

Wahkiakum County

ESSB 2163 Preliminary 10-Year Homeless Housing Plan

December 27, 2005

Section 1 – Contact Information

Jurisdiction:	Wahkiakum County
Other Jurisdictions Represented in this Plan:	None
Date of Plan Adoption	December 27, 2005

Jurisdiction Contact Person		Plan Contact Person	
Name:	Judy Bright	Name:	Judy Bright
Title:	Director, Health & Human Services	Organization:	Wahkiakum County
Address:	PO Box 696	Address:	PO Box 696
	Cathlamet, WA 98612		Cathlamet, WA 98612
Phone:	(360) 795-6207 or 795-8630	Phone:	(360) 795-6207 or 795-8630
Email:	brightj@co.wahkiakum.wa.us	Email:	brightj@co.wahkiakum.wa.us
Fax:	(360) 795-6143	Fax:	(360) 795-6143

Updated Feb. 26, 2007

Planning Group Name:	Continuum of Care Housing Group	
Planning Body Members: Name	Agency	Representing
Fred Johnson	St. Catherine Catholic Church	Faith Community
Jenny Gale	The Charlotte House (DV Shelter)	Domestic Violence Services
Esther Gregg	Self	Seniors and west County residents
Karen Bertroch	Wahkiakum Community Foundation	Community
Randi Curtis	Self	Community
County Commissioners	Info Only	
Richard A. Swart	Mayor of Cathlamet	Local Government
Diana Wilson	Self (homeless/formerly homeless)	Homeless/formerly homeless
Mary Vik	Wahkiakum County Health and Human Services	County
Chris Holmes	Wahkiakum County Health and Human Services	County
Chris Pegg	Longview Housing Authority	Housing Authority

Updated Feb. 26, 2007

Section 2 - Homeless Population and Subpopulations

Table already completed for most counties as part of HUD McKinney Process

Part 1: Homeless Population	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
1. Homeless Individuals	22	7		29
2. Homeless Families with Children	12	14		26
2a. Persons in Homeless Families with Children	32	15		47
Total (lines 1 + 2a only)	54	22		76
Part 2: Homeless Subpopulations	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
1. Chronically Homeless	1			1
2. Severely Mentally Ill	1			1
3. Chronic Substance Abuse	1			1
4. Veterans				
5. Persons with HIV/AIDS				
6. Victims of Domestic Violence	23			23
7. Unaccompanied Youth (Under 18 years of age)				
8. Single Adult Men*	2			2
9. Single Adult Women*	9			9
10. Chronically Physically Disabled*				
11. Other (see below)	17			17

*Optional

Other:

Single parent families 4 households 9 individuals

Two parent families 2 households 8 individuals

First three tables already completed for most counties as part of the HUD McKinney process

4

Transitional Housing

Provider Name	Facility Name	HMIS			Geo Code	Target Pop		2005 Year-Round Units/Beds			
		Part. Code	#Yr. Round			A	B	Family Units	Family Beds	Individual Beds	Total Year- Round Beds
Current Inventory											
TBRA Rental Assistance			Ind 34	Fam 16	539069	M		16	34	34	34
THOR Rental Assistance			17	7		M		7	17	17	17
		TOTALS		51 23		TOTALS		23	51	51	51
Under Development						Anticipated Occupancy Date					
						TOTALS					
Unmet Need <i>(Optional for December 2005)</i>						TOTALS					

Permanent Supportive Housing												
Provider Name	Facility Name	HMIS			Geo Code	Target Pop		2005 Year-Round Units/Beds				
		Part. Code	#Yr. Round	A		B	Family Units	Family Beds	Individual Beds	Individual CH Beds	Total Year-Round Beds	
Current Inventory			Ind	Fa m								
TBRA referrals to Section 8	WHHS		15	8		M		8	15	15	15	15
THOR referrals to Section 8	WHHS		4	2		M		2	4	4	4	4
Section 8 vouchers	LHA		1	1		M		1	1	1	1	1
Mental Health Housing	River St. Residence		4	2		SMF		2	4	4	4	4
Senior Housing	Eagle Pointe		17	17		M		17	20	20	20	20
	TOTALS					TOTALS		30	44	44	44	44
Anticipated Occupancy Date												
Under Development												
						TOTALS						
Unmet Need												
(Optional for December 2005)						TOTALS						

Tenant Based Rental Assistance Targeted to Homeless Persons

Provider Name	Geo Code	Target Pop		Family Units	Family Beds	Chronic Individual Beds	Individual Beds	Total Year-Round Bed Equivalents
		A	B					
WCHS & HS	539069	M		5	14	14	14	16
			TOTALS	5	14	14	14	16

Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8) Targeted to Homeless Persons

Provider Name	Geo Code	Target Pop		Family Units	Family Beds	Chronic Individual Beds	Individual Beds	Total Year-Round Bed Equivalents
		A	B					
Longview Housing Authority		M		3	8	8	8	8
			TOTALS	3	8	8	8	8

Section 4 - Homeless Services Needs

*In a narrative format, describe **the most important gaps** in services necessary to help homeless persons obtain and maintain stable housing, and prevent at-risk households from becoming homeless.*

“Homeless services” includes, but is not limited to Prevention (short-term rent/mortgage assistance, landlord/tenant mediation); Outreach to homeless persons not engaged in services; and Supportive Services (case management, life skills, alcohol and drug abuse treatment, mental health treatment, AIDS-related treatment, education, employment assistance, child care, transportation, etc.)

Services Gaps

- ~ Employment services and jobs, including assistance to the underemployed
- ~ Utility payment assistance
- ~ Transportation to housing
- ~ Life skills training for adults and youth
- ~ Information and referral services
- ~ Affordable medical and dental care

--Continuum of Care Plan, April 1998

Current Gaps: Additional funds for Prevention (short-term rent/mortgage assistance) and increased case management services for homeless clients.

Prevention funds are usually expended before contract's end. Wahkiakum County's ESAP contract was for \$6,549 for Prevention. In the contract period of July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005, 26 households were assisted (17 with children), a total of 75 individuals, with \$10,049 with short-term rent or mortgage assistance. \$3,500 was transferred to Prevention from ESAP Shelter. This is because the ESGP contract for shelter started May 1st so were able to use those funds for shelter. \$1,000 from Emergency Food and Shelter funds were also available for prevention. Four households were assisted with these funds for short-term rent or mortgage assistance.

Homeless Case Management: Wahkiakum County has three homeless shelter units and one shelter manager. Between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2005, 1,449 bednights were provided to 19 households totaling 31 individuals, or 22 adults and 9 children. This is a large number of clients who at present receive very basic case management services but would benefit from increased services.

Emergency Shelter: Although the use of motel vouchers is a component of Wahkiakum County's emergency housing program, Wahkiakum must rely upon motels in Longview (Cowlitz) and Naselle (Pacific) to handle the overflow of demand on the emergency housing units it operates. The presence of motel units or similar facilities within the County would be of great benefit to the emergency housing program. Because of the logistical and resource limitations, it is difficult to effectively assist these homeless

clients with permanent housing, employment or other needs while sheltered outside of Wahkiakum County.

Transitional Housing: All transitional housing provided by the County is through the use of TBRA and THOR (tenant-based) vouchers. The creation of a transitional housing project coupled with case management services would significantly increase the capacity to house homeless families as they work to get on their feet financially and secure permanent housing within Wahkiakum County.

Beyond the general need for additional transitional housing units, there are specific needs for some special populations. Particularly there is no local supported transitional housing for individuals returning from inpatient substance abuse treatment programs. These individuals must find such housing outside the county, or may end up back in a housing environment that does not support their goal to remain clean and sober.

Clients on the TBRA program could benefit from case management services. No funding is included for case management, an important component to assisting clients as they work toward self-sufficiency.

A similar housing need exists for individuals who are returning to the community from incarceration. While the federal definition of homelessness that most homelessness programs operate under specifically excludes individuals being released from correctional facilities, some being released must seek emergency shelter. Regionally, this need is addressed by emergency shelters operated by faith-based organizations in Grays Harbor County. Individuals who seek transitional housing through Wahkiakum County's programs must clear a criminal background check. If a disqualifying criminal charge is identified, the individual will not be placed in the Wahkiakum program. Wahkiakum's shelters are units located in apartment buildings where there is no onsite staff or client supervision.

Permanent Housing: Based on current experience, most of the homeless households are assisted in obtaining permanent housing from the existing housing stock in the county, or in the community where they find employment. While housing is usually successfully attained, case management capacity issues exist as discussed above.

In particular, the housing needs of the frail elderly have been identified. Often a widow or widower may be living alone in their own home, but become unable to take care of the home due to limited income and physical limitations. The result is that many may end up living in substandard conditions because staying in their own home is their only or preferred option. Were it necessary for the elderly person to move from his/her home, they could be homeless. Additional units of supported senior housing are needed, particularly on the county's Westend, where longtime residents prefer to stay. While there is supported housing for seniors in Cathlamet, seniors on the Westend do not want to leave their familiar surroundings. Case management outreach to seniors, both to those in supported

housing and to those in their own homes, would be beneficial.

Section 5 – Summary of Homeless Strategic Plan

See Excel workbook – CTED Strategy Summary-Wahkiakum – attached to email notice of meeting.

Section 6 - Recommendations for State Legislative and Policy Changes Needed to Address Homelessness

Describe the state-level changes in policy and law necessary to achieve the goal of a 50% reduction in homelessness in your county.

Three specific policy recommendations are noted to assist counties in reducing homelessness:

1. Add case management funds to TBRA. The experience in Wahkiakum County is that service dollars to support case management are very important in achieving a successful outcome for homeless households. At the same time, case management funds are non-existent with TBRA. Any initiatives that increase the availability of funds for supportive services will be an essential component if counties are to meet the goal to reduce homelessness by 50%.
2. De-categorize funding. Often funding regulations limit the use of funding to a narrow set of activities. In small counties, to be able to meld various funding sources can make a meaningful difference in its ability to address such service needs as homelessness.
3. Administrative Costs for Tracking. The funds provided through 2163 provide administrative funds to the County to administer the program. This is not always the case with other programs. As requirements increase under 2163 for tracking performance measures, consideration should be given to the costs that come with those tracking requirements and counties should be compensated accordingly.

Appendix A – Performance Measures

Wahkiakum County currently conducts an annual Point in Time Count (PIT). It intends to gather the information required by 2163 primarily through the data gathered by the PIT and through the services delivered through its emergency shelter program. Should mandatory participation in the HMIS system be required, additional case management and technology resources will be required. The services proposed in Section 5 above anticipates additional time allocated for such data collection as part of the duties of an additional case manager.

Performance Measures

By county and statewide. All of the following plotted in trend graph after year one.

Measure

Data Source

For each of the following populations, total number, percentage reduction from baseline count, and percentage reduction in per-capita of homeless persons:

Point in Time Count (PIT)

All homeless	PIT (direct)
Single persons	PIT (indirect)
Homeless families with minor children	PIT (indirect)
Homeless Families with no minor children	PIT (indirect)
Senior Citizens	PIT (indirect)
Youth	PIT (indirect)
Farm workers	PIT (direct)
Physically disabled	PIT (direct)
Mentally disabled	PIT (direct)
Persons with substance abuse problems	PIT (direct)
Dually diagnosed	PIT (indirect)
Domestic violence victims	PIT (direct)
Chronic homeless	PIT (indirect)
Veterans	PIT (direct)
Persons with HIV/AIDS	PIT (direct)
Registered Sex offenders	Local Law Enforcement Registry

Percentage of each of each of the following homeless populations covered by point in time count of homeless persons:

All homeless	Estimate
In emergency shelter	Housing inventory/PIT
In transitional housing	Housing inventory/PIT
Living outside/in car	Estimate

Percentage of homeless persons identified in a calendar year placed in emergency shelter housing (1 to 90 days).

HMIS

Percentage of homeless persons identified in a calendar year placed in transitional housing (stay ranging from 91 days to 2 years).	HMIS
Percentage of homeless persons identified in a calendar year placed in permanent housing (no stay limit.).	HMIS
Average and median percentage of rent and utilities paid by households placed into permanent housing	HMIS
Average and median days between identification of a homeless person and their placement in either transitional housing or permanent housing in calendar year.	HMIS
Percentage of total need for transitional housing beds met.	Housing inventory
Percentage of total need for permanent supportive housing met.	Housing inventory
Percentage of need for affordable housing not met.	HUD CHAS data
Satisfaction of homeless persons receiving housing/services.	Local focus groups
Number of households at immediate-risk of homelessness who maintain their housing in calendar year (i.e., those provided sort-term rent assistance, landlord mediation, etc.).	HMIS
Percentage of homeless persons exiting the service system in one calendar year reentering the system as homeless in a subsequent year.	HMIS
Assessment of system collaboration.	Narrative
Assessment of community support.	Narrative

