



Grays Harbor County
Five-Year Homeless Housing Plan: 2025–2030



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Grays Harbor County Five-Year Homeless Housing Plan: 2025–2030

In 2005, the Washington State Legislature passed the Homeless Housing and Assistance Act (Chapter 43.185C RCW), establishing statewide policies to address homelessness. This legislation required each county to adopt a locally developed plan-initially called a “10 Year Plan to End Homelessness.”

The plan required by the legislature has changed into a “5-Year Homeless Housing Plan”, focusing on objectives and strategies with plan guidance coming from the Washington State Department of Commerce. The 2025-2030 plan builds upon the foundation laid by the [2019-2024 plan](#), preserving all strategies and continuing key initiatives, as detailed in Appendix D. This plan Incorporates seven objectives to address homelessness in Grays Harbor County, including five required by the state and two objectives prioritized by the local Homeless Housing Task Force (HHTF).

Purpose of the Plan

This plan serves as a strategic tool to guide Grays Harbor County in prioritizing the effective use of limited resources to reduce homelessness. It establishes a framework for how our community will:

- Collaborate across agencies and sectors
- Allocate resources in alignment with needs and priorities
- Build accountability into the homeless crisis response system

Through coordinated and strategic action, this plan lays the groundwork for a more resilient, equitable, and effective response to homelessness in Grays Harbor County.

Vision	Grays Harbor County envisions a community where homelessness is rare, brief, and one-time only. All individuals and families will have swift, equitable access to stable housing options that meet their unique needs.
Mission	To develop and implement a coordinated, effective, and transparent homeless crisis response system in partnership with community members, prioritizing prevention and rapid rehousing with a focus on long-term stability.
Guiding Principles	<p>Partnership: Co-design person-centered strategies with individuals with lived experience of homelessness.</p> <p>Urgency: Commit to bold, data-driven interventions.</p> <p>Equity: Target populations experiencing the greatest disparities and dismantle systemic barriers.</p>

Scope of Homelessness in Grays Harbor County

This section provides an overview of the current state of homelessness in Grays Harbor County, informed by the most recent data available from local, state, and federal sources. These data points highlight both the growing scale of homelessness and the shifts in population needs over time.

Demographic Overview:

Grays Harbor County is located along the coast of Washington State and is characterized primarily by its rural landscape, complemented by several small urban hubs. [The County Health Ranking and Roadmaps](#) shows the poverty rate in Grays Harbor is approximately 15–18%, which is notably higher than the Washington State average, highlighting ongoing economic challenges in the region. [The Washinton State Homelessness](#)

[System Performance: County Report Card](#), which pulls data from: the American Community Survey (ACS)/[Census](#), the Annual [Snapshot](#) of Homelessness and the Homeless Management Information System ([HMIS](#)), in State Fiscal Year 2024, the population is predominantly White, with notable Hispanic and Native American representation, along with meaningful Asian, African American, and Pacific Islander communities. The table below, sourced from the County Report Card, presents a visual breakdown of the total population by race/ethnicity (Census), highlighting disparities in local population must be addressed (Snapshot) verses those accessing services (HMIS). For this method, the percentages can total more than 100% because multi-racial people will be counted in each category. For example, per Commerce, *“if someone is both Black, African American, or African and Hispanic, they will be counted in both percentages. The exception to that is the White Alone category, which only counts people who report White as their race but did not select any other race or ethnicity.”*

Population Demographics vs. Service Utilization by Race and Ethnicity in GHC SFY 2024			
Race/Ethnicity	Census	Snapshot	HMIS
White	86%	67%	69%
Hispanic	12%	11%	14%
American Indian, Alaskan Native, or Indigenous	8%	17%	10%
Black, African American, or African	3%	5%	6%
Asian or Asian American	3%	2%	1%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1%	2%	1%
*Middle Eastern or North African		0%	DS
Unknown Race		0%	2%

https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/comhau/viz/DRAFTWashingtonStateHomelessSystemPerformance_CountyReportCardSFY2019/CountyReportCard

*For Snapshot or HMIS data, when the counts of a group are < 11 people, the percentages will show "DS" for data suppressed.

The table below illustrates homelessness and housing stability in Grays Harbor County, based on the total estimated population. Data sources include U.S. Census population estimates, the [Annual Snapshot of Homelessness](#), and enrollment in the [Homelessness Management Information System \(HMIS\)](#).

Homelessness and Service Rate Counts of Total Estimated Population in GHC SFY 2024		
Category	Total Count in People	Data Source
Population Estimate	77,893	Census
Homeless or Unstably Housed	4,905	Snapshot
ⁱ Homeless Only	3,925	Snapshot
ⁱⁱ Unstably Housed	980	Snapshot
ⁱⁱⁱ In a Housing Intervention Project	639	HMIS
^{iv} In a Homelessness Prevention Project	505	HMIS

https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/comhau/viz/DRAFTWashingtonStateHomelessSystemPerformance_CountyReportCardSFY2019/CountyReportCard

ⁱ**Homeless Only:** People identified in the Snapshot of Homeless Report as people who are experiencing homelessness. See the "[Understanding the Snapshot Report](#)" document.

ⁱⁱ**Unstably Housed:** People identified in Snapshot of Homelessness Report as people who are at risk of homelessness. See the "[Understanding the Snapshot Report](#)" document.

ⁱⁱⁱ**Housing Intervention Project:** People enrolled in an HMIS Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, or Permanent Housing projects, including Rapid Re-housing and Permanent Supportive Housing.

^{iv}**Homelessness Prevention Project:** People enrolled in an HMIS Homelessness Prevention project.

Collaboration on Housing Needs Estimates

In alignment with the Washington State Department of Commerce’s guidance, the estimates for permanent and emergency housing needs in Grays Harbor County were developed through a comprehensive, collaborative process. [The Housing All Planning Tool \(HAPT\)](#) served as the primary data source for modeling housing needs, while local knowledge, provider insights, and community engagement were critical in validating and refining those estimates. The table below presents Grays Harbor County’s twenty (20) and five (5)-year projected needs for permanent housing and non-permanent supportive and emergency housing, based on HAPT using the Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM) Growth Management Act (GMA) population projection of 77,365 for 2045. These projections were released in December 2022.

HAPT 20 and 5- Year PSH, Non-PSH and EH Projections for GHC								
New Housing Needs	Total	0-30% Non-PSH AMI	0-30% PSH AMI	30-50% AMI	50-80% AMI	80-100% AMI	100-120%+ AMI	Emergency Housing/Shelter Beds
2025-2045	4152	1805	1105	1173	41	18	0	187
2025-2030 (amount above/4)	1038	451.25	276.25	293.25	10.25	4.5	0	46.75

Housing needs income level in the graph above are presented based on Area Medium Income (AMI). This is established by the United States Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Policy Development and Research. The HUD AMI FY2025 income limits for Grays Harbor County can be found <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il.html>. **GHC 2025 Median annual Family Income: \$89,000**

See Appendix E – HAPT Analysis for methodology, data sources, and housing gap projections.

Point-in-Time (PIT) Count — 2025

The Point-in-Time (PIT) Count conducted one day annually—typically in January—across Washington State, provides a vital snapshot of homelessness in local communities. The PIT count is required by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) [CFR Part 578](#), and by the Washington state [RCW 46.185C.030](#). The 2025 count revealed a significant rise in homelessness in Grays Harbor County, with 240 individuals experiencing literal homelessness—a 37.9% increase since 2019. The most concerning trend is the sharp 66% increase in unsheltered homelessness, while the number of individuals in sheltered settings declined by 21%. This data underscores a growing crisis and highlights the urgent need for expanded emergency shelter and housing resources. [SHB 1899](#) –Removed the requirement that a WA homeless census be conducted annually.

PIT Comparisons 2019 vs 2025 in GHC				
Category	2019 Count	2025 Count	Change	% Change
Total Homeless Individuals	174	240	+66	+37.9%
Unsheltered Homeless	117	194	+77	+65.8%
Sheltered Homeless	57	45	-12	-21.1%

See Appendix D: Point-in-Time Count Data for detailed breakdowns and methodology.

Coordinated Entry Data — 2024 In 2024, the [Coordinated Entry](#) system recorded a total of **1219** households assessed for housing needs and services. These assessments provide insight into the level of demand and the complexity of barriers faced by individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

The graph displays Grays Harbor County Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data for Grays Harbor County's Coordinated Entry (CE) system, tracking active clients (individuals) from January 1 through December 31 for the years 2022, 2023, and 2024, reveals a critical surge in housing need across the county. Analysis of this data shows that the demand for housing assistance, encompassing both existing active clients and newly enrolled households, has doubled in this three-year period. The analysis of Coordinated Entry (CE) data indicates a significant shift toward housing instability among the general

population. Specifically, there's a large increase in the number of households requiring homelessness prevention services. This is demonstrated by more households seeking assistance who currently have a rental but lack any ongoing subsidy.



Snapshot of Homeless Report:

The Washington State Department of Commerce [Snapshot of Homelessness in Washington State](#) integrates client data from [multiple state agencies](#) to generate a comprehensive estimate of individuals experiencing homelessness or housing instability. [January 2025](#) reported **2,463 individuals** are experiencing homelessness.

January 2025 Snapshot of Homelessness in GHC						
Minor Only, None under Age 12	Minor Only, at Least One under Age 12	Youth (18-24) w/o Minors	Adults (25+) w/o Minors	Single Parents w/ Minors	Two Parents w/ Minors	Unknown
<11	0	188	1,796	321	153	<11

<https://deptofcommerce.app.box.com/s/xonalo6msygtcit0hr7ci7qig8lug7rc/file/1931358068582>

Homelessness Among Veterans

Veterans experiencing homelessness in Grays Harbor County, Washington, face unique challenges stemming from a combination of economic hardship, limited access to healthcare, and the lasting impacts of military service. Despite local efforts, including outreach programs and transitional housing initiatives, many veterans still struggle with housing instability, mental health issues, and barriers to employment. Continued collaboration between community organizations, VA services, and local government is essential to address these needs and support long-term stability for those who served.

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Data	
YEAR	Households Served
2023	15
2024	24

Homelessness Among Students

According to data collected by local school districts under the [McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act](#), the number of students experiencing homelessness remains significant. These figures highlight the invisible nature of family and youth homelessness, especially among those not represented in PIT counts. Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction ([OPSI](#)) provided student enrollment data as shown below. Students are included in the count if they were enrolled in Grays Harbor for at least one day between September 1 and June 1 of the specified school year.

Grays Harbor County - Number of Students Experiencing Homelessness 2024 vs 2025				
SCHOOL YEAR	ⁱ SHELTERS	ⁱⁱ DOUBLED-UP	ⁱⁱⁱ UNSHELTERED	^{iv} HOTELS/MOTELS
2023	49	568	85	53
2024	61	565	95	68
2025	25	604	107	573

Data Sources: EDM.DMEnrollment, EDM.DMSYEnrollment, lookups.homelesstype

ⁱ**Shelters:** Includes children and youth who are awaiting foster care placement, placed in emergency/interim/short-term foster homes, group homes and residential placements that are not intended to be long-term, living in homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters, or transitional housing.

ⁱⁱ**Doubled-Up:** Includes children and youth (including runaway youth and unaccompanied youth) who live with relatives or friends due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason.

ⁱⁱⁱ**Unsheltered:** Children and youth who live in abandoned buildings, campgrounds, vehicles, trailer parks, FEMA shelters, bus/train stations, abandoned in the hospital, living in substandard or inadequate housing, or on the "streets".

^{iv}**Hotels/Motels:** Children and youth residing in hotels/motels due to lack of alternative housing.

Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) Data — 2024

These numbers reflect the intersection of homelessness with the broader human services system and underscore the need for cross-sector coordination. According to the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services:

- **948 clients** were identified as literally homeless
- **1,261 clients** were unstably housed
- **2 clients** were in emergency housing or shelter
- **5 clients** were in domestic violence shelters

Contributing Factors to Homelessness and Systemic Challenges

Homelessness in Grays Harbor County is driven by more than just the lack of affordable housing. A complex web of personal, economic, and systemic factors makes it difficult for many residents to obtain and maintain stable housing. These challenges are exacerbated by regional constraints and service system inefficiencies.

Key Barriers to Housing Stability

Many individuals and families experiencing homelessness face compounding personal and structural challenges, including but not limited to:

- Untreated or undertreated mental health conditions, substance use disorders, and physical disabilities
 - Per [Washington State Homelessness System Performance County SFY 2024 Report Card](#), adults experiencing homelessness or housing instability:
 - 50% have a mental health disorder: A serious mental illness can be defined as a mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder resulting in serious functional impairment, which substantially interferes with or limits one or more major life activities.
 - 43% have a substance use disorder: A substance use disorder (SUD) is a treatable mental disorder that affects a person's brain and behavior, leading to their inability to control their use of substances like legal or illegal drugs, alcohol, or medications.
 - 36% have a co-occurring substance use disorder and serious mental health illness.
- Poor credit and/or rental history
- Criminal history that limits housing opportunities
- Unemployment, underemployment, and generational poverty
- Family conflict, break-up, or experiences of domestic violence
- Prior evictions due to non-payment of rent or property damage

- Downpayment rental assistance

These issues often result in **disqualification from mainstream housing options** or **prolonged waiting times for supportive services**.

Systemic and Community-Specific Challenges

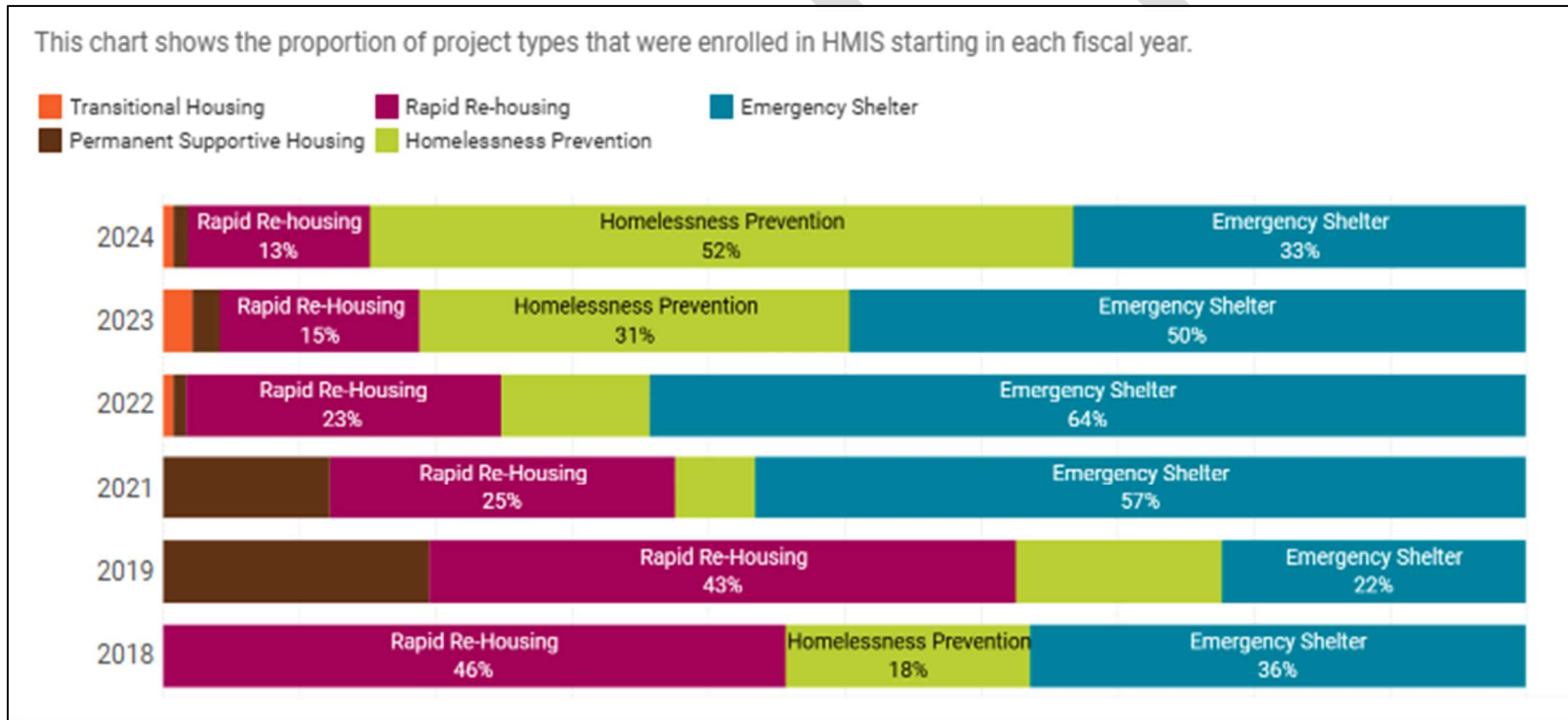
In addition to individual-level barriers, the following systemic and regional factors contribute to homelessness and hinder effective service delivery:

- Lack of transparency and trust in Coordinated Entry (CE) processes
- Stigma and discrimination toward individuals experiencing homelessness
- Limited cross-system communication and collaboration among service providers, law enforcement, healthcare, and housing authorities
- Insufficient funding to serve high-need clients or to develop affordable housing
- Restrictive zoning laws that limit where affordable housing can be built
- Geographic concentration of services in Aberdeen, with limited options in rural parts of the county
- Aging housing stock that requires rehabilitation to meet livability standards
- No year round low-barrier emergency, cold, hot or permanent shelters
- Limited permanent supportive housing, transitional housing units, and insufficient housing units.
- Limited assistance available for seniors and households on fixed income.
- Law enforcement has reported a rise in incidents involving potentially unhoused individuals under the influence who have been fatally struck or injured by vehicles within city limits.

Recent Service Levels and Funding Trends

Over the past four years, Grays Harbor County has made **substantial progress in expanding its homeless response system**, both in terms of investment and capacity. This trend reflects a growing commitment by local leadership and community stakeholders to reduce homelessness through sustainable funding and strategic program development.

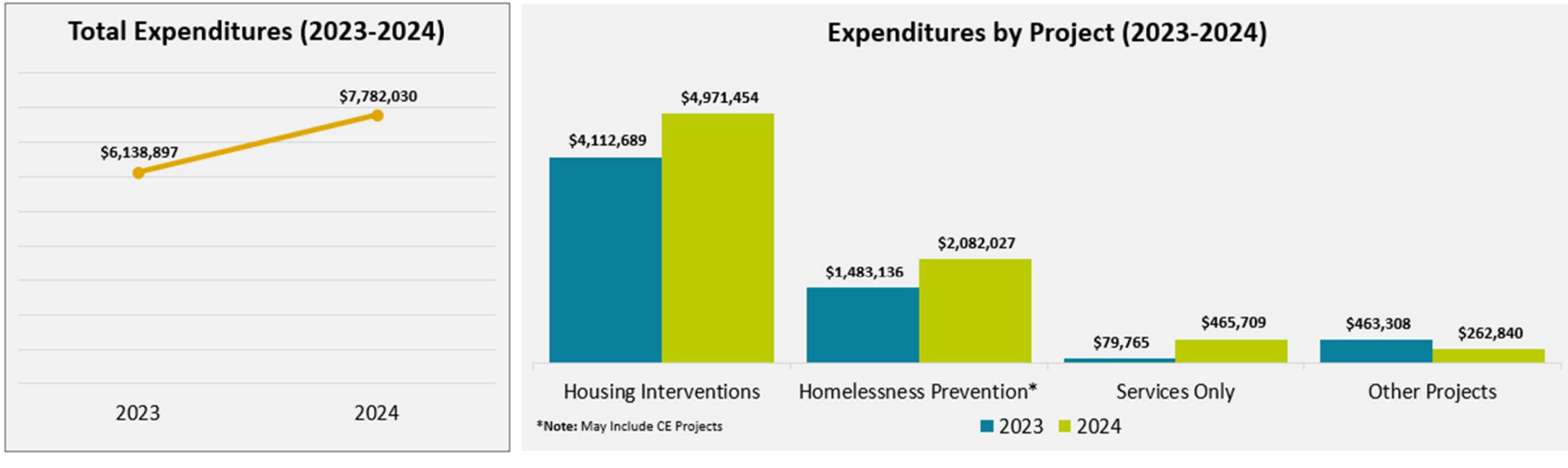
The chart below is taken from the [Washington State Homelessness System Performance County Report Card](#). It shows how many people entered each type of housing project since 2018. The project types include Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Rapid Re-Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, Other Permanent Housing (like Housing with Services and Housing Only), and Homelessness Prevention.



Annual Expenditure Report: Expenditures by Projects 2023 vs 2024

Select County: Grays Harbor

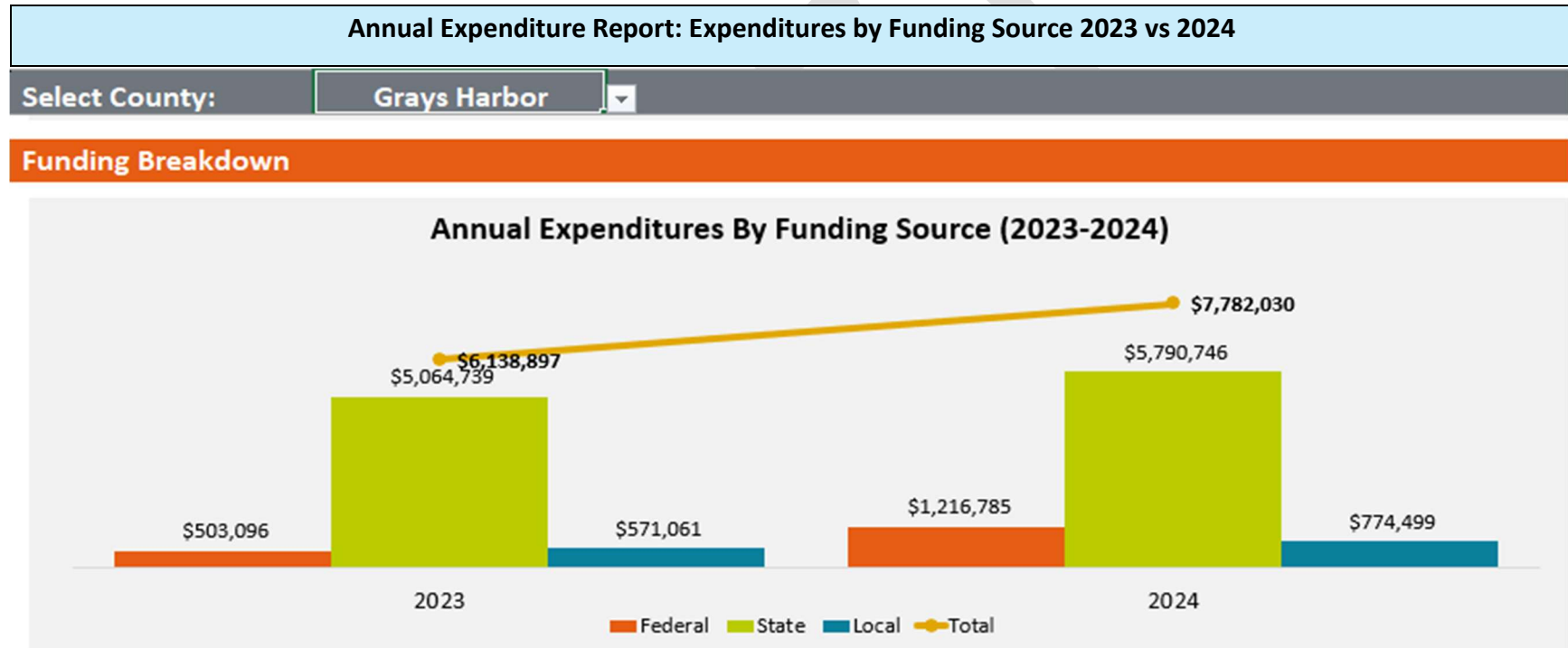
Expenditures



Screenshot above is from the [Annual Expenditure Report](#). Funds for homeless response system has increased from 2023 to 2024. Between 2023 and 2024, Grays Harbor County significantly increased its total expenditure on addressing homelessness, rising from \$6,138,897 to \$7,782,030. This increase was primarily driven by substantial growth in two core areas: Housing Interventions and Homelessness Prevention. Spending on Housing Interventions—which includes emergency shelter, transitional housing (TH), Rapid Re-housing (RRH), and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)—increased from \$4,112,689 to \$4,971,454. Similarly, expenditures dedicated to Homelessness Prevention programs, which provide services or financial aid to prevent households from falling into homelessness, also saw a marked rise, increasing from \$1,483,136 to \$2,082,027. In contrast, funding allocated to "Services Only" (which covers coordinated entry, street outreach, and day shelters) and "Other Projects" (such as Safe Haven and severe weather shelters) decreased during the same period.

Funding Source Breakdown

Screenshot below is from the Annual Expenditure Report. The data for Grays Harbor County shows a heavy reliance on State funding, which accounted for most expenditures in both 2023 and 2024. Although total funding increased significantly and Federal contributions more than doubled, the dominance of State funds highlights the crucial importance of the State–county partnership while also signaling a need for diversification of funding streams to ensure long-term financial sustainability.



Survey of Fund Sources for Homeless Housing Assistance Programs and Capital Projects

The following table lists the funding sources available (actual or potential) to Grays Harbor County and the Homeless Housing Taskforce to address the objectives listed in the plan.

Table of Fund Sources

Table of Fund Sources					
FUND SOURCE	SOURCE	STATUS	ALLOWABLE USES	AMOUNT RECEIVED SFY24	ACTUAL/PROJECTED RECEIVED SFY25
Consolidated Homeless Grant (CHG)	State – Washington State Department of Commerce	Receiving	Operating	\$1,417,603.78	\$2,546,754.49
Emergency Housing Fund (EHF)	Federal – HUD State – Washinton State Department of Commerce	Federal -Not receiving State – Receiving	Operating	\$1,098,503.38	\$854,988.04
Housing and Essential Needs (HEN)	State - Washinton State Department of Commerce	Receiving	Operating	\$2,251,381.00	\$2,758,812.73
Housing and Essential Needs -FCS Bridge (HEN)	State - Washinton State Department of Commerce	Receiving	Operating	\$144,850.50	\$234,833.00
Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)	Federal – HUD Balance of State Continuum of Care (CoC)	Receiving	Operating	158,052.75	\$206,820.00
Next Steps	Federal – HUD Balance of State Continuum of Care (CoC)	Receiving	Operating	\$120,746.93	\$139,228.00

Table of Fund Sources Continued					
FUND SOURCE	SOURCE	STATUS	ALLOWABLE USES	AMOUNT RECEIVED SFY24	ACTUAL/PROJECTED RECEIVED SFY25
YHDP - RRH	Federal – HUD Balance of State Continuum of Care (CoC)	Receiving	Operating		\$85,854.00
Community Development Block Grant – Public Services (CDBG-PS)	Federal – HUD (US Housing and Urban Development)	Receiving	Operating	\$117,000	\$117,000.00
Tenant Base Rental Assistance (TBRA) - CCAP	Federal– HUD (US Housing and Urban Development)	Receiving	Operating	\$83,910.00	\$192,806.00
PIH (Emergency Housing Voucher) – HA	Federal– HUD (US Housing and Urban Development)	Receiving	Operating	\$417,225.11	\$350,141.00
Community Behavioral Health Rental Assistance (CBRA)	State- Washington State Department of Commerce	Receiving	Operating	\$257,382.00	\$394,535.00
Commerce Office of Homeless Youth (OHY) Programs – Under Age 18	State – Washington State Department of Commerce	Receiving	Operating	\$402,373.00	\$333,476.00
Commerce Office of Homeless Youth (OHY) Programs – Age 18-24	State – Washington State Department of Commerce	Receiving	Operating	\$197,766.00	\$342,835.95
Commerce Office of Homeless Youth (OHY) Programs	State – Washington State Department of Commerce	Receiving	Operating	\$5,458.00	\$166,363.82

Table of Fund Sources Continued					
FUND SOURCE	SOURCE	STATUS	ALLOWABLE USES	AMOUNT RECEIVED SFY24	ACTUAL/PROJECTED RECEIVED SFY25
Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)	US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)	Receiving	Operating	\$98,265.95	\$89,224.45
CARES Act Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV)	HUD- US Department of Housing and Urban Development	Receiving SFY24 Stopped SFY25	Operating	\$175,118.91	N/A
Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA)	HCA – Health Care Authority	Collecting	Operating	\$90,000.00	\$90,000.00
Other State				\$15,42800	\$135,486
Other Federal				\$71,036.89	\$88,456
Community Donations to non-profits	Donations			\$655,137.00	\$696,926.00
*Affordable Housing Dollars	Local- Grays Harbor County RCW 36.22.250	Collecting	Operating	\$78,978.00	\$87,643.00
*Local Document Recording Fees	Local- Grays Harbor County RCW 36.22.250	Collecting	Operating	\$446,634.00	\$497,636.00

*As of July 7, 2025, [HB 1260](#) merged Affordable Housing RCW 82.14.540 into RCW 36.22.250

Prioritization Criteria of Homeless Housing Capital Projects

The plan identifies guiding principles for all capital projects, such as consistency with local plans, comprehensive plans, zoning, and community needs. The evaluation criteria for prospective homeless housing capital projects will include all relevant factors that public health will take into consideration when prioritizing projects for public investment. This process will be formalized through an RFP (Request for Proposals) process, ensuring transparency, competition, and alignment with strategic goals. The County will prioritize funding for homeless housing capital projects that expand affordable rental and permanent supportive housing, preserve existing housing to prevent displacement, and strategically align resources to reduce homelessness and support sustainable, community-based solutions that meet local needs and advance state priorities.

- **RFP Process Overview:** It will issue an annual Request for Proposals (RFP) for homeless housing capital projects, inviting eligible entities (e.g., non-profit organizations, housing authorities, qualified developers) to submit proposals. The RFP will clearly outline the evaluation criteria, which will include, but not be limited to:
 - Alignment with HAPT projected needs (especially 0-80% AMI (unless otherwise stated) and PSH).
 - Impact on vulnerable populations (veterans, seniors, youth, SMI/SUD, DV survivors, Therapeutic Court, reentry individuals, By and For, Families, etc.).
 - Project readiness and feasibility (e.g., site control, permitting status, financial commitments, site cleanup).
 - Cost-effectiveness and financial sustainability.
 - Leveraging diverse funding sources.
 - Demonstrated community support and operational capacity.
 - Ability to integrate with existing services and coordinated entry.
 - Design considerations for accessibility and trauma-informed environments.
 - Ability to preserve existing and dilapidated structures

Strategic Objectives

In alignment with the Washington State Department of Commerce guidance and priorities identified by the Grays Harbor County Homeless Housing Task Force, this plan is organized around seven strategic objectives:

State-Mandated Objectives

1. Promote an equitable, accountable, and transparent homeless crisis response system.
2. Strengthen the homeless service provider workforce through training, recruitment, and retention.
3. Prevent episodes of homelessness whenever possible, focusing on early intervention and upstream supports.
4. Prioritize assistance for individuals with the greatest barriers to housing stability and highest risk of harm.
5. Seek to house everyone in stable, permanent housing that meets their individual needs.

Locally Prioritized Objectives (Homeless Housing Task Force)

6. Address Barriers/Solutions for Affordable Housing Units: Expand access to affordable housing by identifying and addressing key barriers in the housing development pipeline.
7. Re-Entry and Behavioral Health Solutions: Implement targeted housing solutions for reentry populations and individuals with behavioral health needs, ensuring support is in place for long-term stability.

Objective 1. (State) Promote an Equitable, Accountable, and Transparent Homeless Crisis Response System

Objective: Enhance coordinated entry, outreach, and accessibility to resources, ensuring fair and unbiased service delivery across the county, including robust collaboration with local cities.

Measures of success/performance: Through assessment of HMIS data, Commerce’s [Racial Equity tool](#) and census projection data for GHC, we are committed in our daily work and in partnership with subgrantees and other community partners, to address disparities among people experiencing homelessness to identify any disproportionate rates of homelessness among almost all communities.

Strategy	Action	Timeline	Performance Measure/Target
1.Improve Coordinated Entry (CE) Transparency and Accessibility	Complete a comprehensive review of current CE policies and procedures, and develop public-user-friendly, simplified guidelines for broad public dissemination.	Ongoing	Public-user-friendly guidelines are completed, translated, and posted on the County website and Coordinated Entry subgrantee website.
	Formalize mechanisms for public feedback and continue to host monthly CE workgroup meetings discuss CE performance and transparency.	Ongoing	Average attendance rate of participants and partners at CE meetings of 75%. Target: Conduct a minimum of one dedicated CE training for staff annually and one public educational engagement session annually.
	Create a formal community outreach calendar and strategy with CE staff to ensure community partner education, awareness, and input.	Year 1–5 (2025–2030)	Community partner organizations engaged through scheduled outreach Target: 15 unique partners.
	Continue a Youth Centered CE system (13-18 years of age) to help prioritize youth into available programs.	Year 1–2 (2025–2026)	All CE access points are utilizing the YYA Prioritization and conversion tools
	Increase capacity of the delivery system and CE by creating multiple access points for CE leads	Year 1–2 (2025–2026)	Centralized CE agency created in HMIS for CE leads access points to utilize.

2. Expand Outreach and Safe Havens	Secure additional funding for and deploy new street outreach teams, targeting high-need areas.	Year 1–3 (2025–2027)	Increase in the number of unsheltered individuals successfully engaged by outreach teams and connected to CE. Target: 20% increase
	Identify and assess potential locations for new low-barrier safe havens and day shelters in collaboration with local cities.	Year 1–2 (2025–2026)	Prioritizing 3 viable sites for safe haven/day shelter development.
	Pilot a dedicated mobile outreach unit specifically targeting unsheltered individuals, youth, veterans, individuals with disabilities and seniors in rural or underserved areas.	Year 2 (2026)	Number of unique individuals provided with immediate resources (e.g., medical, hygiene, food) by the mobile unit Target: 100 households
	Launch a public awareness campaign to inform residents about available safe haven and outreach resources.	Year 1–3 (2025–2027)	Development and distribution of flyers to all major county municipalities and community partners.
	Advocate for and assess community interest in establishing dedicated youth and adult center(s) focused on life skills and vocational development.	Year 1–5 (2025–2030)	If site (s) are found, sear for funding to support these spaces.
3. Legislative Engagement	Integrate rent support advocacy into a broader system-change approach that ensures people at risk of homelessness are protected through fair housing policies and a responsive, data-informed service system. Ensure policies prioritize historically marginalized populations and those who are high-risk.	Year 1–4 (2025–2028)	Ensure advocacy reaches local and state policy lawmakers through necessary channels.

Objective 2: (State) Strengthening the Homeless Service Provider Workforce

Objective: Develop a trauma-informed, stable, and committed workforce capable of addressing the complex needs of clients, including specialized support for vulnerable populations.

Measures of success/performance: Through ongoing communications, meetings, reports and one-on-one assessments, this plan aims to not only increase staff capacity, invest in Training & Professional Development, but is also committed to Operational and satisfaction metrics. Through ongoing communications, meetings, reports, and one-on-one assessments, this plan aims to strengthen staff capacity and invest in training and professional development. In addition, it is committed to tracking key operational and satisfaction metrics:

- **Stakeholder Satisfaction** Regular surveys and reporting are used to assess satisfaction levels among tenants, staff, funders, and community partners.
- **Tenant Satisfaction** Focuses on evaluating tenant experiences with their housing and the services they receive.
- **Efficiency Measures** include tracking the time required to re-rent vacant units and the responsiveness to tenant complaints.
- **Compliance and Audit Results Data** quality meetings, reporting, and monitoring tools help ensure adherence to agency guidelines, HUD regulations, and proper use of funds. Strong emphasis is placed on risk assessments and compliance protocols.

Strategy	Action	Timeline	Performance Measure/Target
1. Invest in Training and Professional Development	Develop annual training calendar (e.g., trauma-informed care, diversion, mental health first aid, substance abuse intervention)	Ongoing (Year 1–5)	Community driven/focused partnerships. Target 2 community partners
	Offer specialized modules for veterans, youth, seniors, and domestic violence survivors		
2. Increase Staffing Capacity	Seek out scholarship/reimbursement program for certifications and education	Year 1–5 (2025–2030)	Reduce turnover rate in housing roles by 10%
	Conduct workforce needs assessment		
	Advocate for funding to expand case management and navigation roles		

	Recruit behavioral health professionals and individuals with lived experience		
3.Foster a Supportive Work Environment	Pilot wellness programs (e.g., mental health support, stress reduction workshops)	Year 1-3 2025-2028	2 wellness initiative workshops for mental health and stress at work. Collect anonymous feedback from at least 80% of participants to assess relevance and impact.
	Collaborate with service providers to create mentorship programs for onboarding and retention	Ongoing	3 providers participation
4. Increase Bilingual Staffing	Collaborate with service providers to and advocate for the need to increase bilingual care coordinators	Ongoing	Community partners making an effort to increase bilingual staff.

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Objective 3 : (State) Prevent Episodes of Homelessness Whenever Possible

Objective: implement robust prevention strategies to intervene before individuals and families experience homelessness, focusing on preserving existing housing and supporting at-risk homeowners. Program outcomes, gaps, and needed improvements will be measured through ongoing communications, data quality meetings, and reports.

Measures of success/performance: Ongoing communications, data quality meetings, and reports allow the county and its partners to measure program outcomes, identify gaps, and drive needed improvements.

- **Number of People Becoming Homeless for the First Time:** This metric tracks the number of individuals who are newly entering the homelessness system.
- **Employment and Income Growth:** This monitors the increase in employment and overall income for participants while they are in the program.
- **Time to Success:** This measures the time it takes for a household to secure permanent housing after being approved for a voucher.
- **Length of Stay:** For programs like transitional housing, this tracks the average duration clients spend in the program before exiting.

Strategy	Action	Timeline	Performance Measure/Target
1. Expand Homelessness Prevention Programs	Expand Homeless Prevention assistance and outreach to at-risk households, especially families with minors.	Year 1–5 (2025–2030)	10% reduction in the annual number of households having no prior episode of homelessness in the preceding 24 months.
	Expand outreach to identify gaps and address the needs of the by and for community.		
	Expand formal landlord partnerships and education.		
	Expand homeless prevention programs to provide downpayment rental assistance for youth, individuals feeling domestic violence and households with families.	Year 1–5 (2025–2030)	Apply for additional funding
2. Strengthening Housing Stability Pathways	Incorporate life skills education to support individuals in adapting and managing stable housing	Year 2–4 (2026–2028)	Contract with a provider.
	Develop and pilot Holistic care coordination incentive program.		Intergrade through pathways.

	Integrate housing navigation services for high-needs groups (e.g. Therapeutic Court, Re-entry, Survivors of Domestic Violence, Youth, Seniors, By and For communities, Tribal, Families, and those most venerable) with community partners.		Increase coordination and referrals between community partners. Bring in 2 new active community partners.
3. Coordinate with Community-Based Resources	Establish a multi-agency case conferencing model for high-risk clients.	Ongoing	5 agencies for participation in collaboration.
	Develop a shared, up-to-date resource directory.		
	Host quarterly inter-agency collaboration meetings to review progress and identify gaps.		
4. Support At-Risk Homeowners	Launch a public information campaign on homeowner assistance programs (e.g., foreclosure prevention).	Year 1–5(2025–2025)	Work with State on Funding opportunities. Secure funding dedicated to mortgage/foreclosure prevention assistance.
	Apply for funding for minor home, mobile home, car, RV, repairs and accessibility modifications for low-income seniors and disabled homeowners.		
	Integrate mortgage assistance into the prevention strategy by applying for and/or securing dedicated state or federal funding (e.g., Homeowner Assistance Fund or similar programs) to provide temporary financial aid to low-income homeowners facing delinquency or default.		
	Partner with legal aid services for free foreclosure prevention counseling.		

5. Enhance Low-Barrier and Transitional Shelter Capacity	Establish a "Transitional" shelter resource dedicated to clients already enrolled in a permanent housing program and waiting for a unit.	Year 1–3 (2025–2027)	Reduce the average number of days clients spend in emergency shelter/transitional settings while waiting for permanent housing Target: 45 days.
	Develop and invest in a robust, permanent Low Barrier Shelter solution.		

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Objective 4: (State) Prioritize Assistance Based on the Greatest Barriers to Housing Stability and Greatest Risk of Harm

Objective: Focus resources on populations facing the most significant challenges—including but not limited to individuals exiting incarceration, those with behavioral health needs, chronically homeless individuals, youth, veterans, survivors of domestic violence, and seniors—by securing additional dedicated funds and maximizing community support needed to effectively serve them.

Measures of success/performance: Public Health's focus is to operate daily in constant communication and partnership with subgrantees and other community partners, ensuring an efficient and effective homeless crisis response system that swiftly moves more individuals into stable, permanent housing scenarios. To measure the success of this system's focus on housing stability and homelessness prevention, performance will be continuously tracked using the following core system metrics:

- **Length of Time Persons Remain Homeless:** The average duration individuals or families spend in homelessness before being successfully housed.
- **Successful Placement:** The percentage of participants who successfully exit a program directly into permanent housing.
- **Housing Retention:** The percentage of participants who remain housed for a specific period (typically 6, 12, or 24 months) after program exit.
- **Returns to Homelessness:** The rate at which individuals re-enter homelessness after exiting a housing or support program, monitored over a 12- or 24-month interval.

Strategy	Action	Timeline	Performance Indicator/Target
1. Support High-Needs Clients	Develop and launch specialized outreach and engagement protocols for clients with SMI/SUD.	Ongoing	Percentage of eligible clients with SMI/SUD successfully engaged and placed on a housing list (Target: 45%).
	Expand access to mobile crisis intervention teams across the county. Look for funds to support this,	Year 1–3 2025-2028	Increase in the number of emergency calls successfully diverted from law enforcement/hospital to mobile crisis teams (Target: 10% increase).
	Integrate trained peer support specialists into high-intensity housing programs (PSH/RRH/TH).	Year 1–5 2025-2030	Number of certified Peer Support Specialists integrated across housing

			and outreach programs (Target: 3 new FTEs).
2. Expand Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) for Chronically Homeless	Identify and secure diverse funding sources for new Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) units.	Ongoing	Total secured capital and operating funding dedicated to PS development Target: \$5 million (16-22 PSH units).
	Develop new PSH projects, including both scattered-site and congregate models.	Year 1–3 2025-2028	Cumulative number of new PSH units placed into service for chronically homeless individuals. Target: 10-12 units.
	Create specialized PSH programs tailored for high-need populations, based on CE data.	Year 2–5 2026-2030	Number of specialized PSH programs developed and operational Target: 2 new programs.
4. Incorporate Sanitization/Garbage Stations	Identify and promote the installation and maintenance of sanitation and waste disposal stations across the county for use by unhoused individuals, with consideration for integrating employment opportunities for those with lived experience.	Year 2–5 2026-2030	Work with community partners to place and maintain sanitation and garbage stations, ensuring unhoused neighbors have access to clean and safe spaces. This effort may also create job opportunities for individuals with lived experience of homelessness.
3. Implement SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery) <i>(Unmet from 2019-2024 plan)</i>	Implement dedicated FTE SOAR to quickly get clients experiencing homelessness connected with disability benefits.	Year 1–2 (2025–2026)	Dedicated staff capacity established and trained to facilitate the SOAR application and support process for clients experiencing homelessness. Measure the efficiency and success of the benefits application process.

Objective 5: (State) Seek to House Everyone in a Stable Setting that Meets Their Needs

Objective: Significantly increase the overall supply of safe, stable, affordable, and appropriate permanent housing across all income levels, with a priority focus on units for households at or below the 80% Area Median Income (AMI) tier. This expansion will be achieved through a multifaceted approach, including new construction, rehabilitation of existing structures, and strategic collaboration with partners, to establish a functionally adequate housing stock that meets the needs of all residents experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Measures of success/performance: Through a holistic and ongoing coordination process, subgrantees and community partners utilize coordinated entry, assessments, and efficient prioritization tools to collaborate with local agencies and conduct broader outreach to identify youth and adults experiencing homelessness. This ensures timely access to services and efficient referral to the crisis response system, focusing on those with the greatest needs across all populations, including (but not limited to) youth, families, adults, seniors, survivors of domestic violence, veterans, Tribal members, individuals involved with Therapeutic Courts, clients with disabilities, reentry populations, BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and By and For populations.

Strategy	Action	Timeline	Performance Indicator/Target
1. Increasing Housing Supply through New Construction and Rehabilitation	Optimize HHTF Coordination: Establish a county-wide Housing Development Task Force, and pilot a specialized Subcommittee of the HHTF to develop targeted recommendations and ensure integrated action with local cities, Tribal, and community partners.	Years 1-5 (2025-2030)	Subcommittee meets biannually and provides input to the full HHTF during one of the regular meetings.
	Identify and prioritize vacant/dilapidated structures for rehabilitation.		10 properties are formally assessed and prioritized for rehabilitation.
	Advocate for efficiencies in permitting process for affordable housing projects.		Reduce number of days by 15%.
	Explore land banking initiatives for future affordable housing sites.		Find a long-term strategy for acquiring land and creation of a designated land bank mechanism.
	Advocate for a comprehensive review of county and city zoning ordinances to identify barriers.		Ongoing.

2.Address Affordable Housing Barriers	Advocate for zoning reforms to allow diverse housing types to increase housing supply.	Years 1-5 (2025-2030)	3 jurisdictions (cities and/or County) allowing diverse and low-income housing.
	Launch a landlord education program to reduce stigma and increase participation in subsidized housing programs.		4 educational workshops conducted for landlords focused on housing programs and tenant support.
	Identify and pursue funding opportunities to expand weatherization and home improvement programs, with a focus on supporting homeowners who are low-income, high-need, or from historically marginalized communities.	Years 1-5 (2025-2030)	Secure funding from at least one grant.
3.Pooled Benevolence Fund <i>(Unmet from 2019-2024 Plan):</i>	Develop and implement the 'Pooled Benevolence Fund' to provide flexible, rapid response financial aid to households facing instability.	Years 1-4 (2025-2029)	Work with Community Partners while Public Health provides technical assistance/data analysis; assistance. Target: 10 households
4. Expand Housing Interventions	Increase funding for PSH, RRH, and TH programs to meet the service needs of Grays Harbor residents.	Years 1-5 (2025-2030)	15% increase in total program funding dedicated to PSH, RRH, and TH.
	Develop specialized PSH, RRH, and TH programs for all priority populations (youth, families, DV survivors, Tribal, By and For, Senior, disability, by and for, Therapeutic Courts, re-entry, etc.).		Develop and operationalize 3 new specialized housing intervention programs for specific priority populations.
	Expand access to housing vouchers; launch a Voucher Availability Campaign to educate residents and partners on eligibility and access.		Apply for 20 vouchers not achieved in the 2019-2024 plan; increase utilization of VASH and FYI vouchers.

5. Develop Low Barrier Shelter Capacity	Conduct a feasibility study for strategically located low-barrier shelter sites that meet the specific needs of the local unsheltered population. Target stabilization of vulnerable neighborhoods and readiness for shelter projects.	Years 1-3 (2025-2028)	At least 3 viable, prioritized sites presented to HHTF and BOCC for next steps.
	Secure funding for shelter operations and staffing to ensure sustainable, 24/7 low-barrier access and essential case management support.		\$400,000.00 of new funding annually secured for shelter operations and support staffing.
	Implement harm reduction strategies in all shelters (existing and new).		100% of shelter staff completed Harm Reduction and Trauma-Informed Care Training.

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Objective 6: (HHTF) Address Barriers/Solutions for Affordable Housing Units

Objective: Systematically identify and dismantle financial, regulatory, and social barriers to the development and availability of affordable housing, implementing innovative solutions.

Measures of success/performance: Public Health identified a few barriers and some key solutions for this critical and widely discussed matter. Barriers: restrictive zoning for construction or projects implementation, high land costs, insufficient funding, lack of key community leaders/city engagement and community opposition, precisely what we know as "NIMBYism" (Not In My Backyard), blocking the development of affordable housing.

Solutions to overcome the barriers and lead projects to successful outcomes:

Zoning and permitting reform, increased funding, streamlining regulations, supporting public-private partnerships, and promoting innovative housing types and projects. Other strategies include supporting public-private partnerships, increasing access to credit and down payment assistance, offering incentives to encourage developers to include affordable units in their projects and when possible/feasible using public land to lower costs.

Strategy	Action	Timeline	Performance Indicator/Target
1. Tackle Funding Constraints for Affordable Housing	Identify and dedicate a local revenue stream (e.g., Mental Health Sales Use Tax , Local Housing Levies , Affordable and Supportive Housing Sales and Use Tax , etc.) to seed the dedicated "Affordable Housing Development Fund."	Years 1–5 (2025–2030)	Initial capital secured and dedicated to the fund. Target: \$500,000.00 over 2 years once in place.
	Collaborate with the Grays Harbor County Planning Department and other internal departments (Public Works, etc.) to align housing and infrastructure investments prioritizing 30-80% AMI households.	Ongoing	Formal Inter-Departmental Operating Agreement (MOA/MOU) signed to prioritize affordable housing infrastructure needs.
	Educate policymakers and the public on the economic and social benefits of affordable housing investment for low income households and those most vulnerable.	Ongoing	Provide updates to BOCC and public annually.

2. Streamline Zoning and Permitting Processes	Advocate for a joint County/ City meeting to review and propose updates to zoning ordinances that hinder affordable housing and vehicular residency.	Ongoing	Conduction of County Planning Department, HHTF member and at least 3 city jurisdictions meet once annually.
	Propose a " fast-track " permitting process for projects meeting affordable housing criteria.	Ongoing	Reduce the average permitting time (in days) for approved affordable housing projects (Target: 30% reduction).
	Review public land survey that could be suitable for affordable housing development.	Year 1-5 2025-2030	Once Completion of survey, Review can be conducted. Target: 5 suitable parcels.
3. Combat Stigma and Misinformation	Launch a sustained public education campaign to address misconceptions about affordable housing and its residents.	Ongoing	Number of media placements or social media generated by the campaign annually. Target: 1 campaign per year.
	Highlight successful affordable housing projects and engage key community leaders and influencers as advocates for investment during public events.		Number of community leaders formally recruited to serve as housing advocates. Target: 3
4. Promote Master Leased Units (aka Global Units)	Expand the inventory of master leased units to meet the growing demand for transitional and permanent supportive housing.	Ongoing	Increase current number of master leased units by 15% by educating landlords, property managers, etc.
5. Explore Mobile Home and Trailer Park Development <i>(unmet from 2019-2024 Plan)</i>	Advocate for a collaboration with municipalities to identify zoning barriers and potential incentives for mobile home/trailer park development as an affordable housing model.	Year 1-3 2025-2027	Completion of feasibility study and policy recommendations; number of municipalities engaged; identification of viable sites.
6. Develop 20 Units for Low-Wage Workers <i>(unmet from 2019-2024 Plan)</i>	Design and construct housing units with rent levels targeted for low-wage earners.	Year 1-5 2025-2030	20 units completed and leased at target rent range; occupancy rate; tenant income alignment.
7. Develop 20 Units for Low-Income Families <i>(unmet from 2019-2024 Plan)</i>	Build housing units with affordability aligned to HUD-defined low-income thresholds.	Ongoing	20 units completed and leased at target rent range; occupancy rate; tenant eligibility verification.

<p>8. Develop 20 Units for Middle-Income Families <i>(unmet from 2019-2024 Plan)</i></p>	<p>Create housing options for middle-income families priced below market rate.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>20 units completed and leased at target rent range; occupancy rate; household income match.</p>
<p>9. Partner with Timberworks Levee Project <i>(unmet from 2019-2024 Plan)</i></p>	<p>Coordinate with Timberworks to identify and prepare land in former FEMA flood plain for affordable housing development.</p>	<p>Year 1-5 2025-2030</p>	<p>Number of housing units approved or constructed in the flood plain; infrastructure improvements completed; funding leveraged through partnership.</p>
<p>10. Formalize Safe Parking Programs (Vehicular Residency)</p>	<p>Launch a pilot program that provides safe, legal parking areas for people living in vehicles. These sites will offer basic amenities like restrooms, showers, and waste disposal, along with access to case management, vocational programs, and housing navigation services. The program will also advocate policies that protect vehicle residents from ticketing or towing and create clear pathways to transitional or permanent housing.</p>	<p>Year 1-5 2025-2030</p>	<p>Pilot 2 safe parking programs with basic amenities by year 5. (private or public)</p>

Objective 7: (HHTF) Reentry and Behavioral Health Housing Solutions

Objective: Provide specialized, integrated housing and support solutions for individuals transitioning from incarceration and those with significant behavioral health needs, reducing recidivism and chronic homelessness.

Measures of success/performance: through coordinated entry, assessments and maintaining efficient communication with our subgrantees and community partners, Public Health’s focus is to engage people in need with specialized and wrap around services, as well supportive housing services. State-level programs and other resources are also shared with clients for a broader supportive network, such as: [Reentry Housing Assistance Program](#), [Community Behavioral Health Rental Assistance \(CBRA\)](#), [Housing and Essential Needs \(HEN\)](#), [recovery residences](#), [local service providers](#).

Housing and Reentry Plan Summary: *The HHTF Reentry Subcommittee proposes a focus on providing safe, stable housing for individuals exiting incarceration and behavioral health institutions to reduce homelessness and recidivism. The proposed model involves establishing 18 Reentry Housing Units that rotate every six months, serving 36 individuals per year who are prioritized from WADOC releases, jail discharges, and behavioral health transitions. This program would employ one full-time Care Coordinator, provide six months of rental assistance (\$1,000/month and cover move-in costs \$3,500/person). With an estimated annual cost of \$399,408.00 the plan integrates with the system by starting coordinated entry at the Grays Harbor County Jail, providing care coordination pre-release, and linking temporary housing to permanent pathways. The goal is to increase utilization of behavioral health and employment supports and demonstrate success through increased rates of stable housing placement and retention, along with a reduction in recidivism within 12 months of release.*

Strategy	Action	Timeline	Performance Indicator/Target
1. Implement the Reentry Housing Model	Secure initial \$399,408 from diverse streams (state/federal grants) for 18 units and Care Coordinator.	Year 1-5 (2025-2030)	Target: 18 units.
	Convene inter-agency working group (WADOC, Jail, Behavioral Health) to co-develop formal referral/warm handoff protocol.	Year 1-5 (2025-2030)	Housing Retention Rate: % of participants housed for 6+ months.
	Establish person-centered, trauma-informed intake for comprehensive, individualized support plans (integrating behavioral health).		Recidivism Rate: % of participants who do not return to jail/prison.

	Develop and implement a quarterly reporting system to track performance.		Behavioral Health Engagement: % of participants engaged in behavioral health services.
2. Expand Integrated Behavioral Health & Housing Support	Explore development of a new Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) project for individuals with co-occurring disorders.	Year 1-4 (2025-2028)	Completion of PSH feasibility study/plan. Pilot Program.
	Establish a pilot to partner mobile behavioral health crisis teams with street outreach/shelter services.	Year 1-4 (2025-2028)	Implementation of mobile crisis team partnership pilot.
	Secure funding to hire or train housing navigators in behavioral health specialization.	Year 1-4 (2025-2028)	Target: 3 staff.
3. Formalizing Cross-System Partnerships for Reentry	Establish a standing inter-agency committee (criminal justice, behavioral health, housing).	Year 1-3 (2025-2028)	Establish committee from 4 agencies Target: Quarterly meetings.
	Develop shared data tracking and outcome measures for reentry clients.		
	Create a formal "warm handoff" protocol for transitions from jail/prison to housing programs.		

Performance Measurement and Evaluation

Regular monitoring and rigorous evaluation are critical to ensure the plan's effectiveness, facilitate adaptive management, and demonstrate accountability to the community and funding partners. The Homeless Housing Task Force (HHTF) will continue to meet quarterly to guide implementation and ensure alignment with strategic priorities. HHTF meetings remain open to the public, and meeting schedules are published on the HHTF website, encouraging consistent community participation.

Required Reporting

- **Annual Report on the Local Plan:** An Annual Report on the Local Plan, describing the 'Current Condition of Homelessness' in the jurisdiction, 'Performance in Meeting the Goals' in the Local Homeless Housing Plan, and 'Significant Changes' (if any), will be submitted to Commerce due in December 2025 and annually thereafter.
- **Annual Report on Expenditures:** A report including information on all local government's homelessness spending from all sources, by project, during the state fiscal year, will be submitted to Commerce due in December 2025 and annually thereafter.

Next Steps and Conclusion

Successful implementation of this strategic plan demands ongoing collaboration, sustained effort, and a flexible approach that evolves with emerging data and opportunities. Tackling homelessness requires a comprehensive, coordinated response. This 5-Year Plan establishes the essential conditions to make homelessness a brief, rare, and one-time experience for all residents.

To operate effectively, the homeless crisis response system requires four essential conditions: individuals experiencing homelessness must be quickly identified and engaged in services; those services must be coordinated across providers; clients must be prioritized to ensure that the greatest needs in the community are met; and the entire system must operate efficiently to move people swiftly into stable, permanent housing.

The response system must also be explicitly committed to equitably delivering services and actively working to address any disparities that currently exist.

The proposed actions of this plan are ambitious and address a clear constraint: government support alone cannot solve the immense challenge of homelessness. Existing homeless housing funds have limited reach, and much more capacity is continually needed at every level of the system.

Adequately addressing the current level of need requires continuous collaboration across every system and sustained investment from public and private sectors beyond current capacity.

Plan Development and Adoption Requirements

To ensure compliance with the Washington State Department of Commerce’s Local Homeless Housing Plan Guidance, Grays Harbor County has completed or will complete the following required steps during the development and adoption of this 2025–2030 Strategic Plan:

- **Notice of Plan Development**

A public notice announcing the development of this plan and its anticipated adoption was reviewed and approved for posting by the Housing and Homelessness Task Force (HHTF). It was published on the Grays Harbor County Public Health website and official social media channels starting April 16, 2025. The notice included an estimated adoption timeline targeting the end of calendar year 2025.

Notice of Plan Development

The Grays Harbor Homeless Housing Task Force and Public Health Staff are updating and further developing the Local Homeless Housing Plan for Grays Harbor County. The Washington State Department of Commerce mandates that local jurisdictions periodically submit a five-year local homeless housing plan for their respective jurisdictional areas. Guidelines outlining requirements and objectives for local jurisdictions are provided by Commerce, with consultative guidance from Homebase.

The Grays Harbor Homeless Housing Task Force comprises representatives including individuals with lived experience, residents of various cities, service providers closely engaged with the housing community, healthcare providers, youth and veteran advocates, the faith community, public health officials, and tribal representatives.

The plan’s development will proceed throughout 2025, with finalization and adoption scheduled by the end of 2025.

• Notice of Public Hearing

In accordance with state requirements, a notice of public hearing was published at least 30 days prior to the anticipated approval of the final plan.

The notice was distributed through multiple channels, including:

- A local newspaper of record (printed on October 23, 2025)
- The Grays Harbor County government [website](#)
- Local government social media platforms ([Facebook](#)) ([Instagram](#))
- Email distribution and during housing meetings with community partners.

Good faith efforts were made to share the hearing notice with individuals who have experienced homelessness or housing instability. The public hearing was hosted by the Homeless Housing Task Force (HHTF) as part of the plan finalization process.

• Plan Finalization and Adoption

The final plan is expected to be formally adopted by the Grays Harbor County Board of Commissioners on **December 23, 2025**, following all applicable local and state procedures. The adopted plan will be submitted to the Washington State Department of Commerce no later than **December 31, 2025**.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
The Grays Harbor County Homeless Housing Task Force (HHTF) will hold a meeting on **Friday, October 31, 2025** from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm over Zoom and in the Large Meeting Room of the Pearsall Building, located at 2109 Sumner Avenue, Aberdeen WA 98520. Agenda and info will be posted at www.healthvygh.org/hhtf
Individuals who qualify as low-income or have experienced homelessness are invited to provide input on the draft 5-Year Plan, which will be reviewed by the Homeless Housing Task Force HHTF; participants will be compensated for their time and contributions.
Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84844151822?pwd=3ulb3wyb8K0yBTCLluD7a0NWJ4nqhh.1>
Meeting ID: 848 4415 1822
Passcode: hhtf
Dial by Phone: 253 215 8782
Published: 10-23-2025 x1
The Daily World# 1021511

Note on Document Status

This 5-Year Plan is intended to serve as a **living document**. It will evolve over time to reflect new insights, changing priorities, and emerging opportunities. As such, it is **subject to updates and the inclusion of additional appendices** as needed. Stakeholders are encouraged to revisit this document periodically and contribute to its ongoing development to ensure it remains relevant and actionable.

Grays Harbor County Public Health Department Staff

Key staff involved in coordinating data, community engagement, and interagency collaboration:

- Alex Blumenthal, Community Health Specialist
- Natali Burgess, Community Health Specialist
- Caren Anderson, Grant and Contracts Program Manager
- Mike McNickle, Director

Grays Harbor County Homeless Housing Task Force (HHTF)

The HHTF provided critical oversight and validation of the housing need projections. Members drew upon their experience serving people experiencing homelessness in Grays Harbor to ensure local context was accurately reflected.

~ See Appendix D – HHTF Membership Roster

Persons with Lived Experience of Homelessness

The County has conducted its due diligence in good faith to ensure that individuals with lived experience of homelessness were meaningfully engaged in the development of the 5-Year Plan. Outreach efforts included public notices in local newspapers of Homeless Housing Task Force (HHTF) meetings and public hearing, as well as targeted communications through websites, social media platforms, and word-of-mouth networks. Additionally, HHTF includes members with lived experience, whose insights have been vital in shaping the plan's priorities, strategies, and accountability framework.

Housing Summit 2025

A milestone event, the 2025 Housing Summit brought together over 70 community leaders, service providers, and stakeholders, including representatives from the Washington State Department of Commerce. The Summit fostered discussion around regional housing challenges and informed alignment of estimates with actionable strategies.

~ See Appendix F – Housing Summit Summary and Outcomes

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Appendices

- A. Grays Harbor County Homeless Housing Task Force (HHTF) Members
- B. Documentation of Public Engagement
- C. Housing Proclamation
- D. 2019-2024 Strategies to Maintain
- E. 2025 Point in Time (PIT) Count
- F. Housing for All Planning Tool (HAPT) Page
- G. Housing Summit Agenda and Notes
- H. Public Comments
- I. Acronyms
- J. Resources

APPENDIX A

HOMELESS HOUSING TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Mike McNickle	Grays Harbor County Public Health
Kasey Morrison	City Aberdeen (non-gov't)
DeElania Caldwell	City of Hoquiam (non-gov't), Law & Justice
Jim Sorenson	City of Elma (non-gov't)
Regina Jackson	Tribal Representative
John Shaw	Healthcare Providers
Jon Martin	City of Ocean Shores (non-gov't)
Cache McCallum	Non-Profit Housing Community, Lived Experience
Cory Ellis	Law & Justice System – Not a County Employee (<i>RESIGNED JULY 2025</i>)
Martha Webb	Faith Community
Jennifer Gonzales	Person with Lived Experience
Kathy Delaney	Person with Lived Experience
Scout Marohn	Youth Advocate, SUD/Mental Health
Gwyn Terrance	Veteran Advocate

APPENDIX B

Stakeholder Engagement: Documentation of Public Engagement	
Required Representation:	Notes:
HHTF Member - County	Mike McNickle, Public Health
HHTF Member – Largest Cities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen • Hoquiam 	Kacey Morrison, Aberdeen DeElania Caldwell, Hoquiam
HHTF Member – Lived Experience (Homeless or Formerly Homeless)	Jennifer Gonzales, Kathy Delaney
HHTF- Member – Rep of a private nonprofit Organization with experience in low-income housing	Cache Mc Callum
Engagement from Two Largest Cities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdeen • Hoquiam 	Invited
City of Ocean Shores	Invited
City of Westport	Invited
Individuals with lived experience of homelessness (not already participating as members on the GHC HHTF)	Invited
Representative from Behavioral Health Administrative Service Organization (BH-ASO) OR Managed Care Organization (MCO)	Invited
A representative from a By and For organization within the local government's jurisdiction (Commerce may grant an exemption if a local government cannot fulfill this requirement)	Invited
Emergency shelter operators	Invited
Domestic violence/sexual assault shelter and housing providers	Invited
Homeless outreach providers	Invited
Rental subsidy administrators	Invited
Permanent Supportive Housing providers and operators	Invited
Tribal Partners	Invited
Senior Service Providers	Invited
Family Resource Navigators/McKinney Vento Liaisons	Invited
Coordinated Entry Staff	Invited
Non-Profits	Invited

APPENDIX C

GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY PROCLAMATION

Recognizing the Critical Need for Housing Development in Grays Harbor County

WHEREAS, the availability of safe, affordable, and diverse housing is essential to the health, well-being, and economic prosperity of Grays Harbor County ("County") residents; and

WHEREAS, the County is experiencing increased demand for housing due to ongoing and anticipated job growth, including developments at the Port of Grays Harbor, Summit Pacific Medical Center, and other economic expansion projects; and

WHEREAS, the shortage of accessible housing, including housing for individuals experiencing homelessness, low-income households, working families, and persons with disabilities threatens the County's ability to support workforce development, attract investment, and ensure sustainable and inclusive growth; and

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners ("Board") acknowledges that resolving the County's housing needs requires a coordinated response involving public agencies, private developers, nonprofit partners, and community members; and

WHEREAS, strategic housing development must include consideration of infrastructure, childcare access, mental and behavioral health needs, and community-centered design to ensure long-term livability and economic resilience.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY PROCLAIMED, that housing is a priority issue for the County, and every effort shall be made to promote, support, and facilitate the creation of housing at all income levels and for all populations. The Board encourages collaboration with local municipalities, developers, service providers, as well as state and federal partners to increase housing availability and affordability. The Board calls upon the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to align resources and initiatives to address housing shortages through sustainable, equitable, and inclusive development strategies.

DATED this 13th day of May, 2025.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY

Vickie R. Raines
Vickie Raines, Chair, District 3

Georgia Miller
Georgia Miller, District 1

Rick Hole
Rick Hole, District 2

ATTEST:

Wendy Chatham
Wendy Chatham, Clerk of the Board

Date: 05-13-25

<https://cms5.revize.com/revize/graysharborcounty/Commissioners/Proclamation%20on%20Need%20for%20Housing.pdf>

APPENDIX D

Below is the 2019–2024 Strategies to End Homelessness will transition into and be expanded upon by the 2025–2030 Plan

#1 Strategy and Vision Statement	Homeless Prevention: Youth and families will have access to community-based resources to avoid the trauma of homelessness
Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Coordinated Entry and outreach staff are trained in Diversion strategies and techniques • Housing Supports for Therapeutic Court clients • Coordination between housing providers and community-based resources (DSHS, Behavioral Health, Employment, Education, etc.) • Homelessness Prevention for FCS clients • Supportive Housing services through Foundational Community Supports • Supportive Employment services through Foundational Community Supports • Pathways Care Coordination • Implement 1 FTE Diversion specialist.
Yellow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transitional/Work Release Housing available for those recently released from incarceration.
Red	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement the “Pooled Benevolence Fund”.

#2 Strategy and Vision Statement	Identify & Engage: Coordinated Entry will be robust, consistent, and truly accessible no matter where you live in our County.
Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures in response to HUD Guidance • Continue to create, share, and evaluate tools to monitor CE activities such as priority, report, program enrollment and budgets • Create formal training program for CE and community stakeholder staff to create uniform understanding and system operation • Point Time Count • Complete initial analysis using racial equity tool provided by the Department of Commerce • Outreach Coordinator for Youth and Young Adults • Youth Housing Navigator to provide Coordinated Entry, Diversion, and support safe and stable housing options for youth • Expand accessibility throughout the County.
Yellow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create formal community outreach calendar and strategy with CE staff.
Red	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None Listed

Green: Achieved

Yellow: In process

Red: Unachieved

APPENDIX D Continued

#3 Strategy and Vision Statement	Emergency Shelter: Shelter will be available for all household types – youth, adults, families, ad survivors of Domestic Violence.
Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Shelter resources are connected to Coordinated Entry with a priority to assist clients in moving on to permanent housing • Implement a six (6) bed Emergency Shelter for homeless youth (ages 12-17) • Support Emergency Shelter for survivors of Domestic Violence • Emergency Shelter is available for families with children.
Yellow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in supports to lower barriers to existing shelters. • Robust Low Barrier Shelter.
Red	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Transitional” shelter for clients enrolled waiting for housing unit.

#4 Strategy and Vision Statement	Rapid Rehousing: Our community prioritizes programs that result in permanent housing for those actively experiencing homelessness. No families with children should be unsheltered in our community.
Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid Rehousing for HEN Clients Rapid • Rehousing for TANF Clients • Rapid Rehousing for low-income, homeless and vulnerable clients (CHG) Rapid Rehousing for • Tenant-Based Rental Assistance clients (TBRA) • Rapid Rehousing for Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) • Operate an effective and efficient homeless crisis response system that swiftly moves people into permanent housing • Rapid Rehousing for Families with Children • Rapid Rehousing for Young Adults (18-24) • Supportive transitional housing for survivors of Domestic Violence.
Yellow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None Listed
Red	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement dedicated FTE for SOAR to quickly get clients experiencing homelessness connected with disability benefits.

Green: Achieved

Yellow: In process

Red: Unachieved

APPENDIX D Continued

#5 Strategy and Vision Statement	<p align="center">Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH): Provide the most intensive services to those most in need in our community who have need homeless a long time and struggle with complex challenges.</p>
Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McKinney Vento Permanent Supportive Housing for 16 Chronically Homeless clients • FCS Permanent Supportive Housing for FCS Clients • Permanent Supportive Housing for Families with Children.
Yellow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal and consistent system partnership to identify, engage, and support high-needs clients to effectively access community-based resources (i.e. Mental Health, Physical Health, Substance Abuse Treatment, and Employment).
Red	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None Listed

#6 Strategy and Vision Statement	<p align="center">Affordable Housing: Increase the number of units available on the private market affordable to our lowest income neighbors so less people need housing subsidies.</p>
Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in Landlord Liaison position to connect more high barrier clients to affordable housing • Apply for 25 Family Reunification Vouchers (FUP) • Apply for 15 Veteran Administration Supportive Housing Vouchers (VASH).
Yellow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement a Grays Harbor “Affordable Housing Development Pipeline” to leverage and invest existing funding with maximum impact • Launch GHC Affordable Housing Pipeline • Apply for 15 Non-Elderly Disabled Vouchers (811) • Develop 20 units with monthly housing costs of \$390 or less (Extremely Low Income Clients).
Red	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with municipalities to explore barriers and/or incentives to development of mobile home and/or trailer parks as affordable housing model • Develop 20 units with monthly housing costs between \$390 and \$650 (Low Wage Workers) • Develop 20 units with monthly housing costs between \$650 and \$1,042 (Low income families) • Develop 20 units with monthly housing costs between \$1,042 and \$1,556 (middle-income families) • Partner with community effort “Timberworks” levee project to support, develop, and incentivize affordable housing opportunities previously in FEMA flood plain.

Green: Achieved

Yellow: In process

Red: Unachieved

APPENDIX E

Further Breakdown of the Grays Harbor County 2025 PIT Count:

The 2025 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count provides a critical, recent snapshot of homelessness, highlighting both the overall scale and specific vulnerabilities within our county's population.

- Total Individuals Experiencing Homelessness: 240 (across 208 households).

- Sheltered vs. Unsheltered Status: A significant majority (81.3%) of individuals experiencing homelessness in Grays Harbor County are unsheltered (195 individuals), with only 18.7% (45 individuals) finding shelter. This stark imbalance underscores an urgent need for increased emergency shelter and low-barrier housing options.

- Vulnerable Populations Identified: The PIT count reveals that homelessness disproportionately affects certain vulnerable groups. Nearly half of the homeless population are Adults with Serious Mental Illness (47.9% or 115 individuals) or Substance Abuse Disorder (46.7% or 112 individuals). Additionally, Adult Survivors of Domestic Violence (7.9% or 19 individuals) and Veterans (4.2% or 10 individuals) are also significantly impacted, highlighting the critical need for integrated behavioral health, trauma-informed care, and veteran-specific housing support.

- Household Types: Households with only adults represent the largest segment of the homeless population (85.0%). However, families with children (13.8%) and unaccompanied youth (3.3%) also constitute significant portions, requiring distinct and targeted interventions to address their unique needs and ensure child safety and development.

2025 Point in Time Count Results			
Select Geographic Region:	Grays Harbor County		
<i>Note: must download spreadsheet to change geographic region selection.</i>			
Totals	Individuals	Households	
Total People	240	208	
Housing Type	Individuals	Households	Percent
Total in Emergency Shelter	37	21	15.4%
Total in Transitional Shelter	8	4	3.3%
Total in Safe Haven	-	-	0.0%
Total Sheltered	45	25	18.8%
Total Unsheltered	195	183	81.3%
Household Types	Individuals	Households	Percent
Household w/ Adults & Minors	33	11	13.8%
Household w/ Only Adults	204	194	85.0%
Household w/ Only Children	3	3	1.3%
Unaccompanied Youth Household	8	-	3.3%
Parenting Youth Household	-	-	0.0%
Additional Populations	Individuals	Percent	
Veterans	10	4.2%	
Adults w/ Serious Mental Illness	115	47.9%	
Adults w/ Substance Abuse Disorder	112	46.7%	
Adults Survivors of Domestic Violence	19	7.9%	

APPENDIX F

HOUSING FOR ALL PLANNING TOOL (HAPT)

Washington State Department of Commerce, Growth Management Services

<https://www.commerce.wa.gov/growth-management/housing-planning/housing-guidance/>

Housing Needs Projections for Selected County, Projection Year, and Population Target

Complete Steps 1, 2, and 3 to access countywide projections

Step 1
Select a County
Grays Harbor ✓

Table 1: OFM GMA Population Projections, 2045

Grays Harbor County Projected Population, 2045

	Low	Medium	High
Projected Population (2045)	68,163	77,365	90,774

Step 2
Select a Projection Year
2045 ✓

Table 2: Projected Countywide Housing Needs Based on User Inputs

Grays Harbor County

Population Target = 77,365

	Affordability Level (% of Area Median Income)							
	Total	0-30%		30-50%	50-80%	80-100%	100-120%	120%+
		Non-PSH	PSH					
Total Future Housing Needed (2045)	36,206	3,498	1,193	9,633	10,267	4,024	2,305	5,286
Estimated Housing Supply (2020)*	32,054	1,693	88	8,450	10,226	4,006	2,305	5,286
Net New Housing Needed (2020-2045)	4,152	1,805	1,105	1,183	41	18	0	0

Emergency Housing/Shelter Beds
393
206
187

* Note: Supply of PSH in 2020 is beds. However, projections of Net New Housing Needed (2020-2045) are in housing units. See Overview tab for details.

Instructions:

- **Step 1:** Select a county; **Step 2:** select projection year
- Next, Table 1 will present OFM GMA population projections for your county and year inputs. For PSRC counties, selecting projection year 2044 will also present VISION 2050 population projections.
- **Step 3:** Enter your county's population target. This is the total population projected for the selected year. The value must be within the range shown in Table 1.
- After completing Step 3, Table 2 will present projected countywide housing needs based on the user inputs.

APPENDIX G

<h1 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">Agenda</h1>	
Objective: Bring together over 50 community leaders, decision-makers, and stakeholders from Grays Harbor County for a first-of-its-kind meeting to develop strategies for addressing housing challenges.	
9:00 am - 9:10 am	Welcome & Opening Remarks
Presented By: Mike McNickle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome • Housekeeping • Introductions
9:10 am - 9:20 am	Commissioner's Remarks
Presented By: Commissioner Georgia Miller	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of today's meeting • Housing Proclamation
9:20 am - 10:20 am	Housing in Grays Harbor County
Presented By: Eric Bjella John Demboski Craig Dublanko Lisa Strider Greg Lane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss current challenges faced by teams • Brainstorm solutions and support needed <p style="text-align: right; margin: 0;">10:20 - 10:45 Q & A</p>
10:45 am - 11:00 am	Break: Coffee, Tea and Snacks
11:00 am - 11:30 am	City & County Permitting Processes
Presented By: John Becker Suresh Bhagavan Anne Fritzel Jeff Nelson Lisa Scott	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on the permitting & planning processes from both the county and cities' perspectives • Roadblocks from the permitting aspect <p style="text-align: right; margin: 0;">11:30 am - 12:00 pm Q & A</p>
12:00 pm - 12:30 pm	Lunch
12:30 pm - 1:00 pm	Workforce and Housing
Presented By: Ann Campbell Stefanie Edens Chris Majors Carl Schiffner Darrin Raines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What challenges are employers facing when trying to recruit employees <p style="text-align: right; margin: 0;">1:00 pm - 1:15 pm Q & A</p>
1:15 pm - 1:30 pm	Break
1:30 pm - 2:00 pm	Other Stakeholders
Presented By: Coleen Chapin Cassie Lentz Kyle Pauley Jim Sorensen Faith Foote	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the housing needs for these specific communities • What challenges and roadblocks are they finding <p style="text-align: right; margin: 0;">2:00 pm - 2:15 pm Q & A</p>
2:15 pm - 3:00 pm	Wrap Up and Next Steps with Commissioner Miller

APPENDIX G Continued

PANEL 1 – HOUSING

CURRENT STATE OF HOUSING AND BARRIERS

- Funding is available for rent assistance, but housing units are scarce
- Housing development lacking in all areas like workforce, elderly care, affordable housing, first time homeowners, apartment complexes
- Hard to attract developers – need incentives
- Resistance of local jurisdictions and residents in blocking and approving housing
- Grants are available through Commerce for housing projects
- Affordability – costs are too high: down payment assistance, upkeep and maintenance of homes, lower price ranges, high flood insurance and utilities costs
- Need activities, quality healthcare and mental health support
- Need Living wage jobs
- Infrastructure and operational funding
- Lack of land in some communities
- Lack of childcare

WHAT STRATEGIES AND PARTNERSHIPS ARE NEEDED TO MAKE HOME OWNERSHIP MORE ATTAINABLE

- Housing needs to be a priority

- Housing Action Plan that brings all jurisdictions together
- Incentives for builders to build and make a profit
- Provide resources
- How to partner with others to build out in the community
- Resources for rehabilitating existing buildings
- Public Private Partnerships
- Master Leasing
- Incorporate housing throughout the community instead of focusing in just one area
- Educate and address opposition within communities
- Look at zoning, what is allowed and free up unites and lot sizes
- Financing solutions
- Housing is like climbing a ladder. It is hard to move up the latter due to the cost of living. Subsidies are reduced when they reach a certain income and now have to pay more for utilities etc. The thought that they may one day own a home increasingly becomes more unattainable with home prices going up or having to settle for a home that is old and not safe.

RESOURCES

- Homeownership-wa.org
- Commerce.wa.gov

APPENDIX G Continued

PANEL 2 – CITY AND COUNTY PERMITTING & PLANNING

CURRENT STATE OF HOUSING AND BARRIERS

- A lot of available land in some areas
- Lack of infrastructure: Water, Sewer, Fire, Roads, Safety and Right of Way. Costs are passed on to developers.
- No return of investment in developing land
- Connecting to public utilities is an issue
- Insurance is costly
- Geologically diverse county with different types of utility systems (i.e. coast versus inland)
- The state has a ton of tools and tax exemptions to build housing
- Environmental concerns
- Usage complaints take a lot of staff time
- Needs include co-living, renting rooms with shared spaces and accessory dwelling units

HOW TO ALIGN DEVELOPER INCENTIVES, PUBLIC-RECREATION INVESTMENTS, STREAMLINE APPROVAL AND PERMITTING

- City of Aberdeen has finished comprehensive plan and zoning code and adopted ADU's. They have an online permitting process. Looking for recreational opportunities and focusing back on downtown livability.
- County has streamlined their process, and it is online. Comprehensive plan is due next year.

- County Public Works has streamlined their process and has a need for additional staff.
- County Environmental Health has an online portal and will be digitizing records next. They are providing education to applicants on paperwork completion. There are delays around scheduling.
- Preapproved housing plans were suggested as an idea. This is difficult for all as there are different requirements depending upon where the home is being built and requests are made to modify the plans. Local designers are more familiar with requirements and are easier to review than those that come from out of the area. Commerce indicated that prefabricated homes are the fastest and most affordable housing options.
- Greater Grays Harbor can advocate for housing at the legislative level.
- An architect can do a feasibility study and identify hurdles and estimate costs and timelines.
- Educating community, having a plan and one voice can be helpful in overcoming barriers by the community.

RESOURCES

- Commerce can provide tools and guidance around growth management to address sprawl and housing action plans
- Commerce's Connecting Housing to Infrastructure Program (CHIP)

APPENDIX G Continued

PANEL 3 – WORKFORCE AND HOUSING

CURRENT STATE OF HOUSING AND BARRIERS AND GROUPS

AFFECTED

- Need housing for workforce and students – long term rentals, entry level housing & housing for professionals and students. Need multi-family apartments or condos and housing for senior population. Workers living in Olympia and commuting.
- Lack of safe and affordable housing. Lots of inventory but very old structures that are not up to code.
- Need living wage jobs.
- Working class can't own a home due to affordability.
- Need incentives for rural development.
- Costs for gas and groceries continue to rise but wages do not.
- Need to bring employers into the county and invest in communities.
- Insurance rates will be costly until Levy is put in and homes are not being improved as a result.

PANEL 4 – OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

CURRENT STATE OF HOUSING AND BARRIERS

- Lack of subsidies.
- Cost of housing is increasing but wages are not.
- Need low income and transitional housing.
- Accountability issues with utilities not working.
- Legal issues around mobile home parks and evictions.
- Social Security Income is not enough to afford a place to live.
- Lack of treatment for substance and mental health issues.
- More children and seniors at risk of homelessness.
- People move to Olympia because the cost of living is lower, and it has more of the things they are looking for like recreational activities and shopping.
- Need for substance abuse treatment.
- GHC has a higher-than-average rate in Washington of individuals with disabilities, and it's become more difficult to find housing to accommodate for those individuals.
- With AHAH ([Apple Health and Home](#)) individuals are pretty much being 'prescribed' housing assistance if they are deemed eligible.
- There is a stigma around housing vouchers and housing assistance.

APPENDIX H

This appendix documents the good faith efforts undertaken by Public Health and the Homelessness Housing Task Force (HHTF) to ensure broad public notice and engagement, specifically targeting individuals with lived experience of homelessness and housing instability, during the development and finalization of this 5-Year Plan.

- **Distribution of Public Notice:** Notice was spread through multiple channels, including email outreach to community partners and local government, local newspaper advertisements (The Daily World), social media updates, physical displays at Health Department facilities, and in-person meetings.
- **Record of Public Engagement Efforts:** A comprehensive record is maintained by a Grays Harbor County Public Health, including written comments (email,), sign-in sheets/attendance records from HHTF meetings and the public hearing, and notes/transcripts of feedback.
 - **Email Outreach:** Targets Community Partners, Schools, and Local Government Officials with calls for input, meeting notices, and public hearing announcements.
 - **Local Newspaper (The Daily World):** Targets the General Public with announcements of plan development, invitations for comment, and public hearing details.
 - **Social Media:** Targets the General Public and the Online Community with progress updates, links to drafts, and invitations to share experiences.
 - **Physical Display:** Targets Visitors and Clients of the Health Department facilities with posters and flyers at all Public Health locations.
 - **In-Person/Remote Meetings:** Targets Stakeholders, Partner Organizations, and HHTF attendees with information presentation and discussion.

Accessibility of Meeting Records: All HHTF meetings were public and their agendas, audio recordings and related documents are available on the dedicated HHTF Website healthygh.org/hhtf . Documentation (recordings and/or official minutes) of the formal public hearing during a Board of County Commissioner meeting is accessible on Zoom: :

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/ZPOSS1yam7OccOzwtU7uMHSIIHI_dCZcCvUhPMJKAY8hQ3glIFFsuGauSofLUIM7.B-gzmaXe2YsqRJIY
Passcode: cP9UkNG%

APPENDIX I

Acronyms Throughout Grays Harbor County’s 5-Year Homeless Housing Plan <i>In order as they appear</i>		
Abbreviation	Full Name	Meaning
GHC	Grays Harbor County	A <u>county</u> in the United States located on the southwestern coast of Washington State. It is known for its rich natural resources, including dense forests, rivers, and direct access to the Pacific Ocean, making it a prime location for fishing, water recreation, tourism, and beach attractions. The county seat is Montesano, and the largest city is Aberdeen, which has a historical legacy rooted in the timber industry.
HHTF	Homeless Housing Task Force	A volunteer-based group was formed to develop and guide a five-year homeless housing plan. The task force includes diverse community stakeholders including but no limited to representatives from local governments, nonprofits, service providers, businesses, and individuals—especially those with lived experience of homelessness. Counties may form new task forces or designate existing bodies and must report annually to the state to ensure compliance with housing goals. RCW 43.185C.160.
HMIS	Homelessness and the Homeless Management Information System	A critical tool used by homeless and housing service providers to collect, manage, and analyze data related to housing assistance. HMIS supports efforts to end homelessness by ensuring coordinated, data-informed services for individuals and households who are already experiencing homelessness or at risk of losing their housing.
ACS	American Community Survey (ACS)/Census	A Source for detailed information about the nation's people and housing. As an ongoing survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau since 2005, the ACS collects detailed social, economic, housing, and demographic information from a sample of households across the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.
HAPT	The Housing All Planning Tool	A tool by the WA State Department of Commerce (DOC) and Growth Management Services (GMA) used to calculate housing needs projections for a selected county, projection year, and target population. This tool also provides two methods for allocating projected countywide housing needs to individual jurisdictions, including cities, towns, and unincorporated areas. Each method allocates projected housing needs based on user-defined percentages of net new housing growth by jurisdiction.

APPENDIX I Continued...

Acronyms Throughout Grays Harbor County's 5-Year Homeless Housing Plan

In order as they appear

Abbreviation	Full Name	Meaning
OFM	WA Office of Financial Management	Provides vital information, fiscal services and policy support that the governor, Legislature and state agencies need to serve the people of Washington. OFM plays a central role in budget planning, policy development, and fiscal administration for the executive branch.
GMA	Growth Management Act	A series of state statutes, first adopted in 1990, that requires fast-growing cities and counties to develop a comprehensive plan to manage their population growth. It is primarily codified under Chapter 36.70A RCW, although it has been amended and added to in several other parts of the RCW. Growth Management Act .
SFY	State Fiscal Year	A twelve (12) month period is used for budget and accounting purposes. State fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30 of the following year; naming from when the calendar year ends.
PSH	Permanent Supportive Housing	PSH--A CoC (Continuum of Care) program component type providing indefinite leasing or rental assistance combined with supportive services for disabled persons experiencing homelessness so that they may live independently.
EH/ES	Emergency Housing/Shelter	A project that offers temporary shelter (lodging) for persons experiencing homelessness in general or for a specific population of them, and which does not require occupants to sign leases or occupancy agreements. Requirements and limitations may vary by program and will be specified by the funder. Includes day and warming centers that do not provide overnight accommodation.
AMI	Area Medium Income	A key metric in affordable housing. Area median income is defined as the midpoint of a specific area's income distribution and is calculated on an annual basis by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. This metric is important because many of HUD's housing programs are based on the value for a metropolitan statistical area or MSA, impacting renter eligibility determinations among other uses.
FMR	Fair Market Rate	FMRs are HUD-established estimates of gross rent, considering both rent and the cost of necessary utilities. They are based on a standard calculation, updated annually and are published online on HUDUser.gov . Recipients and subrecipients must use the FMR applicable to the geographic area in which the housing unit is located.

APPENDIX I Continued...

Acronyms Throughout Grays Harbor County's 5-Year Homeless Housing Plan

In order as they appear

Abbreviation	Full Name	Meaning
HUD	United States Housing and Urban Development	A federal agency who administers programs that provide housing and community development assistance. They are responsible for national housing policy and community development, focusing on affordable housing and fair housing process. They also serve as a major funding source.
PIT	Point-in-Time * SHB 1899 – This removed the requirement that a WA homeless census be conducted annually.	An annual count of people experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness is carried out on one night in January. This is required by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) CFR Part 578 , and by the Washington state RCW 46.185C.030 . Data from the PIT is reported in the Annual Homelessness Assessment Report , which is shared with Congress and other governing bodies to inform local planning on homelessness services and funding needs. Commerce provides training, data collection software, and technical assistance to the Balance of State CoC for the PIT.
CE	Coordinated Entry	The purpose of a Coordinated Entry system (CE) is to provide the quickest access to the most appropriate housing to every household experience or at-risk of homelessness through a standardized assessment and referral process.
OSPI	WA Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction	This is the primary agency responsible for overseeing public K–12 education in the state. Its goal is to prepare every student for post-secondary pathways, careers, and civic engagement. OSPI allocates funding, implements state education laws, and sets curriculum standards, working with 295 public school districts and 6 state-tribal education compact schools to ensure high-quality education for all students.
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency	An agency of the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) responsible for coordinating the federal government's response to natural disasters, emergencies, and other large-scale incidents.
DSHS	WA State Department of Social and Health Services	A government agency responsible for providing a broad array of health care and social services. It aims to support the health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities in Washington State by offering services such as healthcare assistance, food and cash assistance, child welfare services, mental health services, and developmental disability services.

APPENDIX I Continued...

Acronyms Throughout Grays Harbor County's 5-Year Homeless Housing Plan

In order as they appear

Abbreviation	Full Name	Meaning
SUD	Substance Use Disorder	A pattern of substance use that leads to clinically significant impairment or distress, characterized by a combination of symptoms related to impaired control, social impairment, risky use, and pharmacological criteria (like tolerance and withdrawal). *DSM-5
TH	Transitional Housing	Facility-based housing, that may require signed a lease or occupancy agreement, for the purpose of facilitating the movement of homeless individuals or families into permanent housing within 24 months. Requirements and limitations may vary program to program and will be specified by the funder. The household must leave the housing unit when the assistance ends. Individuals in this program are still considered homeless.
RRH	Rapid Rehousing	This program is for the literally homeless. Moving households into permanent housing as soon as possible with short/medium term financial assistance. The individual or family can stay in the housing unit after assistance ends.
HP	Homeless Prevention	This program is for households imminently at risk of becoming homeless. Preventing homelessness by keeping an individual or family housed in their current residence by providing short-term financial assistance.
CHG	Consolidated Homeless Grant	State grant which provides resources to fund homeless crisis response systems. Grants are made to local governments and nonprofits. Recipients of these funds establish assistance and housing programs to support communities in ending homelessness. Homeless crisis response systems respond to the immediacy and urgency of homelessness and ensure that everyone has a safe and appropriate place to live.
EHF	Emergency Housing Fund	Originally Federal funds, now State, which flow through the CHG grant. Eligible expenses fall under the CHG guidelines for Administration, Operations, Facility Support and Rent.
HEN	Housing and Essential Needs	A referral program that provides access to essential-needs items and potential rental assistance for low-income individuals who are temporarily or permanently disabled and unable to work due to medical, physical and/or mental incapacity, helping to prevent homelessness. HEN referrals come from the Department of Socials and Health Services (DSHS).

APPENDIX I Continued...

Acronyms Throughout Grays Harbor County's 5-Year Homeless Housing Plan

In order as they appear

Abbreviation	Full Name	Meaning
FCS	Foundational Community Supports	A program offering supported employment benefits for Medicaid-eligible beneficiaries with complex needs.
BoS CoC	WA Balance of State Continuum of Care	The Collaborative Applicant for the Washington Balance of State Continuum of Care (BoS CoC). The goal of the BoS CoC is to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness in the 34 small and medium-sized counties in WA State. Our collaborators receive about \$25 million annually through the biennial HUD CoC competition.
YHDP	Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program	Federal program with a goal to support selected communities, including rural, suburban, and urban areas across the United States, in the development and implementation of a coordinated community approach to preventing and ending youth homelessness.
CDBG-PS	Community Development Block Grant – Public Services	Federal program provides annual grants on a formula basis to states, cities, and counties to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons. For Grays Harbor County scenario, the Community Development Block Grant Public Services (CDBG PS) provides senior nutrition, in home care services and hygiene items through Coastal Community Action Program (CCAP) to support several needs in our rural community.
TBRA	Tenant Base Rental Assistance	Federal flexible programs that provide assistance to individual households to help them afford the housing costs of market-rate units. 24 CFR 92.209
CBRA	Community Behavioral Health Rental Assistance	A Program that provides a long-term rental subsidy for high-risk individuals and households with behavioral health conditions. When combined with programs offering long-term supportive services provided by our partners, highly vulnerable people with complex behavioral health needs have opportunities to live independently in communities of their choice. Program partners include the Department of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) at the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) and the Aging and Long-Term Supports Administration (AL TSA) at the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS).

APPENDIX I Continued...

Acronyms Throughout Grays Harbor County's 5-Year Homeless Housing Plan

In order as they appear

Abbreviation	Full Name	Meaning
OHY	WA State Office of Homeless Youth	<p>The Office of Homeless Youth Prevention and Protection Programs (OHY) leads statewide efforts to reduce and prevent homelessness for youth (ages 12-17) and young adults (ages 18-24) by partnering with community programs to establish ongoing and future funding, policy, and best practices.</p> <p>Advocacy efforts led by young people helped passed the Homeless Youth Act in 2015 to create OHY and establish its five priority service areas: Stable Housing, Family Reconciliation, Permanent Connections, Education and Employment, and Social and Emotional Well-Being.</p>
SSVF	Supportive Services for Veteran Families	A government-funded initiative established by the US Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) to assist very low-income Veterans, SSVF provides case management and supportive services to prevent the imminent loss of a Veteran's home or identify a new, more suitable housing situation for the individual and his or her family; or to rapidly re-house Veterans and their families who are homeless and might remain homeless without this assistance.
VA	US Department of Veterans Affairs	Cabinet-level executive branch department of the federal government provides a broad range of benefits to uniformed services veterans and certain family members. Among these benefits are monthly, tax-free payments to disabled veterans; health care; education benefits; housing assistance; and burial benefits.
CJTA	Criminal Justice Treatment Account	RCW 71.24.580 defines how Washington State supports people with mental health or substance use disorders when they are released from jail or prison. It requires coordination between agencies to provide treatment, housing, and other services to help these individuals successfully reenter the community and avoid going back to jail.
RFP	Request for Proposals	A formal document used by businesses, organizations, or government agencies to solicit bids from vendors, suppliers, or contractors for a specific project or service. It outlines the project's requirements and invites companies to submit proposals detailing how they can meet those needs.

APPENDIX I Continued...

Acronyms Throughout Grays Harbor County's 5-Year Homeless Housing Plan

In order as they appear

Abbreviation	Full Name	Meaning
By and For		<p>By and For Organizations are operated by and for the communities they serve. Their primary mission and history is serving a specific community. They are culturally based, directed, and substantially controlled by individuals from the population they serve. At the core of their programs, these organizations embody the community's central cultural values. In the affordable housing context, these communities must have demonstrated disproportionate representation in homelessness, housing instability, and housing affordability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Black, Indigenous, or other People of Color including people identified as socially disadvantaged as defined in 13 CFR Sec. 124.103. ✓ People with disabilities** ✓ People who identify as part of the d/Deaf and hard of hearing community ✓ People with behavioral health conditions, including substance use disorder. ✓ People who identify as LGBTQIA+*** ✓ Survivors of family violence and/or intimate partner violence. ✓ Incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals. ✓ Undocumented individuals, immigrants and refugees, and mixed-immigration-status families and communities. <p>**The term disability means: (1) a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, (2) a person with a record of a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, and (3) a person who is regarded as having a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. This may include, but is not limited to, people with physical disabilities, people with chronic health conditions, and/or people who are neurodivergent.</p> <p>***LGBTQIA+ is an acronym for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual and other identities including but not limited to: two-spirit, non-binary, pansexual, agender, etc.</p>
SMI	Serious Mental Health	<p>Per SAMHSA, Someone over 18 having (within the past year) a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder that substantially interferes with a person's life and ability to function. SMIs include conditions like bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder, and schizophrenia.</p>
DV	Domestic Violence	<p>A pattern of behavior(s) used by one partner to maintain power and control over another partner in an intimate relationship. It affects people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels. It takes many forms: physical; emotional; economic; stalking and harassment; and sexual.</p>

APPENDIX I Continued...

Acronyms Throughout Grays Harbor County's 5-Year Homeless Housing Plan

In order as they appear

Abbreviation	Full Name	Meaning
SOAR	SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery	A program designed to assist individuals who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness in applying for SSI (Supplemental Security Income) and SSDI (Social Security Disability Insurance) benefits.
SSI	Supplemental Security Income	A needs-based program designed to provide financial support to individuals who are aged, blind, or disabled and have limited income and resources.
SSDI	Social Security Disability Insurance	An insurance program that provides benefits to individuals who have worked and paid Social Security taxes for a sufficient period and are unable to work due to a disability.
FTE	Full-Time Equivalent	Unit of measurement that quantifies the workload of employees in terms of full-time hours.
BIPOC	Black, Indigenous, or other People of Color including people identifies as socially disadvantaged	Per 13 CFR Sec 124.103 Socially disadvantaged individuals as those who have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice or cultural bias within American society due to their identities as members of groups, without regard to their individual qualities. The social disadvantage must stem from circumstances beyond their control.
LGBTQIA+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Asexual, and other identities including but not limited to: two-spirit, non-binary, pansexual, agender, etc.	Each letter stands for a gender or sexual identity, with the "+" at the end standing in for the many gender identities that aren't included in this version of the acronym.
BOCC	Board of County Commissioners	The Board of Commissioners is Grays Harbor County's legislative authority and is made up of three Commissioners elected to four-year terms. The County is divided into three districts, based on population, and at the time of election each Commissioner must live in and represent his/her district. The Commissioners are partisan and nominated in a primary election within their district only. All voters in the county are given an opportunity in the general election to select the Commissioner who will ultimately serve.
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement	A legally binding document that creates enforceable obligations and specifies more concrete terms and responsibilities.
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding	Typically, a non-binding document that outlines the intent to collaborate and serves as a preliminary agreement, making it ideal for early-stage discussions.

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Acronyms Throughout Grays Harbor County's 5-Year Homeless Housing Plan

In order as they appear

Abbreviation	Full Name	Meaning
WADOC	WA Department of Corrections	Is responsible for administering adult corrections programs in Washington. It operates state correctional institutions and programs for individuals supervised in the community. The department's mission is to improve public safety by providing effective and humane correctional services. WADOC oversees various divisions, including correctional facilities, vocational education, and community supervision, ensuring the safety and rehabilitation of incarcerated individuals.
DOC	WA Department of Commerce	Is responsible for community and economic development. It manages several boards and commissions focused on businesses, local governments, tribes, and community-based organizations. The agency's mission is to strengthen communities across Washington, providing access to various programs and services to support economic growth and development.
TANF	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	It is a federal assistance program that provides cash assistance to families with children who are experiencing low-income. TANF aims to help families maintain stability and promote children's healthy development by providing income support and various services, such as job training and childcare assistance. The program is funded through a block grant to states, which have the flexibility to implement their own programs tailored to the needs of their communities.
VASH	Veteran Administration Supportive Housing Vouchers	A program that combines HUD's Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance with VA case management and supportive services for homeless veterans. The program aims to help veterans and their families obtain permanent housing and access necessary health care and mental health treatment to improve their quality of life and maintain housing stability over time.
FUP	Family Reunification Vouchers	Federal rental assistance programs designed to help families reunify after separation. These vouchers are provided to eligible families, particularly those facing homelessness, and to youths aged 18 to 24 who have left foster care. The program aims to ensure that families have a stable living situation, reducing the risk of re-involvement in child welfare services. The vouchers are administered by Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) in partnership with child welfare agencies, and there is no time limit on the issuance of these vouchers

APPENDIX J

Resources:

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2. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. *Explore health rankings*: <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/>
3. Washington State Department of Commerce.. *Reports and publications*: <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/housing-data/reports-and-publications/>
4. United States Census Bureau.. *Data portal*: <https://data.census.gov/>
5. Washington State Department of Commerce. *Homeless system performance: County report card*. Tableau Public: https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/comhau/viz/DRAFTWashingtonStateHomelessSystemPerformance_CountyReportCardSFY2019/Coun%20tyReportCard
6. Washington State Department of Commerce. *Updating GMA elements: Housing guidance*: <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/growth-management/housing-planning/housing-guidance/>
7. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. *Income limits dataset*: <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il.html>
8. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. *Main portal*: <https://www.hud.gov/>
9. Washington State Legislature. *Legislative information*: <https://leg.wa.gov/>
10. Washington State Department of Commerce. *Housing division*: <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/housing/>
11. Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. *McKinney-Vento Act resources*: <https://ospi.k12.wa.us/student-success/access-opportunity-education/students-experiencing-homelessness/mckinney-vento-act>
12. Washington State Department of Social and Health Services. *Main portal*: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/>
13. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development: *HMIS data dictionary*. <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3824/hmis-data-dictionary/>
14. Washington State Department of Commerce. *HMIS portal*: <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/housing-data/hmis/>
15. Washington State Department of Commerce. *Consolidated Homeless Grant Guidelines*. <https://deptofcommerce.app.box.com/s/4d1ilui45uqljmhseufez4flxqv1q6b>
16. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). *Main portal*.: <https://www.samhsa.gov/>
17. Washington State Department of Commerce. *Permanent Supportive Housing Toolkit*: <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/permanent-supportive-housing/>

APPENDIX J Continued

Resources:

18. Washington State Office of Equity. *Community compensation guidelines*: <https://equity.wa.gov/resources/community-compensation-guidelines>
19. Grays Harbor County. *County website*: <https://www.graysharbor.us/index.php>
20. Grays Harbor County Public Health. *Main portal*: <https://www.healthygh.org/>

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