



# Department of Commerce

Innovation is in our nature.

## Ten-Year Homeless Plan: 2010 Annual Report

---

Includes the report on the Transitional Housing, Operating and Rent (THOR) and the report on the Independent Youth Housing Program (IYHP)

**December 2010**  
Report to the Legislature  
Rogers Weed, Director



## **Ten-Year Homeless Plan: 2010 Annual Report**

---

Includes the report on the Transitional Housing, Operating and Rent (THOR) and the report on the Independent Youth Housing Program (IYHP)

Prepared by

The Department of Commerce  
Community Services and Housing Division  
1101 Plum Street SE  
Olympia, Washington 98504-2525  
[www.commerce.wa.gov](http://www.commerce.wa.gov)

For further information or questions regarding this report, call (360) 725-2984 or [bruce.yasutake@commerce.wa.gov](mailto:bruce.yasutake@commerce.wa.gov)



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Accomplishments, Planned Specific Actions, and Ongoing Initiatives .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Overview of Potential Strategies to Reduce Homelessness in Washington .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Plan to Serve People Facing Homelessness.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Drivers of Homelessness .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Size and Characteristics of Homelessness in Washington State .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Inventory of Subsidized Housing for People Facing Homelessness .....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Glossary .....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Endnotes.....</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Appendix A – Report on the Transitional Housing, Operating and Rent (THOR) ..</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Appendix B – Report on the Independent Youth Housing Program (IYHP) .....</b>	<b>51</b>



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This updated Washington State Homeless Plan and annual report is part of a systematic effort to understand the problem of homelessness and implement strategies to end it, as required by the Homelessness Housing and Assistance Act, Chapter 43.185C RCW. This plan and report is annually updated by the Washington State Department of Commerce (Commerce) in collaboration with the Interagency Council on Homelessness member departments:

- Corrections (DOC)
- Employment Security (ESD)
- Health (DOH)
- Social and Health Services (DSHS)
- Veterans Affairs (DVA)
- Office of Financial Management (OFM)
- Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

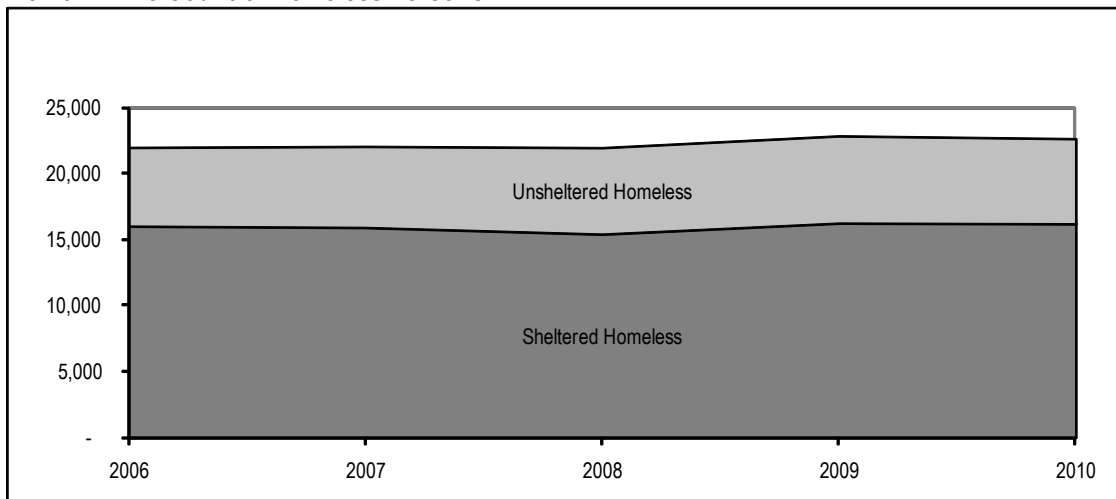
In 2006 the Homelessness Housing and Assistance Act required the state to develop a plan to reduce homelessness by 50 percent by 2015, and annually report on progress toward that goal. This plan complements local homeless plans developed by counties, and the federal homeless plan.

Appendices to this report include the Transitional Housing, Operating and Rent (THOR) program report and the Independent Youth Housing Program (IYHP) report. THOR provides individuals and families who are homeless or who are at risk of becoming homeless to secure and retain safe, decent, and affordable housing. IYHP provides rental assistance and case management to youth, ages 18 to 23, who have exited the state dependency system.

### Primary Outcome Measures

The primary outcome measure of the plan is the number of homeless persons counted at a point in time, which has remained basically unchanged since the initial 2006 count.

**Point In Time Count of Homeless Persons**



**Primary Homeless Plan Goal: Reduce Homelessness by 50 percent by 2015**

<b>Primary Goal Performance Measure: Point in Time Count of Homeless Persons</b>						
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2015 Target</b>
Total Homelessness (Sheltered and Unsheltered)	21,962	22,045	21,947	22,827	22,619	10,981
Change from Baseline	n/a	0.38%	-0.07%	3.94%	2.99%	-50%
Target total homelessness	n/a	20,864	19,766	18,664	17,561	10,981
Unsheltered Homeless	5,904	6,094	6,498	6,545	6,389	2,952
Sheltered Homeless	16,058	15,951	15,449	16,282	16,230	8,029
Chronic Homeless	3,695	3,656	3,000	2,540	2,096	1,848
Unsheltered Chronic Homeless	1,456	950	842	913	767	728
Percentage of Population who are Homeless	0.36%	0.35%	0.35%	0.36%	0.35%	0.18%
Percentage of People in Poverty who are Homeless	3.02%	2.98%	3.04%	3.15%	2.82%	1.51%

Because an undersized effort that is successful at ending homelessness for those served would result in an overall increase in homelessness, secondary performance measures of program effectiveness are also tracked.

**Secondary Performance Measures**

	Percent Exiting to Permanent Housing	Rate of Return to Homelessness After Exiting to Permanent Housing	Median Income Increase of Clients Exiting
Homeless Prevention & Rapid Rehousing	89%	6%	n/a
Emergency Shelter	37%	1%	n/a
Transitional Housing	65%	3%	\$ 198
Permanent Supportive Housing	33%	2%	\$ 622

**Outputs**

**Numbers Served Per Year in Existing Homeless Housing**

	People in Households without Minor Children	Individuals in Families with Children	TOTAL People
Homeless prevention and rapid rehousing	3,874	2,010	5,884
Emergency shelter	31,340	16,267	47,607
Transitional housing	2,746	8,877	11,623
Permanent supportive housing	4,395	2,397	6,792
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42,355</b>	<b>29,551</b>	<b>71,906</b>



## Overview of Strategies to Reduce Homelessness

The Ten-Year Homeless Plan developed in 2006 and updated annually proposed to meet the legislatively mandated goal of reducing homelessness by 50 percent by 2015 by:

- 1) Creating 8,600 new slots of temporary subsidized housing<sup>i</sup> for people facing homelessness due to temporary circumstances (job loss, family break-up, temporary medical problems).
- 2) Creating 4,281 new slots of permanent supportive housing for people with severe and persistent disabilities.
- 3) Implementing client-level performance measurement systems that match client data to other social service, criminal justice, and employment data systems to measure the effectiveness and efficiency of homeless reduction efforts to reduce the future homelessness of those served reduce public costs (medical and criminal justice), and increase earned income.
- 4) Improving the effectiveness of limited resources by increased integration of housing with social services, criminal justice, medical and mental health systems.
- 5) Tailoring housing and services based on robust assessments of individual needs.

## Successes

State and local efforts are meeting the overall housing slot creation targets (number one and two above) with notable success at meeting the goals for short-term housing largely through increased federal investments scheduled to expire in 2012.

Significant investments in permanent supportive housing have led to a 47 percent reduction in the number of chronically homeless people, although a small portion of this decline may be the result of improved data collection methods.

The federal and state initiative to end veteran homelessness in five years has created 935 new units since 2008 of permanent supportive housing, and could potentially lead significantly more units in the coming years.

### **Homeless Housing Baseline, Progress and Targets**

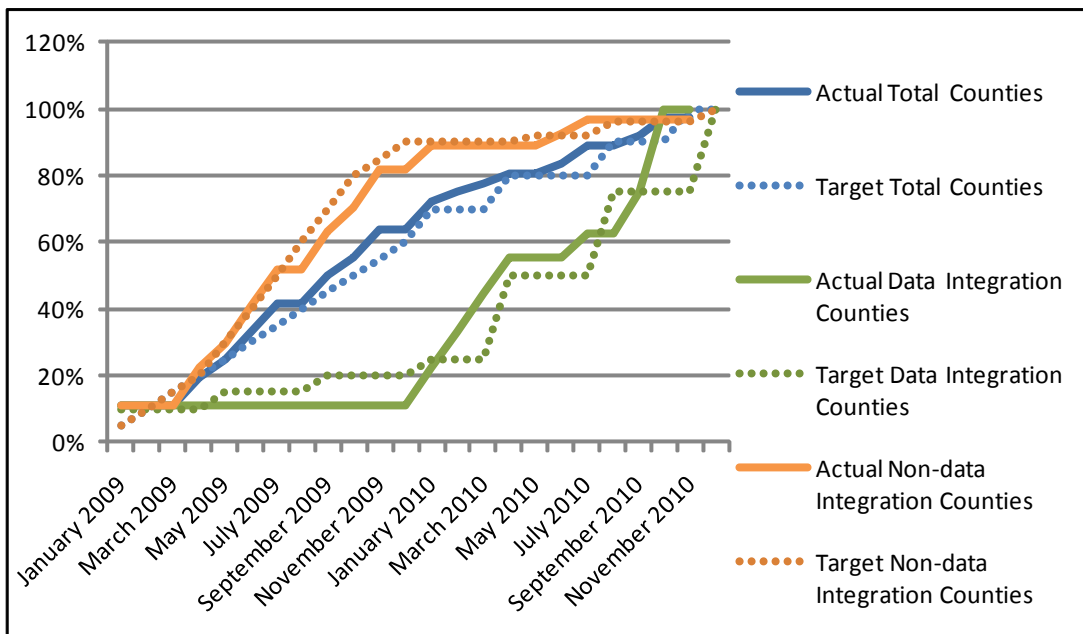
	2006 Baseline					Change since 2006	Target Number of Beds Needed to Reach Plan Goal (assuming low unemployment)					
	2009 Homeless Housing Inventory											
	All household types	Beds for households without minors	Beds for households with minors	Units for households with minors	TOTAL existing beds	All household types	Beds for households without minors	Beds for households with minors	Units for households with minors	TOTAL beds	% of 2009 target achieved	% of 2015 target achieved
Homeless prevention and rapid rehousing	2,313	638	2,492	913	3,130	817	1,980	2,970	1,188	4,950	77%	63%
Emergency shelter	4,221	3,504	2,523	728	6,027	1,806	3,025	3,025	1,210	6,050	247%	100%
Transitional housing	9,130	2,577	7,888	2,457	10,465	1,335	3,313	9,938	3,975	13,250	81%	79%
Permanent supportive housing	5,219	4,475	2,360	737	6,835	1,616	7,315	2,185	874	9,500	94%	72%
<b>TOTAL beds</b>	<b>20,883</b>	<b>11,194</b>	<b>15,263</b>	<b>4,835</b>	<b>26,457</b>	<b>5,574</b>	<b>15,633</b>	<b>18,118</b>	<b>7,247</b>	<b>33,750</b>	<b>108%</b>	<b>78%</b>

**Homeless Housing Existing and Target Annual Costs (private, local, federal, and state)**

	Existing Beds			Beds Added Since 2006	Target Beds		
	Existing beds	TOTAL Costs	Per bed cost	New beds	Net new spending	TOTAL target beds	TOTAL target costs
Homeless prevention and rapid rehousing	3,130	27,506,400	8,788	817	7,179,786	4,950	50,589,000
Emergency shelter	6,027	91,574,850	15,194	1,806	27,440,547	6,050	88,330,000
Transitional housing	10,465	85,800,550	8,199	1,335	10,945,412	13,250	108,815,625
Permanent supportive housing	6,835	60,557,150	8,860	1,616	14,317,535	9,500	86,167,375

Implementation of the basic client data system linked to other data systems is complete. The focus now is shifting to improving data quality and honing the performance measures derived from the data. Because of the high turnover of paid and volunteer staff working in housing assistance programs, training and support of new system users will continue to require significant investments.

**Statewide Implementation 2009-2010**



Local and state initiatives to integrate housing seamlessly with other systems has resulted in improvements for those served, and in some small communities is likely central to the more than 20 percent reductions in homelessness they have achieved. Because of these successful experiments Commerce has begun working with stakeholders to consolidate state homeless funds and policies.

Some smaller communities have implemented coordinated intake and assessment that tailor housing and services to individual needs. All of the largest communities are well into intensive processes to implement similar systems in their more complex multi-provider systems. Commerce is proposing to require statewide implementation of coordinated, robust intake and assessment by 2012 through the proposed consolidation of state homeless funds and polices.

Homeless housing creation and system reforms have succeeded at keeping the number of homeless largely unchanged, despite the increase in the number of people at risk of becoming homeless.

## Deterioration in the Economy Frustrates Efforts to Reduce Homelessness

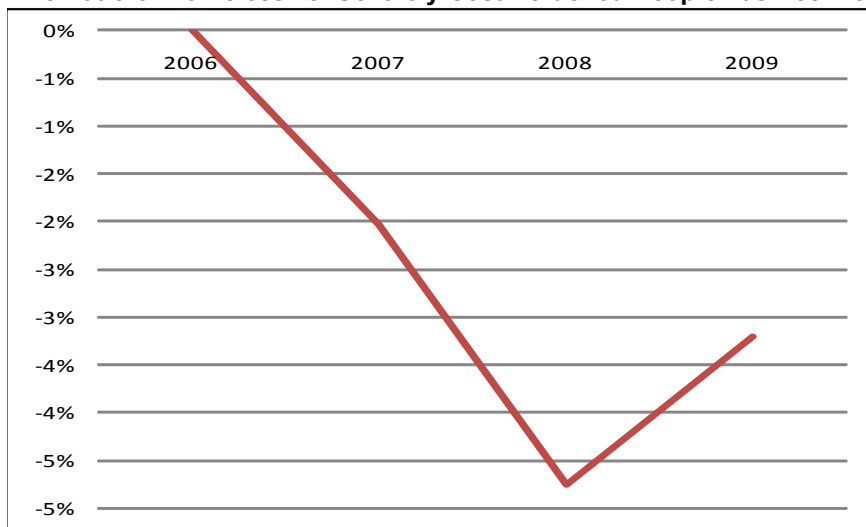
Although local and state initiatives are meeting the originally targeted goals, nominal reductions in homelessness have been thwarted by increases in unemployment and related increases in poverty.

Reductions in income supports (TANF and Disability Lifeline), medical assistance, substance abuse treatment, and mental health supports will further frustrate homelessness reduction efforts.

Increases in the number of extremely low-income persons with severe rent burdens have outpaced new unit creation. The Homeless Plan housing unit creation targets were predicated on stable employment levels and wages, and the related size of the pool of people at risk of becoming homeless. Since the plan's inception the number of very-low income people living in households with severe rent burdens has increased by at least 61,000 (a seven percent increase), and additional 64,000 people live in poverty (a four percent increase).

The ratio of homeless people to very low income with severe rent burdens has declined three percent, which may indicate that system reforms are improving the efficiency of homeless efforts.

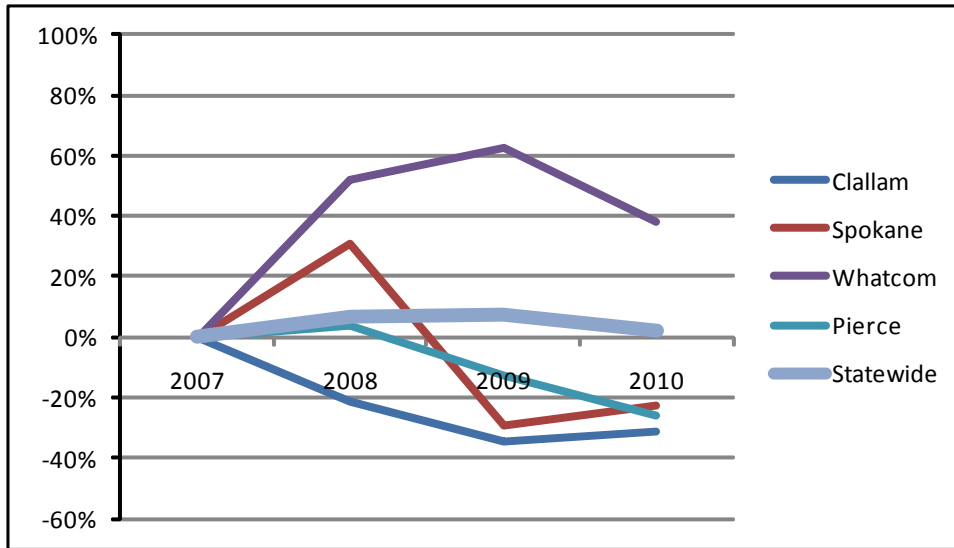
**The Ratio of Homeless vs. Severely Cost Berdened People has Declined**



Although homelessness interventions are effective for those served, the scale of homeless reduction programs has not been large enough to compensate for increased unemployment and significant cuts in mainstream social services precipitated by problems with the economy.

Although the overall number of homeless persons appears to be basically unchanged statewide, the state trend hides significant changes at the local level. Improvements in data collection methods appear to be driving some of the changes, but some communities with stable data collection initiatives are showing more than 20 percent declines in homelessness that appear to be related to system reforms and housing creation. Now that data system implementation is largely complete, a focus of the upcoming year will be to determine the systemic differences between communities that have dramatically reduced homelessness and those that have not.

### State Trends Hide Local Trends - Change in Unsheltered Homeless from 2007 Baseline



### Homelessness is Unlikely to Decline while Unemployment Remains High

The nation and Washington state have entered a period of job loss, underemployment, and falling wages that have increased poverty. Counter-cyclical supports such as unemployment insurance, food assistance, and increased rent-supports for people facing homelessness both relieve human suffering and have made an important contribution to overall economic recovery by replacing lost demand.

Homelessness has not significantly increased in the face of unprecedented unemployment and poverty largely due to the investments made in housing and income supports.

Unfortunately investments made in housing and income supports are scheduled to decline below pre-recession levels in 2012 while high unemployment is forecast to persist through at least 2012.<sup>ii</sup> Exacerbating the loss of these fiscal supports will be continuing cuts in social services including reductions in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and income assistance for single people unable to work.

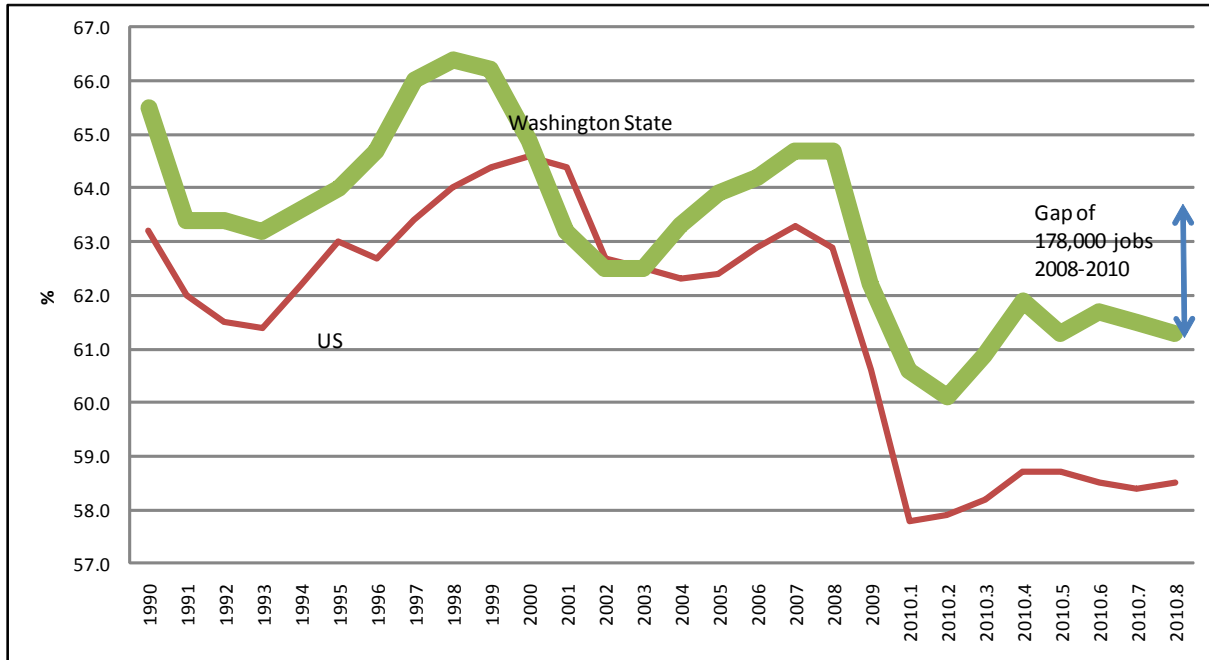
The forecast deficit of jobs and stagnant income, tied to significant reductions in housing and income supports for people facing homelessness will probably lead to increases in homelessness through at least 2014.

### Lack of Jobs

Over the past twenty years a person with decent skills and work habits could find a job. Although some jobs did not pay a well and didn't provide health insurance, there was an assumption that jobs were generally available. Homeless and other social service systems were reformed in this era around the presumption that the vast majority of people can and should work, except for the few that have significant ongoing disabilities.

Washington State has historically done well in having abundant and good paying jobs. Although Washington continues to outperform the nation as a whole in the number<sup>iii</sup> and quality of jobs<sup>iv</sup>, the state has not been immune to the dramatic and unprecedented economic problems and subsequent job losses. An additional 178,000 jobs will need to be created to return to 2008 levels of employment.<sup>v</sup>

**Employment - Population Ratio**



Pre-recession about 3,000 people a month exhausted their unemployment benefits. Now more than 16,000 people exhaust their unemployment benefits each month.<sup>vi</sup> Some will fall into poverty, and a small portion will face homelessness without housing assistance. Declining housing assistance resources and general income supports will likely lead to more people being turned away from housing and thus ending up on the streets, in cars, or living on undeveloped land.

Appropriate education and experience are always critical to maximizing the chances that an individual job seeker will find job<sup>vii</sup>, and that the overall economy is maximally productive. A mismatch of skills and available jobs has always and will continue to be a problem for a portion of the unemployed, accounting for up to 0.5 percent of the unemployment rate.<sup>viii, ix</sup>

However, the most important factor in the high unemployment rate and the associated homelessness is the lack of jobs at any skill level as indicated by five job seekers for every job opening,<sup>x</sup> and the fact that jobs have been lost in almost all sectors of the economy instead of being limited to declining industries. Education and training will continue to be critical components of helping homeless people obtain jobs, but it will not be enough to significantly reduce unemployment and the associated homelessness.

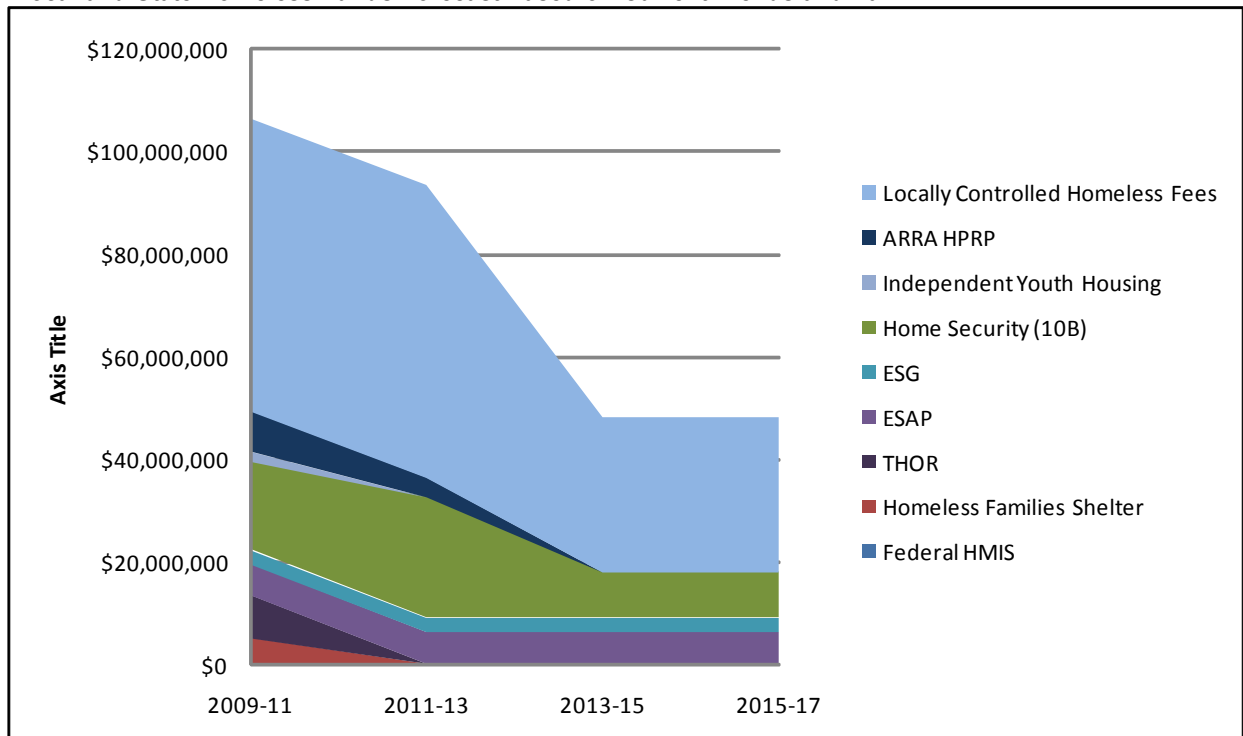
## Ongoing Reforms Enabling Homeless Goals Can be Met Once Employment Returns to Historic Levels

State and local homeless plans are on target to create enough homeless housing to reach the Homeless Housing Act goal of reducing homelessness by 50 percent by 2015, assuming that:

- Employment returns to the Non-Accelerating Inflation Rate of Unemployment (between 5 and 6 percent.<sup>xi</sup>)
- Income and services supports for people unable to work are returned to pre-recession levels.
- Funding levels for homeless housing are maintained (under current law resources decline dramatically in 2013 when a portion of the document recording fee expires).
- Significant state and federal investments in affordable housing stop the continuing net increases in very-low income households paying more than half their income for housing.

Alternately, significant increases in the incomes of lowest quintile of workers plus low unemployment would obviate most of the need for additional investments in housing.

**Local and State Homeless Funds Forecast Based on Current Trends and Law**



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS, PLANNED SPECIFIC ACTIONS, AND ONGOING INITIATIVES

## Specific 2009-10 Accomplishments

### *Adding Beds*

The federal Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) added the equivalent of 539 beds via rent assistance for people who are homeless.

The Washington State Housing Trust Fund administered by Commerce created 37 new units of transitional housing, and 49 new units of permanent supportive housing with ongoing services.

The federal Department of Veterans Affairs added 935 additional units of permanent supportive housing via the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) voucher program.

### *Improving Data Collection*

Commerce eliminated paper reporting for the THOR and HPRP programs, and directly tied reimbursement to timely and complete entry of data into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

Commerce and DSHS have built on the foundation of the interagency agreement that led to the successful integration of the HMIS client data into the DSHS Client Services, Outcomes and Risk Database. The database contains a mix of homeless service, employment, criminal justice, and health data drawn from an array of state and local databases. In 2010 Commerce and DSHS entered into an agreement to further mine this resource beyond the basic measurement of client use of various systems. Ongoing research is determining which risk factors are actually correlated with people becoming homeless so that housing subsidy programs can be redesigned to provide those amendable to an intervention with the appropriate level of assistance needed to keep them stably housed.

Commerce was one of the first organizations nationally to implement the ability to import HMIS data from other client databases using the HUD XML data integration schema version 3.0 released by HUD in 2010.

### *Improving System Coordination*

Under a partnership with the Pierce County Veterans Bureau and DVA, a successful application was submitted for the HPRP Program to develop housing and recovery plans for homeless Veterans, many of whom come through the Veterans Jail Reintegration Program.

DVA supported Catholic Community Services of Western Washington's application which was selected to be the primary contractor for the Pierce County Continuum of Care Veterans Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP) Grant. Under this demonstration grant funds are used to

develop housing stabilization plans for homeless Veterans and Veterans who are at risk of homelessness.

DVA is working with the VA Poly Trauma and Traumatic Brain Injury Clinic to identify Veterans who require assistance with Social Security Disability (SSD) applications and facilitate their referrals to the SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) Program and also Catholic Community Services Western Washington (CCSWW) Social Security specialist. This service helps to reduce risks for homelessness for Veterans and their families.

DVA supported the Pierce College Districts' successful application for grant funding to establish a Veterans Education Center of Excellence. Services under this grant will include improved Veteran's access to programs and resources addressing housing and mortgage assistance including HPRP.

Employment Security Department (ESD) through WorkSource local offices provides employment and training services in partnership with Department of Labor (DOL) grantees of Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP) grants. Washington State currently has four HVRP Grantees. HVRP grants cover both urban and rural areas of the state. Second and third year programs are joined by Partners in Careers in Vancouver which received a first-year HVRP Grant focused on homeless females and veterans with families. In addition, Goodwill Industries of the Inland Northwest of Spokane received a first-year HVRP grant focused on homeless incarcerated veterans.

ESD was asked by DOL to conduct a national pilot project for outreach to underserved rural veterans. Rural Veterans Outreach Program (RVOP) will begin in the fall of 2010 and will run through June 2011. RVOP is conceived as a partnership between DOL, DVA, and veterans service organizations engaged in outreach, and the National Guard. DOL is asking ESD and partner agencies to conduct this pilot outreach effort primarily to determine if there are unmet employment and training needs for rural veterans, but it will also encompass other needs veterans may present such as veterans benefits, food, shelter, clothing and health care.

ESD partnered with the DVA and the Veterans Administration in meetings preparing for a Veterans Administration \$500 million program to end homelessness for veterans in five years. An award of \$25 million is possible given a high share of homeless veterans in Washington. ESD will be the employment and training partner.

DSHS was awarded a Mental Health Transformation Grant from the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The grant, \$734,500 per year for five years, will support the Permanent Options for Recovery-Centered Housing (PORCH) project. PORCH works to reduce the length of stay in psychiatric care, and reduces homelessness and discharges to inappropriate housing and shelters. Approximately 150 severely mentally ill individuals and families will be provided meaningful choice and control of housing and support services, using Peer Housing Specialists. The PORCH project is a partnership between the Washington Department of Social and Health Services' Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery, OptumHealth Pierce Regional Support Network, the Chelan-Douglas Regional Support Network, and local mental health and housing agencies. The Washington state Department of Commerce (\$300,000 annually in TBRA funds) and local housing authorities are also partners in the project, providing rental subsidies to make housing affordable for many of the clients.



## **Planned 2010-11 Specific Actions**

### ***Adding Beds***

DVA expects to add 20 transitional housing beds.

The federal Department of Veterans Affairs expects to add additional units of permanent supportive housing via the VASH voucher program.

### ***Improving Data Collection***

DSHS submitted a proposal in late 2010 to the Gates Foundation to obtain data from the King, Seattle, Pierce, Tacoma, Snohomish and Everett housing authorities and link it to the existing integrated DSHS client database and the Housing Management Information System (HMIS). This data can then be used to evaluate the effectiveness of homeless programs and improve housing stability for families and vulnerable individuals by providing comprehensive state and local social services and housing program information. Project funding is anticipated and implementation may start as early as the first quarter of 2011.

Commerce will eliminate paper reporting by emergency shelters, relying entirely on HMIS data as is already done for THOR and HPRP.

### ***Improving System Coordination***

The Consolidated Homeless Grant proposed by Commerce would convert four silos of funding and rules into a single grant, allowing communities the flexibility to reform their systems while freeing them from unnecessary duplicative contracting and reporting.

### ***Coordinating Intake and Assessment***

The proposed Consolidated Homeless Grant requires all communities to implement coordinated intake and assessment by 2012. Communities are already intensively working to make this change in anticipation of the new Commerce requirement.

## Ongoing Initiatives

### 2009 Local, State, and Federal Funding Sources Dedicated to Homelessness (annual, in millions)

	Federal	State	Local	TOTAL	Lead Agency
AREN		\$1.25		\$1.25	Commerce
ESHP		\$7.10		\$7.10	DSHS
THOR		\$5.50		\$5.50	Commerce
TYHP		\$4.20		\$4.20	Commerce
IYHP		\$0.90		\$0.90	Commerce
McKinney-Vento	\$38.20			\$38.20	Commerce, Local governments
Local document recording fees			\$26.0	\$26.00	Local governments
ESG	\$2.64			\$2.64	Commerce, Local governments
PATH	\$1.30	\$0.44		\$1.74	DSHS
HGAP		\$11.00		\$11.00	Commerce
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$42.14</b>	<b>\$19.39</b>	<b>\$26.00</b>	<b>\$98.53</b>	

# OVERVIEW OF POTENTIAL STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS IN WASHINGTON STATE

In Washington state an estimated 87,000 people fall into homelessness each year.<sup>xii</sup>

Most people (80 percent) fall into homelessness because they temporarily do not have enough money to buy housing and do not have family or friends who will house them.<sup>xiii</sup>

About 12 percent additionally face problems that require time-limited case management, treatment, and education before they will be able to afford and maintain housing.<sup>xiv</sup>

About 8 percent have severe and persistent mental health illnesses or other disabilities that will require a lifetime of supportive services and subsidized housing to keep them housed.<sup>xv</sup>

## **Broad Strategies to Address Homelessness**

1. Increasing earned household income.
  - A. Education
  - B. Job placement assistance
  - C. Substance abuse and mental health treatment so people can obtain and keep jobs using existing skills and education
  - D. Adding wage earners to a household (e.g., family reunification)
  - E. Adding self-sufficient income jobs to the economy (e.g., economic development, minimum wage increases, etc.)
2. Subsidizing housing.
  - A. Subsidized housing projects
  - B. Vouchers to purchase housing in the private market
  - C. Landlord incentives
  - D. Homeownership assistance
  - E. Housing rehabilitation and weatherization
3. Giving money or services.
  - A. Based on income or children (e.g. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, child support, Medicaid)
  - B. Based on age (i.e., Social Security)
  - C. Based on disability (e.g., Social Security Disability)
  - D. Based on working (e.g., Earned Income Tax Credit)
4. Reducing the market cost of housing.
  - A. Increase density
  - B. Reduce regulatory requirements
  - C. Require the construction of low-cost housing in private-market developments (e.g., inclusionary zoning)

5. Family preservation, unification, and connecting people to family or friends that can house them and manage problems they are having.
6. Providing help with daily care needs (eating, hygiene, cleaning, etc.) and conflicts (with neighbors or landlords) caused by mental health illness, substance abuse problems, physical disabilities, or family dysfunction.

## **Strategies to Improve the Effectiveness of Homeless Housing and Services**

Homeless housing and services must be effective to attain the goal of reducing homelessness by 50 percent. The following broad strategies can make existing and future investments go farther.

### ***Immediate Placement in Permanent Housing***

The original model of homeless services implemented in the 1980s assumed clients would move from emergency shelter to transitional housing, and finally permanent housing.

A newer model promoted by the federal government over the last decade assumes that most homeless people should immediately be placed in permanent housing where they can receive transitional services and temporary housing subsidies as needed. Preferably before becoming homeless, people are provided rent or mortgage assistance which is less disruptive and more cost effective than finding them new housing.

Under this model a role exists for emergency shelters and traditional transitional housing facilities in some circumstances. However, more than 90 percent of people facing homelessness should be aided to stay in their existing homes or quickly placed in permanent housing (i.e., a private market rental or subsidized housing project) and provided services as needed.

### ***System Integration***

Washington State's families, economy/jobs, housing market, and social safety net successfully houses 99.7 percent of its citizens. Improving the linkages between systems can build on that success.

*Landlord incentives* to rent to higher-risk people can leverage existing private market housing to reduce homelessness. Incentives can include rent and damage mitigation funds, above market rents, responsive supportive services a landlord can call when problems arise, and tenant certification.

*Discharge planning and agreements* between housing providers and jails, prisons, hospitals, schools, other institutions, and foster care can ensure that clear communication and procedures connect people being discharged to appropriate housing and services. Planning ideally begins well in advance of discharge.

*Prompt access to income and non-cash benefits* such as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Medicaid, Veteran, and Social Security Disability can ensure that eligible people facing homelessness have the resources and services needed to secure and maintain housing.

## **Data Collection and Performance Measurement**

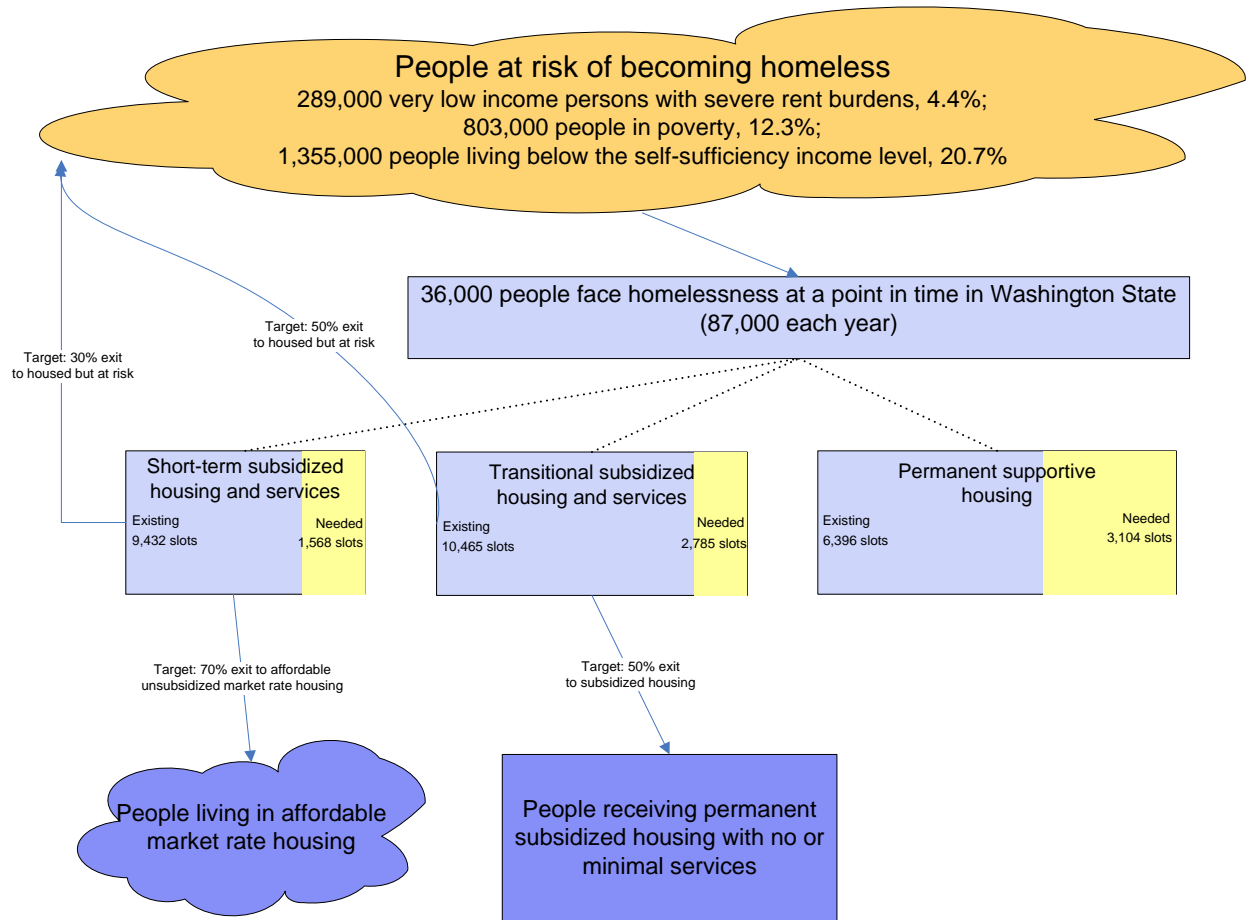
The state homeless plan depends on knowing the number and characteristics of homeless people in Washington State. The success of individual projects, programs, and strategies is measured by tracking:

- Where people served exit to (e.g., permanent housing or the streets);
- Their income level; and
- Whether they return to homelessness.

The annual *Point in Time Count of Homeless People* is the primary measure of the overall success of the homeless plan. Although the count data has many limitations, it provides important insights on the size and characterizes of the unsheltered and sheltered homeless population.

*Homeless Management Information Systems* (HMIS) are playing an increasingly central role in measuring the success of individual project and program ability to effectively serve people facing homelessness. HMIS collect individual client data from people served in shelters, with rent assistance, and in transitional housing programs. HMIS client data is matched with other state data sources to determine what services people were provided, how their income changed, and whether they remained housed once exited.

# Plan to Serve People Facing Homelessness



## DRIVERS OF HOMELESSNESS

People generally become homeless when they cannot afford suitable housing, and they do not have family or friends able to assist them. Most homeless people primarily need enough income or housing subsidies to afford housing. In addition, many homeless people need short-term supportive services to assist them to stabilize their lives and maintain their housing. A smaller number of homeless people, including those with disabilities, also need long-term supportive services to maintain their housing. Low incomes, a shortage of affordable housing, stagnant housing subsidies, and limited support systems for people with special needs have pushed many people into homelessness.

Although there have always been homeless people in Washington state, the nature and size of homelessness was changed in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century by the following factors.

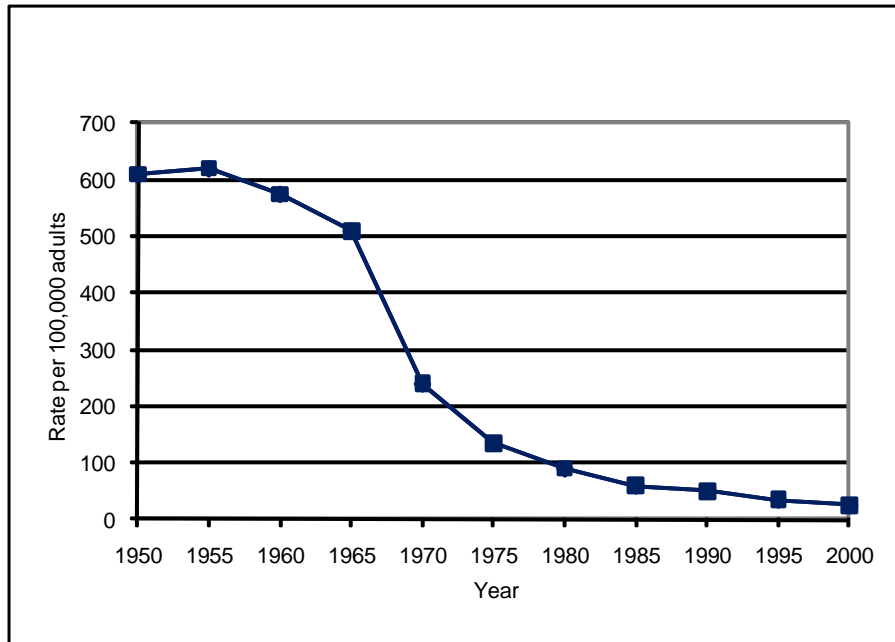
### **Low-Cost Housing Disappearing**

Most very low-cost housing (e.g., such as single room occupancy rentals) was eliminated due to improvements in building codes and enforcement and market-driven gentrification in urban areas.

### **A Reduction in the Rate of Mental Health Institutionalization**

There was a federally driven 96 percent reduction in the per-capita rate of people institutionalized for mental health problems between 1950 and the year 2000, without a matching increase in the level of community-based supportive mental health treatment and supportive housing, particularly permanent independent housing.<sup>xvi</sup> While many people with mental illnesses benefited from a reduction in the use of psychiatric hospitals and the emphasis on community-based care and improved treatments, some of those with the most severe disorders were not successful in the community and subsequently experienced chronic homelessness as well as incarceration. Dramatic reductions in inappropriate involuntary institutionalization of people with mental health illnesses has not yet been adequately offset by community based supportive housing, particularly for those with the greatest psychiatric challenges.<sup>xvii</sup>

## Rates of Mental Health Institutionalization in the United States



## Rising Housing Prices

As housing prices increase faster than overall inflation and wages, housing becomes less affordable. Since 1998 median monthly mortgage payments in Washington State have increased 62 percent (\$851 vs. \$1,328), although inflation adjusted rental costs have not significantly grown.<sup>xviii</sup>

## Stagnant and Declining Incomes

While housing prices have been increasing, median inflation adjusted income for a fully employed male has dropped 2 percent (\$800/year) since 1970.<sup>xix</sup>

Programs that provide income assistance, such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI), pay no more than \$603/month for single individuals, while a modest efficiency apartment averages \$529/month. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) provides \$546/month to a single parent with two children.

## Homelessness Precipitated by Other Issues

Inadequate incomes and an inadequate supply of affordable housing and rent subsidies leave many people vulnerable to losing their housing. More than 350,000 in Washington live in households earning less than 30 percent of median income and pay more than 50 percent of their income for rental housing. These households are at risk of becoming homeless. A sudden illness, loss of a job, or a sharp increase in expenses such as the price of gasoline can result in a family losing their home.



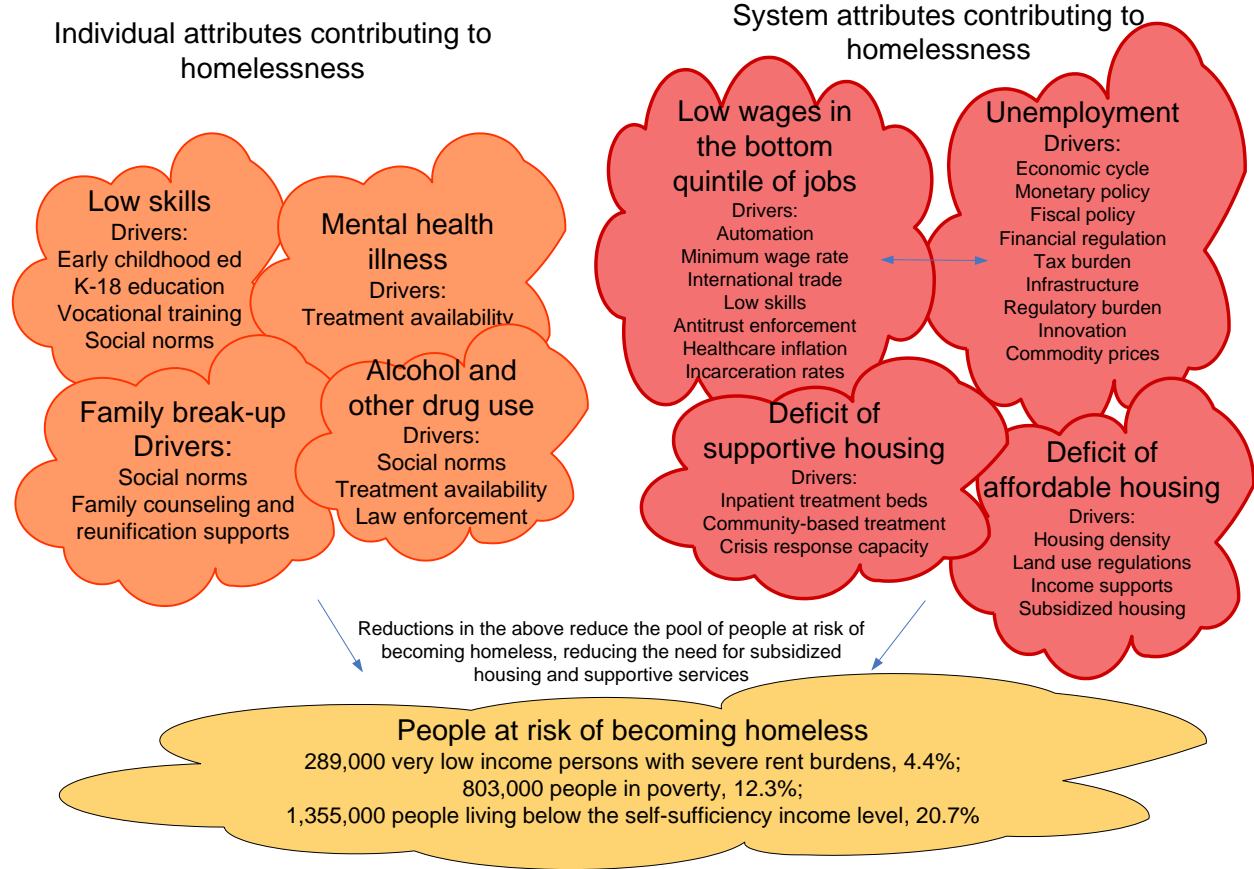
People may be able to overcome one stressor such as a job loss, but if that factor is coupled with others, such as mental illness or domestic violence, they may not be able to avoid homelessness.

The support systems that people rely on such as family, friends, and social service systems are often not able to respond quickly or adequately enough to prevent homelessness.

***Risk factors of becoming homeless:***

- People faced with unexpected emergencies, such as loss of a job, loss of housing, or loss of public assistance.
- People who have substance abuse issues.
- People with mental health issues, particularly those who are ineligible for government-sponsored services.
- People who experience domestic problems, including violent relationships.
- People who have just been released from an institution, especially jails and state correctional facilities.
- Youth aging out of foster care.
- People who have been affected by natural disasters.
- People with limited educations.
- People who are living in overcrowded or inadequate housing.
- Those experiencing problems with landlords or other tenants.

# Drivers of Homelessness



## SIZE AND CHARACTERISTICS OF HOMELESSNESS IN WASHINGTON STATE

We cannot create effective strategies to address homelessness without first knowing the size and scope of the problem. Although there are significant shortcomings to the data we have now, we know approximately how many people experience homelessness. The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) gives us client level information on those served by prevention, rapid rehousing, emergency shelters, and transitional housing.

Ongoing improvements in the quality of the data we collect on homelessness will be critical to creating appropriately sized and targeted strategies.

### Washington State Point in Time Count of Homeless Persons

January 2010				
Part 1: Homeless Population	Sheltered		Unsheltered	TOTAL
	Emergency	Transitional		
Number of Families with Children (Family Households):	661	2,362	365	3,388
Number of Households without Children:	3,592	2,484	4,814	10,890
Number of Households without Adults	121	122	100	343
1. Number of Persons in Families with Children:	2,116	7,508	1,193	10,817
2. Number of Single Individuals and Persons in Households without Children:	3,691	2,616	5,083	11,390
3. Number of Persons in Households without Adults	134	165	113	412
<b>(Add Lines 1, 2 &amp; 3) Total Persons:</b>	<b>5,941</b>	<b>10,289</b>	<b>6,389</b>	<b>22,619</b>
Part 2: Homeless Subpopulations	Sheltered		Unsheltered	TOTAL
a. Chronically Homeless	1,329		767	2,096
b. Mentally Disabled	2,809		*	*
c. Persons with alcohol and/or other drug problems	2,413		*	*
d. Veterans	1,178		*	*
e. Persons with HIV/AIDS	210		*	*
f. Victims of Domestic Violence	2,471		*	*
g. Unaccompanied Youth (Under 18)	184		*	*
h. Children (Under 18) in Families	5,971		*	*
i. Physically Disabled	1,788		*	*
j. Seasonal Agricultural Workers	29		*	*
k. Persons with both substance use and mental health problems	1,165		*	*
l. Senior citizens (aged 65 or older)	201		*	*

\*Many counties did not collect all subpopulation data for unsheltered individuals and families. Therefore a true total for these categories is not possible.

## **Data Discussion**

A total of 22,619 people were reported homeless in the second statewide point-in-time count that took place during the last week of January 2010—a 3 percent increase over the 2006 count. This overall count number includes both sheltered and unsheltered persons.

Of those counted, 16,230 were in emergency shelters or transitional housing, and 6,389 were unsheltered (living outside or other places not meant for human habitation).

Changes in the state total masks significant variations in the count's individual counties. A bare majority (52 percent) of counties reported a decline in their count of unsheltered homeless. Some of count changes are probably attributable to data problems, but many counties showing dramatic declines are likely due to actual changes in the efficacy and scale of their homeless reduction efforts.

The count found 2,096 (9 percent) people considered “chronically homeless” under the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition. HUD defines chronically homeless persons as unaccompanied homeless individuals with a disabling condition that have either been continuously homeless for a year or more, or have had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.

Many smaller counties attempted to count persons temporarily living with family or friends, commonly known as “doubled-up” or “couch surfers.” A rough estimate based on extrapolating data from counties that do try to count people temporarily living with family or friends shows 13,000 people at a point in time.

Among those that were sheltered 2,809 (17 percent) identified a mental health disability, and 2,413 (15 percent) reported a substance abuse problem. Although collection methods varied between counties and collection points, generally these numbers are self-reported and likely significantly undercount the actual problem.

Only 184 unaccompanied youth aged 17 and under were accounted for in the point-in-time count. Many homeless youth are “couch surfing” and thus not homeless under the HUD definition, although they are homeless under the federal Department of Education (DOE) definition. Washington State counted 16,853 homeless youth during 2007.

Six percent (1,178) of the persons counted in emergency and transitional housing indicated that they were veterans. This number does not include unsheltered veterans, since many point-in-time counts do not ask homeless persons about their veteran status. When extrapolating the count of sheltered veterans to unsheltered homeless persons, the results are a count of 1,700 homeless veterans.

The annual homeless veterans' population is estimated at 6,280 by the Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Group (CHALENG) for Veterans. Data collected during the 2007 CHALENG process are from questionnaires completed by VA staff, community providers, and homeless veterans. National studies show that 22 percent of homeless persons are veterans.

The point-in-time count data does not tell us how many people become homeless over the course of a year. Based on Washington point-in-time count and national research, over 87,000 people are estimated to experience homelessness in Washington State per year.

### Washington State Point in Time Count of Homeless Persons - January 2010

	Sheltered			Unsheltered			TOTAL Homeless	Temporarily Living with Family or Friends			Chronically Homeless		
	Individuals	Persons in Families with Minor Children	TOTAL Sheltered	Individuals	Persons in Families with Minor Children	TOTAL Unsheltered		Sheltered and Unsheltered	Individuals	Persons in Families with Minor Children	TOTAL Temporarily Living with Family or Friends	Sheltered	Unsheltered
Adams	-	11	11	19	67	86	97	31	98	129	-	-	-
Asofin	-	4	4	4	17	21	25	4	108	112	-	-	-
Benton-Franklin	140	228	372	44	17	61	433	71	112	183	17	10	27
Chelan-Douglas	149	325	475	63	4	67	542	84	152	236	10	2	12
Clallam	106	171	278	66	8	74	352	136	110	246	15	21	36
Clark	365	499	864	104	105	209	1,093	117	504	621	103	50	153
Columbia	-	2	2	-	-	-	2	-	5	5	-	-	-
Cowlitz	104	257	362	72	-	72	434	176	197	373	7	17	24
Ferry	5	8	13	2	-	2	15	13	26	39	-	-	-
Garfield	1	12	13	-	-	-	13	2	2	4	-	-	-
Grant	12	22	38	27	-	27	65	49	266	315	2	-	2
Grays Harbor	87	44	131	36	9	45	176	83	58	141	15	9	24
Island	15	85	100	13	17	30	130	56	104	160	-	2	2
Jefferson	39	38	78	56	-	56	134	18	27	45	14	4	18
King	2,761	3,373	6,178	2,759	41	2,800	8,978	-	-	-	610	249	859
Kitsap	110	170	280	91	12	103	383	139	68	207	20	34	54
Kittitas	41	79	121	14	2	16	137	66	21	87	1	1	2
Klickitat	30	70	105	11	4	15	120	16	19	35	-	-	-
Lewis	87	173	268	29	41	70	338	227	339	566	4	4	8
Lincoln	-	-	2	6	56	62	64	9	2	11	-	-	-
Mason	25	92	118	58	22	80	198	85	304	389	5	12	17
Okanogan	6	36	42	21	32	53	95	119	194	313	1	2	3
Pacific	2	-	2	3	-	3	5	7	15	22	-	2	2
Pend Oreille	2	8	10	8	9	17	27	28	355	383	1	-	1
Pierce	544	1,093	1,637	153	17	170	1,807	77	48	125	175	101	276
San Juan	-	-	-	29	-	29	29	22	28	50	-	-	-
Skagit	84	230	369	293	476	769	1,138	511	640	1,151	4	14	18
Skamania	10	28	38	1	-	1	39	2	4	6	-	-	-
Snohomish	278	1,049	1,403	451	164	615	2,018	206	138	344	173	65	238
Spokane	407	400	866	149	23	172	1,038	413	232	645	31	30	61
Stevens	3	2	8	7	-	7	15	23	26	49	1	2	3
Thurston	326	282	615	356	7	363	978	131	31	162	40	59	99
Wahkiakum	10	29	39	2	-	2	41	-	-	-	2	2	4
Walla Walla	116	219	341	11	6	17	358	71	77	148	18	-	18
Whatcom	234	223	457	177	15	192	649	276	291	567	25	60	85
Whitman	14	132	146	-	-	-	146	-	-	-	1	-	1
Yakima	194	230	424	61	22	83	507	224	270	494	34	15	49
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,307</b>	<b>9,624</b>	<b>16,230</b>	<b>5,196</b>	<b>1,193</b>	<b>6,389</b>	<b>22,619</b>	<b>3,492</b>	<b>4,871</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>1,329</b>	<b>767</b>	<b>2,096</b>

## Difference Between 2006 and 2010 Point in Time Counts of Homeless Persons

	Sheltered			Unsheltered			TOTAL Homeless Sheltered and Unsheltered	Temporarily Living with Family or Friends			Chronically Homeless		
	Persons in Families with		TOTAL	Persons in Families with		TOTAL		Sheltered and Unsheltered	TOTAL Temporarily Living with Family or Friends		Sheltered	Unsheltered	TOTAL Chronic
	Individuals	Minor Children		Individuals	Minor Children				Individuals	Minor Children			
Adams	(32)	1	(31)	(2)	44	42	11	(49)	(7)	(56)	(7)	(6)	(13)
Asofin	(8)	(2)	(10)	(7)	17	10	-	(56)	83	27	(4)	-	(4)
Benton-Franklin	(157)	(167)	(320)	8	(6)	2	(318)	(45)	(233)	(278)	(25)	(3)	(28)
Chelan-Douglas	23	122	146	(20)	(71)	(91)	55	36	(104)	(68)	(8)	(6)	(14)
Clallam	(26)	34	9	(112)	(17)	(129)	(120)	(62)	(217)	(279)	(13)	(11)	(24)
Clark	(250)	(6)	(236)	(7)	(55)	(62)	(298)	117	504	(1)	(3)	(23)	(26)
Columbia	-	(2)	(2)	(2)	-	(2)	(4)	(5)	4	(1)	-	-	-
Cowlitz	(58)	95	38	(59)	(3)	(62)	(24)	118	134	252	(10)	5	(5)
Ferry	1	(5)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(5)	(9)	7	20	27	-	-	-
Garfield	1	7	8	(1)	-	(1)	7	-	(2)	(2)	(1)	-	(1)
Grant	(3)	(88)	(87)	27	-	27	(60)	49	264	313	(4)	-	(4)
Grays Harbor	(33)	2	(31)	(24)	(3)	(27)	(58)	20	(18)	2	(13)	(23)	(36)
Island	6	(8)	(2)	(5)	(7)	(12)	(14)	38	(18)	20	(6)	(9)	(15)
Jefferson	(48)	18	(29)	22	-	22	(7)	(24)	24	-	4	(10)	(6)
King	(285)	455	214	1,591	(737)	854	1,068	-	-	-	(533)	(452)	(985)
Kitsap	(44)	(111)	(155)	15	(24)	(9)	(164)	(134)	(101)	(235)	(67)	11	(56)
Klittas	15	57	73	(9)	(2)	(11)	62	7	(42)	(35)	(6)	(2)	(8)
Klickitat	24	39	68	7	4	11	79	10	14	24	(9)	(1)	(10)
Lewis	54	96	158	(7)	23	16	174	141	204	345	(4)	(5)	(9)
Lincoln	(19)	(39)	(56)	3	56	59	3	(4)	(22)	(26)	(1)	(1)	(2)
Mason	20	28	49	47	(43)	4	53	34	(14)	20	5	12	17
Okanogan	(82)	(18)	(100)	(10)	27	17	(83)	37	30	67	(8)	(1)	(9)
Pacific	(2)	(31)	(33)	(22)	(21)	(43)	(76)	(22)	(37)	(59)	(1)	(7)	(8)
Pend Oreille	(1)	(8)	(9)	4	(8)	(4)	(13)	24	343	367	1	-	1
Pierce	107	472	579	(145)	(25)	(170)	409	77	48	48	41	(32)	9
San Juan	-	(7)	(7)	11	(25)	(14)	(21)	13	(25)	(12)	-	(5)	(5)
Skagit	(134)	30	(49)	150	428	578	529	263	286	549	(24)	(17)	(41)
Snohomish	(280)	129	(75)	(250)	41	(209)	(284)	125	30	155	-	(39)	(39)
Spokane	(130)	(136)	(207)	(287)	(60)	(347)	(554)	56	(93)	(37)	(57)	(7)	(64)
Stevens	(6)	(17)	(20)	1	-	1	(19)	(6)	(25)	(31)	1	(2)	(1)
Thurston	151	138	296	241	-	241	537	51	7	58	(23)	19	(4)
Wahkiakum	(6)	22	16	(2)	-	(2)	14	(2)	-	(2)	2	1	3
Walla Walla	11	117	134	(24)	2	(22)	112	(67)	(70)	(137)	(6)	(8)	(14)
Whatcom	(104)	(93)	(197)	8	-	8	(189)	159	48	207	(73)	(18)	(91)
Whitman	(15)	56	41	(1)	-	(1)	40	(4)	(3)	(7)	1	(1)	-
Yakima	(30)	(5)	(35)	(155)	(30)	(185)	(220)	39	(84)	(45)	(59)	(48)	(107)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(1,340)</b>	<b>1,175</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>981</b>	<b>(497)</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>928</b>		<b>(910)</b>	<b>(689)</b>	<b>(1,599)</b>

## Percentage Difference Between 2006 and 2010 Point in Time Counts of Homeless Persons

	Sheltered			Unsheltered			TOTAL Homeless	Temporarily Living with Family or Friends			Chronically Homeless		
	Persons in Families with		TOTAL	Persons in Families with		TOTAL	Sheltered and Unsheltered	TOTAL		Temporarily Living with Family or Friends	Sheltered	Unsheltered	TOTAL Chronic
	Individuals	Minor Children	Sheltered	Individuals	Minor Children	Unsheltered		Individuals	Minor Children				
Adams	-100%	10%	-74%	-10%	191%	95%	13%	-61%	-7%	-30%	-100%	-100%	-100%
Asotin	-100%	-33%	-71%	-64%	-	91%	0%	-93%	332%	32%	-100%	-	-100%
Benton-Franklin	-53%	-42%	-46%	22%	-26%	3%	-42%	-39%	-68%	-60%	-60%	-23%	-51%
Chelan-Douglas	18%	60%	44%	-24%	-95%	-58%	11%	75%	-41%	-22%	-44%	-75%	-54%
Clallam	-20%	25%	3%	-63%	-68%	-64%	-25%	-31%	-66%	-53%	-46%	-34%	-40%
Clark	-41%	-1%	-21%	-6%	-34%	-23%	-21%	-	-	-	-3%	-32%	-15%
Columbia	-	-50%	-50%	-100%	-	-100%	-67%	-100%	400%	-17%	-	-	-
Cowlitz	-36%	59%	12%	-45%	-100%	-46%	-5%	203%	213%	208%	-59%	42%	-17%
Ferry	25%	-38%	-24%	-60%	-100%	-71%	-38%	117%	333%	225%	-	-	-
Garfield	-	140%	160%	-100%	-	-100%	117%	0%	-50%	-33%	-100%	-	-100%
Grant	-20%	-80%	-70%	-	-	-	-48%	-	13200%	15650%	-67%	-	-67%
Grays Harbor	-28%	5%	-19%	-40%	-25%	-38%	-25%	32%	-24%	1%	-46%	-72%	-60%
Island	67%	-9%	-2%	-28%	-29%	-29%	-10%	211%	-15%	14%	-100%	-82%	-88%
Jefferson	-55%	90%	-27%	65%	-	65%	-5%	-57%	800%	0%	40%	-71%	-25%
King	-9%	16%	4%	136%	-95%	44%	14%	-	-	-	-47%	-64%	-53%
Kitsap	-29%	-40%	-36%	20%	-67%	-8%	-30%	-49%	-60%	-53%	-77%	48%	-51%
Kittitas	58%	259%	152%	-39%	-50%	-41%	83%	12%	-67%	-29%	-86%	-67%	-80%
Klickitat	400%	126%	184%	175%	-	275%	193%	167%	280%	218%	-100%	-100%	-100%
Lewis	164%	125%	144%	-19%	128%	30%	106%	164%	151%	156%	-50%	-56%	-53%
Lincoln	-100%	-100%	-97%	100%	-	1967%	5%	-31%	-92%	-70%	-100%	-100%	-100%
Mason	400%	44%	71%	427%	-66%	5%	37%	67%	-4%	5%	-	-	-
Okanogan	-93%	-33%	-70%	-32%	540%	47%	-47%	45%	18%	27%	-89%	-33%	-75%
Pacific	-50%	-100%	-94%	-88%	-100%	-93%	-94%	-76%	-71%	-73%	-100%	-78%	-80%
Pend Oreille	-33%	-50%	-47%	100%	-47%	-19%	-33%	600%	2858%	2294%	-	-	-
Pierce	24%	76%	55%	-49%	-60%	-50%	29%	-	-	-	31%	-24%	3%
San Juan	-	-100%	-100%	61%	-100%	-33%	-42%	144%	-47%	-19%	-	-100%	-100%
Skagit	-61%	15%	-12%	105%	892%	303%	87%	106%	81%	91%	-86%	-55%	-69%
Snohomish	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Spokane	-52%	24%	-7%	-57%	49%	-40%	-18%	35%	9%	23%	0%	-105%	-31%
Stevens	-1444%	-716%	-739%	-4783%	-	-5783%	-1629%	193%	-182%	-46%	-	-175%	-1600%
Thurston	-3%	-12%	-6%	1%	0%	1%	-4%	-8%	-104%	-30%	2%	-5%	-1%
Wahkiakum	944%	1971%	1287%	6025%	-	6025%	1989%	2550%	-	2900%	-	1900%	-400%
Walla Walla	-6%	22%	8%	-6%	0%	-5%	6%	-1%	0%	-1%	8%	13%	9%
Whatcom	3%	37%	20%	-14%	13%	-12%	13%	-57%	-29%	-38%	-6%	-10%	-8%
Whitman	-359%	-122%	-188%	800%	-	800%	-178%	3975%	1600%	2957%	-	-1800%	-9100%
Yakima	-7%	24%	9%	0%	0%	0%	6%	-2%	-1%	-1%	1%	-2%	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-18%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>-29%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>24%</b>		<b>-41%</b>	<b>-47%</b>	<b>-43%</b>

## Ranked Percentage Difference Between 2006 and 2010 Point in Time Counts of Homeless Persons

	Sheltered			Unsheltered			TOTAL Homeless Sheltered and Unsheltered	Temporarily Living with Family or Friends			Chronically Homeless			
	Persons in Families with		TOTAL	Persons in Families with		TOTAL		TOTAL	Persons in Families with		Temporarily Living with Family or Friends	Sheltered	Unsheltered	TOTAL Chronic
	Individuals	Minor Children		Individuals	Minor Children				Individuals	Minor Children				
Stevens	-1444%	-716%	-739%	-4783%	-	-5783%	-1629%	193%	-182%	-46%	-	225%	3025%	
Whitman	-359%	-122%	-188%	800%	-	800%	-178%	3975%	1600%	2957%	-	300%	-6100%	
Pacific	-50%	-100%	-94%	-88%	-	-93%	-94%	-76%	-71%	-73%	100%	-56%	-40%	
Columbia	-	-50%	-50%	-100%	-	-100%	-67%	-100%	400%	-17%	-	-	-	
Grant	-20%	-80%	-70%	-	-	-	-48%	-	13200%	15650%	-100%	-	-33%	
Okanogan	-93%	-33%	-70%	-32%	540%	47%	-47%	45%	18%	27%	-56%	67%	-25%	
Benton-Franklin	-53%	-42%	-46%	22%	-26%	3%	-42%	-39%	-68%	-60%	-43%	-69%	-49%	
San Juan	-	-100%	-100%	61%	-100%	-33%	-42%	144%	-47%	-19%	-	-100%	-100%	
Ferry	25%	-38%	-24%	-60%	-100%	-71%	-38%	117%	333%	225%	-	-	-	
Pend Oreille	-33%	-50%	-47%	100%	-47%	-19%	-33%	600%	2858%	2294%	-	-	-	
Kitsap	-29%	-40%	-36%	20%	-67%	-8%	-30%	-49%	-60%	-53%	-67%	35%	-45%	
Clallam	-20%	25%	3%	-63%	-68%	-64%	-25%	-31%	-66%	-53%	11%	-50%	-22%	
Grays Harbor	-28%	5%	-19%	-40%	-25%	-38%	-25%	32%	-24%	1%	-50%	-75%	-63%	
Clark	-41%	-1%	-21%	-6%	-34%	-23%	-21%	-	-	-	28%	-70%	-12%	
Spokane	-52%	24%	-7%	-57%	49%	-40%	-18%	35%	9%	23%	-1%	-122%	-37%	
Island	67%	-9%	-2%	-28%	-29%	-29%	-10%	211%	-15%	14%	-83%	-100%	-94%	
Cowlitz	-36%	59%	12%	-45%	-100%	-46%	-5%	203%	213%	208%	-6%	100%	38%	
Jefferson	-55%	90%	-27%	65%	-	65%	-5%	-57%	800%	0%	-40%	-43%	-42%	
Thurston	-3%	-12%	-6%	1%	0%	1%	-4%	-8%	-104%	-30%	0%	-10%	-4%	
Asotin	-100%	-33%	-71%	-64%	-	91%	0%	-93%	332%	32%	-100%	-	-100%	
Snohomish	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Lincoln	-100%	-100%	-97%	100%	-	1967%	5%	-31%	-92%	-70%	0%	-100%	-50%	
Yakima	-7%	24%	9%	0%	0%	0%	6%	-2%	-1%	-1%	4%	-2%	2%	
Walla Walla	-6%	22%	8%	-6%	0%	-5%	6%	-1%	0%	-1%	13%	-13%	6%	
Chelan-Douglas	18%	60%	44%	-24%	-95%	-58%	11%	75%	-41%	-22%	-6%	-100%	-35%	
Adams	-100%	10%	-74%	-10%	191%	95%	13%	-61%	-7%	-30%	-100%	-83%	-92%	
Whatcom	3%	37%	20%	-14%	13%	-12%	13%	-57%	-29%	-38%	-6%	-4%	-5%	
King	-9%	16%	4%	136%	-95%	44%	14%	-	-	-	-47%	-48%	-47%	
Pierce	24%	76%	55%	-49%	-60%	-50%	29%	-	-	-	9%	-13%	-2%	
Mason	400%	44%	71%	427%	-66%	5%	37%	67%	-4%	5%	-	-	-	
Kittitas	58%	259%	152%	-39%	-50%	-41%	83%	12%	-67%	-29%	-29%	-33%	-30%	
Skagit	-61%	15%	-12%	105%	892%	303%	87%	106%	81%	91%	-4%	-16%	-10%	
Lewis	164%	125%	144%	-19%	128%	30%	106%	164%	151%	156%	-50%	-44%	-47%	
Garfield	-	140%	160%	-100%	-	-100%	117%	0%	-50%	-33%	-100%	-	-100%	
Klickitat	400%	126%	184%	175%	-	275%	193%	167%	280%	218%	-100%	-100%	-100%	
Wahkiakum	944%	1971%	1287%	6025%	-	6025%	1989%	2550%	-	2900%	-	800%	-500%	



### Inventory of Slots of Subsidized Housing for People Facing Homelessness

Maximum Length of Stay in Subsidized Housing (dedicated units and vouchers)	Up to three months	Up to two years	More than 2 years	TOTAL
Adams	9	7	-	16
Asotin	26	31	-	57
Benton-Franklin	105	313	198	616
Chelan-Douglas	130	446	6	582
Clallam	161	305	219	685
Clark	162	690	802	1,654
Columbia	8	7	-	15
Cowlitz	156	346	172	674
Ferry	29	13	-	42
Garfield	8	9	-	17
Grant	39	20	112	171
Grays Harbor	90	191	-	281
Island	24	55	16	95
Jefferson	44	57	168	269
King	2,521	4,255	3,248	10,024
Kitsap	118	382	33	533
Kittitas	28	59	-	87
Klickitat	-	-	-	-
Lewis	68	253	34	355
Lincoln	-	-	43	43
Mason	22	58	-	80
Okanogan	12	12	46	70
Pacific	-	-	-	-
Pend Oreille	-	-	-	-
Pierce	181	1,221	439	1,841
San Juan	-	-	-	-
Skagit	185	222	20	427
Skamania	-	-	-	-
Snohomish	387	1,267	970	2,624
Spokane	634	646	340	1,620
Stevens	12	9	-	21
Thurston	87	323	230	640
Wahkiakum	16	46	48	110
Walla Walla	133	247	197	577
Whatcom	204	417	436	1,057
Whitman	23	194	-	217
Yakima	297	203	99	599
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,919</b>	<b>12,304</b>	<b>7,876</b>	<b>26,099</b>



## GLOSSARY

**Additional Requirements for Emergent Needs (AREN):** payments of up to \$750 to families eligible for temporary assistance for needy families (TANF), state family assistance (SFA), or refugee cash assistance (RCA) to help in an emergency to get or keep safe housing or utilities. Payments may be used for eviction or foreclosure prevention, secure housing if homeless or a domestic violence victim, secure or prevent utility shut-off, or repair damage to home if it causes a risk to health or safety.

**Affordable housing:** housing is generally defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as affordable when the occupant is paying no more than 30 percent of their adjusted gross income for housing costs, including utilities. Affordable housing may refer to subsidized or unsubsidized units.

**At risk of becoming homeless:** being on the brink of becoming homeless due to one or more of the following: having inadequate income or paying too high a percentage of income on rent (typically 50 percent or more), living in housing that does not meet federal housing quality standards, or living in housing that is seriously overcrowded. Also see Homeless Person.

**Chronically homeless, as defined by HUD:** a “chronically homeless” person is defined by HUD as an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more, or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.

**Continuum of care planning group:** to receive federal homeless funding, a community must establish a continuum of care planning group, made up of homeless outreach providers, emergency shelter providers, transitional housing providers, and representatives from other public and private organizations that serve homeless people. CoC groups exist in almost every county in the state, and meet regularly to better coordinate services to homeless people.

**Diversion cash assistance:** diversion cash assistance helps families who do not want to go on monthly cash assistance (TANF), state family assistance (SFA), or refugee cash assistance (RCA). Must be eligible for TANF or SFA, but do not have to participate in the WorkFirst requirements. Payments are limited to \$1,500 per year.

**Emergency shelter:** any facility with overnight sleeping accommodations for up to 90 days, the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of homeless persons. Eligible prevention services include paying up to 90 days for rent or mortgage subsidies to prevent eviction; first or last month's rent, security deposits, and screening fees; case management to assist with obtaining or maintaining housing, and other services (food, childcare, counseling, etc.); and follow-up client contact to assess the need for additional services or the effectiveness of previous program efforts.

**Emergency Shelter Grant Program:** the Emergency Shelter Grant Program (ESG) Provides funding to counties to support the operating costs of emergency shelters. ESG also provides support services for people who are homeless, resulting in greater individual self sufficiency.

**Emergency Shelter Assistance Program:** the Emergency Shelter Assistance Program (ESAP, including the Homeless Family Shelter Program) supports a network of 146 community-based emergency shelters and programs statewide to prevent homelessness or for those already homeless, quickly re-house them in safe, secure and affordable housing.

**Extremely low-income:** an individual or family whose income is between 0 percent and 30 percent of the median income for the area, as determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

**General Assistance Unemployable:** General Assistance Unemployable (GAU) is a state-funded program that provides cash and medical benefits for people who are temporarily physically or mentally incapacitated and unemployable for 90 days from the date of application.

**Homeless individual:** in general, the term “homeless” or “homeless individual” includes an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and an individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations, an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or a public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

**Homeless prevention:** activities or programs designed to prevent the incidence of homelessness, including, but not limited to:

- Short-term subsidies to defray rent and utility arrearages for families who have received eviction or utility termination notices.
- Security deposits or first month’s rent to permit a homeless family to move into its own apartment.
- Mediation programs for landlord-tenant disputes.
- Legal services programs for the representation of indigent tenants in eviction proceedings.
- Payments to prevent foreclosure on a home.
- Other innovative programs and activities designed to prevent the incidence of homelessness.

**Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing (HPRP):** funding the HUD for rental assistance for people at imminent risk of becoming homeless, or to move homeless people into rental housing; provided as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

**Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project:** competitive grant funded by the U.S. Department of Labor to provide services that help reintegrate homeless veterans into meaningful employment. Services include job placement, training, job development, career counseling, resume preparation, and supportive services such as clothing, provision of or referral to temporary, transitional, and permanent housing, referral to medical and substance abuse treatment, and transportation assistance.

**Household:** a household is comprised of one or more individuals. (The National Affordable Housing Act definition required to be used in the CHAS rule—equivalent to U.S. Census definition of household.) The Bureau of the Census defines a family as a householder (head of household) and one or more other persons living in the same household who are related by birth, marriage or adoption.

**Housing First:** moving homeless persons from the streets to permanent housing as quickly as possible by removing barriers to housing and providing on-site services, as needed, which engage and support individuals to maintain their health and housing stability.

**Housing unit:** an occupied or vacant house, apartment, or a single unit that is intended as separate living quarters.

**Information and referral:** assistance to individuals who are having a difficult time finding or securing housing.

**McKinney-Vento Act:** the primary federal response targeted to assisting homeless individuals and families. The scope of the Act includes: outreach, emergency food and shelter, transitional and permanent housing, primary health care services, mental health, alcohol and drug abuse treatment, education, job training, and child care. There are nine titles under the McKinney-Vento Act that are administered by several different federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

**Mental illness:** a mental illness is a psychiatric disorder that results in a disruption in a person's thinking, feeling, moods, and ability to relate to others.

**Permanent Supportive Housing:** long-term community-based housing and supportive services for homeless persons. The intent of this type of supportive housing is to enable this special needs population to live as independently as possible in a permanent setting. The supportive services may be provided by the organization managing the housing or provided by other public or private service agencies.

**Person with a disability:** a person who is determined to: 1) have a physical, mental, or emotional impairment that is expected to be of continued and indefinite duration, substantially impedes his or her ability to live independently, and is of such a nature that the ability could be improved by more suitable housing conditions; or 2) have a developmental disability, as defined in the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act.

**Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH):** created under the McKinney Act - a formula grant program funds support service delivery to individuals with serious mental illnesses, as well as individuals with co-occurring substance use disorders, who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

**Rental assistance:** cash subsidy for housing costs provided as either project-based rental assistance or tenant-based rental assistance.

**Section 8 Rental Subsidy:** a federal rent subsidy program that provides monthly rental assistance to low-income individuals residing in privately owned units. The rents must be within HUD limits, and the units must meet HUD Housing Quality Standards. Section 8 can be used in cooperatives to help lower-income households pay their monthly carrying charges.

**Self-Sufficiency income:** the amount earned income needed by a household to afford the bare minimum costs of living in a community. This varies by family size and community. See the following for additional details: <http://www.seekingwdc.org/pdf/sscalculator/wassr.pdf>

**Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI):** Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) is federal wage replacement income for those who have a disability meeting Social Security disability rules.

**Substance use issues:** the problems resulting from a pattern of using substances such as alcohol and drugs. Problems can include: a failure to fulfill major responsibilities or using substances in spite of physical, legal, social, and interpersonal problems and risks.

**Supplemental Security Income (SSI):** the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program is funded by the general revenues of the Federal Treasury and is intended to provide a minimum level of income to persons who are aged, disabled, or blind and demonstrate economic need. The SSI program is meant to supplement any income an individual might already have to ensure a certain level of income to meet basic living expenses. The dollar amount received in SSI on a monthly basis varies from person to person and is computed each month, taking into account an individual's current financial situation.

**Support service:** services provided to individuals to assist them to achieve or maintain stability, health, and improved quality of life. Some examples are case management, medical or psychological counseling and supervision, childcare, transportation, and job training.

**Supportive housing:** permanent affordable housing enriched with support services designed to help tenants who are homeless, very low-income, or have disabilities or other chronic health conditions, to maintain their housing and achieve maximum independence.

**TANF—Temporary Assistance to Needy Families:** a program administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. TANF, which replaced and is sometimes referred to as welfare, provides assistance and work opportunities to families with low incomes by granting states the federal funds and guidelines to administer their own welfare programs.

**Transition in place:** a type of housing program in which supportive services are provided on a transitional basis. Once the individual or family no longer needs supportive services, this individual or household has the option to stay in the affordable unit in which they have been living.

**Transitional housing:** a type of supportive housing used to facilitate the movement of homeless individuals and families to permanent housing. It is housing in which homeless persons live for up to 24 months and receive supportive services that enable them to live more independently. The supportive services may be provided by the organization managing the

housing or coordinated by them and provided by other public or private agencies. It is a middle point between emergency shelter and permanent housing.

**Youth:** for purposes of narrative descriptions, “youth” can include persons up to age 21. For the point-in-time count of homeless persons “youth” refers to persons less than 18 years old.





## ENDNOTES

<sup>i</sup> Temporary subsidized housing defined as 30 days to two years depending on need. Most new units created through temporarily subsidizing people in their exiting private market rental housing to prevent eviction, or by rapidly placing them in temporarily subsidized private market rental housing. Services limited to actions directly connected to housing stability such as housing locator, landlord liaisons, and basic case management to connect to mental, substance abuse, and employment services as needed.

<sup>ii</sup> Unemployment forecasts: [http://corp.bankofamerica.com/publicpdf/products/abf/economic\\_weekly.pdf](http://corp.bankofamerica.com/publicpdf/products/abf/economic_weekly.pdf)  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2011/assets/11msr.pdf>

<sup>iii</sup> Employment-population ratio: <http://www.bls.gov/lau/ststadsadata.txt>

<sup>iv</sup> Median household wages by state: <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/income/statemedfaminc.html>

<sup>v</sup> Employment-population ratio: <http://www.bls.gov/lau/ststadsadata.txt>

<sup>vi</sup> Employment Security Data: <http://www.esd.wa.gov/newsandinformation/media/uidata/uiataglace/qtr-exhaustions.pdf#zoom=100>

<sup>vii</sup> <ftp://ftp.bls.gov/pub/special.requests/lf/aat7.txt>

<sup>viii</sup> International Monetary Fund Country Report No. 10/248, July 2010  
The Great Recession and Structural Unemployment, page 6

<sup>ix</sup> Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, *Monetary Policy Objectives and Tools in a Low-Inflation Environment*, October 15, 2010, <http://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/speech/bernanke20101015a.htm#fn3>

<sup>x</sup> <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/jolts.pdf>

<sup>xi</sup> <http://www.frbsf.org/econsrch/wklyltr/wklyltr98/el98-28.html>

<sup>xii</sup> Calculated using 2008 point in time count of homeless people data, CTED program data, and formulas from *Estimating the Need, Corporation for Supportive Housing, Martha R. Burt and Carol Wilkins, March 2005*

<sup>xiii</sup> Calculated using 2008 point in time count of homeless people data, CTED program data, and formulas from *Estimating the Need, Corporation for Supportive Housing, Martha R. Burt and Carol Wilkins, March 2005*

<sup>xiv</sup> Calculated using 2008 point in time count of homeless people data, CTED program data, and formulas from *Estimating the Need, Corporation for Supportive Housing, Martha R. Burt and Carol Wilkins, March 2005*

<sup>xv</sup> Calculated using 2008 point in time count of homeless people data, CTED program data, and formulas from *Estimating the Need, Corporation for Supportive Housing, Martha R. Burt and Carol Wilkins, March 2005*

<sup>xvi</sup> *From Asylum to the Prison: Rethinking the Incarceration Revolution, Part II; State Level Analysis*, The Law School, The University of Chicago, March 2007, page 20.

<sup>xvii</sup> *From Asylum to the Prison: Rethinking the Incarceration Revolution, Part II; State Level Analysis*, The Law School, The University of Chicago, March 2007, page 20.

<sup>xviii</sup> “Market Reports, Affordability”, *Washington State Center for Real Estate Research*, [http://www.cb.wsu.edu/~wcrer/HOUSINGMARKET\\_Info.ASP](http://www.cb.wsu.edu/~wcrer/HOUSINGMARKET_Info.ASP).

<sup>xix</sup> Elizabeth Warren, “The Middle Class on the Precipice Rising Financial Risks for American Families”, *Harvard Magazine*, January-February 2006.