

GRANT COUNTY

PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS

2017



Grant County’s Plan to End Homelessness describes the future strategic direction of the Homeless Task Force of Grant County. The intent is to create solutions that will reduce homelessness within the County so that it is a rare, brief occurrence.

I. HOMELESS TASK FORCE OF GRANT COUNTY

The Homeless Task Force of Grant County shall be the group that will direct the County in its overall goals of reducing homelessness.

MISSION

The Mission of the Grant County Homeless Taskforce is to advocate for the homeless people in Grant County in order to improve quality of life, increase public awareness of issues of homelessness, impact public policy and to prevent and end homelessness.

VISION

The Homeless Taskforce focuses on realizable strategies to move homeless individuals and families beyond shelter to permanent housing and self-sufficiency by looking at a comprehensive range of needs and develop the local capacity to meet these needs. The Taskforce identifies ways to coordinate and link resources to avoid duplication by involving stakeholders with a shared goal of building a comprehensive system to end homelessness and prevent return to homelessness.

MEMBERSHIP

Task Force membership is offered to those community members and/or organizations that have an interest in issues surrounding homelessness and who are willing to take an active role in the Task Force. Current members represent a broad array of fields.

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
Sheila Chilson, Chair	Moses Lake Community Health Center
Tim Cloyd, Vice Chair	Serve Moses Lake (Ministerial Resource)
Cindy Carter	Grant County Board of Commissioners
Peny Archer	Community Services of Moses Lake (Food Distribution)
Candi Jaeger	Prosperity Center
Steffanie Bonwell	Housing Authority of Grant County
Silvia Martinez Schempp	Community Volunteer
Gail Goodwin	Grant Integrated Services (Mental Health/Substance Abuse)
Suzi Fode	New Hope (Domestic Violence)
Greg Trader	Calvary Elevate
Brandy Jensen	Hope Source – SSVF Program
Kevin Fuhr	Moses Lake Police Department
Irasema Ortiz Elizalde	DSHS
Richard Dinkelmann	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Dave Balcom	Moses Lake School District
Craig Duvall	Community Volunteer
Christine Lenz	Community Volunteer
Dora Gomez	Goodwill Industries

II. HOMELESSNESS IN GRANT COUNTY

POINT IN TIME HOMELESS COUNT

According to the 2017 Point-In-Time Homeless Count, on any given night there are 110 people living on the streets, in a vehicle, or other place not meant for human habitation. Total sheltered and unsheltered homelessness as identified during the Point-In-Time Homeless Count has been on the decrease for the past 3 years.

Unsheltered Homeless: Vehicle, RV, Outdoors, Abandoned building, Home without utilities	Individuals	Total number counted by area	Households	Children	2016	2015
	110	Moses Lake: 28	77	46	135	131
Sheltered Homeless: Motel voucher, emergency shelter, transitional housing		Ephrata: 0 Quincy/George: 38 Grand Coulee: 18 Mattawa: 18 Royal City: 2 Soap Lake: 2 Warden: 4				
	29		-	-	30	45

Homelessness happens to people of all ages, genders, races, income levels, and household types. Those who live in economic instability, who have health issues, mental health or substance use disorders, and those who may experience a job-loss, family break up, or domestic violence can all be pushed into homelessness at any time.

The County's vacancy rate is 5%. Relatively low vacancy rates, shortages of affordable housing, the total lack of permanent-supportive housing, and long waitlists for Public Housing and Section-8 programs are all contributing factors to a household remaining homeless for more than 30 days.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Housing

Housing Type	Total Units	Beds for singles	Beds for families	Total Beds	Total Served 2016	2016 Expenditures
Emergency Shelter						
HAGC Emergency Housing	5	0	17	17	68	\$ 23,394 - Local Homeless Doc fees \$ 18,549 - CHG
New Hope DV Shelter	1	5	10	15	81	\$131,801 - Local Homeless & Affordable Hsg Doc fees
Transitional Housing						
HAGC Transitional Housing	11	9	9	18	33	\$ 41,298 - Other local dollars
Beasley Hills	5	1	8	9	22	\$ 26,767 - Other local dollars
Permanent Housing						
Baird Springs	5	1	8	9	16	\$ 30,379 - Other local dollars
Pershing	5	1	8	9	14	\$ 33,641 - Other local dollars

Services

Service Type	Total Served 2016	2016 Expenditures
Rent Assistance		
HAGC CHG	153	\$ 112,892 - CHG
HAGC HEN	51	\$ 172,957 - CHG
HAGC TBRA	47	\$ 62,951 - HUD Home TBRA
HAGC 2163	59	\$ 8,816 - Local Homeless Doc fees
Hope Source - SSVF	16	\$27,599 - SSVF
New Hope	8	\$4,666 - DVHF funds
Motel Vouchers		
HAGC Motel Vouchers	168	\$ 9,559 - Local Homeless Doc fees \$ 1,143- CHG
Hope Source - SSVF Motel Vouchers	10	\$11,152 - SSVF
New Hope Motel Vouchers	14	\$1,420 - Other grants & donations

Other Services		
WA Family Fund - Retention	99	\$ 27,108 - Building Changes
Warming Center	95	\$ 3559 - Other local dollars & donations

LOCAL AGENCIES WITH LIMITED/PERIODIC HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR HOMELESS

Serve Moses Lake – (Moses Lake residents only): Motel vouchers, rent assistance, application fees, utility assistance

Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) Utility assistance, housing services for eligible farm workers

Salvation Army – One-time motel voucher

Serve Quincy – (Quincy residents only): Motel vouchers, rent assistance, application fees, utility assistance

Veteran’s Coalition of Grant County – limited housing services for veterans

Lazarus Project – (Ephrata residents only): Motel vouchers, rent assistance, application fees, utility assistance

III. STRATGIC PLAN

Goal #1: Prevent homelessness when possible			
Tasks	Responsible Parties	Start Date	Completed
Identify subpopulations at high risk of homelessness in order to develop a tool to better prioritize who to assist	Homeless Task Force & Homeless Service Providers	2018	
Identify and reduce barriers to retaining housing	Homeless Task Force & Homeless Service Providers	2017	
Support rental assistance/eviction assistance programs when warranted	Homeless Task Force & Homeless Service Providers	2017	
Support case management services that re-connect clients with family and friends to enhance stability and housing options. (Diversion)	Homeless Task Force & Homeless Service Providers	2017	

Goal #2: Build awareness and engage the community			
Tasks	Responsible Parties	Start Date	Completed
Continue to update the “Emergency Services Brochure” for homeless referral information and increase distribution.	Housing Authority of Grant County Homeless Task Force	2017	
Seek out and deeply engage homeless individuals to better understand root causes of their homelessness and barriers that they face.	Homeless Service Providers	2017	
Implement new and strengthen existing outreach efforts to provide needed services in all areas of the County, including institutions, community organizations, and community leaders	Homeless Task Force	2018	
Develop a plan to share success stories within the community.	Homeless Task Force Homeless Service Providers	2018	

Goal #3: Continue and strengthen warming center operations

Tasks	Responsible Parties	Start Date	Completed
Identify funding resource	Homeless Task Force	2017	
Build operations around personnel and structure	Homeless Task Force	2017	
Work to identify a permanent location	Homeless Task Force	2017	

Goal #4: Build Homeless Task Force membership and engage current members

Tasks	Responsible Parties	Start Date	Completed
Identify who is missing at the table	Homeless Task Force	2017	
Identify areas of personal interest among existing task force members to encourage participation	Homeless Task Force	2017	
Create active membership & committee membership roles and functions	Homeless Task Force	2017	