

List of Alternative Strategies & Responses

Updated for 10/09/2020 HSW Meeting

Items highlighted in yellow are from HSW Action 2020 Discussion (1/3/2020)

\$ = Less than 100k

\$\$ = 100k – 300k

\$\$\$ = 300k – 1m

\$\$\$\$ = 1m +

◆ This strategy is already listed among the priority strategies in the City's 2018-2022 Consolidated Plan and/or Assessment of Fair Housing.

* Strategy suggested by Community Solutions Workgroup in fall 2017.

Funding

Strategy	Description	Partner(s) Agency or Agencies Working on Strategy	Status	Status	Funding Level	Sources of Funding	Gap in Funding	Ranking?	Plan to End Homelessness
Funding resources (Action 2020)	State funding: Gov. Inslee identified a budget request with over \$20M for shelters	State funds Whatcom County	HSW members review the Plan to End Homelessness to identify funding needs and be ready to make an ask if the funding is made available by the legislature. (Review by County staff resulted in prioritization of this list.)	In Progress	\$	Staff time	0	High	Applies to many pillar and strategies depending on funding criteria
	1406 Funding		Whatcom is receiving funding through SHB1406. DOR will begin the process of imposing this tax effective 12/1 at the rate of .0146%. Coordinate City and County allocations of funding. Whatcom County Housing Advisory Committee is tasked with identifying allocations based on an interlocal agreement.	In Progress	\$\$\$\$	State	0	High	
	Public private partnership opportunities			Not Initiated	\$\$		\$\$	High	
	Case management (e.g. general funds, other) – City and County identify funds and issue RFP	Whatcom County City of Bellingham		Not initiated	\$\$\$	City of Bellingham Whatcom County	\$\$\$	High	
	Ferndale Affordable Housing levy – 2020 ballot	City of Ferndale	City of Ferndale is preparing for a 2020 Ballot – similar to Bellingham HOME fund	In Progress	\$	City of Ferndale	0	High	

Humane responses to address public health and safety impacts associated with homelessness crisis

Response	Description	Partner Agencies Working on Response Potential Partners	Status	Status	Level of funding needed	Sources of funding	Gap in funding	Ranking?	Plan to End Homelessness
Rest Stop	Create an Urban Rest Stop (mobile or fixed location) with showers, laundry, check-in medical screening (proposed by Whatcom County Public Health Crisis Oversight Committee)	Rest Stop partnership: Peace Health, Unity Care, Opportunity Council Whatcom County	Unity Care working with Peace Health and OC on 1 larger project: rest stop with medical services, case management and respite care. Note: Previous effort was mobile shower, laundry, restroom facility with BH and med services. \$400k/yr. unfunded portion. Whatcom County is reviewing opportunities for locations, including co-locating with Health Dep..	In progress	\$\$, \$\$\$	Partner agency funding	\$\$\$	High	S6 S7 P3
	Create additional locations for services	?	Evaluate needs once UCNW and Peace Health rest stop is in place.	Not initiated	\$-\$\$\$		\$-\$\$\$	Low	
Communications	HSW Communications Subcommittee - communications to homeless populations and general public	HSW Comm. Subcommittee [Lead] City of Bellingham Whatcom County City of Ferndale	Working on Agency talking points about homelessness	In Progress	\$	HSW Comm. Subcommittee	0	Med.	P1 P4
			Need to address information to the public on funding sources and uses, programs, and better understanding of root causes of homelessness	Not Initiated	\$	HSW Comm. Subcommittee	0	Med.	
	Centralized shelter information - Provide information on where shelters are located and how to check in. Communications to	Whatcom County [Lead] Opportunity Council	Shelter information signs in the community: CM Buchanan looking into how to collect and manage data and how to install screens (logistics for updates) at several locations including Transit Station, Maritime Heritage Park, Drop-in Center	In Progress	\$	Whatcom County	\$	Med.	P1 P4 S1

Response	Description	Partner Agencies Working on Response Potential Partners	Status	Status	Level of funding needed	Sources of funding	Gap in funding	Ranking?	Plan to End Homelessness
	people in need - connect them to services. (Action 2020)	Opportunity Council – Whatcom Homeless Services Center?	Online shelter check in system or app	Not Initiated	\$		\$	Low	
	Create an asset map (Action 2020)	Whatcom County Opportunity Council Bellingham Ferndale Small cities	Councilmember Buchanan agreed to work on this with Ann Beck and Chris D’Onofrio on identify gaps. Previously discussed as a Homeless Services Tool Kit - Develop an asset map, resources list, and models for sheltering the homeless Anne Deacon suggested looking at Plan to End Homelessness to ID priorities and gaps (1/17/2020) COB and County have asset maps of shelters. County has chart of housing units in various programs.	In Progress	\$		\$	Low	P2
Laundry Program – Free or subsidized services	Laundry vouchers	City of Bellingham	City of Bellingham considering a laundry voucher service.	Evaluation	\$	City of Bellingham	\$	Low	N/A
Camping Requires on-site management, restrooms and facilities, partners required – (govts can coordinate but not operate).	Safe camping – for under 15-20 people (smaller sizes and distributed locations are better than one large site.)	City of Bellingham	City of Bellingham had camping area behind the 911 center on James St. Identify other needs and locations	Not initiated	\$	City of Bellingham	\$	Low	S6 P3
		Others?		Not initiated	\$		\$	Low	
	Car/RV Parking - Establish Safe Parking designated for those who have "some level of shelter" Include amenities nearby, signage, parking time limits. Spread out across community.	City of Bellingham	COB is looking for a space for safe parking. City of Rick Sepler, COB, presented an approach to safe parking at the 11/1/19 HSW meeting	In Progress	\$\$, \$\$\$	City of Bellingham	?	Low	P6

Response	Description	Partner Agencies Working on Response Potential Partners	Status	Status	Level of funding needed	Sources of funding	Gap in funding	Ranking?	Plan to End Homelessness
Restrooms	Bathroom facilities with 24-hour access for those who work shifts. Explore multiple locations.			Not Initiated	\$-\$		\$-\$	Low	N/A
Showers	Showers at Lighthouse Mission shelter	Lighthouse Mission	LMM will include shower facilities in new permanent shelter facility.	In Progress	\$\$, \$\$\$	Lighthouse Mission	\$\$, \$\$\$	Low	N/A
	24-hour shower access (very challenging) for shifts workers	?	?	Not Initiated	\$\$-\$\$\$		\$\$-\$\$\$	Low	
Lockers	Lockers for storage of valuables (24-hour access).	Basics PNW City of Bellingham Whatcom County	City of Bellingham identified one location on City property, near the police station and poured a concrete pad. Whatcom County identified a location for lockers. Basics NW is finalizing agreements with the City of Bellingham, will move next to finalize agreements with Whatcom County.	In Progress	\$	City of Bellingham Whatcom County	\$	Low	N/A
Warming station	Consider warming buses or warming locations (e.g. downtown bus station) – need staff for it.	WTA Others?	WTA responded to request indicating staffing is an issue for making the downtown station a warming station overnight.	Not Initiated	\$		\$	Low	N/A

Strategies to End Homelessness – even IF temporary or temporary for the individual

Strategy	Description	Partner Agencies Working on Response Potential Partners	Status	Status	Funding Level	Sources of Funding	Gap in Funding	Ranking?	Plan to End Homelessness
◆ Case Management	Identify available beds that could be available if sufficient case worker support were provided; then triage these available beds to match levels of service needs with case workers and/or funding for case workers	Opportunity Council’s Homeless Services Center	Coordinated entry, Landlord Liaison program, roommate café and other programs	Not Initiated	\$	Opportunity Council Whatcom County	\$	High	P3 S1 S2 S3 S5 S6 S7
		Lydia Place City of Bellingham	Entered into an expanded case management program.			Lydia Place City of Bellingham			
		Others	Identify additional partners			Others			
	More funding for case management, including increased salaries for caseworkers for retention and tenure.	Whatcom County Cities All organizations with Case Management	[ID Leaders and sources of funding]	Not Initiated	\$\$\$	See funding chart above	\$\$\$	High	
Incarcerated Parents - Track whether homeless people have a parent who is currently or was previously incarcerated.	Whatcom County City of Bellingham All organizations with Case Management services	[Confirm leaders and need]	Not Initiated	\$		\$	Med.		
Coordinate with Small Cities Partnership (POB) (Action 2020)	Attend small cities meeting to discuss models and activities with potential in other communities (Buchanan, Sweeney)	Whatcom County City of Ferndale Small City Partnership	Councilmember Buchanan has attended the Small Cities Partnership meetings to provide HSW updates. Riley Sweeney suggested including other small city reps as HSW members and will reach out to them to gauge their interest (Small cities reps are on the WHAC.)	In Progress	0	Staff time	0	High	

Strategy	Description	Partner Agencies Working on Response Potential Partners	Status	Status	Funding Level	Sources of Funding	Gap in Funding	Ranking?	Plan to End Homelessness
Affordable Housing	Support affordable housing projects, access to housing [identify how]	Housing Authority [Lead] Whatcom County City of Bellingham Small cities Whatcom Housing Alliance Port of Bellingham	[Need more details]	Not Initiated				High	S4
Annual Eval of Shelters	Gather shelter operators at the end of each winter weather season to evaluate operations, communications, etc.	Whatcom County [Lead] City of Bellingham All shelter operators and hosts	Meeting being scheduled, partners invited	In Progress	0	Staff time	0	High	P1 P2
Year-round shelter – with case management (Action 2020 – everyone with an option for sheltering)	Additional year-round shelters	Lighthouse Mission Others	Lighthouse Mission has indicated a desire to open additional year-round shelter locations	In progress	\$\$\$	Lighthouse Mission	\$\$\$	High	S6 P1 P2 P3 P4
	Smaller scale shelters, e.g., 4-BR duplexes, easier to find. Sign leases and support people living there, e.g., NWYS uses master leases.	Opportunity Council Northwest Youth Services Others?		Not Initiated	\$\$\$		\$\$\$	High	
	Secular Shelters Identify more spaces at secular non-religious sheltering locations	Whatcom County [Lead] City of Bellingham	Whatcom County released a call for partners and no responses from secular providers. Continue to work to identify secular shelters	Not Initiated	\$\$	Whatcom County City of Bellingham	\$\$	High	S6 P1 P2 P3 P4
Smaller Specialized Shelters	Special population small shelters (Action 2020) Elderly and medically fragile	Peace Health Others?	Peace Health underway with planning for respite care facility, interim housing (approx. 3 weeks)	In Progress	\$\$\$	Peace Health, Unity Care	\$	High	S6 P3

Strategy	Description	Partner Agencies Working on Response Potential Partners	Status	Status	Funding Level	Sources of Funding	Gap in Funding	Ranking?	Plan to End Homelessness
- with staff to support for special populations (dual diagnosis of mental health and substance abuse; medical recovery). (Action 2020)	Substance use disorder – medication assisted treatment	Unity Care NW?		Not Initiated	\$\$		\$\$	Med.	
	Expand number of "family home shelters" for a smaller scale and less intense setting than a 200-bed shelter setting.	Port of Bellingham City of Bellingham Whatcom County	Port of Bellingham has offered space, but an operator would need to be identified	Not Initiated	\$\$		\$\$	Low	
	◆ Supportive Shared Housing Optimize current market rental with shared housing strategies (use HUD resources we already have).	Opportunity Council	This is similar to the “Additional Specialized Shelters” item above – a strategy in which nonprofits would operate small group-style homes with supports, and fewer rental assistance resources needed (with lower cost of shared housing).	Not Initiated	\$\$		\$\$	Low	
	Shelters for Families with Children	Lydia Place		Not Initiated	\$\$		\$\$	Low	
	Shelters for Youth (unaccompanied youth)	Northwest Youth Services		Not Initiated	\$\$		\$\$	Low	
Temporary Winter (cold weather) Shelter	Consider lengthening the check in window	Whatcom County, City of Bellingham, Opportunity Council, Lighthouse Mission, others	Discuss options for longer check in windows to better accommodate people needing shelter	Not Initiated	0	Staff time	0	Med.	S6 P1 P2 P4
Severe Weather (Emergency) Shelter Satellite Shelters	Temporary shelter during extreme cold weather events, typically open for days or weeks	Whatcom County [Lead] East Whatcom Regional Resource Center St. Peter’s Church (Deming)	Need to coordinate to see if they can serve as a potential shelter location	Not Initiated	\$\$		\$\$	Med.	P1 P2 S6

Strategy	Description	Partner Agencies Working on Response Potential Partners	Status	Status	Funding Level	Sources of Funding	Gap in Funding	Ranking?	Plan to End Homelessness
Tiny Home Villages	Identify additional tiny home village locations. Need ¼ acre with electricity	HomesNow [Lead] City of Bellingham	City of Bellingham Mayor has asked staff to explore potential city owned sites	In Progress	\$	HomesNow Govt locations	\$	Med	S4 S6 P4
		HomesNow [Lead] Whatcom County	Whatcom County Exec received request from Councilmember Buchanan to evaluate potential County-owned sites	In Progress	\$	HomesNow Govt locations	\$	Med.	
	Identify volunteer agencies that can help build tiny homes	HomeNow [Lead]		Not Initiated	0	Staff Time Volunteers	0	Low	
	Request to extend time at Unity Village	HomesNow [lead] City of Bellingham	HomesNow submitted a petition with 360 signatures to the Bellingham City Council on 1/27/2020 to request an extension of the permit at Unity Village	In Progress	0	Staff time	0	High	
*Social Inclusion	Coordinate among services and programs to promote social inclusion and community building among formerly homeless population	Lighthouse Mission Others?	Lighthouse Mission mentorship program is still in the early stages of development.	In Progress	\$	Lighthouse Mission	0	Low	S5
* Community Liaison/Health Worker	Develop a community liaison or trained peer health worker program to help keep people in housing and integrate within the broader community	Whatcom County - GRACE [Lead] Chuckanut Health Peace Health [Could fall under GRACE?]	Chuckanut Health Foundation and PeaceHealth have funded the Whatcom Alliance for Health Advancement [CLOSED] to explore and establish a Community Health Worker model	Not Initiated	\$		\$	Low	P1
Landlords	*Landlord Incentives: Landlord incentives can help to get people into housing more quickly.	Opportunity Council	OC will convene a small group of local experts to examine the feasibility of using existing programs for this recommendation	Not Initiated	\$		\$	Low	S1 S2 S3 S4

Strategy	Description	Partner Agencies Working on Response Potential Partners	Status	Status	Funding Level	Sources of Funding	Gap in Funding	Ranking?	Plan to End Homelessness
	* Insurance for landlords: Create an insurance/damage mitigation fund to minimize the risks to landlords renting to tenants with no/poor rental history	Whatcom County City of Bellingham Housing Authority	Opportunity Council is investigating the feasibility of establishing such a fund in Bellingham, and will draft a set of recommendations early this year	Not Initiated	\$\$		\$\$	Low	S5 S7 P1 P3 P4

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Plan to End Homelessness (2019)

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