



Homeless Housing Task Force Meeting

Friday, April 19, 2024

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Agenda/Goals:

- ▶ Snapshot of Homelessness in Grays Harbor County
- ▶ Available funds and governing laws/guidelines
- ▶ Current investments and outcomes
- ▶ Overview of the 2019-2024 Plan to Address Unmet Housing Needs



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Snapshot of Homelessness in Grays Harbor County

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What is Homelessness?

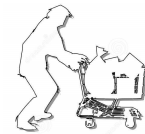


Unstably Housed



Fleeing Violence

Types of Homelessness



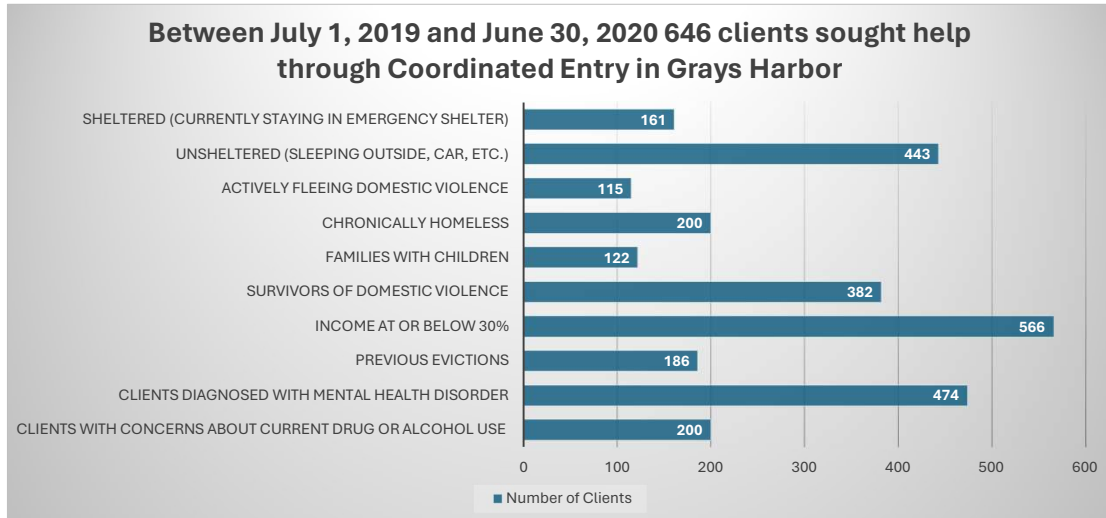
Chronically Homeless



Literally Homeless

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Individual drivers of homelessness/barriers to housing stability



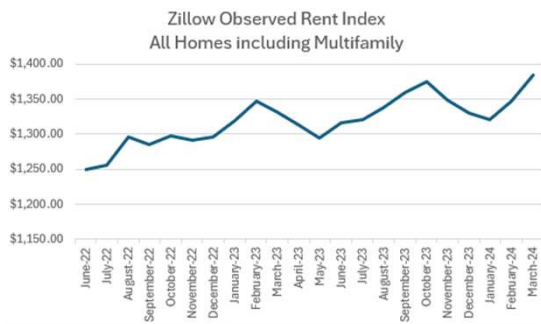
Source: Client assessments at GH Coordinated Entry

select more than one response (will not add up to totals)

Note: Clients may

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Systemic drivers of homelessness/barriers to housing stability



All Homes: Single and Multi-Family Residences

Income Status	Definition	Annual Income range	Monthly affordable housing costs	Number of renter households	Estimated number of affordable rental units
Extremely low income	<30% Median Income	<\$15,630 per year	\$390 or less per month	1,775	615
Very Low Income	30% to 50% Median Income	\$15,630 - \$26,050 per year	\$390 - \$650 per month	1,715	605

- Social Security income: \$943/month
 - Affordable Housing ≤ \$283/month
- Full time worker @ minimum wage: \$1,750/month take-home pay
 - Affordable Housing ≤ \$525/month

Sources: Zillow and American Community Survey (US Census) 5 year estimates 2012-2016 Grays Harbor County

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How many people are experiencing homelessness in Grays Harbor?

Based on available data – it is reasonable to estimate there are as many as *4000 residents who are unstably housed* at any given time and –**between 500-700 who are literally homeless**

- 2024 (unofficial) Point in Time Count
 - 312 Homeless Households counted. 131 staying in shelters, 181 living unsheltered.
 - 2020 data: 127 Homeless Households counted. 29 staying in shelters, 98 living unsheltered.
- 2022-2023 Coordinated Entry data
 - 537 literally homeless households assessed, 85 enrolled in programs, 452 unmet need.
- 2024 School District Data
 - 349 Homeless Students enrolled at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year
 - 2020 School District Data
 - 750 Homeless Students - 599 doubled-up, 66 hotels/motels, 29 shelters, and 61 unsheltered.
- 2024 Department of Social and Health Services Data
 - 948 clients literally homeless, 1,261 clients unstably housed, 2 clients in emergency housing/shelter, 5 client in DV shelter.

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What funding is available?

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Legislation from 2011 combined all of the state’s homeless grant programs into a single grant opportunity, **The Consolidated Homeless Grant**, made available to County governments

Each Biennium, Grays Harbor County receives a CHG allocation from the Department of Commerce, this allocation totaled **\$6.3 Million over the 2023-25 Biennium**

Upon receiving our allocation each biennium, the County then releases an RFP to **renew existing projects** and decide how to **allocate new funding**, if available

Due to historic investments in this program from the Washington State Legislature, we received **significantly more funding in this biennium.**

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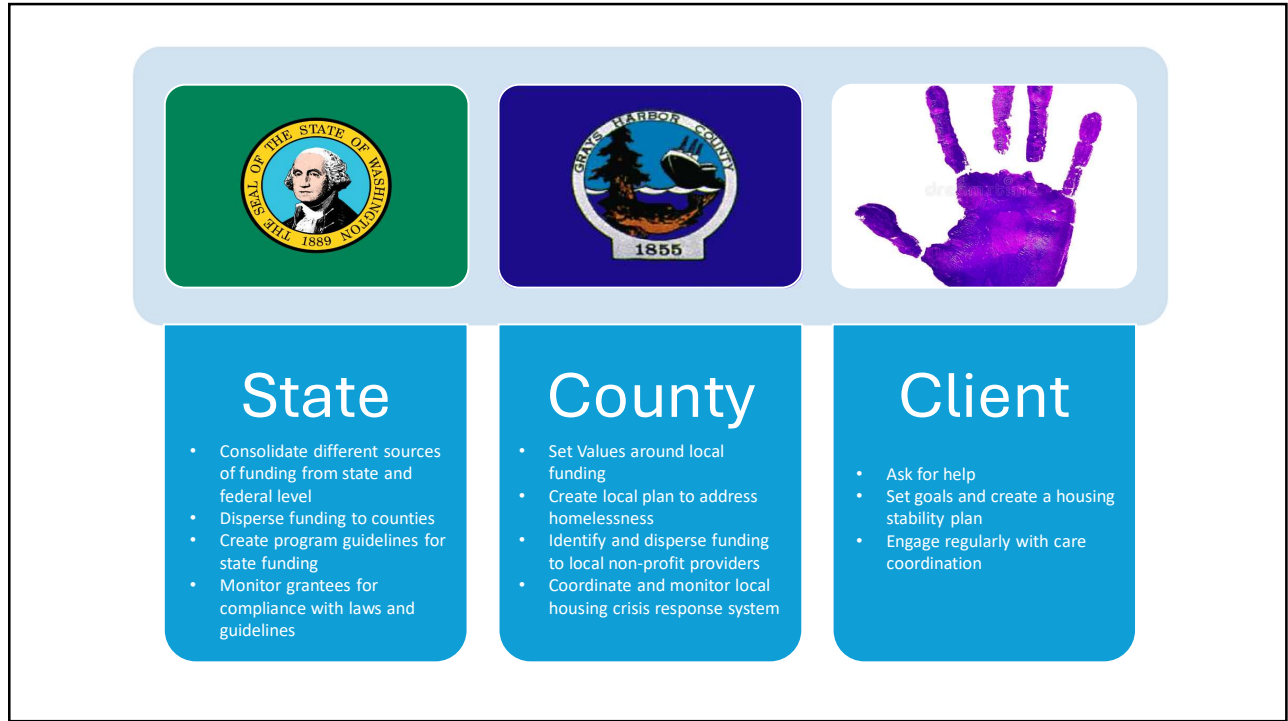
What are requirements for funds?

- CHG funding → CHG Guidelines from Department of Commerce
- Local revenue and reserves → implement 5 Year Plan to End Homelessness

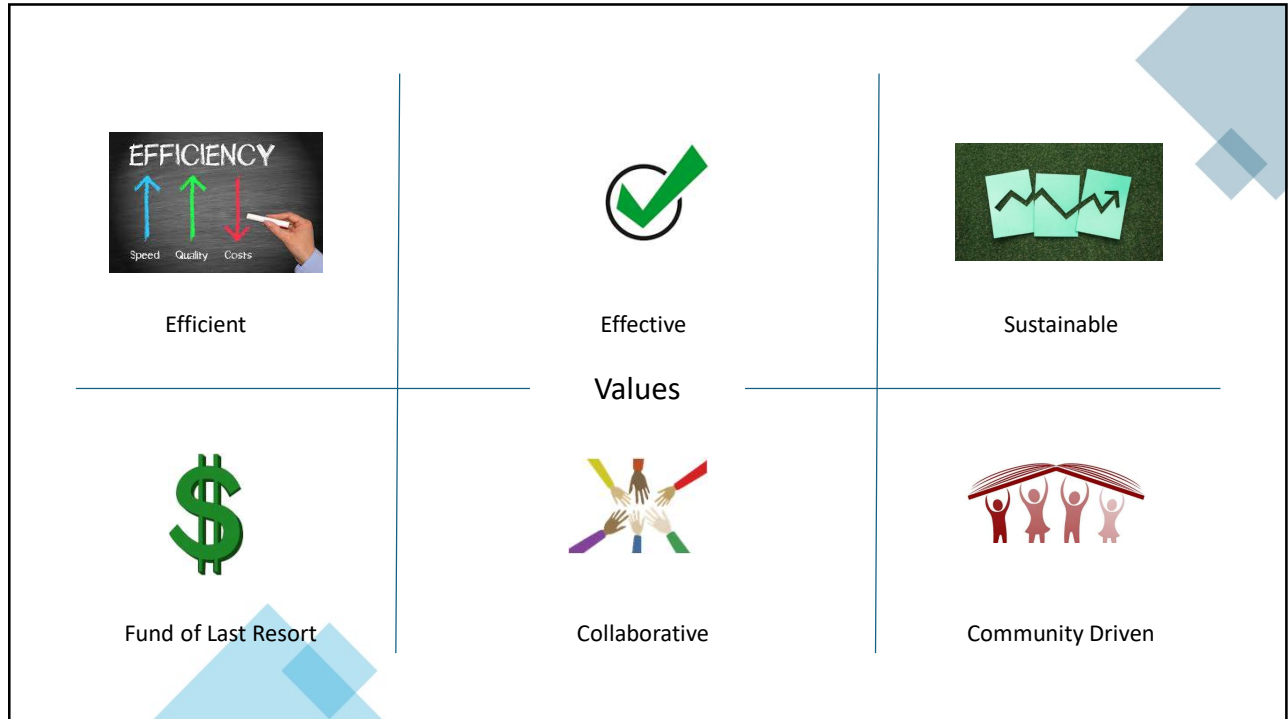
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    graph LR
      A(Consolidated Homeless Grant Funds) --- B(+)
      C(Local Document Recording Fees) --- B
      B --> D(Housing Funding)
  
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Current Investments and Outcomes

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What could we buy?

Temporary Housing

- **Emergency Shelter** – facility-based/indoor space to temporarily provide safety to someone experiencing homelessness (typically 90 days or less)
 - *Drop-in shelter* – clients use as needed/night-by-night
 - *Continuous-stay Shelter* – clients enter shelter and stay until they can reach next step of housing stability
- **Transitional Housing** – facility or master-leased private market unit with supportive services (typically 2 years or less)

Permanent Housing

- **Targeted Prevention** – rental assistance and case management to prevent eviction for clients at highest risk of homelessness (typically 3-6 months)
- **Rapid Re-Housing** – rental assistance and case management to quickly re-house clients who recently became homeless and exit to self-paid housing (typically 6-9 months)
- **Permanent Supportive Housing** – non-time limited rental assistance and intensive case management for chronically homeless, disabled clients (no time limit)

Services Only

- **Street Outreach** – outreach, building trust, and referral to services for literally homeless clients
- **Case Management** – housing stability planning and connection to support services
- **Coordinated Entry operations** – assessment and referral to housing services
- **Landlord liaison services** – point of contact between landlords and service provider to build relationships and maximize benefits to both parties

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Programs/Services funded through County contracts on the Continuum of Programs/Services

Services Only	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Homelessness Prevention	Rapid Rehousing	Permanent Supportive Housing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinated Entry Landlord Liaison 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Cold Weather Shelter Domestic Violence Shelter 3 units of family shelter Day Shelter/Outreach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young Adults Transitional Projects Domestic Violence supportive housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing Essential Needs clients Eviction Prevention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing Essential Needs clients Rapid Rehousing (general) Rapid Rehousing for Young Adults Rapid Rehousing for Families Rental assistance for Therapeutic Court clients 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permanent Supportive Housing for Chronically Homeless Families

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Screenshot of system performance report

Grays Harbor County Homeless System Performance 2022-2023
Questions? Contact Alex Blumenthal Housing Coordinator ablumenth@graysharbor.us

Performance Benchmarks

Households	Rare			Brief		One-Time	
	2022-21	2021-22	2020-21	Average length of time household was homeless		Percentage of households served who moved into permanent housing	
Total Assisted	537	490	437	2022-23	456 days	2022-23	67%
Single Adults	77%	79%	78%	2021-22	536 days	2021-22	72%
Families	22%	21%	22%	2020-21	536 days	2020-21	76%
Total Evicted	85	75	112				
Unmet Need	452	415	325				

Our mission is to make homelessness rare, brief and one-time.

Outcomes by Program Type
Our system offers a variety of programs designed to connect people to permanent housing.

Program Type	Exit Destination	2022-23 Households		
		2022-23 Households	2021-22 Households	2020-21 Households
Emergency Shelter	Permanent Housing	39%	52%	69%
	Total Households Served	183	194	214
Rapid Rehousing	Permanent Housing	67%	60%	61%
	Total Households Served	103	76	107
Permanent Supportive Housing	Permanent Housing	90%	81%	100%
	Total Households Served	147	160	114

In 2022-2023 our Coalition...

Continued the following programs:

Housing supports for therapeutic court clients • Supportive housing services • Supportive employment services • Pathways care coordination • Coordinated entry • Shelter and supportive housing for domestic violence survivors • Emergency shelter for families • Emergency shelter for homeless youth (ages 12-17) • Cold weather shelter • Grays Harbor affordable housing pipeline • Homelessness prevention for 124 households • Rapid rehousing for 245 households • Permanent supportive housing for over 18 households funded through a combination of state, federal and county level funding • Continued mortgage assistance • Utility assistance • Eviction prevention rental assistance programs serving 1035 households • Housing supports for 46 veteran households

Created the following new resources:

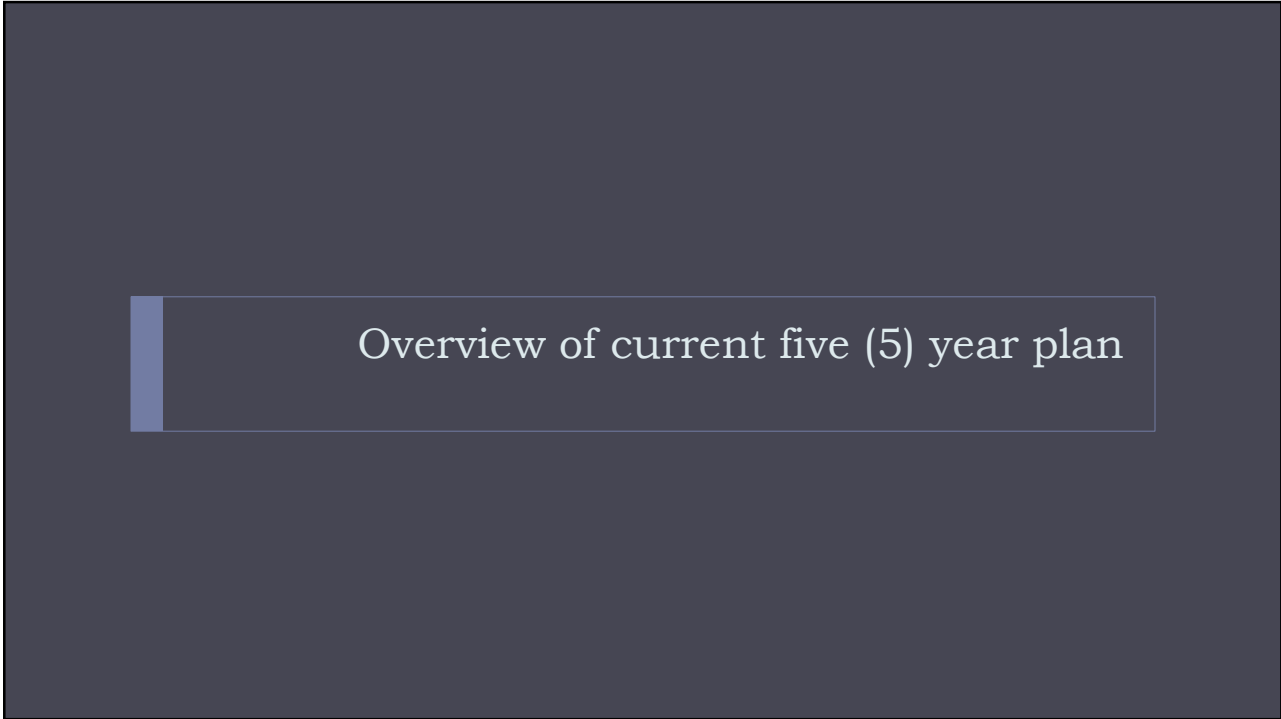
Funded street outreach hygiene distribution for people experiencing homelessness • Implemented 1 FTE Diversion Specialist • Habitat for Humanity 1st tiny house • Hotel/motel vouchers • Improved equitable access to homelessness prevention funding • Increased collaboration with By and For organizations • Expand accessibility to coordinated entry

Laid the foundation for the following projects on the horizon:

Transitional housing for young people (18-24) • "Voices of Resilience" Documentary Project • 4 or more units of rural affordable modular housing • 24 or more units of affordable modular housing • Create Homeless Housing Task Force • Habitat for Humanity 2nd and 3rd Tiny Houses

<https://www.healthylgh.org/directory/housingupdate>

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Grays Harbor 5-Year Plan to Address Homelessness
Strategies and vision 2019-2024

Increase the availability of affordable housing for all income levels

The private housing market will have an adequate number of units that are affordable to our lowest income neighbors, so fewer people will need housing subsidies.

PREVENT HOMELESSNESS	Youth and families will have access to community-based resources so that they can avoid the trauma of homelessness.
QUICKLY IDENTIFY & ENGAGE PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMELESS	Coordinated Entry (the process for ensuring that all people have fair and equal access to housing assistance) will be robust, consistent, and truly accessible in all parts of the County.
PROVIDE TEMPORARY & EMERGENCY SHELTER	Shelter will be available for all household types - youth, adults, families, and survivors of domestic violence.
RAPIDLY REHOUSE WITH PERMANENT HOUSING	Programs that result in permanent housing will be prioritized. No families with children should be unsheltered in our community.
PROVIDE PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING	The most intensive services will be given to those who are most in need in our community - those who have been homeless for a long time and face complex challenges.

▶ [2019-2024 Grays Harbor County Five Year Plan to Address Unmet Housing Needs — Grays Harbor County Public Health \(healthygh.org\)](#)

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