

2018

Cowlitz County 10 Year Plan to Address Homelessness



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Acknowledgement

Homeless Housing Task Force

History

In 2005 the legislature created the homeless housing program to develop and coordinate a statewide strategic plan aimed at housing homeless persons. RCW 43.185C.160 requires each participating County to create or designate a Homeless Housing Task Force. The Board of County Commissioners transitioned coordination of the Homeless Housing Task Force to the Health and Human Services Departments on January 1, 2017. To comply with RCW 43.185C.160, the County created a Homeless Housing Task Force.

Purpose

The purpose of the Homeless Housing Task Force is to provide input into the ongoing development of a ten-year homeless housing plan to address homelessness in Cowlitz County as required by RCW 43.185C.160. The members below have provided input on the development of a 10 year plan to address homelessness in Cowlitz County. The following plan has been reviewed and approved by the Homeless Housing Task Force.

Members

Christen Ellis – Vice Chair	At large
Dianne Quast	At large
Eric McCrandall	At large
Jack Hansen	CAP
Jeff Wilson	At large
Jim Hill - Chair	City of Kelso
Nick Fazio	Cowlitz County Building & Planning
Kathleen Patten	Faith Based Community
Rachel Strand	At large
Scott Vydra	City of Longview

Introduction

The Cowlitz County 10 year plan was first created in 2007 as a mandate of RCW 43.185c, otherwise known as the Homeless Housing and Assistance Act. At the same time, the Washington State Department of Commerce was also given the directive to create the Washington State Homeless Housing Strategic Plan to address the growing numbers of individuals and families experiencing homelessness.ⁱ

In 2009 the HEARTH Act (Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act) was reauthorized to consolidate grant programs for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and to reauthorize the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.ⁱⁱ This created a change in HUD's definition of homeless and provided an increase in prevention resources. By 2010 the Federal Opening Doors Program launched with the goal to reduce the number of homeless veterans, reduce the number of chronically homeless, and end family homelessness across the United States.ⁱⁱⁱ

The RCW also mandated changes by local governments and required each county to create a local task force made up of representatives of the counties, cities, towns, housing authorities, civic and faith organizations, schools, community networks, human services providers, law enforcement personnel, criminal justice personnel, including prosecutors, probation officers, and jail administrators, substance abuse treatment providers, mental health care providers, emergency health care providers, businesses, at large representatives of the community, and an individual who is currently or formerly homeless. The intention of the group is to meet to address planning for housing for individuals experiencing homelessness.^{iv}

In Cowlitz County, job growth fluctuates and has typically seen unemployment rates that are higher than those reported in Washington State and when compared to national averages overall.^v From 2010 to 2015, Cowlitz County's total poverty rates on average were above the national and state averages,^{vi} and 40% of the new jobs created during this time paid below \$12 per hour.^{vii} 70% of the rental households in Cowlitz County range from cost burdened to severely cost burdened.^{viii} High unemployment rates over the last three years have led to Cowlitz County being labeled a "Distressed County" by the State Employment Security Department.^{ix} The 2010 Census lists the population of Cowlitz County as 102,410 with the majority of residents living in the cities of Longview (36,648) and Kelso (11,925). The 2010 Census for Cowlitz County also listed the rental vacancy rate at 2.3%,^x but in 2017 the rental vacancy rate dropped to an all-time low of 1%.^{xi}

During the annual Point in Time Count, there has been an average of 318 individuals experiencing homelessness per year over the course of the last five years and there has been little fluctuation over the last three years with 341 people counted in 2015, 356 people counted in 2016, and 331 people counted in 2017.^{xii} While the rates of homelessness in Washington State continue to rise, Cowlitz County has not seen a major difference in the number of people that become homeless.^{xiii} Data from the Point in Time count is usually not available from the

Department of Commerce until six to eight months after the count. 2018 data for the January event will be available at a later date.

Overview

Homeless Prevention

Believe it or not, homelessness is incredibly expensive to a community. The most cost-effective way for the community to respond to homelessness is to prevent it in the first place. Affordable housing, physical and behavioral health services, and jobs that provide a living wage are the most effective interventions to preventing homelessness; all of which are factors outside the control of any housing service system.^{xiv}

Evidence Based Best Practice

When deciding on the intervention types that will address homelessness in Cowlitz County, it's important to consider evidence based/data driven best practices. Seeking models that have proven to be effective is a responsible use of public funds and helps to utilize resources more effectively. In "Opening Doors; Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness," The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness defines "evidence based" in the following way:

"To attain value for money, agencies and communities alike must direct resources towards evidence-based and cost-effective solutions like permanent supportive housing, Housing First, and rapid re-housing, and away from models and programs that are outdated, unsupported by evidence, or are not cost-effective. Agencies must use data to measure and improve program performance and quality. These practices bolster the case for adequate resource investments to bring solutions to scale."^{xv}

The Cost of Status Quo

Homelessness doesn't just affect individuals with low incomes. When someone becomes homeless there are usually costs incurred judicially, medically, and higher costs for crisis services. Individuals often cycle through other expensive interventions such as shelter, jail, hospitals and treatment while never having their housing needs resolved.^{xvi}

Intervention Types

Targeted Prevention and Diversion- Provides diversion from becoming homeless by working with landlords and individuals to resolve issues and provides assistance for rent to keep a person housed.

Rapid Rehousing (RRH)- Provides housing focused case management and support needed to house individuals quickly by assisting with deposits and rent so the person can regain housing and end their homelessness.

Transitional Housing (TH)- Provides ongoing support for a period of two years until individuals can learn the skills necessary to transition to housing in the community.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)- Provides ongoing support for individuals with high needs related to medical, mental and behavioral health or substance use.

Emergency Shelter (ES)- Provides short term temporary shelter for those experiencing homelessness.^{xvii}

Housing Resources

Columbia Wellness-Chinook and Columbia, Community House on Broadway, Emergency Support Shelter, Family Health Center-Phoenix House, Housing Opportunities of South West Washington, Kelso Housing Authority, Lower Columbia Community Action Program (CAP), Love Overwhelming, Oxford houses, Salvation Army, Veteran's Integration Program and the faith based community.

Barriers

There are a number of barriers individuals may experience when seeking housing that makes it difficult to find an affordable and safe unit to rent. Typical barriers include; income requirements that require tenants to earn three times the amount of rent, prior eviction(s), lack of or poor credit history, criminal history, pets, history of homelessness, and high behavioral or physical health issues.^{xviii}

Coordination

Combining the eligibility and assessment process for multiple programs makes access easier for individuals seeking services and eliminates duplication of services. Coordination between all the components of a housing response system is critical to addressing and reducing homelessness.^{xix}

Components of an effective housing response system

Outreach and access- Individuals who are chronically homeless often have distrust for service providers and may not solicit assistance. It is critical to have a system that provides access for vulnerable populations that does not have high barriers in order to receive support. By applying approaches such as trauma-informed care, peer mentorship and other evidence-based practices to engage people living outside, we can maintain a high level of coordination between outreach workers and the coordinated assessment system to ensure access to housing.^{xx}

Coordinated Assessment/Coordinated Entry- Provides fair and equal access to services by assessing individuals who enter or are at risk of experiencing homelessness. The assessment is called the Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) and prioritizes the most vulnerable individuals and directs intervention types for the individual

situations people may be experiencing. This method should be accessible in person, by phone, and should include the ability to be mobile when needed.^{xxi}

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)- When individuals entering the housing response system complete the VI-SPDAT through Coordinated Assessment, they are entered into the HMIS database. HMIS is used nationally to record and store client level information such as characteristics and services utilized.^{xxii}

Taskforce- This group is a local planning body that provides input to the 10 year plan to address homelessness. This group might represent county and city officials, individuals who have formerly experienced homelessness, and other members who may represent service providers, faith based community, or members at-large.^{xxiii}

State Continuum of Care (COC)- The Washington State Department of Commerce runs the Washington Balance of State CoC to represent 34 counties throughout the state. This group coordinates housing services and funding based on grants applied for from federal homeless assistance funds.^{xxiv}

Defining “Homeless”

Individuals can experience homelessness for many reasons, and different federal programs may have definitions of homelessness that differ from one another slightly. While the housing response system works together, some areas are funded by programs operating under different definitions of homelessness. This plan operates under the definition of homelessness set by RCW 43.185C.010:

“Homeless person” means an individual living outside or in a building not meant for human habitation or which they have no legal right to occupy, in an emergency shelter, or in a temporary housing program which may include transitional and supportive housing program if habitation time limits exist. This definition includes substance abusers, people with mental illnesses, and sex offenders who are homeless.”^{xxv}

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definitions of homelessness

Literally homeless- An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, or has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation, or is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter.

Imminent risk of homelessness- An individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance and who lacks the resources or supports needed to obtain other permanent housing.

Homeless under other federal statutes- Unaccompanied youth (under 25) or families with children who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition and are defined as

homeless under another federal statute, have not had permanent housing during the past 60 days, have experienced persistent instability, and can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time.

Fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence- Any individual or family fleeing, or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.^{xxvi}

Homeless populations- Households without children, Households with at least one adult and one child, Households with only children.

Homeless subpopulations- Chronically homeless, severely mentally ill, chronic substance abuse, veterans, HIV/AIDS, victims of domestic violence, parenting youth, children of parenting youth.^{xxvii}

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

The OSPI operates under the definition of homelessness given by the McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth Assistance Act, a federal law that ensures immediate enrollment and educational stability for homeless children and youth. McKinney-Vento provides federal funding to states for the purpose of supporting district programs that serve homeless students.

The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children as "individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence." The act provides examples of children who would fall under this definition:

- Children and youth sharing housing due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason
- Children and youth living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camp grounds due to lack of alternative accommodations
- Children and youth living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Children and youth abandoned in hospitals
- Children and youth whose primary nighttime residence is not ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation (e.g. park benches, etc)
- Children and youth living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations
- Migratory children and youth living in any of the above situations

School districts are provided funding for a Homeless Liaison who connects with youth and offers resources as well as collects and submits data to the district regarding the volume of homeless youth.^{xxviii} In the 2015-2016 school year, there were 814 homeless youth reported by school districts in Cowlitz County.^{xxix}

Point in Time Count (PIT)

The Homeless Housing Assistance Act RCW 43.185C requires that counties conduct an annual count of individuals experiencing homelessness who are unsheltered or sheltered in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and Safe Havens on a single night, usually the last Thursday in January.^{xxx} Since 2012, Cowlitz County has hosted and participated in Project Homeless Connect in order to draw individuals at risk of or who are currently experiencing homelessness into a service fair. Prior to entry, individuals are given a voluntary survey to complete that is then organized and entered into HMIS. The Department of Commerce then submits the data for 34 counties to HUD in order to apply for the next grant cycle. With this data the Department of Commerce can determine the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in Cowlitz County and the subpopulations to target prevention to in an effort to reduce homelessness.^{xxxi}

Local Homeless Housing Plan

Each local homeless housing task force shall prepare and recommend to its local government legislative authority a ten-year homeless housing plan for its jurisdictional area. The goals of this plan shall be assessed annually and updated at a minimum of every 5 years.

Eligible activities under the plan include (RCW 43.185C.050):

- Rental and furnishing of dwelling units for the use of homeless persons
- Costs of developing affordable housing for homeless persons, and services for formerly homeless individuals and families residing in transitional housing or permanent housing and still at risk of homelessness
- Operating subsidies for transitional housing or permanent housing serving formerly homeless families or individuals
- Services to prevent homelessness, such as emergency eviction prevention programs including temporary rental subsidies to prevent homelessness
- Temporary services to assist persons leaving state institutions and other state programs to prevent them from becoming or remaining homeless
- Outreach services for homeless individuals and families
- Development and management of local homeless plans including homeless census data collection; identification of goals, performance measures, strategies, and costs and evaluation of progress towards established goals
- Rental vouchers payable to landlords for persons who are homeless or below thirty percent of the median income or in immediate danger of becoming homeless
- Other activities to reduce and prevent homelessness as identified for funding in the local plan^{xxxii}

Goal Summary

**Goals are listed in no particular order or preference*

1.	Increase Prevention and Education opportunities
2.	Ensure effective and efficient coordinated access and assessment for housing and housing related services.
3.	Support and enhance the crisis response system in Cowlitz County – System is effective and efficient, with the most appropriate resources and interventions for the homeless population.
4.	Increase access to affordable housing units
5.	Support projects that address homelessness during an emergency.
6.	Obtain and use data to drive strategies and decision making.

Goal Details

**Goals are listed in no particular order or preference*

1. Increase Prevention and Education opportunities	
Strategy to Fulfill Goal Support Prevention and Education projects	
Action	Task
a. Provide educational opportunities that focus on self-sufficiency skills for adults and youth. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Examples include, but are not limited to: Financial Literacy, Tenant Education, Landlord Tenant Laws, Employment supports, etc. 	Identify adult specific educational opportunities (HHS, community partners) Identify youth specific educational opportunities (HHS, community partners, including youth serving organizations and school districts) Integrate educational opportunities into existing county funded programs - ie. Therapeutic court programs (HHS, community partners)
b. Explore educational or technical assistance opportunities for community partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Examples include, but are not limited to: SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery), Trauma Informed Care, Evidenced-Based programs, etc. 	Collaborate with local, state or regional partners to support educational or technical assistance opportunities. (HHS)
2. Ensure effective and efficient coordinated access and assessment for housing and housing related services.	
Strategy to Fulfill Goal Continue implementation of Coordinated Entry system: Easy access to assessments and referrals to the most appropriate resources or interventions to help obtain and maintain housing stability.	
Action	Task
a. Prevent/Divert, as often as possible, households from entering into the homeless/housing system. This will be accomplished by supporting households in maintaining and preserving current housing and	Review # new homeless households annually (HHS, HHTF)

targeting resources to those who are most at risk of becoming homeless	Review reason for entry into homelessness annually (HHS, HHTF)
b. Ensure Coordinated Entry (CE) policies and procedures meet standards set by Department of Commerce and HUD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Includes entire geographic area of Cowlitz County - Easily accessed by individuals and families seeking housing or services - Well-advertised - Comprehensive and standardized assessment tool - Policy to guide the operation of CE to address the needs of individuals and families who are fleeing domestic violence 	Review and update CE policies and procedures annually, or as needed (HHS) Review feedback from Commerce 'secret shopper' call to CE
c. Ensure outreach to community builds upon the current homeless system and other mainstream services. To include appropriate referrals to other systems of care including: primary care, behavioral health, developmental disabilities, etc.	Review access to CE system and CE process through monthly meeting with CE provider and community partners (HHS, CE provider, community partners)
3. Support and enhance the crisis response system in Cowlitz County - System is effective and efficient, with the most appropriate resources and interventions for the homeless population.	
Strategy to Fulfill Goal Consistently evaluate current system capacity, reviewing characteristics of the homeless population and the resources/interventions available to meet the need	
Action	Task
a. Review capacity of short term/emergency shelter, temporary, and permanent housing interventions. *Appendix B	Review system capacity of housing interventions annually (HHS, HHTF) Connect with service providers quarterly to review project specific capacity (HHS, community partners)
b. Review available data to evaluate characteristics of the homeless population and system, including Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data, Point in Time data, and other state or local data.	Compile and review data showing the characteristics of the homeless population (HHS, HHTF)

<p>c. Support housing interventions that enhance the continuum of housing/homeless services, address system capacity gaps (resources available vs population need), and increase opportunities for households to be stably housed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intervention types include: Prevention/Diversion, Emergency Shelter (ES), Rapid Rehousing (RRH), Transitional Housing (TH), and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) - Interventions demonstrate alignment with evidenced based or promising practices and demonstrate outcomes that strive to move households out of homelessness and into permanent housing destinations. 	<p>Collect data:</p> <p>Total # served (HHS)</p> <p># households exited to permanent housing (HHS)</p> <p># returned to homelessness, within 2 years (HHS)</p> <p>Length of time homeless (HHS)</p> <p>Review data annually (HHS, HHTF)</p>
<p>d. Support and develop policies to allow alternative interim habitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Examples include, but are not limited to: micro housing/cottage housing, public/vehicle habitation, etc. 	<p>Explore policies that support allowance for interim habitation (HHS, HHTF)</p> <p>Solicit input from emergency services and other community partners (HHS, HHTF)</p>
4. Increase access to affordable housing units	
<p>Strategy to fulfill goal</p> <p>Support plans and development to increase access to affordable housing units</p> <p>Affordable Housing is defined by HUD as: “housing for which the occupant(s) is/are paying no more than 30 percent of his or her income for gross housing costs, including utilities. Please note that some jurisdictions may define affordable housing based on other, locally determined criteria, and that this definition is intended solely as an approximate guideline or general rule of thumb”^{xxxiii}</p>	
Action	Task
<p>a. Collaborate with cities, and other appropriate partners, around efforts to increase affordable housing, aligning efforts when appropriate.</p>	<p>Meet with county, cities, other appropriate partners to discuss any current efforts towards increasing affordable housing units (HHS, cities, others)</p>

<p>b. Identify and maintain a listing of County owned vacant properties, land and structures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaborate with cities, or others, as appropriate to provide opportunities for publically owned assets to participate in programs related to the ten year plan. 	<p>Meet with county and cities to discuss publically owned vacant properties, land and structures (HHS, cities, others)</p>
<p>c. Coordinate with local jurisdictions to review land use codes and development standards to ensure that developers have flexible opportunities and that development of cost-efficient housing products is allowed and encouraged.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amend local codes and standards to allow for increased housing density, new and cost-efficient housing products (such as cottage housing, park-models, and accessory-dwelling units. - Engage stakeholder groups, including elected officials, planning commissions, and industry professionals to proactively address the development of diverse housing types. - Encourage and allow optional inclusionary housing density bonuses, fee-waivers, and other tools. 	<p>Cowlitz County Building & Planning update HHTF annually on progress</p>
<p>d. Support and enhance Landlord Liaison Programs</p>	<p>Explore opportunities to expand housing locator assistance (HHS)</p>
<p>5. Support projects that address homelessness during an emergency.</p>	
<p>Strategy to Fulfill Goal Develop and maintain process to support projects that address homelessness during an emergency An emergency is defined as: A situation which poses an immediate risk to health, life, property or environment.</p>	
<p>Action</p>	<p>Task</p>
<p>a. Assist agencies with short-term urgent funding need that has or will significantly interrupt essential services or impact the health/safety of the homeless population. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Natural Disasters (e.g. fire, flood, tornado, storm damage, loss of utilities) - Emergency Needs (e.g. phase-out costs associated with the closure of a program, equipment failure, civil disturbance, severe weather event, or other 	<p>Review process annually (HHS, HHTF)</p>

conditions determined by the Cowlitz County Health Officer to be an emergent threat to public health and safety.)	
6. Obtain and use data to drive strategies and decision making	
Strategy to Fulfill Goal	
Coordinate with local and state partners to collect data.	
Action	Task
a. Administer the annual collection of data and reporting to the Department of Commerce for the Point in Time Count and the Housing Inventory Count.	Collect and report county wide data annually (HHS, community partners) Publish county wide data to the public (HHS)
b. Collect quarterly project-level data - Utilize the state's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)	Attend HMIS training as necessary (HHS, community partners) Publish project-level data annually to the public (HHS)
c. Collect and utilize data and information from Coordinated Entry	Review data and use to inform future priorities (HHS, HHTF)

Appendices

Appendix A- Department of Commerce Winter 2018 Report Card

Washington State Homeless System Performance: County Report Cards ⓘ



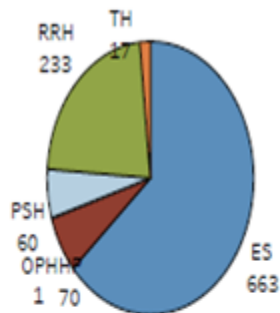
Department of Commerce

Report Card Release

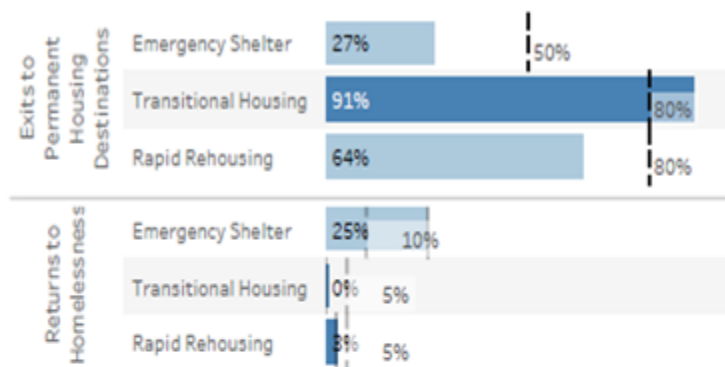
Winter 2018

Total Project Entries	Length of Time Homeless	Exits to Permanent Housing	Returns to Homelessness	Unsheltered Entries
1,044	44	32%	15%	66%

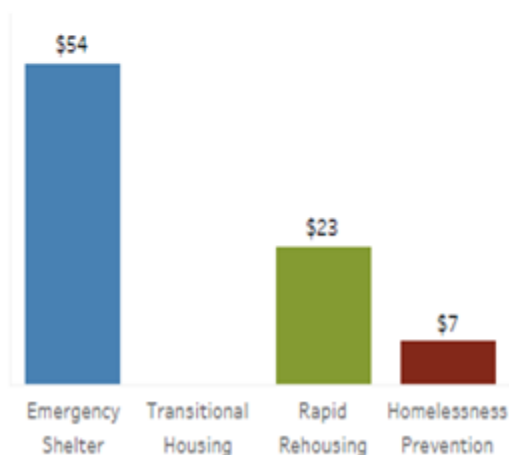
Entries By Project Type



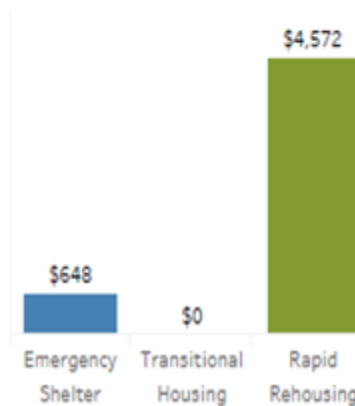
Housing Outcomes



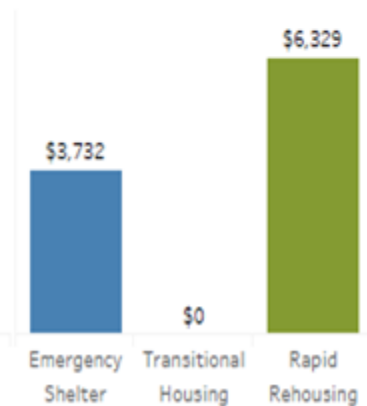
Cost Per Day ⓘ



Cost Per Average Project Stay ⓘ



Cost Per Exit to Permanent Housing ⓘ



xxxiv

Cost data: January 1st 2016-December 31st 2017

All other data: October 1st 2016-September 30th 2017

Appendix B-Current System Capacity

Short term/Emergency Shelter (≤90 days)		Any facility, the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary or transitional shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless				
Intervention/Agency	Population	Specific Eligibility	Length	Units	Beds	2016 # Served
Community House on Broadway	Families or single adults	Clean and sober living, background check - may stay longer if working towards stable housing.	≤ 90 days	65	93	558
Emergency Support Shelter	Individuals fleeing domestic violence	Fleeing domestic violence	≤ 60 days	16	56	340
				81	149	898
Temporary (>90 days up to 2 years)		A project that has as its purpose facilitating the movement of homeless individuals and families to permanent housing within a reasonable amount of time (usually within 24 months)				
Intervention/Agency	Population	Specific Eligibility	Length	Units	Beds	2016 # Served
Country Run	Single adults or families	Low income	≤ 2 years	20	60	
Housing Opportunities of Southwest WA - HOME TBRA	Homeless & Veterans	Homeless Veteran	≤ 2 years	27	0	48
Housing Opportunities of Southwest WA - Emergency Transitional Housing (Hemlock)	Veterans	Homeless Veteran	≤ 2 years	2	8	35
Housing Opportunities of Southwest WA - Transitional Housing (33rd House)	Veterans	Homeless Veteran	≤ 2 years	1	3	8
Housing Opportunities of Southwest WA - Bridge Housing (Hemlock)	Veterans	Homeless Veteran	≤ 2 years	2	8	35
Salvation Army - Hope House	Single adults (18+)	Clean/sober living, background check, self-sufficiency plan (employment, recovery support), case management meetings	≤ 2 years	8	16	
				60	95	126

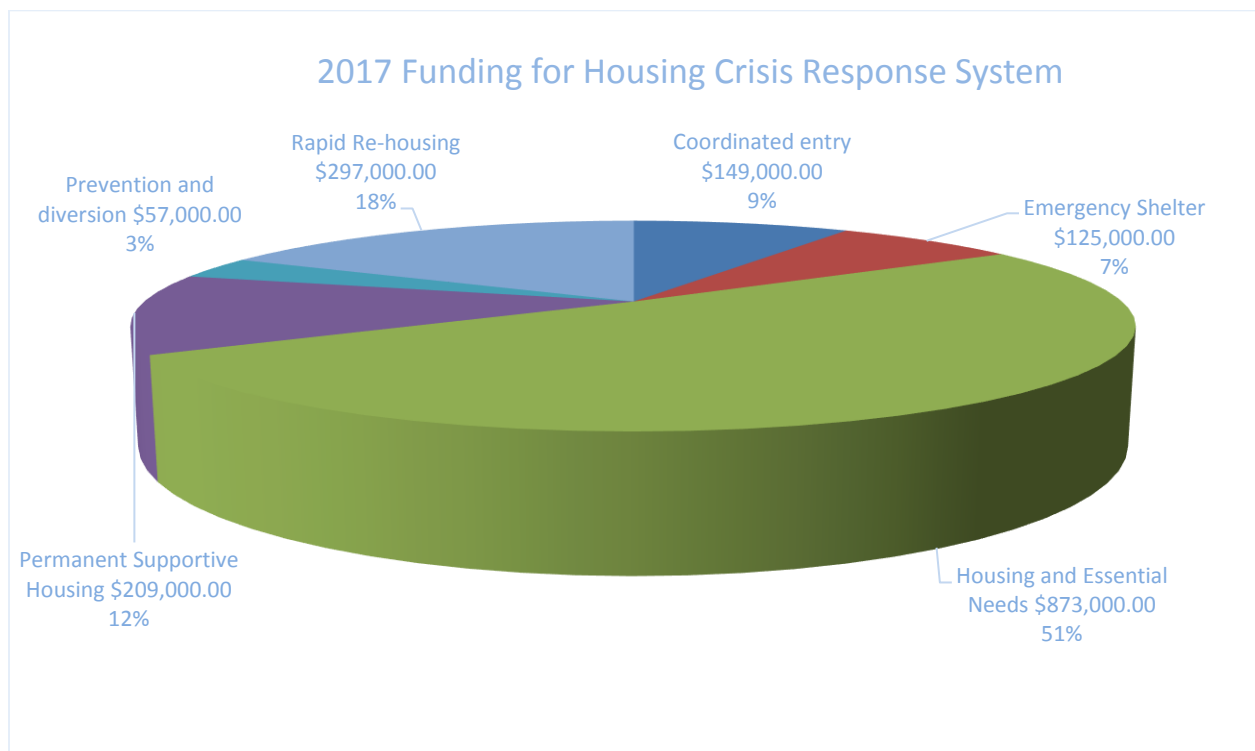
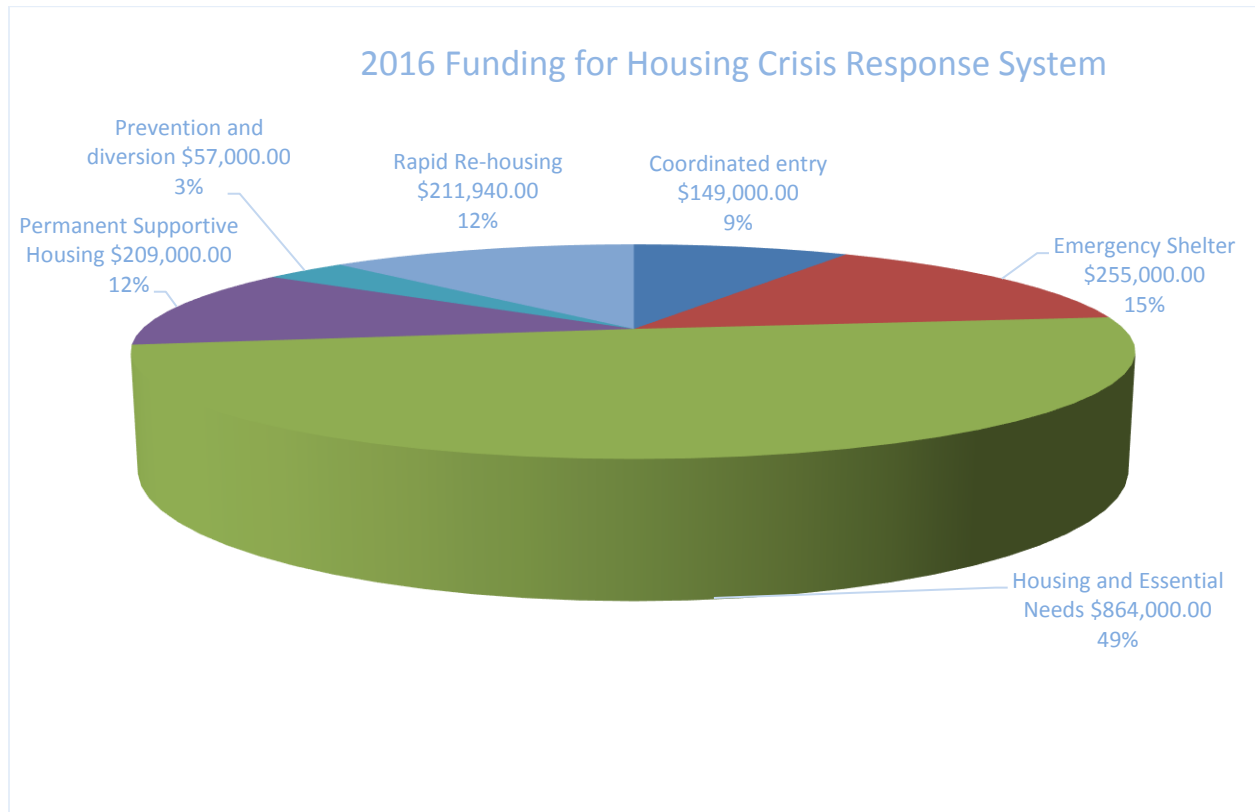
Permanent Housing	Community-based housing without a designated length of stay in which formerly homeless individuals and families live as independently as possible.					
Sticks & Bricks (includes project based voucher programs)						
Intervention/Agency	Population	Specific Eligibility	Length	Units	Beds	2016 # Served
Housing Opportunities of Southwest WA/Family Health Center - Phoenix House	Pregnant or parenting women	Substance Use Disorder - recently completed residential SUD treatment		20	40	76
Housing Opportunities of Southwest WA - Stratford Arms	Homeless Veterans	HUD Voucher		20		21
Housing Opportunities of Southwest WA - Sylvester Apartments PBRA	Elderly (62+)	HUD Voucher		42		45
Housing Opportunities of Southwest WA - Casa de San Juan Diego	Farm Workers - Woodland	HUD Voucher		5		23
Housing Opportunities of Southwest WA - Lilac Place	Woodland	HUD Voucher		46		111
Housing Opportunities of Southwest WA - Tulip Valley	Family - Woodland	USDA/Rural Development subsidy		46		102
Housing Opportunities of Southwest WA - Hawthorne House	Elderly/Disabled - Woodland	USDA/Rural Development subsidy		69		75
Housing Opportunities of Southwest WA - Riverview	Elderly/Disabled - Castle Rock	USDA/Rural Development subsidy		44		49
Housing Opportunities of Southwest WA - Columbia View Harbor	Elderly/Disabled - Kalama	USDA/Rural Development subsidy		17		17
Kelso Housing Authority - Chinook/Columbia	Adults	Disability - Mental Illness		21	21	29

Lower Columbia Community Action Program	Vulnerable population - medical needs, physical disability, mental illness, substance use disorder	House Rules		6	6	19
Oxford Housing	Individuals in recovery - both men and women (some houses accept men or women with children)	Accept rules and expectations, pay equal share of household expenses, recommended to be clean 10+ days		10		
				346	67	567

<i>Tenant based voucher programs</i>	Assistance for low-income families, including elderly and disabled, to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market			<i>Vouchers</i>		<i># Served</i>
Intervention/Agency	Population	Specific Eligibility	Length	Units	Beds	2016 # Served
Housing Opportunities of Southwest WA - Housing Choice (Section 8)	Families, Elderly, Disabled - Cowlitz (excluding Kelso & Kalama)	HUD Voucher		952		1935
Housing Opportunities of Southwest WA - VASH	Veterans - Cowlitz (excluding Kelso & Kalama)	HUD Voucher		18		20
Housing Opportunities of Southwest WA - Non-elderly, Disabled (NED)	Non-elderly, disabled - Cowlitz (excluding Kelso & Kalama)	HUD Voucher, Transitioning from institutional setting		13		13
Kelso Housing Authority - Housing Choice (Section 8)		HUD Voucher		308		
				1291		1968

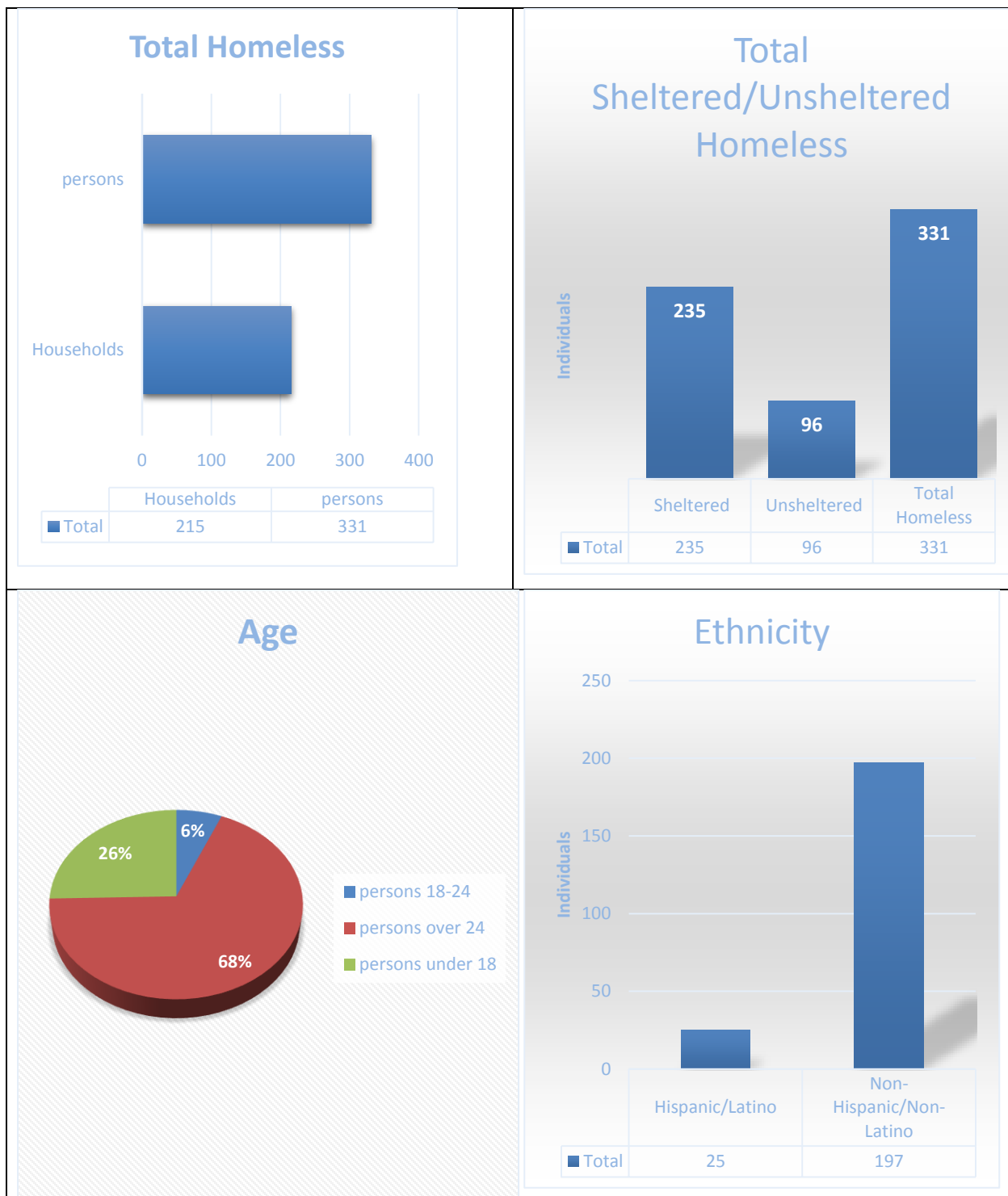
<i>Other</i>						
Intervention/Agency	Population	Specific Eligibility	Length	Capacity	2016 # Served	
Kelso Housing Authority - Public Housing	Low income families and individuals	Family pays adjusted rent (Kelso)		100		
Kelso Housing Authority - Public Housing	Low income families and individuals	Family pays adjusted rent (Kalama)		16		
Love Overwhelming - Permanent Supportive Housing (scattered site)	Adults and families	Vulnerable population - medical needs, physical disability, mental illness, substance use disorder		30		
Lower Columbia Community Action Program - Rapid Re-Housing	Adults and families	DSHS referral (TANF or HEN eligibility)			406	
Lower Columbia Community Action Program - YAHP Rapid Re-Housing	Young adults ages 18-24				22	
Habitat for Humanity - Build and buy own home	Low income families and individuals	Enrollment/Application process, commit to 500 hrs 'sweat equity'			2.5 homes/yr	

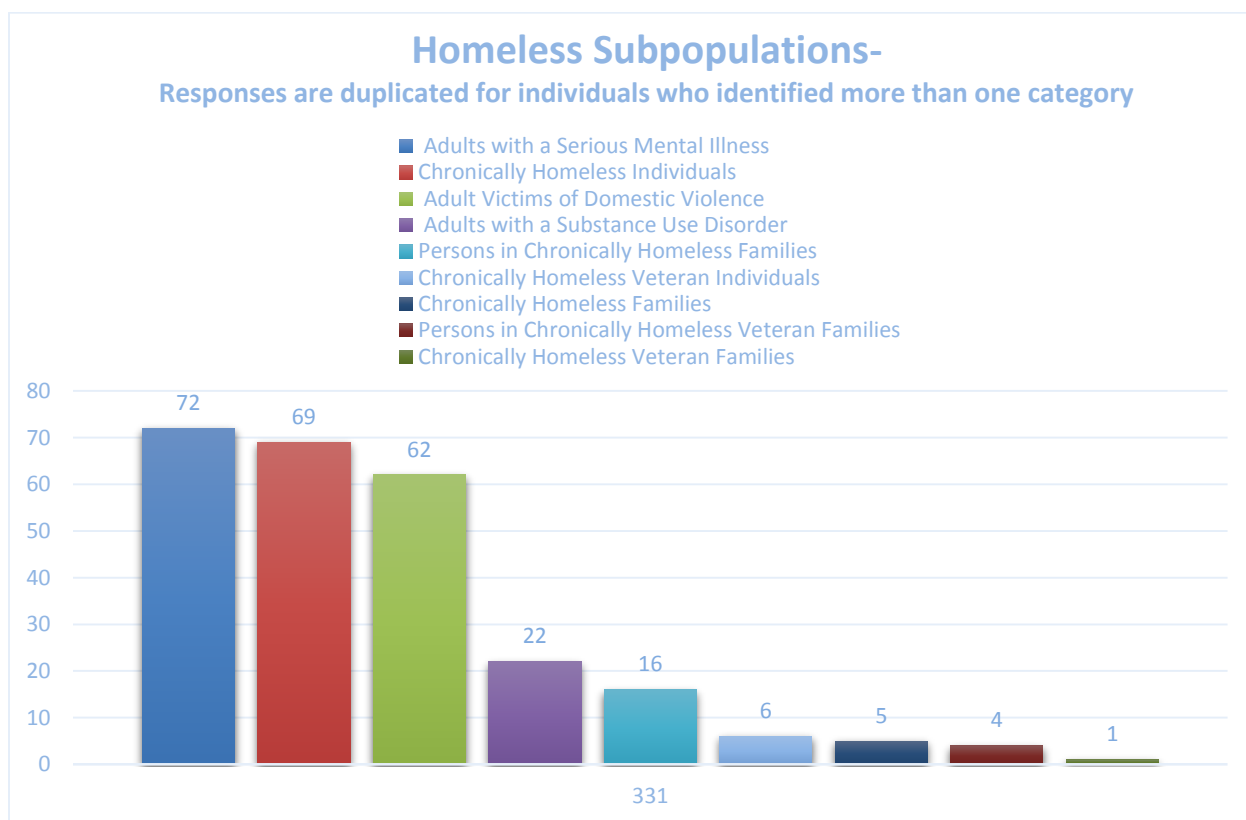
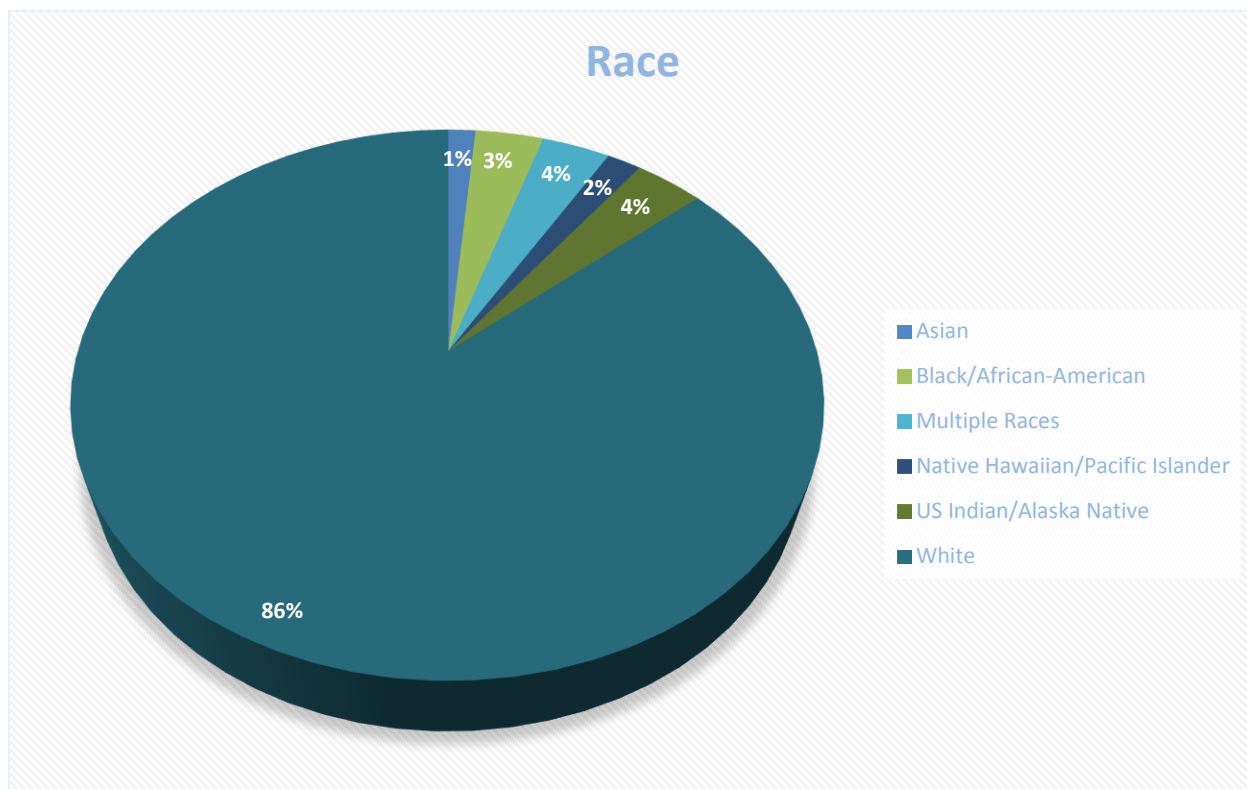
Appendix C- Housing Crisis Response System Project Costs



Appendix D-Point in Time Count Results

On January 26th, 2017 Cowlitz County participated in the community Project Homeless Connect at the Cowlitz County fairgrounds. Individuals are asked to complete voluntary surveys before accessing the event. All answers are self-disclosed and participation are completely voluntary.



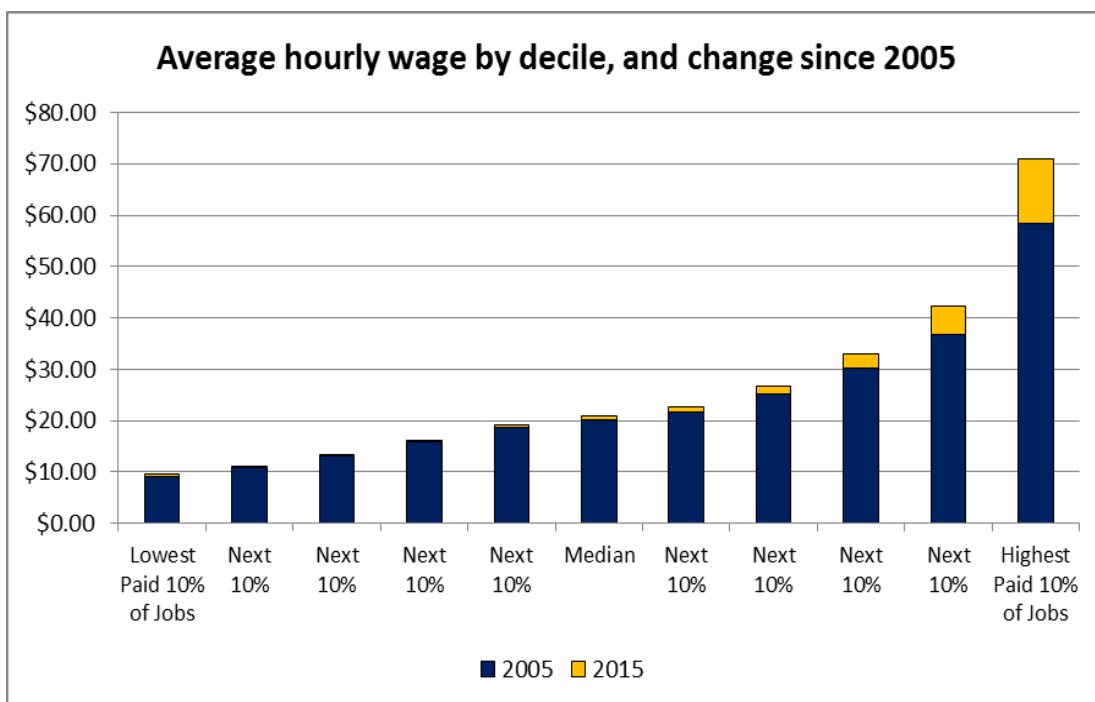


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Appendix E-County Statistics

Wages and Income

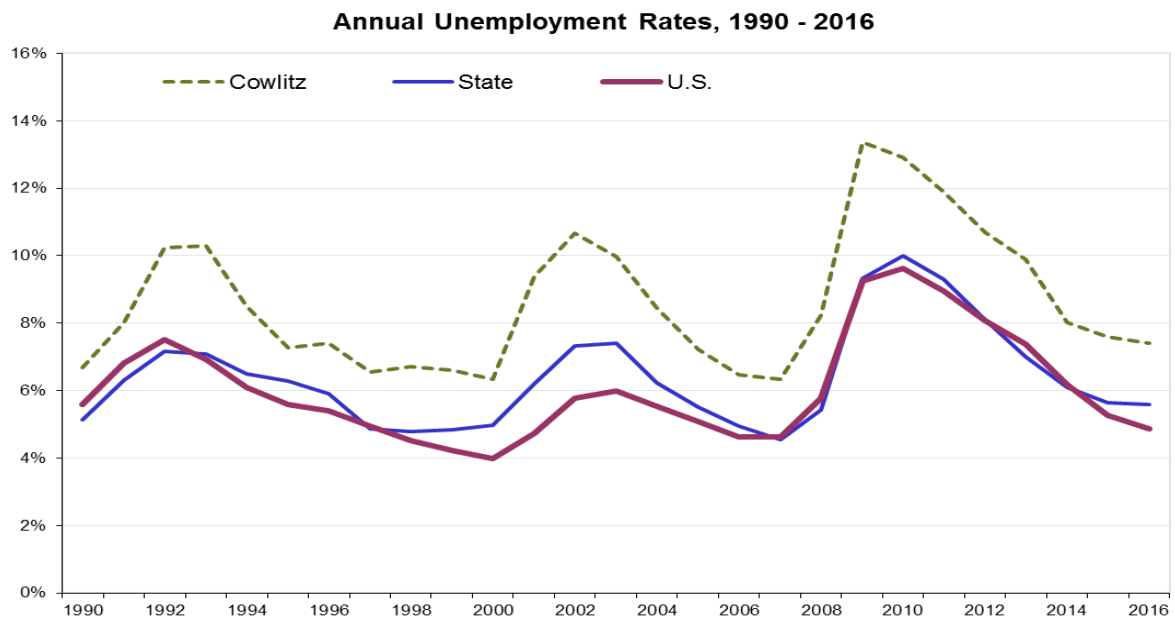
The median hourly wage for jobs in Cowlitz County in 2015 was \$20.87, little changed from the 2014 median but still the highest on record. Cowlitz was more than \$2 per hour below the state median, but if King County were excluded, Cowlitz exceeded the rest of the state. Over the past decade, wage polarization has increased in the county. Wages for the best-paid 10 percent of jobs have jumped 21 percent, while the median was up 4 percent. The average hourly wage for jobs at the low end were up 8 percent, but between the bottom and the median, hourly wages appreciated by 0% to 3%.



In 2015 average annual wage was \$45,304, well below the state (\$55,003) and national (\$51,361) averages. The average has risen relatively slowly over the past three decades.

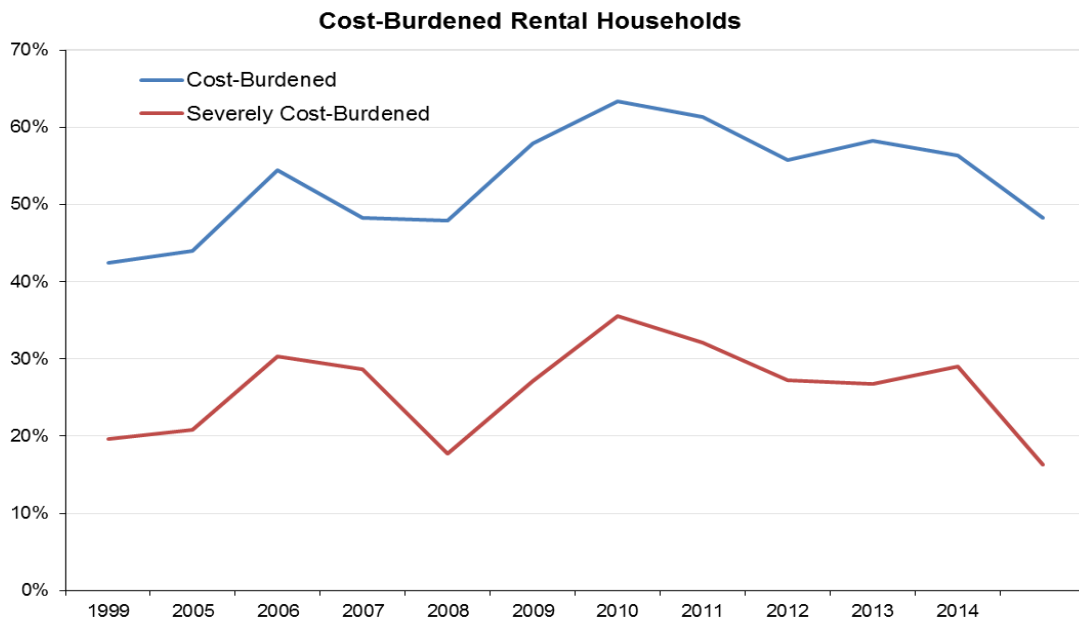
During the recession, from 2007 to 2010, job losses were spread fairly evenly across the wage spectrum, except at the upper end—there was actually an increase in the number of higher wage jobs (\$48 per hour and up). From 2010 to 2015, just over 40 percent of all net new jobs paid below \$12 per hour, while 19 percent paid between \$12 and \$18 per hour, and 22 percent paid \$54 per hour or more.^{xxxvi}

Unemployment Rates in Cowlitz County



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Cost Burdened Rental Households in Cowlitz County



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Distressed Areas in Washington State-Like Counties

THREE YEAR AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES USED TO DETERMINE DISTRESSED AREAS¹

	Three Year Average Unemployment Rate (Jan 2014 - Dec 2016) (Not Seasonally Adjusted)	Distressed Area: Unemployment Rate Greater Than or Equal to 6.8%
Washington State	5.7	
Benton County	6.9	Yes
Chelan County	5.9	
Clallam County	8.2	Yes
Cowlitz County	7.8	Yes
Douglas County	6.9	Yes
Franklin County	7.9	Yes
Grant County	7.4	Yes
Lewis County	8.5	Yes

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Poverty Rates in Cowlitz County

Poverty Rate: Total						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
U.S.	15.3%	15.9%	15.9%	15.8%	15.5%	14.7%
State	13.4%	13.9%	13.5%	14.1%	13.2%	12.2%
Cowlitz	22.4%	20.6%	16.7%	14.5%	22.5%	15.1%

Poverty Rate: Children (<18 years old)						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
U.S.	21.6%	22.5%	22.6%	22.2%	21.7%	20.7%
State	18.2%	18.3%	18.5%	18.8%	17.5%	15.5%
Cowlitz	32.7%	30.0%	20.7%	18.5%	31.4%	20.5%

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Rates of Homelessness in like Counties

County	Population as of 2010 Census	median age	Rank in state by population	2016 Total homeless	2016 Percent of population homeless	2017 Total homeless	2017 Percent Homeless by Population
Benton County	253,340	35.6	34	277	0.11	222	0.09
Chelan County	110,884	39.3	28	390	0.35	401	0.36
Clallam County	71,404	49	21	293	0.41	307	0.43
Cowlitz County	102,410	40.2	27	356	0.35	344	0.36
Douglas County	38,431	36.8	14	Combined with Chelan	n/a	Combined with Chelan	n/a
Franklin County	78,163	28.4	24	Combined with Benton	n/a	Combined with Benton	n/a
Grant County	89,120	32.1	26	173	0.19	201	0.23
Grays Harbor County	72,797	41.9	22	203	0.28	246	0.35
Lewis County	75,455	41.5	23	150	0.2	166	0.22

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Available rental units in Cowlitz County as of 2010

HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Total housing units	43,450	100.0
Occupied housing units	40,244	92.6
Vacant housing units	3,206	7.4
For rent	995	2.3
Rented, not occupied	59	0.1
For sale only	581	1.3
Sold, not occupied	92	0.2
For seasonal, recreational, or occasional use	621	1.4
All other vacants	858	2.0

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Race of residents in Cowlitz County as of 2010

RACE		
Total population	102,410	100.0
One Race	98,588	96.3
White	91,069	88.9
Black or African American	642	0.6
American Indian and Alaska Native	1,570	1.5
Asian	1,500	1.5
Asian Indian	88	0.1
Chinese	266	0.3
Filipino	309	0.3
Japanese	103	0.1
Korean	133	0.1
Vietnamese	241	0.2
Other Asian [1]	360	0.4
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	232	0.2
Native Hawaiian	93	0.1
Guamanian or Chamorro	39	0.0
Samoan	9	0.0
Other Pacific Islander [2]	91	0.1
Some Other Race	3,575	3.5
Two or More Races	3,822	3.7
White; American Indian and Alaska Native [3]	1,610	1.6
White; Asian [3]	551	0.5
White; Black or African American [3]	426	0.4
White; Some Other Race [3]	609	0.6

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Population of Cowlitz County by geographic area

Geographic area	Population	Housing units
Cowlitz County	102,410	43,450
COUNTY SUBDIVISION AND PLACE		
Castle Rock CCD	14,789	6,179
Castle Rock city	1,982	863
Longview city (part)	2	1
Ryderwood CDP	395	266
Remainder of Castle Rock CCD	12,410	5,049
Kalama CCD	6,330	2,702
Kalama city	2,344	1,070
Remainder of Kalama CCD	3,986	1,632
Longview-Kelso CCD	63,510	27,417
Kelso city (part)	11,916	5,135
Longview city (part)	36,646	16,379
Longview Heights CDP	3,851	1,544
West Side Highway CDP	5,517	2,082
Remainder of Longview-Kelso CCD	5,580	2,277
Northeast Cowlitz CCD	1,689	748
Northeast Cowlitz CCD	1,689	748
Rose Valley CCD	5,169	2,043
Kelso city (part)	9	4
Remainder of Rose Valley CCD	5,160	2,039
Woodland CCD	10,923	4,361
Woodland city (part)	5,426	2,055
Remainder of Woodland CCD	5,497	2,306
PLACE		
Castle Rock city	1,982	863
Kalama city	2,344	1,070
Kelso city	11,925	5,139
Longview city	36,648	16,380
Longview Heights CDP	3,851	1,544
Ryderwood CDP	395	266
West Side Highway CDP	5,517	2,082
Woodland city (part)	5,426	2,055

Students experiencing homelessness, by district

2015-16 school year

"N<10" refers to data that has been suppressed because the total is fewer than 10 students.

Note: State totals include suppressed district-level data.

District/Agency by Grade	Castle Rock	Kalama	Kelso	Longview	Woodland	Cowlitz County Total	Washington State Total
Pre-K Age 3-5	0	0	0	N<10	0	0	845
K	N<10	N<10	16	68	N<10	84	3,150
1	0	N<10	23	57	N<10	80	3,232
2	N<10	N<10	21	68	N<10	89	3,230
3	N<10	N<10	14	54	10	78	3,229
4	N<10	N<10	11	52	N<10	63	3,009
5	N<10	N<10	18	46	N<10	64	2,974
6	N<10	N<10	18	36	10	64	2,659
7	N<10	N<10	14	28	N<10	42	2,573
8	N<10	N<10	12	23	N<10	35	2,574
9	N<10	N<10	11	20	N<10	31	2,539
10	N<10	N<10	N<10	16	N<10	16	2,582
11	N<10	N<10	N<10	N<10	N<10	N<10	2,959
12	N<10	N<10	10	18	N<10	28	4,116
Total	32	38	176	498	70	814	39,671
Doubled Up	27	31	139	371	47	615	28,942
Hotels/Motels	0	N<10	N<10	N<10	N<10	N<10	2,421
Shelters	N<10	N<10	22	88	N<10	110	6,174
Unsheltered	N<10	N<10	N<10	N<10	11	11	2,134
Total	32	38	176	498	70	814	39,671

Department of Commerce like County Statistics

Statewide ⓘ

	2015	2016	2017
Total Project Entries	48,925	64,851	81,231
Median Length of Time Homeless	37	50	70
Exits to Permanent Housing	53%	52%	56%
Returns to Homelessness	7%	10%	10%
Unsheltered Entries	41%	50%	57%
Rental Vacancy Rate	6.0%	3.9%	3.8%
Point in Time (PIT) Count of Homeless Persons	20,105	20,844	21,112

By County

County		2015	2016	2017
Cowlitz	Total Project Entries	1,597	1,563	1,044
	Median Length of Time Homeless	16	35	44
	Exits to Permanent Housing	19%	39%	32%
	Returns to Homelessness	9%	7%	15%
	Unsheltered Entries	31%	48%	66%
	Rental Vacancy Rate	5.0%	0.9%	1.2%
	Point in Time (PIT) Count of Homeless Persons	341	356	331
Chelan	Total Project Entries	774	1,296	1,006
	Median Length of Time Homeless	81	96	141
	Exits to Permanent Housing	33%	40%	32%
	Returns to Homelessness	4%	9%	22%
	Unsheltered Entries	19%	29%	45%
	Rental Vacancy Rate	8.8%	2.0%	0.3%
	Point in Time (PIT) Count of Homeless Persons	415	196	370
Clallam	Total Project Entries	989	1,593	2,603
	Median Length of Time Homeless	32	37	62
	Exits to Permanent Housing	30%	26%	34%
	Returns to Homelessness	12%	9%	15%
	Unsheltered Entries	36%	51%	79%
	Rental Vacancy Rate	7.9%	3.5%	1.8%
	Point in Time (PIT) Count of Homeless Persons	176	293	281
Grant	Total Project Entries	354	615	551
	Median Length of Time Homeless	29	40	28
	Exits to Permanent Housing	46%	50%	38%
	Returns to Homelessness	1%	5%	6%
	Unsheltered Entries	33%	60%	58%
	Rental Vacancy Rate	6.8%	2.9%	5.3%
	Point in Time (PIT) Count of Homeless Persons	182	173	76
Lewis	Total Project Entries	623	1,363	917
	Median Length of Time Homeless	23	51	68
	Exits to Permanent Housing	47%	49%	62%
	Returns to Homelessness	9%	12%	11%
	Unsheltered Entries	22%	40%	62%
	Rental Vacancy Rate	7.0%	6.0%	1.6%
	Point in Time (PIT) Count of Homeless Persons	118	150	144

Statewide ⓘ

	2015	2016	2017
Total Project Entries	48,925	64,851	81,231
Median Length of Time Homeless	37	50	70
Exits to Permanent Housing	53%	52%	56%
Returns to Homelessness	7%	10%	10%
Unsheltered Entries	41%	50%	57%
Rental Vacancy Rate	6.0%	3.9%	3.8%
Point in Time (PIT) Count of Homeless Persons	20,105	20,844	21,112

By County

County		2015	2016	2017
Benton	Total Project Entries	890	1,775	1,681
	Median Length of Time Homeless	29	39	55
	Exits to Permanent Housing	58%	58%	62%
	Returns to Homelessness	10%	11%	5%
	Unsheltered Entries	29%	42%	47%
	Rental Vacancy Rate	6.6%	2.1%	2.2%
	Point in Time (PIT) Count of Homeless Persons	272	139	223
Douglas	Total Project Entries	774	784	0
	Median Length of Time Homeless	81	96	141
	Exits to Permanent Housing	33%	40%	32%
	Returns to Homelessness	4%	9%	22%
	Unsheltered Entries	0%	29%	0%
	Rental Vacancy Rate	5.6%	1.4%	0.3%
	Point in Time (PIT) Count of Homeless Persons	415	194	
Franklin	Total Project Entries	890	1,174	406
	Median Length of Time Homeless	29	39	
	Exits to Permanent Housing	58%	58%	67%
	Returns to Homelessness	10%	11%	0%
	Unsheltered Entries	27%	31%	33%
	Rental Vacancy Rate	1.6%	0.8%	2.2%
	Point in Time (PIT) Count of Homeless Persons	272	138	
Grays Harbor	Total Project Entries	393	822	562
	Median Length of Time Homeless	17	34	28
	Exits to Permanent Housing	81%	73%	65%
	Returns to Homelessness	5%	14%	5%
	Unsheltered Entries	33%	51%	59%
	Rental Vacancy Rate	6.6%	3.8%	2.5%
	Point in Time (PIT) Count of Homeless Persons	152	203	201

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Acronym Glossary

CE	Coordinated Entry
CH	Chronically Homeless
CHG	Consolidated Homeless Grant
CoC	Continuum of Care
DD	Developmental Disabilities
DV	Domestic Violence
ES	Emergency Shelter
HEARTH	Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing
HEN	Housing and Essential Needs
HHS	Health and Human Services
HHTF	Homeless Housing Task Force
HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
HMIS	Homeless Management Information System
HUD	Housing and Urban Development
OSPI	Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
PHC	Project Homeless Connect
PIT	Point in Time count
PSH	Permanent Supported Housing
RCW	Revised Code of Washington
RRH	Rapid Rehousing
SSI	Social Security Income
TH	Transitional Housing
VI-SPDAT	Vulnerability Index -Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool
WAC	Washington Administrative Code

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