

Strategies and Pillars of the Whatcom County Homeless Response System

Strategy	Population	Description
1. Central Point of Entry	Homeless Households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing pool maintenance for those seeking services Assessments of clients' needs and barriers Referrals based on identified household needs, eligibility, and program capacities
2. Rapid Re-Housing	Homeless Households, Mostly Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1-2 year rent subsidy for households throughout Whatcom County Includes case management to locate/acquire housing and support stability Household remains in unit and pays their own rent when subsidies expire
3. Permanent Supportive Housing	Disabled and Long-term Homeless	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long-term rent subsidy in scattered site apartment or at a staffed facility More intense case management Serves mostly singles with the greatest needs and a history of chronic homelessness
4. Increase Supply of Affordable Housing	Low-Income Renters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special housing that charges renters no more than 30% of their income Typically financed by a combo of local, state, and federal programs Units remain affordable to low-income renters for several decades
5. Prevention and Diversion Programs	Households at Risk of Homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention helps people maintain housing mostly with one-time contributions Diversion helps people identify resources or strategies that lead to new housing arrangements rather than homelessness
6. Interim Housing	Homeless Households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency housing provides safe places to sleep, stabilize, and prepare for perm. housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes night-by-night shelters, domestic violence shelters, and other specialty shelters intended for stays of less than 90 days May include case management and/or provide opportunities to connect with services Transitional housing is similar to emergency shelters, but lasts up to two years
7. Economic Security	Homeless and Low-Income HHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase income with connections to DSHS income supports, vocational programs Decrease expenses by securing health care, reducing debt, and increasing financial literacy

Pillar	Description
1. Cross-agency Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active agency network that maximizes strengths to meet complex needs of homeless households
2. Quality Assurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensures contract compliance and skilled partner agency staff Monitors system performance and evolving needs/opportunities
3. Case Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional support and attention to help clients achieve and maintain stability Decreases time spent homeless; increases housing retention and other positive health outcomes
4. Whatcom Homeless Svc Cntr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resource center connects stakeholders to housing system through community leadership and advocacy opportunities Hosts central point of entry, homeless outreach team and related services

Interim Housing Shelters and Programs in Whatcom County

Type	Population	Description	Examples
1. Low-Barrier Night-By-Night	Homeless Adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer alternative to sleeping outdoors • Broad acceptance with very few restrictions • No limit to length of stay • Large, shared rooms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighthouse Mission's Drop-In Center
2. Quick-Access Emergency Shelter	Special Populations in Crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible with very short notice for specific population • Provides safety for vulnerable population in crisis • Shared rooms or congregate living • Guests often stay up to 90 days • Accessed by contacting host agency directly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DV/SAS Safe Shelters for singles and moms with young children • NWYS PAD shelter for minors
3. Special Population Emergency Shelter	Population with Specific Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffed or non-staffed housing for specific population • Accessed through coordinated entry, but subject to delay due to capacity shortage • Case management to help households identify/access permanent housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sun House shelter for people with mental illness • Interfaith Coalition's network of houses and apartments
4. Family Promise Program	Homeless Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families hosted for 90 days by rotation of participating churches • Daily transportation to day use center with service connections • Some restrictions apply regarding eligibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interfaith Coalition
5. Motels as Emergency Housing	Homeless Households (usually families)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crisis response to avoid unsheltered nights when family shelters are at capacity • Provide shelter while rapid rehousing arrangements are made 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually accessed through Homeless Service Center
6. Transitional Housing	Various	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing placements for up to 2 years for special populations (i.e. single mothers, women, men, youth, clean & sober, etc.) • Provides opportunity to stabilize and connect with services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Way Ministries, Lighthouse Mission, NWYS
7. Tiny Home Villages	Homeless Adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual shelters in community setting with shared facilities • Subject to host agency's eligibility criteria and screening process • Length of stay determined by host agency and/or land owner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unity Village (Homes NOW!)