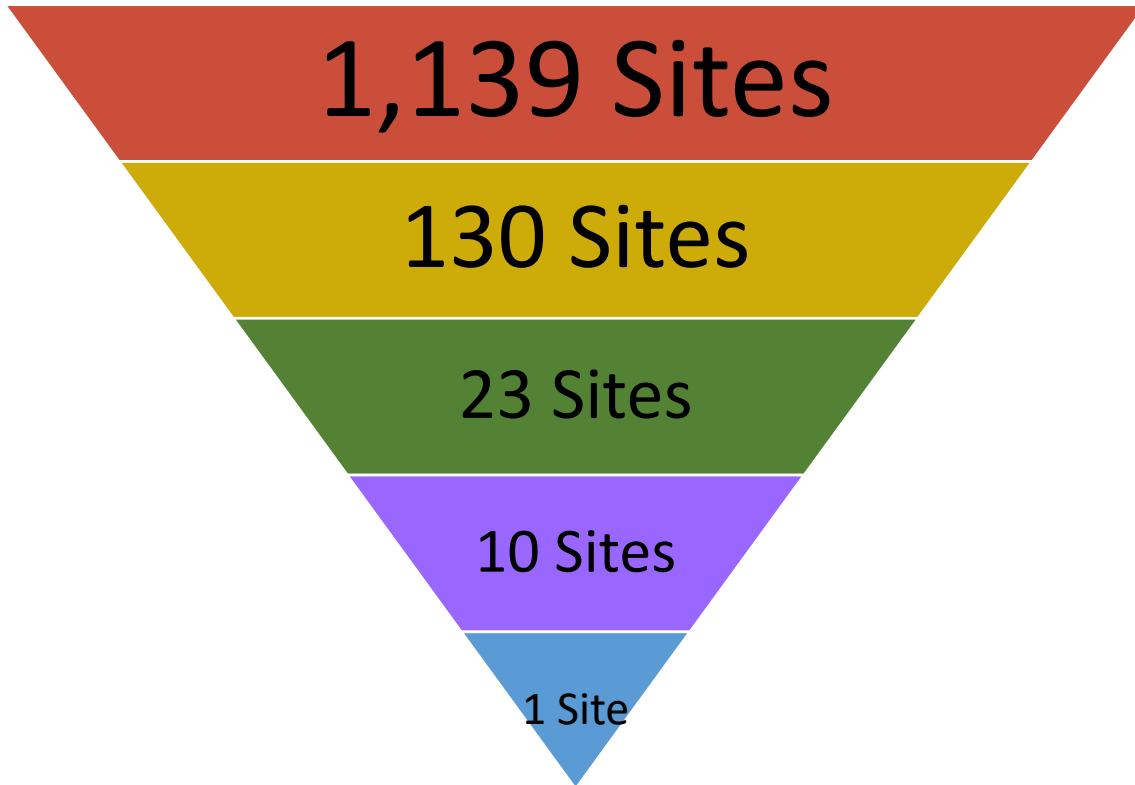
# SHELTER WORK UNDERWAY



- 82<sup>nd</sup> and Pacific (capacity 35 adults)
- RISE (capacity 35 adults)
- Total anticipated capacity increase: 70
- Total available shelter capacity: 1,175
- Increase since 2017 declaration of emergency: 527



# ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC PROPERTY FOR TEMPORARY SHELTER



All General Government and TPU Properties in City of Tacoma (including property under 10k sq ft)

Reviewed for outdoor space, at least 7,500 square feet and decent topography

Reviewed for adjacency to waterways, easy access to services, adjacency to transportation, community impact

Reviewed for operational uses/concerns

# CHARACTERISTICS OF TEMPORARY SHELTER SITES



Site Type	24/7 Access to Site	Reserved Spaces	Case Management Participation Required	Background Check Required	Clean and Sober Expectation	Allows Pets	Minors Served (under 18)	Storage Space
Stability Site	Yes	Yes	Yes	No (Screen for shelter ban)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Temporary Emergency Micro-Shelters	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Varies	Yes
Hygiene Stations	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Faith Based Org Hosted Temporary Shelters	Varies	Yes	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies	Yes
<b>Mitigation Site</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Varies</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Safe Parking</b>	<b>Varies</b>	<b>Varies</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Varies</b>	<b>Varies</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Varies</b>	<b>Yes</b>

# POTENTIAL SHELTER LOCATION



- Identified site
- Working with a provider
- Location will be screened
- Will serve no more than 50 individuals at a time
- Potential for transition to other models



# HOMELESS STRATEGY



**Vision:** Sustain an equitable, dignified, and culturally responsive homeless and housing response system that quickly and effectively addresses everyone's homeless crisis while supporting the needs of local residents and businesses.

**Mission:** Collaborate with citywide initiatives and strategies, and regional partners and stakeholders to support long term permanent housing and provide supportive services to people experiencing homelessness in Tacoma. We provide real solutions to creating a thriving community by immediately responding to the needs of encampments for residents, the surrounding neighborhoods and local businesses and by providing immediate access to emergency shelter, health and wellness services and permanent, safe and stable housing to everyone experiencing homelessness in this city.



# HOMELESS STRATEGY



## Values:

- Lead with anti-racism
- Center lived expertise
- Focus on trauma-informed care
- Make decisions using data
- Build capacity and collaborate with partners



# HOMELESS STRATEGY



## Goals:

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



# HOMELESS STRATEGY



## Housing

- Provide rental assistance and early intervention
- Leverage all available financial resources
- Implement policy
- Increase affordable units

## Shelter and Service Access

- Increase understanding of need
- Understand daily shelter capacity
- Diversify provider pool and shelter options
- Expand outreach services
- Expand day services



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