Responding to Homelessness in Tacoma

City of Tacoma | Neighborhood and Community Services
Today’s Presentation

• Homelessness in Tacoma
  • Adults
  • Youth and Young Adults
  • Special Populations

• City Initiatives
  • 2019-2020 Funded Programs and Services
  • Homeless Outreach Team
  • Stability Site

• Connecting to the Affordable Housing Action Strategy

• Opportunities
## Point in Time Count

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pierce County</td>
<td>1,486</td>
<td>1,628¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tacoma</td>
<td>436</td>
<td>529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth &amp; Young Adults</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survivors of Domestic Violence</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington State</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>22,304</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Pierce County 2018 Point in Time Count Results
² HUD 2018 Annual Homeless Assessment Report
## Primary Causes of Homelessness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source: Point in Time Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Lack of affordable housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Inadequate income or employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Eviction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Mental health/substance abuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Domestic violence and fleeing domestic violence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Challenges to Exiting Homelessness

- Lack of affordable housing
- Challenges of service use
- Inflexible program requirements
SPARC Report - Causes

• Supporting Partnerships for Anti-Racist Communities (SPARC) report was completed in January 2018.
• Council presentation on May 8, 2018.
• Pathways into homelessness for people of color are often characterized by network impoverishment and family destabilization.
Barriers to exiting homelessness for people of color are almost entirely systemic and can be broadly classed as:

- Economic mobility
- Eviction history, felony status, or credit score complications
- Issues with housing quality
Homelessness is Seen and Unseen

• Unsheltered (most visible)
  • Encampments
  • Human habitation of vehicles
• Sheltered (less visible)
  • Utilize available shelters for individuals and families
  • Transitional housing

• Couch surfing
• Special Populations
  • Veterans
  • Youth and Young Adults
  • LGBT
  • Families
  • Seniors
  • DV
Shelter Availability

- Young Adult Shelter beds (ages 18-24) = ~40
- Domestic Violence shelter beds = 117
- Crisis Residential Center beds (ages 12-17)
- Adult and family shelter beds = ~400
  - Additional ~160 beds during inclement weather
  - Current 6
  - Future 12 (Arlington)
- Stability Site shelter beds = 100
## Contracted Services to Address Homelessness

### 2019-20 Contracted Amounts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Type</th>
<th>Community Development Block Grant</th>
<th>Emergency Solutions Grant</th>
<th>General Fund</th>
<th>Mental Health Substance Use Disorder</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homeless Services</td>
<td>$120,542</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$158,398</td>
<td>$1,733,908</td>
<td>$2,012,848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Services</td>
<td>$193,166</td>
<td>$184,842</td>
<td>$1,328,518</td>
<td>$1,498,872</td>
<td>$3,205,398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheltering</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>$97,357</td>
<td>$888,437</td>
<td>$1,303,273</td>
<td>$2,309,067</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complementary Services</td>
<td>$65,591</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$422,378</td>
<td>$389,244</td>
<td>$877,213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$399,299</strong></td>
<td><strong>$282,199</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,797,731</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,925,297</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,404,526</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• **Complementary Services** includes: Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder services, food banks, furniture, legal services, and other case management services, and rental and/or utility assistance
  
  • An industry term that means it supports other programs. (Ex. Family using homeless shelter services can learn to access food banks and/or legal services to address barriers to housing.)
• Young Adult Overnight Shelter opened in 2015 as a temporary solution to providing shelter for young adults
  • More than 100 young adults accessed overnight shelter at Beacon Center during past year and over 400 since opening.
  • Also located at Beacon are drop-in services for youth/young adults
  • 2019 – 2020 Authorized Budget = $603,600

• Crisis Residential Center (CRC) opened in 2016
  • 140 youth have accessed services at the CRC since 2017
  • 2019-2020 Authorized budget = $250,670

• City has provided $1.8M in capital funding toward a 12-bed crisis residential center being developed by THA
Beacon Activity Center and Arlington Drive Youth Campus

• Beacon Activity Center
  • Multigenerational use of Beacon Activity Center
  • Senior Activity Services
    • Operated by Korean Women’s Association
  • Overnight shelter services for young adults (18-24)
  • Day services for youth and young adults (12-24)
    • Operated by Comprehensive Life Resources
• Feasibility study completed December 2018
Therapeutic Mental Health Court

• Pilot Program launched October 2018
  • Behavioral health, case management, and housing support to individuals who are homeless or became homeless during incarceration at the Pierce County Jail
  • Pilot Program evaluation will be completed September 2019

• 31 individuals are participating in the program
  • All have completed a Housing Stability plan
  • All have completed brief mental health screenings
  • Three individuals have been permanently housed due to this intervention

• Funding authorized in 2019-2020: $124,000
• Council authorized changes to Rental Housing Code (TMC 1.95) in November 2018, which became effective in February.

• Changes reflect impactful policy measures to prevent homelessness.
  • Relocation Assistance Program
    • $200,000 authorized in 2019-2020 budget
  • Source of Income
  • Codifying local enforcement of WA State rules
Temporary Sheltering Ordinance

- Temporary Sheltering Ordinance #29498 was passed by Council on April 20, 2018
  - Ordinance relaxed some requirements to provide temporary sheltering that had otherwise deterred Faith-based Organizations (FBO) and non-profits
Temporary Sheltering Outreach and Engagement

- The Ministerial Alliance
- Associated Ministries
- Targeted Outreach to the FBO community to engage in support homeless efforts
- TV-Tacoma and City Line Segments
- Neighborhood Council Meetings
Homeless Emergency Declaration

• Council Action in May 2017 Launched 3-Phase Plan
  • Phase I = Mitigation Site
  • Phase II = Stability Site
  • Phase III = Evolving
• Council extended the Declaration in 2017 and 2018
• Currently expires in December 2019
Homeless Outreach Team (HOT)

• Launched May 2017

• Innovative partnership between TPD and NCS
  • 5 full-time TPD officers and two full-time NCS outreach workers
  • Prioritize locations, coordinate responses, ensure monitoring

• Integrated what we’ve learned into operational approaches
  • Collaborate with community outreach workers to identify high population areas (Positive Interactions)
  • Partnership with other homeless supportive service providers
  • Designated mental health provider embedded with HOT
HOT Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019 (YTD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Encampment Cleanups*</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>311 Responses</td>
<td>2,069</td>
<td>507</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Encampment cleanups took place on multiple sites

HOT Referrals (2018)

- Individuals Accepting Services: 269 individuals (83%)
- Individuals Declining Services: 89 individuals (17%)

HOT Referrals (2019 YTD)

- Individuals Accepting Services: 102 individuals (36%)
- Individuals Declining Services: 64 individuals (64%)
Stability Site

- Established June 2017
- Integrated what we’ve learned into operational approaches
  - Maximize use of space and incentives for program participation
  - 90 Day Stay Policy
  - Employment Connections Program
  - Transportation provided by The Salvation Army
### Sheltered at the Stability Site

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographics</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>YTD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total program participants</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encampment or living outside prior to entry</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living with disability</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currently employed</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial participants currently being served at site (June 2017)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Tacoma residents</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeless for more than a year</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Stability Site Engagement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Individuals served</th>
<th>270</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individuals housed</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Current Program Data (YTD)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individuals currently at Stability Site</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed housing stability plan</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrolled in Employment Connections Program</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed after participation in Employment Connections Program</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrolled in Coordinated Entry</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Emergency Declaration Funding for Stability Site Operations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019 Stability Site Costs</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stability Site Operator</td>
<td>$1,772,644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities and Maintenance</td>
<td>$203,395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services Rentals</td>
<td>$175,766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment connections</td>
<td>$80,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$51,507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>$31,402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,314,714</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Shelter Expansion

• Increase number of permanent shelter beds at the Tacoma Rescue Mission by December 2019
  • Repurpose building at current location to expand services
  • 40-50 additional shelter spaces for single adults

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private Donations</td>
<td>$600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Development Block Grant</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REET (Real Estate Excise Tax)</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,200,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The City of Tacoma’s Stability Site has helped dozens of households resolve their episodes of homelessness. Since its launch, the site has permanently or temporarily housed almost 40% of households seeking shelter.

![Bar chart showing exit rates to housing for different sites: COT Stability Site at 39.3%, TRM - Downtown Campus - Shelter Only/Bedlists at 15.0%, and CCS - The Nativity House - Mens Shelter at 3.2%.](chart.png)
Stability Site Calls for Emergency Service

Calls For Service

- Nativity House
- The Rescue Mission
- Stability Site
Affordable Housing Action Strategy

• Homelessness is mainly a housing issue
• The Affordable Housing Action Strategy (AHAS) provides a response to this growing problem
• Strategic Objectives 3 and 4 are directed at keeping people housed and increasing access to housing for those who may be unhoused
• Implementation of the AHAS will involve inter-departmental tactical teams who will work to achieve meaningful progress in year one of the strategy
• Two tactical teams will work on Action 3.2 (Creating a range and resources for households experiencing a housing crisis) and Action 4.1 (Streamline processes for households applying for and using rental assistance)
## Unmet Need for Housing

### Rental Housing Supply & Demand

- **Tacoma has...**
  - 27 affordable & available units for every 100 EXTREMELY LOW-INCOME households
  - 45 affordable & available units for every 100 VERY LOW-INCOME households
  - 87 affordable & available units for every 100 LOW-INCOME households

### Widespread, Persistent Need

The City of Tacoma has a shortage of affordable and available rental units for low-income households. Forty percent of households in Tacoma pay more than 30% of their gross income on housing each month.

**Source:** 2016 American Community Survey PUMS 1-Year Estimates.

### Cost-Burdened Households

- 16% of households (13,386) pay gross 50% OR MORE of their monthly income on housing costs
- 40% of households (32,842) pay gross 30% OR MORE of their monthly income on housing costs
Accelerating housing market conditions
Rent increased by 16% at single-family rentals & 17% at multifamily properties between March 2016 and March 2018.

Limited rental supply
Unmet need is greatest among extremely low-income households, followed by very low-income households.

Cost-burdens among households
Forty (40%) of households in Tacoma pay at least 30% of their income on housing costs each month.

Barriers accessing and staying in a home
Residents face a range of issues that affect their access to affordable housing units, such as navigating multiple systems and language barriers.
SPARC Recommendations

- Design an equitable “Coordinated Entry System”
- Incorporate racial equity into funding and contracting
- Include racial equity data analysis and benchmarks into strategic planning
- Support organizational development
- Encourage anti-racist program delivery
- Promote ongoing anti-racism training
- Collaborate to increase affordable housing availability
- Explore innovative upstream interventions
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