

*Pacific  
County*

# FIVE YEAR HOMELESS HOUSING PLAN

2019-2024



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For More Information Regarding this Plan:

Katie Lindstrom, Pacific County Public Health & Human  
Services Deputy Director

[Koien@co.pacific.wa.us](mailto:Koien@co.pacific.wa.us)

Darian Johnson, Pacific County Public Health & Human Services  
Human Services Program Manager

[djohnson@co.pacific.wa.us](mailto:djohnson@co.pacific.wa.us)

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Pacific County Local Government and the Pacific County Homeless Housing Plan Executive Team have led the community-wide effort to develop the Pacific County Five Year Plan to Reduce Homelessness. This Five Year Plan builds upon previous Ten Year Plans and existing efforts in the community. This plan is a tool that provides a broad-range of coordinated strategies to help address multiple issues across the continuum of homelessness. In accordance with Washington State law (RCW 43.185C.050), the Pacific County Five Year Plan to Reduce Homelessness will be assessed annually by the Executive Team to measure performance in meeting the goals outlined within this document. Updates to this plan were made in November, 2021 and are highlighted throughout the text in yellow.

Pacific County, like other counties across the Nation, is struggling with a homelessness crisis. Funding for various housing programs is extremely limited and is often braided resulting in a patchwork framework at best to solve homelessness, which often can hamper services for individuals in need. We believe that every person should have access to safe and stable housing. Homelessness is costly for everyone. Individuals experiencing homelessness will likely have more health problems, higher rates of disabilities, domestic violence and substance use and behavioral health issues. This plan is designed to reduce homelessness in our community and in turn promote wellness among the people living in Pacific County.

We are aware that even if we had adequate funding to combat homelessness, we would likely be unable to end homelessness due to the current state of Pacific County's homeless response system. The objective and strategies outlined in this plan are designed to shift the system to one that, when adequately funded, can hopefully reduce and then end homelessness. The objectives listed below were developed by the Washington State Department of Commerce and the local Executive Team. A full description of strategies/actions, timelines/milestones, responsible parties, and measures of success are contained later in the plan.

## **OBJECTIVES**

Required: Quickly identify and engage people experiencing homelessness under the state definition, and all unaccompanied youth under any federal definition, through outreach and coordination between every system that encounters people experiencing homelessness.

Required: Prioritize housing for people with the greatest need.

Required: Operate an effective and efficient homeless crisis response system that swiftly moves people into stable permanent housing.

Required: Project the impact of the fully implemented local plan on the number of households housed and the number of households left unsheltered, assuming existing resources and state policies.

Required: Address racial disparities among people experiencing homelessness.

Other Additional Objective: Increase access to stable and affordable housing.

## **OVERVIEW OF PLAN**

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this plan is to create a document to help guide efforts in Pacific County by government, for-profit agencies, non-profit agencies, faith organizations, schools, and other stakeholders at ending and reducing homelessness in Pacific County.

### **VISION**

Housing is a basic necessity, to which everyone should have access, regardless of circumstances. Our goal is to work together collaboratively by leveraging resources to reduce and end homelessness in Pacific County. Pacific County supports WA State's Vision of "no person left living outside."

### **SCOPE OF PLAN AND GUIDING FRAMEWORK FROM DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (State Statutory Requirements)**

Washington State law (RCW 43.185C.050) requires that each local homeless housing task force develop and recommend to its local government legislative authority, a five-year homeless housing plan aimed at ending homelessness. The local plan must be consistent with the local plan guidelines issued by the Department of Commerce. The Plan may also include recommendations for any state legislation needed to meet the state or local plan goals.

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

This plan is a roadmap, but success depends on implementation. The Executive Team workgroup has mapped out a path for moving the plan forward. Members of the group will meet regularly as part of the Health & Human Services Advisory Board (HHSAB) and Housing Subcommittee and will measure outcomes and gaps. Opportunities to examine procedures, engage stakeholders, create mutual understanding, and build knowledge and best practices from local experience are built into the process. This plan is a working document developed to focus community efforts on finding solutions to homelessness that preserve human dignity and make better use of community resources. **Additionally, the Executive Team will publish an annual update of the plan to the Department of Commerce for it to be published on their website.**

### **HOMELESS HOUSING PLANNING PROCESS**

There was a broad range of community participation in the planning process, as required by the Department of Commerce Guidelines. The Executive Team referenced on Page 28 participated in the development of this plan. The initial drafting of the plan was developed by a Human Services Program Manager at Pacific County's Department of Health and Human Services, who worked with the Executive Team and The Housing Subcommittee to develop goals, strategies and milestones. The Executive Team provided edits and additional information to the draft. They later approved the draft. The draft was then presented to the Housing Subcommittee for additional review. After approval from the Executive Team and the various subcommittees, the plan was submitted to the Board of County Commissioners to seek final approval of the plan. **An updated version of the plan was created in November, 2021 by the members of the Housing Subcommittee and was presented to the Board of County Commissioners.**

## **PACIFIC COUNTY BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **Description/Faces of Pacific County Homelessness**

In accordance with the Washington State Homeless Housing and Assistance Act, counties throughout the state began implementing the annual point-in-time (PIT) count of individuals experiencing homelessness in 2006. The Department of Commerce and HUD require the count in order to receive homeless grant funding. The count occurs each year on a single day in January and includes those who are staying in shelters, unsheltered, or temporarily living with family and friends. Over the years, new strategies have been implemented statewide to improve the accuracy of the counts. For the Pacific County 2019 count, the Pacific County Health and Human Services Department, CCAP, and other partners counted individuals and families at the 2019 Pacific County Project Homeless Connect events in Long Beach and South Bend. Groups also went to the streets in Long Beach, WA, South Bend, WA, Raymond, WA, and in other unincorporated areas throughout the county to talk to people who are homeless. The Point-In-Count provides limited information about the scope of individuals and families experiencing homelessness due to external factors like weather, volunteers able to count people, and the ability to find camps or uninhabitable housing. Due to stigmatization of being homeless, it is important to note that many individuals or households experiencing homelessness may not seek services, or do not identify as being homeless. Therefore, data from the point-in-time count or input into the Homeless Information Management System (HMIS) does not encompass all individuals/families experiencing homelessness in our community.

### ***Updates as of November, 2021***

For the Pacific County 2020 count, the Pacific County Health and Human Services Department, CCAP, and other partners counted individuals and families at the 2020 Pacific County Project Homeless Connect events in Long Beach and South Bend. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 PIT count was only conducted for sheltered homeless individuals and was not required for unsheltered individuals. Pacific County Health and Human Services and Crisis Support Network reported PIT data to the Department of Commerce with the sheltered count of people staying in transitional housing programs or emergency shelters (including motel/hotel vouchers). The final result of this count has not been released by the Department of Commerce, but we anticipate the results to not accurately reflect all of the individuals/families experiencing homelessness in our community.

The PIT Count numbers reported by the Department of Commerce for Pacific County are reflected below:

**Table 1  
Point-in-Time Count of People Who Are Homeless**

Year	Washington State			Pacific County		
	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
2006	16,058	5,904	21,962	35	46	81
2007	15,951	6,094	22,045	*	*	*
2008	15,449	6,498	21,947	6	24	30
2009	16,282	6,545	22,827	13	20	33
2010	16,230	6,389	22,619	2	3	5
2011	14,905	5,441	20,346	*	14	14
2012	14,852	5,484	20,336	5	68	73
2013	12,712	5,043	17,755	5	162	167
2014	12,550	6,289	18,839	6	201	207
2015	12,297	7,121	19,418	3	132	135
2016	12,370	8,474	20,844	7	69	76
2017**	12,521	8,591	21,112	0	12	12
2018	11,683	10,621	22,304	0	73	73
2019**	12,022	9,599	21,621	0	42	42
2020**	12,109	10,814	22,923	0	60	60
2021***	*	*	*	*	*	*

\*Point-in-Time count was not conducted in Pacific County in 2007

\*\* Due to Data Quality Errors, these numbers do not reflect the actual PIT counts that occurred in Pacific County

\*\*\* Point-in-Time count data not available at this moment. Anticipate data to not accurately reflect PIT counts, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Many of the Pacific County residents falling under HUD's definition of literally homeless are living in structures not meant for human habitation including RVs that lack basic utilities. In addition to these people, Pacific County also has a segment of people who stay in tents outside, automobiles, and/or other structures not meant for human habitation.

**Causes of Homelessness in Pacific County**

**Data Updates as of November, 2021**

**1. Resource/Financial Determinants**

**Poverty in Pacific County**

Pacific County continues to have a relatively high rate of people living at or below the poverty line. As of 2019, 16.0 percent of Pacific County residents were living below the poverty level, compared with 10.8 percent for the state and the nation at 13.4 percent. The county's average annual wage in 2019 was (\$38,164). That total lags both the state (\$69,615) and the U.S. (\$52,669). The median hourly wage in 2019 was \$19.69, below the state's median hourly wage of \$25.98 and the state excluding King County median hourly wage of \$22.37<sup>1</sup>. The median household income in Pacific County was \$46,733 in 2015 to 2019. The county's median was less than the state's (\$73,775) and the nation's (\$62,843).<sup>2</sup> Pacific County residents are a median age of 53.6 years compared to the statewide median of 37.7 years.<sup>3</sup>

- 24.1% (5,204) of households received SNAP benefits (compared to 15.1% statewide and 10.9% nationally)<sup>5</sup>

- 10.8% of persons remain uninsured (compared to 7.7% statewide)<sup>6</sup>

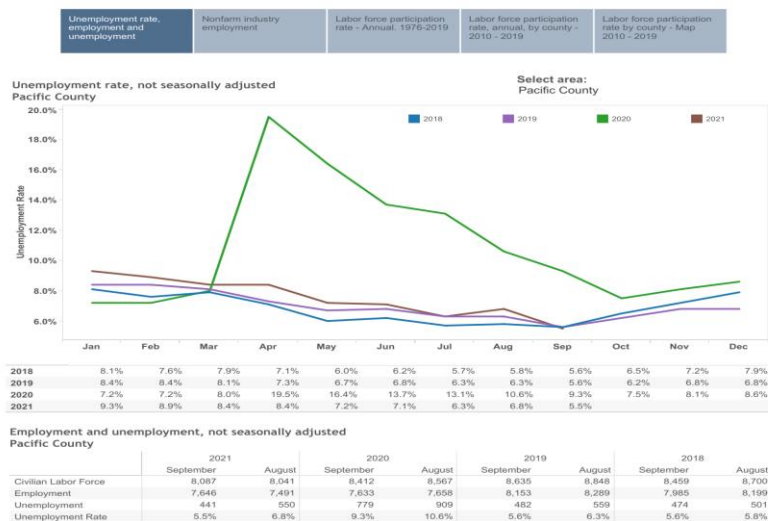
In Pacific County, 64.2% (1,859) of the students received free or reduced school lunches in the 2019 school year, which was more than the state and national averages of 43.2% and 40.8% respectively.<sup>7</sup>

**Higher Unemployment Rates**

According to the 2019 Census, there are 22,471 Pacific County Residents. As reported in Figure 3 below, the unemployment rate in Pacific County for August 2020 (10.6%) continued to be higher than the state (8.5%) average.

**Figure 3  
Unemployment Rates by County**

Not seasonally adjusted<sup>9</sup>



**Lack of Affordable Housing**

The lack of living wage jobs in to that of the average income County makes housing difficult

The annual income needed to afford a two bedroom apartment in Pacific County at the current Fair

relation in Pacific to afford.



Market Rents is over \$34,600 or an hourly wage of \$13.69. Most units in Pacific County are priced above the Fair Market Rent value.

**Table: 2021 Housing Costs, Income, and Affordability in Pacific County**

Housing/Income	Studio	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom
Fair Market Rent (2021)	\$571.00	\$656.00	\$865.00	\$1,192.00
Annual Income to afford	\$22,840	\$26,240	\$34,600	\$47,680
Hourly wage to afford	\$10.98	\$12.62	\$16.63	\$22.92
Minimum Wage Washington 2021 (rent amount affordable on minimum wage is \$712 per month)	\$13.69	\$13.69	\$13.69	\$13.69
Weekly Work hours to afford housing on minimum wage	32	37	49	67

## 1. Resource/Financial Determinants

### Poverty in Pacific County

A major contributing factor to behavioral health needs and homelessness in Pacific County is the relatively high rate of people living at or below the poverty line. Over the period 2013 to 2017, 16.9 percent of the Pacific County’s population was living below the poverty level, compared with 11.0 percent for the state and the nation at 12.3 percent. The state and national rates are not directly comparable to the county rate because they each use different data sources. The county’s average annual wage in 2017 was \$36,177. That total lags both the state (\$62,077) and the U.S. (\$55,375). The median hourly wage in 2017 was \$18.83, below the state’s median hourly wage of \$24.89 and the state excluding King County median hourly wage of \$22.00<sup>1</sup>. The median household income in Pacific County was \$39,895 in 2013 to 2017. The county’s median was less than the state’s (\$66,174) and the nation’s (\$57,652).<sup>2</sup>

Pacific County residents living at or below the poverty line often live in substandard housing, including the following:

- old houses in need of major repair (20% of the housing stock was constructed before 1939)
- housing units without plumbing
- RVs and trailers lacking running water or electricity
- structures with holes in the floor, walls covered in black mold, and full septic tanks that people cannot afford to empty or replace <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>(Sources: Employment Security Department; Bureau of Labor Statistics; Bureau of Economic Analysis; U.S. Census Bureau; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey)

<sup>2</sup>*Id.*

<sup>3</sup> Census' American Community Survey 2017 5-year estimate

With a median age of 52.7 years compared to the statewide median of 38.2 years<sup>3</sup>, many of the people living in substandard housing are older and unable to complete their own home repairs. Additionally, most<sup>2</sup> are living on fixed incomes which leaves little funds available for things such as home repair.<sup>4 3</sup>

In addition to living in substandard housing, many of these residents struggle with meeting daily needs and find themselves in the following situations:

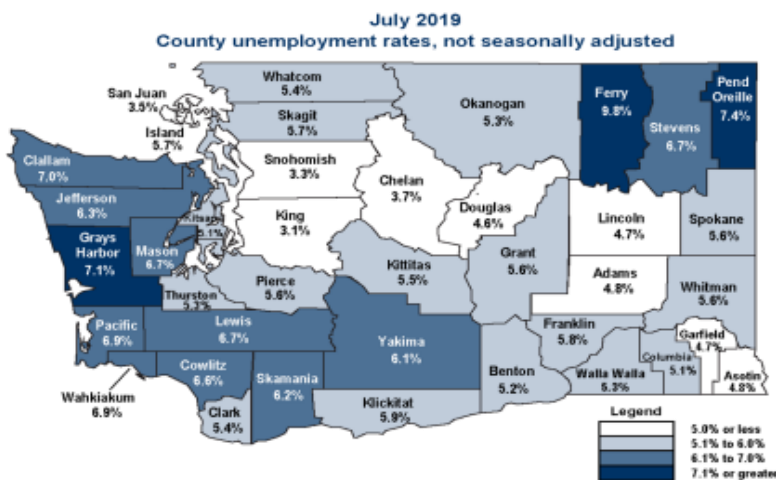
- 26.8% (5,685) of households received SNAP benefits (compared to 17.4 % statewide and 12.9% nationally)<sup>5</sup>
- 10% of persons remain uninsured (compared to 7% statewide)<sup>6</sup>

Due to the lack of medical insurance, many people accrue unmanageable medical debt and rely on the emergency room, the most expensive form of healthcare, to meet their healthcare needs. Further, Pacific County lacks urgent care facilities, meaning individuals either need to go out of the County to receive services or go to the Emergency Room. In Pacific County, 66.7% (2,010) of the students received free or reduced school lunches in the 2017 school year, which was more than the state and national averages of 41% and 43.5% respectively.<sup>7</sup>

### Higher Unemployment Rates

Located in the southwest corner of Washington State, Pacific County is a rural, isolated community of 20,498 permanent residents spread over 975 square miles. Pacific County has historically consisted of a resource-based economy focused on timber, seafood, and cranberries, but over the last 30 years it has transitioned to include low paying and seasonal tourism, retirement, and development sectors. Many of these jobs are seasonal, indicating there may be a need for farm worker assistance or seasonal housing to help people during the off-season. As reported in Figure 4 below, the unemployment rate in Pacific County (7%) is much higher than the state (4.8%) average.<sup>8</sup>

**Figure 4**  
**Unemployment Rates by County**  
 Not seasonally adjusted, July 2019<sup>9</sup>



<sup>3</sup> Census' American Community Survey 2017 5-year estimate

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011 Data Release, December 2012. The 2011 American Community Survey 5-year data is an average of data collected from 2007 through 2011.

<sup>5</sup> [dshs.wa.gov/data/research/research-4.47-pacific.pdf](https://dshs.wa.gov/data/research/research-4.47-pacific.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, 2010 (October 2012 release).

<sup>7</sup> Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and US Department of Agriculture.

<sup>8</sup> County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, Pacific County

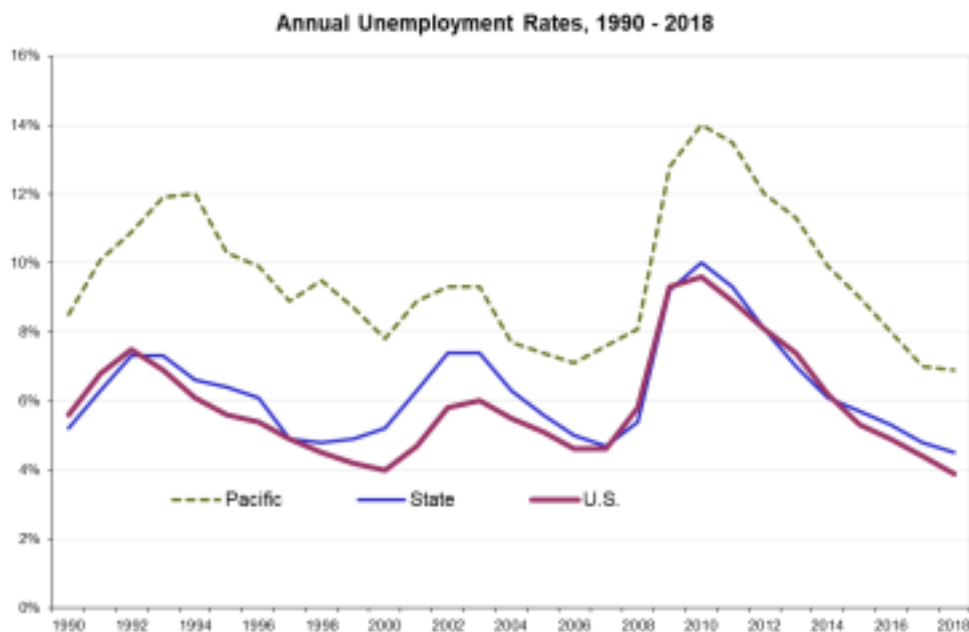
<sup>9</sup> Source: Washington State Employment Security Department

Economic trends in Pacific County are different than in most of Washington State. In particular, changes in the economy experienced in the state or the nation generally are not experienced in Pacific County. As opposed to the trends in much of the state, in Pacific county there are not as many significant gains or losses in jobs. The rate of unemployment has always been higher than the state averages. It is generally not a question of whether the county's unemployment rate is higher than the state, but rather how much higher is the county's rate. With an economy heavily reliant on tourism, the nationwide recession had a significant impact with fewer people able to afford to travel to the area. Chart 1 below compares Pacific County's rate of unemployment to state and national rates over the course of the last 6 years.

**Chart 1**

**Unemployment Rate Comparison 1990-2018**

Not Seasonally Adjusted



**Lack of Affordable Housing**

The lack of living wage jobs in relation to that of the average income in Pacific County makes housing difficult to afford. The annual income needed to afford a two-bedroom apartment in Pacific County at the current Fair Market Rents is over \$35,920 or an hourly wage of \$17.27. Most units in Pacific County are priced above the Fair Market Rent value.

**Table: 2019 Housing Costs, Income, and Affordability in Pacific County**

<b>Housing/Income</b>	<b>Studio</b>	<b>1 Bedroom</b>	<b>2 Bedroom</b>	<b>3 Bedroom</b>
Fair Market Rent (2019)	\$580.00	\$679.00	\$898.00	\$1145.00
Annual Income to afford	\$23,200	\$27,160	\$35,920	\$45,800
Hourly wage to afford	\$11.15	\$13.06	\$17.27	\$23.56
Minimum Wage Washington 2019 (rent amount affordable on minimum wage is \$624 per month)	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
Weekly Work hours to afford housing on minimum wage	37	44	58	73

*Source: Out of Reach 2019, National Low-Income Housing Coalition*

With a higher than average percent of the population being low income, the need for affordable rental housing is great. Unfortunately, the inventory of affordable rental property that is in livable condition is extremely limited. The lack of housing stock is an issue countywide, but more severe in the south county area due to an increase in homes being turned into vacation rentals. With the majority of literally homeless individuals living in South County, this housing stock shortage significantly impairs our ability to make housing placements. It is not uncommon for individuals to have to wait several months for housing placement even with funding, because securing housing is so difficult. We have identified the creation of a landlord liaison position to address this issue, but do not have adequate funds to pay for the position at this time. Funding to develop new affordable housing has been dramatically reduced over the past several years. Accessing these funds is extremely competitive and often requires matching funds that simply are not available. In addition to the overall lack of affordable housing, there are also challenges related to financial assistance to those who may qualify. Pacific County has some housing assistance available to people; however, it is not sufficient to meet the substantial need. As with many other programs, the number of housing vouchers available to assist people in need has decreased over the years. Further, once people have qualified for a rental subsidy, they are unable to find housing to rent due to a lack of available units in the area. The county is also lacking any emergency shelter, which would assist people who find themselves literally homeless and in need of time to arrange for a more permanent solution. Many people who are struggling in other areas of the state come to Pacific County with the impression that rent is lower and therefore more affordable; however, given the circumstances described above, this is a false perception that people realize quickly.

## **2. Social Determinants**

### **Substance Use/Mental Health**

Substance use is often a cause and a result of homelessness. Substance use and/or mental health issues can contribute to and exacerbate someone's housing situation. Substance use and mental health issues can create major barriers to finding housing, retaining housing, and returning to self-sufficiency.

### **Domestic Violence**

30% of people experiencing homelessness report experiencing domestic violence, and 50% of women with children state domestic violence is a factor in their homelessness. Individuals fleeing violence often face difficulty locating housing quickly. Also, most people experience a reduction in income or have no income when they choose to leave a violent situation which contributes to not being able to afford housing.

### **Unaccompanied Youth**

In 2018, McKinney Vento liaisons identified 34 unaccompanied youth in Pacific County. Unaccompanied youth are often difficult to track or count because many have dropped out of school. Unaccompanied youth face several barriers to acquiring housing: they are often unable to secure living wage jobs and are unable to obtain housing due to limitations on minors signing leases. Youth aging out of Washington State foster care can access rental assistance provided by the State, however, these funds are often insufficient. Youth often need education, job training, life skills training, mental health services, and other support.

While many people in Pacific County experience one of the above-mentioned situations, there are a significant number of households dealing with several of these circumstances. For people experiencing these situations, one unexpected major expense could quickly move the household into imminent risk of homelessness or homelessness.

## **RESOURCES TO COMBAT HOMELESSNESS IN PACIFIC COUNTY**

The County has a variety of current housing services to help house individuals experiencing homelessness. However, there are also several gaps in resources, including lack of rental housing units, no shelters, and limited emergency funds to prevent and divert individuals and families from entering the homeless response system.

### ***Existing Resources***

Pacific County receives a Consolidated Homeless Grant (CHG) from the Washington State Department of Commerce. This program provides rental assistance to individuals experiencing homelessness. Limited dollars are available for targeted prevention to divert individuals from the homeless system. Coastal Community Action Program (CCAP) provides direct services to individuals who are receiving assistance through CHG.

Pacific County receives a HUD Permanent Supportive Housing Grant to provide rental assistance for individuals living with long-term disability and who are chronically homeless. There are approximately 18 unit slots available in this program for participants. Participants are offered a wide-variety of individual support to help them maintain their housing long-term.

The HOME Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) program utilizes Federal funds to support communities providing utility, deposit and ongoing rental assistance.

The Eagles Apartments in Raymond, WA is a Project Based Voucher (PBV) Housing program with studio

and 1-bedroom units.

Pacific Pearl Apartments located in South Bend, WA is a Project Based Voucher (PBV) Housing program with 1, 2- and 3-bedroom units for survivors of Domestic Violence.

USDA Properties and HUD Multi-Family Apartments are located sparingly throughout Pacific County.

Willapa Behavioral Health owns and operates two triplexes in Long Beach for behavioral health clients in need of housing.

### ***New Resources as of October 2019***

In 2019, Pacific County received new funding for two Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) Projects. One project will be administered by the Health Department and provide RRH to young adults ages 18-24 involved in the criminal justice system. The other grant will be administered by the local Domestic Violence Agency, Crisis Support Network, to provide RRH for survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Additionally, a Supportive Services Only program to support unaccompanied minors by providing a monthly food allowance will begin in October 2019. A new project-based Section 8 housing development, Driftwood Point Apartments, is set to open in Long Beach, Washington at the end of 2019. 75% of the Driftwood Point project is set aside for homeless families with children, veterans and households that have an individual living with a disability. There will be 27 units and the apartments will include one-, two- and three-bedroom units. The county is currently supporting efforts by the Joint Pacific County Housing Authority to develop a similar housing project in Raymond.

### ***New Resources as of November 2021***

In 2020, Pacific County received new funding for ESG - CV, Shelter Program, ERAP/TRAP, and CDBG-CV. PCHHS partnered with PCIS to provide ERAP/TRAP application assistance and outreach using promotoras (community guides) to the Latinx community. This partnership significantly increased the amount of rental/utility assistance provided to the Latinx and Spanish speaking community within Pacific County. Additionally, a new project-based Section 8 housing development, Willapa Center Apartments, has begun construction in Raymond, Washington. This project will be managed by JPCHA and is supported with Pacific County GA Recording Fees. CCAP also implemented a Coordinated Entry Diversion Pilot Program through 2020 - 2021. This program provided diversion funds for Youth and Young Adults and Latinx households. PCHHS also submitted an RFP to Commerce to expand outreach and application assistance among historically disadvantaged communities. We expect to hear back on decisions at the end of November 2021.

### Housing and Utility Programs/Projects

Program	Provider	Funding Source	Funding Term
Youth Homeless Demonstration Project (YHDP): Supportive Services Only (SSO)	PCHHS	HUD CoC	10/1/2021 - 9/30/2022
Youth Homeless Demonstration Project (YHDP): Rapid Rehousing (RRH)	PCHHS	HUD CoC	10/1/2021 - 9/30/2022
Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)	PCHHS	HUD CoC	10/1/2021 - 9/30/2022
Domestic Violence Emergency and Transitional Housing (OVA)	CSN	Office of Violence Against Women	10/1/2021 - 9/30/2022
Domestic Violence Rapid Rehousing (DV RRH)	CSN	HUD CoC	10/1/2021 - 9/30/2022
Consolidated Homelessness Grant (CHG)	CCAP	Dept. of Commerce & Pacific County GA Recording Fees	7/1/2021 - 6/30/2023
Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG - CV)	PCHHS	Dept. of Commerce	7/1/2020 - 9/30/2022
Shelter Program Grant	PCHHS	Dept. of Commerce	8/1/2020 - 6/30/2023
HOME Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)	CCAP	Dept. of Commerce	7/1/2021 - 6/30/2022
Low-Income Home and Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)	CCAP	Dept. of Commerce	7/1/2021 - 6/30/2022
Project Based Housing Voucher Program (Eagles, Pacific Pearl, Driftwood Point, and Willapa Center)	JPCHA	Pacific County GA Recording Fees	1/1/2021 - 12/31/2021
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG - CV)	PCHHS	Dept. of Commerce	3/27/2020 - 1/31/2023
Eviction Rent Assistance Program 2.0 (ERAP 2.0 formerly TRAP 1.0)	PCHHS & PCIS	Dept. of Commerce	10/1/2021 - 6/30/2023
Community Service Block Grant (CDBG)	CCAP	Dept. of Commerce	7/1/2021 - 6/30/2022

Community Behavioral Health Rental Assistance (CBRA)	CCAP	Dept. of Commerce	7/1/2021 - 6/30/2023
Fountational Community Supports (FCS)	CCAP	HCA	Ongoing
Pathways	CCAP	CPAA	Ongoing
Coordinated Entry Diversion Pilot Program	CCAP	Dept. of Commerce	7/1/2020 - 6/30/2021

**Social Services and Providers**

Many individuals experiencing homelessness are also in need of supportive services. Pacific County service providers use a harm-reduction model to assist individuals. Our Continuum utilizes a Housing First philosophy, and, except where required by funders, supportive services participation is not mandatory to receive housing assistance. The following table identifies key supports that may be available to those seeking housing assistance. Many of these services are utilized in tandem to provide wrap-around services to individuals involved in Pacific County’s homeless housing system.

Service	Provider
Substance Use Treatment	Willapa Behavioral Health (WBH), Lifeline Connections, ESD 113 True North
Mental Health	Willapa Behavioral Health, Lifeline Connections
Parenting Classes & Support	Pacific County Health & Human Services (PCHHS), Willapa Behavioral Health, Parent Child Assistance Program (PCAP)
Vocational Training	Division of Vocational Rehab (DVR), OURR (Opioid Use and Recovery and Resiliency) Program at WBH, WorkSource (DSHS), Foundational Community Supports (FCS) through CCAP, Pac Mountain
School Supports	Family Resource Coordinators, McKinney Vento Liaisons
Veterans Assistance	Grays Harbor Veteran’s Service Officer (VSO) (Pacific County VSO beginning January 2020), and Housing Opportunities of SW WA (HOSWWA)
Coordinated Entry/Housing Services	Coastal Community Action Program, Youth Coordinated Entry system by PCHHS in development



Other Supports	Jail based services (Treatment and Reentry planning) through Pacific County Health Dept., and Pacific County Sheriff's Office
Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Crime Victims Advocacy	Crisis Support Network
Financial assistance (TANF), and SNAP Food Benefits	Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)
Food and tangible goods	Raymond, Ocean Park, Ilwaco, South Bend, and Bay Center food banks, various faith partners and thrift stores
Resources and community connections	Peninsula Poverty Response coordinated Project Community Connect, Laundry Love Program, and working to reestablish Overnight Winter Lodging
Family Resource Coordinators	ESD 113 True North (North County), Ocean Beach School District

## **GAPS IN HOMELESS HOUSING AND SERVICES IN PACIFIC COUNTY**

**Homeless Youth** Are greatly underserved in Pacific County and throughout the region. Reliable data on homeless youth/unaccompanied minors in Pacific County is hard to find due to inconsistency of data collection process between schools and underfunding of the McKinney Vento Liaison programs. Youth are difficult to locate and hard to serve due to lack of resources available to minors. Youth are also among the most vulnerable populations. Within Pacific County, only limited housing resources are available to youth and these resources are newly acquired via the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program grant.

**Limited Affordable Housing.** Pacific County vacancy rates for housing are very low. It is difficult to find rental housing, and if a unit is available, it is often more expensive than individuals can afford. This is a problem county wide, but especially so in South Pacific County.

**Limited Low-Barrier Housing Options available.** If a unit becomes available often landlords will not rent to individuals with low credit scores, criminal records, lack of income, evictions, or other housing barriers.

**Limited Rental Assistance Funding.** Pacific County has very limited rental assistance funding to help individuals experiencing homelessness or to provide a rental subsidy to offset a portion of an individual's rent to make it more affordable.

**Emergency Shelter.** There are no emergency shelters or cold weather shelters currently operating in Pacific County. Previously, Peninsula Poverty Response operated a cold weather shelter but discontinued operation in the winter of 2018-2019.

**Transitional Housing.** Crisis Support Network recently acquired a grant that will allow them to provide transitional housing to survivors of domestic violence or sexual assault. There are no other transitional housing programs available in Pacific County.

**Street Outreach Programs.** Pacific County does not have any funded street outreach programs. Various service providers engage in outreach throughout the community by going to various meeting spots, civic events, and community fairs in order to engage residents and other service providers.

**Prevention Dollars.** Very limited prevention/diversion dollars to help individuals avoid the homeless system. Far more people need funds to prevent eviction than are able to receive funds.

**Lack of General Funding** to provide a robust homeless crisis response, which includes coordinated entry intake workers, case management staff, rental assistance resources, administrative supervision, and landlord liaison services.

## **OBJECTIVES**

**Objective #1- Quickly identify and engage people experiencing homelessness under the state definition, and all unaccompanied youth under any federal definition, through outreach and coordination between every system that encounters people experiencing homelessness.**

### **Current System:**

Due to the size of Pacific County, it is often difficult to find the resources/capacity to quickly identify and engage people experiencing homelessness. CCAP currently provides two entry points for Coordinated Entry, one in North County and one in South County. CCAP and other partner agencies do not have street outreach projects to engage individuals experiencing homelessness. Instead, agencies attend a wide-variety of community events to provide information to other agencies and individuals in need of housing services. CCAP is a sub recipient of both the CHG State grant and a permanent supportive housing program (PSH) through HUD (Sub recipient agreement ending December 31, 2019 for HUD PSH program). CCAP currently keeps active waitlists of individuals seeking housing services who are experiencing homelessness. CCAP keeps track of when individuals are engaged, and housing placement for participants in their programs. The County does not currently have a master list of individuals experiencing homelessness that all providers can access.

### **How success will be measured:**

Compliance with state and federal Coordinated Entry Data Collection requirements in order to build and maintain active lists of people experiencing homelessness and to track the homelessness status, engagements, and housing placement for each household.

### **Milestone for Objective #1-**

*Coordinated Entry Workgroup Established by May 2020, bi-monthly meetings thereafter- Pacific County Health and Human Services and CCAP as Coordinated Entry lead*

Actions in Support of Objective #1	Who?	By When?	Measure of Success	Updates as of November, 2021
Expand partnerships and coordination to ensure efficient identification and referral of individuals and families experiencing homelessness.	Housing Subcommittee  Justice Mental Health Collaborative Core Team  Family Resource Coordinators	On-going	Continued or increased engagement by responsible entities, including at Continuum of Care Meetings.	Expanded case management, outreach, and services to those involved in the criminal justice system and unaccompanied minors. Served 16 unaccompanied minors through YHDP SSO program and 15 young adults through YHDP RRH.  Supported development of Family Resource Coordinators at 4 of 5 local school districts.
Formulate a Coordinated Entry (CE) workgroup to address current issues related to coordinated entry, and ensure that the Coordinated Entry system complies with state and federal coordinated entry data collection requirements.	Housing Subcommittee  Joint Grays Harbor and Pacific County Coordinated Entry Workgroup	Milestone Achievement- May 2020	Compliance with State and Federal Coordinated Entry Guidelines.	Milestone was achieved in May 2020. Meetings were halted in March 2021, but resumed in October 2021 and will continue monthly.  Established partnership with Grays Harbor County to align CE between both counties.
Ensure Compliance with Coordinated Entry Guidelines.	CCAP, Housing Subcommittee, CE Workgroup, PCHHS	July 2020	All CE access points are in compliance with Coordinated Entry Guidelines.	Compliance checks are ongoing. Monitoring of CE provider conducted September 2021. Continued TA to CE provider provided during Joint Grays Harbor and Pacific County Coordinated Entry Workgroup monthly meetings.

Improve HMIS Data Quality (quarterly review of data quality, revise all County contract documents to require data entry compliance)	All housing providers that utilize HMIS, Housing Subcommittee	On-going review, quarterly	Maintain less than 5% error rate for all data quality	Updated CCAP monthly invoice process to include data quality reporting.  Ran reports for the most recent quarter July - Sept. 2021. Will meet with each agency to provide TA.
Increase capacity of the delivery system and coordinated entry by creating multiple access doors to include at least 2 new access doors	Crisis Support Network (CSN), CCAP (Lead), PCHHS (VSO, YHDP Coordinator)	June 2022	Expand to have at least one more CE access point in Pacific County.	Developed two new access points for coordinated entry: 1) CE for Youth operated by PCHHS and 2) CE for survivors of DV operated by CSN. Have not expanded general CE doors to date, but will continue efforts towards this goal in 2022.

Continue to review homeless system strengths and gaps to inform future decisions regarding grants to apply for, and how funds are spent.	Housing Subcommittee Meetings, HHHS Advisory Board, PCHHS	Bi-monthly, on-going	Continued development of the homeless response system in Pacific County.	Ongoing analysis of the homeless system. The Housing Subcommittee reviewed and provided input to update this five-year homelessness plan.
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<p>Develop strategies to engage youth and unaccompanied minors experiencing homelessness in order to get a better understanding of youth homelessness in Pacific County. Develop additional ways to assist youth experiencing homelessness.</p>	<p>School Districts, PCHHS, ESD 113, Housing Subcommittee</p>	<p>January 2021</p>	<p>Engage at least 3 of the 5 McKinney Vento liaisons in Pacific County to attend Housing Subcommittee Meetings.</p> <p>Development of local prioritized strategies to better engage youth and unaccompanied minors.</p>	<p>Implemented the YHDP RRH and YHDP SSO programs to serve homeless youth and young adults.</p> <p>Reaching out to Family Resources Coordinators from each school district to invite them to the November 2021 Housing Subcommittee meeting.</p> <p>Will discuss local strategies to better engage youth and unaccompanied minors at November 2021 Housing Subcommittee meeting</p>
<p>Search for and if available, try to apply for more funding sources that allow for diversion, street outreach, and emergency shelter/housing resources.</p>	<p>PCHHS, Housing Subcommittee, Peninsula Poverty Response (PPR)</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>By 2024, determine feasibility of long-term emergency shelter in Pacific County.</p>	<p>Submitted RFP to Commerce to support development of community outreach and referral workers specifically targeted historically underserved populations. Partners to this project include: PPR (target population low income seniors and individuals experiencing homelessness, 2) Pacific County Immigrant Support Group (focus on Hispanic Population), and 3) Pacific County Voices Uniting (focusing on Native American and LGBTQIA populations).</p> <p>Established contractual relationship with PCIS to applications to rental assistance programs from hispanic population. Goal was for 10% of applications to be from individuals who are Hispanic. So far in 2021, we have surpassed this goal with over 30% of applications funded for those who are hispanic.</p>

<p>Support development of sober living (Oxford houses), and expansion of other housing resources available to individuals with behavioral health diagnosis</p>	<p>Housing Subcommittee in coordination with Behavioral Health Committee</p>	<p>Initial meeting to discuss by Dec 2020</p>	<p>Options identified, pursue development of programs as indicated</p>	<p>In Oct 2019, we established rapid re-housing for individuals experiencing homelessness who are involved in the criminal justice system and also have mental health or SUD diagnosis. To date, the program has served 6 individuals, 3 of whom have been housed.</p> <p>Discussion regarding development of Oxford or other sober living housing stock in Pacific County began in 2019, but were sidelined due to COVID. We will reignite these conversations with housing and behavioral health partners in 2022.</p>
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## **Objective #2- Prioritize housing for people with the greatest need.**

### **Current System:**

Currently, our Coordinated Entry system utilizes the Vulnerability Index - Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) to determine which individuals have the greatest need. However, most individuals who rate as “highest need” often need permanent supportive housing or other assisted living. Due to limited funding for the PSH program, many individuals with the greatest need are placed into a non-permanent Rapid Re-Housing Program or other assistance program that is time limited. This means that individuals may return to homelessness after receiving assistance due to being unable to become financially independent during their short-term rental assistance program. Further, due to performance measurements and funding requirements, it is often difficult to place individuals with the “greatest need” into short-term housing programs when performance metrics require successful exits to permanent housing.

### **How success will be measured:**

Compliance with State and Federal Coordinated Entry Requirements for all projects receiving Federal, State, and local homeless funds.

Implementation of the Coordinated Entry Core Element Recommendations and the Office of Homeless Youth and Youth 4 Youth (Y4Y) Board for Youth Coordinated Entry.

Successful Implementation of Prioritization Policies for all projects receiving Federal, State, and Local homeless funds, resulting in prioritized people consistently housed in a timely manner.

### **Milestone for Objective # 2-**

*Local Policies and Procedures for prioritization will be updated by December 2020, and annually reassessed thereafter by the Housing Subcommittee and Coordinated Entry Workgroup*



Actions in Support of Objective # 2	Who?	By When?	Measure of Success	Updates as of November, 2021
Continue to develop written prioritization policies and continue to prioritize unsheltered homeless households into homeless prevention, or any permanent housing project intervention.	CE workgroup, Housing Committee	Milestone Achievement December 2020-annually reviewed thereafter	Updated Local Policies and Procedures for Prioritization.	Joint Grays Harbor and Pacific County CE Workgroup is currently working on updating CE program Policies in accordance with the new CE Guidelines adopted by Commerce.
Create a Youth Centered Coordinated Entry system (13- 18 years of age) to help prioritize youth into the limited programs available.	CE Workgroup, PCHHS	June 2020	Functioning Youth Coordinated Entry System utilizing best practices from Department of Commerce and other Youth CE systems.	Milestone met. PCHHS currently uses the YYA CE prioritization tool to provide CE for youth under 18 who are seeking services.  CCAP has added the YYA CE prioritization tool to provide CE for young adults ages 18 - 24 who are seeking services.

<p>Improve the PIT Count for homeless youth in Pacific County and use information to help apply for funding to increase resources for unaccompanied youth.</p>	<p>Housing Committee</p>	<p>January 2023</p>	<p>Increased engagement with Family Resource Coordinators and McKinney Vento Liaisons, including at Housing Subcommittee meetings. Plan created to increase youth engagement.</p>	<p>Due to COVID-19, PIT count was modified to only include those served by emergency shelters in 2021. Clients in programs run by CSN and PCHHS were counted but we were unable to expand PIT efforts beyond that.</p> <p>We supported Project Community Connect in July 2021 and have some "PIT Like" data from that event.</p>
<p>Continue to support Family Resource Coordinators in local schools.</p>	<p>BH Committee, OBSD, ESD 113</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>Maintain funding for Family Resource Coordinators in (FRC) at least 3 schools within Pacific County.</p>	<p>PCHHS has funded 4 family resource coordinator positions at 4 of 5 school districts. ESD 113 and OBSD employ FRC who implement outreach, support, and care coordination for families in need of housing and other social services. PCHHS uses a combination of .1% Sale Tax funds, GA Recording Fees, and prevention dollars to fund this program.</p>
<p>Provide community-wide training for housing providers and social service partners (motivational interviewing, mental health first aid (MHFA), harm reduction, etc.).</p>	<p>PCHHS</p>	<p>December 2022</p>	<p>Offer MHFA at least twice per year to service providers. Offer ACEs training at least once per year to service providers. Offer Youth Mental Health First Aid at least once per year to service providers.</p>	<p>PCHHS has continued to provide virtual QPR (Question, Persuade, Respond) training throughout the COVID pandemic.</p> <p>PCHHS had to put MHFA and YMFA trainings on pause, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. From Oct 2019 - Sep 2020, 25 MHFA trainings were facilitated and increased capacity to provide training.</p>

Evaluate Coordinated Entry, waitlists, and other data to ensure that we are reaching the “greatest need” populations.	CE workgroup	December 2021	Evaluations occur on a quarterly basis.	Compliance checks and evaluation is ongoing. Monitoring of CE provider conducted September 2021. Continued TA to CE provider provided during Joint Grays Harbor and Pacific County Coordinated Entry Workgroup monthly meetings.
Implement the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) grants to provide supportive services to youth and Rapid Rehousing for Young Adults.	PCHHS, Housing Subcommittee, McKinney Vento Liaisons, FRCs	December 2019	Receive continued funding for YHDP programs after two year demonstration project.	Milestone met. Both the YHDP RRH and the YHDP SSO programs were given an automatic 3rd year. The 2021 NOFO replacement applications were submitted on 10/15 for approval of a 4th year.
Participate in monthly care coordination meetings to ensure coordinated care across systems	Housing program staff	Ongoing monthly	Regular participation in care coordination meetings.	Meet monthly with PCHHS and CCAP staff. Will discuss local strategies to better engage other service providers at the next meeting.

**Objective #3- Operate an effective and efficient homeless crisis response system that swiftly moves people into stable permanent housing.**

**Current System:**

Due to low levels of funding and lack of capacity, it is difficult to operate an effective and efficient homeless crisis response system that swiftly moves people into stable permanent housing. While Pacific County's Coordinated Entry system has two access points currently within the community, neither of these access points have a full-time employee designated to the Coordinated Entry process. Instead, case managers and reception staff try to complete CE assessments as their other work allows. Additionally, Pacific County does not have emergency shelters beyond a two-bedroom domestic violence shelter. While Pacific County has a new transitional housing program for domestic violence survivors, we lack other transitional housing programs for the general public. Our waitlists are long and spaces are full for Rapid Re-Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing assistance. Due to a lack of living wage jobs, it is difficult to transition individuals on a RRH program into permanent housing. Because CHG guidelines require us to serve the highest need individuals, many participants placed into RRH require Permanent Supportive Housing, but are unable to enroll in the program due to limited funding. Therefore, many of the participants do not exit to permanent housing and after the RRH housing funding ends for them they often return to homelessness.

**How success will be measured:**

**System-wide performance:**

- a) Increase percentage of exits to permanent housing to the level of the top performing 20 percent of homeless crisis response systems nationwide.
- b) Reduce returns to homelessness after exit to permanent housing to less than 10 percent.
- c) Reduce average length of stay in temporary housing projects to less than 90 days

**Milestone for Objective #3-**

By June 2022, attempt to reduce returns to homelessness by seeking support from partner agencies to ensure supportive services continue after placement into housing- Housing Providers and Housing Subcommittee

Actions in Support of Objective # 3	Who?	Timeline	Measure of Success	Updates as of November, 2021
Explore use of flexible funds for meeting unique needs of individuals to prevent homelessness or stabilize individuals in their current housing situations.	Housing Committee	On-going	Increase in prevention dollars to help divert individuals and families from the homeless response system.	<p>On-going.</p> <p>GA Recording Fees are subcontracted to CCAP to help support CHG/HEN contract. Recording fees also provided to support PPR and FRC's.</p> <p>CCAP ran the CE Diversion Pilot Program.</p>
Continue to explore funding options for transitional housing and rapid rehousing resources that can be utilized to move people into permanent supportive housing or other affordable housing options.	County, PCHHS, Housing Subcommittee	December 2023	One new RRH or transitional housing program funded within Pacific County.	ESG - CV RRH funding was secured in Pacific County to provide RRH, Emergency Shelter, and Outreach. Funding ends Sept. 2022.
Ensure case managers/care coordinators are creating robust housing stability plans and actively working with individuals towards the goals.	Housing Providers, Housing Committee	Housing Providers- on going, PCHHS monitor CCAP annually	At least 25% of individuals show improvement on the Self-sufficiency matrix	Will discuss local strategies to measure client self sufficiency at December 2021 Housing Subcommittee meeting.

Through targeted outreach and education, attempt to increase the number of landlords renting to households in need of supportive services and/or people experiencing homelessness.	Housing Committee	By September 2020	Develop an outreach plan to contact landlords in Pacific County.	<p>Landlord Liaison at CCAP provides outreach and education to current landlords.</p> <p>Will discuss outreach plan at November 2021 Housing Subcommittee meeting.</p> <p>Milestone goal to implement plan by September 2022</p>
Explore options to work with County and other local municipalities and developers to look into housing/apartment investments	Housing Subcommittee, PCHHS, BOCC	June 2023	Conduct at least two workgroup sessions with County Commissioners regarding investing in real property.	Will schedule first workgroup session with County Commissioners in November 2021.

Explore utilizing new sales tax revenue from SHB 1406 to purchase real property	Housing Committee HHSAB BOCC	June 2023	Use sales tax funds or a portion of funds to help invest in the purchase of real property.	Continued discussions needed with Housing Subcommittee
Continue to invest in and attempt to increase funding for permanent supportive housing or other permanent housing programs.	Housing Committee HHSAB, PCHHS	On-going	Continued funding of current PSH programs within Pacific County.	PCHHS has been granted the PSH project for Oct. 2021 - Sept. 2022. The 2021 NOFO renewal applications were submitted on 10/15 for approval of another year.

Coordinate with Peninsula Poverty Response to explore funding options to provide cold-weather emergency shelter (OWL)	PCHHS, PPR, Housing Committee	On-going	PPR or another non-profit resumes a cold weather shelter within Pacific County.	On-going discussions needed to strategize implementation of OWL shelter.
Attempt to reduce returns to homelessness by seeking support from partner agencies to ensure supportive services continue after placement into housing	Housing providers, PCHHS, Housing Committee	Milestone Achievement June 2022	Commitment from at least 2 housing providers to continue with supportive services for at least 3 months after participant exit programs (if participant desires support).	PCHHS provides 6 months of supportive services to YHDP RRH and YHDP SSO participants.
Explore expansion of the use of Pathways or other case management/care coordination programs to other agencies beyond CCAP	Local Housing Providers, Housing Committee	December 2023	Increase in local housing providers and other service providers utilizing Pathways or other similar system.	PCHHS met with Pathways representatives in September 2021. Will follow-up in November. Ask a Pathways rep to present at a housing subcommittee meeting.
Prioritize funding or look for opportunities for funding for landlord liaisons, CE intake workers, and care coordinators	CCAP, PCHHS, Housing Committee	December 2023	Increase capacity within system by 1 FTE.	Ongoing discussions needed. Pacific County currently has 0.5 FTE Landlord Liaison through CCAP.
Coordinate annual Project Community Connect event to provide resources and outreach to individuals experiencing poverty	PPR, PCHHS	January 2020, annually thereafter	Annual event, serves at least 100 individuals	PPR continued event in July 2021.

<p>Utilize flex funding to divert at risk individuals from becoming homeless and/or use problem-solving conversations to help a household identify practical solutions for resolving their housing crisis quickly and safely.</p>	<p>Local Housing Providers, Housing Committee</p>	<p>March 2022</p>	<p>Funding policies and procedures established by March 2022. Program implemented by provider thereafter.</p>	
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**Objective #4- The impact of the fully implemented local plan on the number of households housed and the number of households left unsheltered, assuming existing resources and state policies.**

**How Success will be measured:**

An estimate of people experiencing homelessness that will be housed during 2024 after successful implementation of the local plan using existing resources, and the count of households left unsheltered at a point in time in 2024, based on credible data and research; including the data assumptions, calculations, and related citations necessary for outside parties to review and reproduce the estimate.

**Milestone for Objective #4-**

*Use tools provided to predict the impact of a fully implemented plan by March 2020. E data.*  
PCHHS

Actions in Support of Objective # 4	Responsible Parties	Timeline	Measure of Success	Updates as of November, 2021
Use tools provided by the Department of Commerce to predict impact of fully implemented plan.	PCHHS, Housing Committee, 5 Year Plan Exec Team	Milestone Achievement March 2020	Completion of tools to help predict impact of fully implemented plan.	Continue to assess local data from Commerce provided dashboards
Use the data to identify housing solutions that will end homelessness	CE workgroup, housing subcommittee	March 2020	Evaluation of data from tools.	Continue to assess local data from Commerce provided dashboards
Conduct Housing Needs assessment and evaluate Pacific County housing continuum of care programs and services. Develop a quality improvement plan and update the 5 year plan if indicated.	PCHHS Epi, Housing Committee, 5 Year Plan Exec Team	December 2022	Completed evaluation and needs assessment by December 2022.	

**Objective #5- Address racial disparities among people experiencing homelessness.**

Current Status: Pacific County is a high need, under-resourced rural community. Located in the southwest corner of Washington State, Pacific County is a rural and isolated community of 20,920 permanent residents spread over 975 square miles (just over 21 residents per square mile). The county's population is predominately white (87%) with the largest minority groups being Hispanic at 5.2%, and Native American at 2.7%. Nearly 27% of the population is over the age of 65, the largest elderly population in WA State. Veterans compose 16.8% of the population of the county vs. the state average of 10%. According to 2011-15 US Census, 27.6% (5,126 individuals) of Pacific county residents have a disability (vs 12.6% state average), 11.3% or 2,132 individuals are deaf or hard of hearing, 10.4% speak a language other than English (primarily Spanish) at home, and 193 individuals, or 2.1% have limited language proficiency. According to the US Census, the median household income from 2008-12 was \$40,873, compared to the statewide median of \$59,374. More children live in poverty than the state average (29% vs 19%), and nearly 60% of Pacific County youth qualify for free/reduced lunch.

Measure of Success:

Completion of an initial analysis using a racial equity tool and data provided by the Department of Commerce.

**Milestone for Objective #5-**

*Evaluate Data from tools and create a plan to minimize racial disparities by December 2020...*

Actions in Support of Objective # 5	Responsible Parties	Timeline	Measure of Success	Updates as of November, 2021
Use racial equity tools provided by Commerce to evaluate current homeless housing response system and work to eliminate gender and racial disparities within the system	Housing Providers, CE workgroup	Annual review of Coordinated Entry Data by CE workgroup	On-going evaluation of homeless housing response system. Equity policies adopted by at least one housing provider.	Continue to assess local data from Commerce provided dashboards and CE Looker dashboard created by PCHHS.
Evaluate Data from tools and create a plan to minimize racial disparities.	CCAP, PCHHS, and Housing Subcommittee.	December 2020	Complete data analysis and develop action steps/plan to minimize racial disparities within homeless response system.	Local data analysis is still needed. Will work with the Housing Subcommittee to develop an action plan and look at data.  Milestone goal is July, 2022

Increase contracts with by & for organizations such as PCIS and Consejo Hispano to increase outreach, applications, and service for Hispanic population	Housing Providers	June 2022	Contractual relationship established or expanded with at least one by and for organization. Increased percentage of applications and services to historically disadvantaged communities.	
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**Objective # 6- Increase Housing stock available to provide housing to individuals involved in the homeless crisis response system in Pacific County.**

Current Status: Vacancy rates in Pacific County are extremely low for affordable housing. The South County area which incorporates Long Beach and Ocean Park, are inundated with vacation and short-term rentals due to being a tourist destination. The North County region does not have enough housing stock to house individuals needing housing. Many individuals in Pacific County have a difficult time finding an affordable place to live, due to high rents, static incomes, and a shortage of housing aid. A priority for the community must be to expand the supply of affordable housing and increase landlord's willingness to rent to individuals with limited income, history of homelessness, and criminal histories.

Measure of Success: Increasing housing supply and subsidized vouchers for low-income, veterans, families experiencing homelessness, seniors, individuals living with disabilities, and other individuals that have barriers preventing them from finding affordable and sustainable housing options.

**Milestone for Objective #6- By December 2021, create an outreach *plan to inform landlords about the landlord mitigation fund.***

Actions in Support of Objective # 6	Who?	Timeline	Measure of Success	Updates as of November, 2021
Research all types of affordable housing options across the continuum of need	Housing Subcommittee	By December 31, 2021	Create inventory of housing strategy options.	<p>Ongoing progress needed for creation of inventory</p> <p>Milestone goal to implement plan is December 31, 2022</p>
Review all surplus public property and consider developing a plan regarding prioritization of surplus public property for purchase and/or rehab into affordable housing units.	Prosecutor's Office, PCHHS	<p>By December 31, 2020 review list of public surplus property and properties listed for public auction</p> <p>By December 31, 2021, Develop plan for purchase and rehab of surplus public properties</p>	Research and develop plan for utilization of surplus public property.	<p>Review is still needed for surplus public property to develop a strategic plan for utilization of surplus public Property</p> <p>Milestone goal to implement plan is December 31, 2022</p>
Campaign to inform landlords regarding landlord mitigation funds.	Housing Subcommittee	December 2021	Create outreach plan.	<p>Creation of an outreach plan is still needed.</p> <p>Milestone goal to implement outreach plan is December 2022</p>

<p>Explore funding options for full time landlord liaison position.</p>	<p>Housing Subcommittee , CCAP, PCHHS</p>	<p>December 2023</p>	<p>Increase landlord liaison capacity by at least .5 FTE within the Homeless Response System.</p>	<p>Currently, CCAP funds 0.5 FTE for a landlord liaison in Pacific County. Ongoing need to find funding for an additional 0.5 FTE landlord liaison.</p>
<p>Increase knowledge about homelessness via a communication plan/campaign and opportunities to provide affordable housing.</p>	<p>Housing Subcommittee</p>	<p>Starting in 2020, annually thereafter</p>	<p>At least one article in a local newspaper regarding housing programs/homeless crisis response system/program participant success stories per year.</p>	<p>PCHHS published a report in Chinook Observer sharing information about the ERAP/TRAP programs.</p> <p>Housing Subcommittee partnered on the creation of the Pacific County Housing and Utility Assistance resource brochure</p>
<p>Continue to use Local Document Recording Fees to provide funding to affordable housing pre-development &amp; development</p>	<p>HHSAB, Housing Subcommittee , County Commissioner, PCHHS</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>Continued development of Affordable housing units within Pacific County.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Pacific County continues to support low-income housing projects through JPCHA. Willapa Center has begun construction.</p>



## **RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE STATE**

The Department of Commerce and Washington State designate local governments as the lead entities to have responsibility to address homelessness using dedicated resources and policy making authority. The Department of Commerce recommends that local governments include recommendations to Washington State for changes in state laws, policies, and resources that may be necessary to further reduce homelessness and work toward the goal of ending homelessness as defined under federal criteria.

### **Recommendations:**

1. As a rural community, we find it difficult to hire and retain staff on limited funding from housing grants. In order to have an administrative staff person addressing housing programs at the County, it requires a fixed cost not a proportional amount based on funding received. Due to lack of funding, Pacific County Local Government has to utilize other resources in order to meet basic staffing necessary to ensure all funder/administrative requirements are met. Washington State should provide all communities a base amount of funding that allows hiring of staff for the various needs such as running a robust Coordinated Entry system, completing required administrative requirements (i.e. developing/monitoring 5-year plan, reporting, system development), landlord liaisons services, street outreach, and allowing care coordinators to have appropriate caseloads in order to better assist individuals experiencing homelessness. Once base funding to run all of these services are provided, then a population-based metric for funding can be utilized on top of the base funding amount.
2. Modify the State homeless housing program requirements and performance measurements. It is difficult to serve the highest need individuals while also being required to exit them into permanent housing when there are no permanent supportive housing spots available. There should be more flexibility to allow for local planning rather than being prescribed by the State.
3. Encourage investment in rural communities by housing developers. Offer incentives to developers and for-profit companies that are willing to build affordable housing in rural communities.
4. Reduce 5-year plan and other administrative requirements for under-resourced, small and low funded counties. We recommend developing different metrics for smaller counties. Due to lack of funding and resources, our community lacks the emergency crisis response system that may be available in other counties. Therefore, it is difficult to comply with the requirements or even address them in a meaningful way. Administrative and 5-year plan requirements take a disproportionate amount of staff time in smaller counties compared to our larger counterparts.
5. We recommend that WA State provide incentives to attract non-profits to more rural, hard to reach communities. Also, provide assistance with finding and developing non-profits in rural areas. The State could develop model programs to help attract nonprofits into under-resourced areas, making it easier for a new non-profit to start. Create a platform website to allow counties to share Commerce/HUD reviewed resources including program manuals, documents, and systems for housing programs with other counties. This has the potential to reduce duplication of work and increase efficiency for counties.

## **Pacific County Homeless Housing Plan Executive Team**

The State Affordable Act (2005) requires broad participation in the creation of the 5 year Homeless Plan. The Executive Planning Team worked with a broad range of people and organizations to brainstorm, develop, review, and finalize the plan. Participants are listed by name and affiliation as follows:

### **Pacific County Commissioners:**

Frank Wolfe, Chair

Lisa Olsen, Commissioner

Michael “Hawk” Runyon, Commissioner

### **Pacific County Health and Human Services Department Staff:**

Tessa Clements, Therapeutic Courts Coordinator

~~Jamie Graves-Haslam, Human Services Program Manager~~

**Darian Johnson, Human Services Program Manager**

**Jesse Koll, Housing Program Specialist**

**Katie Lindstrom, Director**

Gracie Minks, Human Services Program Manager

~~Jeannie Weyl, Care Coordinator- YHDP~~

### **Executive Planning Team:**

~~Michael Livingston, Community Member~~

~~Jerad Nichols, Community Member~~

~~Jason Hosenev, Coastal Community Action~~

**Greg Claycamp, Coastal Community Action**

Cecilia Haack, Peninsula Poverty Response

~~David Solis, AmeriCorps Member, Peninsula Poverty Response~~

Elly Rosaire, Family Resource Coordinator, Ocean Beach School District  
Kathy Spoor, Pacific County Administrator

~~Ben Haslam, Deputy Chief Prosecuting Attorney~~

Debbie Rose, Crisis Support Network

Julie Jewel, Crisis Support Network

Jewel Hardy, Alliance for a Better Community

Sarah Glorian, Northwest Justice Project

**Other Contributors:**

Human Services Advisory Board

Housing Subcommittee, Human Services Advisory Board

## **ACRONYMS**

**CE-** Coordinated Entry

**CHG-** Consolidated Homeless Grant

**CoC-** Continuum of Care

**FRC-** Family Resource Coordinators

**HMIS-** Homeless Management Information System

**HUD-** U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

**WA Commerce** - Washington State Department of Commerce

**YHDP-** Youth Homeless Demonstration Project

**RRH-** Rapid Re-Housing

**VI-SPDAT-** The VI-SPDAT (Vulnerability Index - Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool) is a survey to determine risk and prioritization when providing assistance to homeless and at-risk of homelessness persons.

**PSH-** Permanent Supportive Housing

**DV-** Domestic Violence

**PCHHS-** Pacific County Public Health and Human Services Department

**CCAP-** Coastal Community Action Program

**CSN-** Community Support Network

**PPR-** Peninsula Poverty Response

**VSO-** Veteran's Service Officer

**SNAP** - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

**FTE** - Full Time Equivalent (employee's scheduled hours divided by the employer's hours for a full-time workweek)

## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

### **Coordinated Entry**

Coordinated Entry is a standardized process for intake, assessment, prioritization, and referrals of households entering the homeless response system. Coordinated entry in Pacific County is provided by two agencies (Coastal Community Action Center and Pacific County Health and Human Services Department). CCAP serves all individuals and PCHHS serves youth/young adults.

### **Diversions**

A strategy to help prevent homelessness for people by helping to identify immediate alternative housing arrangements, and if needed, referring them to services and financial assistance to help them stabilize and return to more permanent housing.

### **Housing First**

The Housing First Model provides housing without precondition or “housing readiness” requirements.

### **Low-Barrier**

Housing (or shelter) with a low number of expectations placed on individuals wishing to reside there. The goal is to have as few barriers as possible to allow more access to services and housing. In a housing context, participants are often not expected to abstain from using alcohol or other drugs, and are not required to participate in supportive services to maintain housing. Further, low barrier programs do not generally turn away applicants for criminal records, previous evictions, bad credit, or unwillingness to participate in supportive services.

### **HUD Permanent Supportive Housing**

Permanent Supportive housing (PSH) in Pacific County places homeless individuals and families, where one person in the family has a disability, into scattered community-based housing. Participants are responsible for paying approximately 30% of their income towards the rent and the rest is paid for with a HUD subsidy. Supportive services are offered to program participants, including case management, substance use treatment, employment services, etc. for those wishing to engage in services. Participants are screened with a standardized assessment tool to ensure prioritization of the most vulnerable individuals.

### **Progressive Engagement**

Progressive engagement is an approach to support families to quickly self-resolve their homelessness by tailoring services to offer just what is needed.

### **Rapid Re-Housing**

Rapid Re-Housing provides short term rental assistance to move a family or individual experiencing homelessness into more permanent housing as quickly as possible. Pacific County receives a Consolidated Homeless Grant through the Department of Commerce, which allows participants to receive financial assistance for housing costs.

### **Transitional Housing**

Transitional housing refers to a supportive – yet temporary – type of accommodation that is meant to bridge the gap from homelessness to permanent housing, an intermediate step between emergency crisis shelter and permanent housing.

### **McKinney-Vento Liaison**

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, every local educational agency is required to designate a liaison for homeless children and youth. The local educational agency liaison coordinates services to ensure that homeless children and youths enroll in school and have the opportunity to succeed academically.

### **Pathways**

Pathways specifically assesses all aspects that contribute to wellness and provides standardized Pathways that help people access and obtain the help they need. Examples include education, employment, and housing. The Pathways model also emphasizes that clients should set their own goals and be supported by care coordinators. This means that services are driven by the specific things that people need the most to make improvements in their own lives.