



City of Yelm

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"Pride of the Prairie"

Yelm, WA — The following report and recommendations were prepared by the Yelm Homelessness Task Force and submitted to the City of Yelm Jan. 28, 2020. The information will be brought forward to City Council for initial review and deliberation at the next City Council Study Session held 6 p.m., Feb. 4 at the Yelm Community Center.

The Task Force was established as an ad-hoc advisory body to the Yelm City Council through a [resolution](#) adopted by Council in a 4-3 vote on November 13, 2018 and was facilitated by Councilmembers Molly Carmody and Joe DePinto. Per the resolution shown below, the final report was due by the end of December of 2019, and the City Staff, City Council, and the community at large have been anticipating this report since.

The City of Yelm recognizes the multiple different perspectives regarding this sensitive and multifaceted topic and we are committed to sharing information as it becomes available. This report was distributed to the Yelm City Council and then published on the City of Yelm website on the day that it was received.

Per the resolution, the Homelessness Task Force was tasked to identify and analyze existing resources for the homeless, to identify overlaps or gaps in existing services, and to identify areas in which the City may use its resources to coordinate services for the homeless population of the City.

The seven recommendations that will be brought forward for Council consideration are as follows: A monthly clinic at the Yelm Community Center for service providers, establishing a permanent homelessness commission, increase law enforcement, review City ordinances, work with local nonprofits to provide services, temporarily open the Community Center as a shelter during hazardous weather, and to create a jobs program.

As with all City Council Meetings and Council Study Sessions, the upcoming meeting is open to the public and we invite everyone to attend. We do ask everyone to be respectful to each other both at the meeting and online as we all have different perspectives on the issue. We are also aware that not everyone can make it to the meeting and City staff will livestream and archive the meeting to the City of Yelm YouTube channel. Comments can be made to the Yelm City Council here:

https://www.yelmwa.gov/government/city_council/comment_to_council.php

This report was developed and prepared by the following individuals for consideration by the Yelm City Council:

- Joe DePinto, Yelm City Councilmember
- Molly Carmody, Yelm City Councilmember
- Suzie LeFurgey
- Debra Larson
- Rachel Craig

CITY OF YELM
RESOLUTION NO. 595
HOMELESSNESS TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, the City of Yelm acknowledges that homelessness is a significant societal concern;

WHEREAS, the City of Yelm has identified increasing numbers of homeless citizens on its streets, in its public spaces, and on City-owned property;

WHEREAS, the City of Yelm wishes to be proactive in addressing these concerns moving forward, rather than reactive; and

WHEREAS, the City of Yelm desires to create a Homeless Task Force as an ad hoc advisory body to the Yelm City Council;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Yelm establishes a Homeless Task Force to identify and analyze existing resources for the homeless, to identify overlaps or gaps in existing services, and to identify areas in which the City may use its resources to coordinate services for the homeless population of the City of Yelm. The Task Force shall be composed of representatives from the following stakeholder groups:

- a) City Council (1 member)
- b) City Staff (1 member)
- c) Medical profession (1 member)
- d) Medical profession specializing in addiction and mental health issues (1 member)
- e) Non-profit organizations which provide services to the homeless (2 members)
- f) Citizen-at-large, appointed by the Mayor, after interview with the aforementioned representatives. This citizen must live within the Urban Growth Area of Yelm.

The Task Force shall produce a final report to the Council no later than 12 months after the date of its first meeting, which shall occur within 1 month of the signing of this resolution. The final report shall include the following analyses and recommendations:

- A comprehensive list of services currently provided to Yelm's homeless community by federal, state, and local governments, as well as those services provided by non-profit organizations.
- An analysis of existing services, focusing on overlaps and gaps in service.
- Review of neighboring municipalities' code language and ordinances regarding homelessness.
- Analysis of Thurston Homeless Housing Task Force (or the designated body) and its five-year homeless housing plan, per RCW 43.185C.160.
- Recommendations on how to close current service gaps and reduce service overlaps.
- Recommendations for the City on how to coordinate or create services, programs, or facilities for the homeless community.

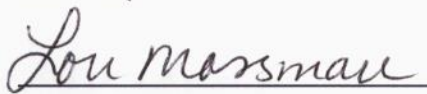
The Yelm City Council appropriates \$2500 to provide adequate resources to support the research and analysis and final report that will be produced by the Task Force.

APPROVED this 13th day of November 2018.



JW Foster, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lori Mossman, City Clerk



Yelm Homelessness Taskforce Report

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 3

SERVICES CURRENTLY AVAILABLE 4

 FEDERAL 4

 WASHINGTON STATE 5,6,7

 LOCAL 8,9

 NONPROFITS 10,11

COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF LOCAL SERVICES 12

ANALYSIS/RECOMMENDATIONS OF EXISTING SERVICES & REDUCING CURRENT SERVICE GAPS 13,14

ANALYSIS OF THURSTON COUNTY HOMELESS HOUSING PLAN 2017-2022 15,16,17

REVIEW OF NEIGHBORING MUNICIPALITIES’ ORDINANCES RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS 18

 CITY OF LACEY 18

 CITY OF OLYMPIA 18,19

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CITY OF YELM ON HOW TO COORDINATE OR CREATE SERVICES, PROGRAMS, OR FACILITIES FOR THE HOMELESS COMMUNITY 20

 PASSED RECOMMENDATIONS 20,21

 TIED RECOMMENDATIONS 22

Executive Summary

On November 13th 2018, the Yelm City Council passed Resolution #595 which created the Yelm Homelessness Taskforce. The taskforce was established to identify and analyze existing resources for the homeless, to identify overlaps or gaps in existing services, and to identify areas in which the City may use its resources to coordinate services for the homeless population of the City of Yelm. It was given a timeline of one year from when the first meeting convened in January of 2019. The Yelm City Council appropriated \$2500 to “provide adequate resources to support the research and analysis and final report” of which none was spent on those endeavors. After meeting throughout the year, researching other municipalities ordinances, interviewing the homeless in Yelm, meeting with non-profits/benevolent organizations throughout Yelm, and multiple open meetings with citizen feedback, the taskforce has developed this report that includes recommendations to the Yelm City Council regarding homelessness in Yelm and the surrounding communities.

Homelessness is defined by the United States Government as when a person “lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and if they sleep in a shelter designated for temporary living accommodations or in places not designated for human habitation. The United State Department of Housing and Urban Development further includes four broad categories of homelessness: People who are living in a place not meant for human habitation, in emergency shelter, in transitional housing, or are exiting an institution where they temporarily resided.

Within this document you will find a comprehensive list of services currently provided to Yelm’s homeless community by federal, state, and local governments, as well as those provided by non-profit organizations. The taskforce also gives an analysis of existing services, a review of neighboring municipalities code language and ordinances regarding homelessness, an analysis of Thurston County’s five year homeless housing plan, and recommendations on how to close current service gaps and reduce service overlaps as well as recommendations for the City on how to coordinate or create services, programs, or facilities for the homeless community.

The recommendations that were agreed upon by the taskforce to be presented to the Yelm City Council are: **A monthly Low-Income Clinic hosted by the City at Yelm Community Center; Permanent Homelessness Commission; To Increase law enforcement of Yelm regulations; Review of the current City of Yelm code and ordinances; and to work with the local non-profits and services to coordinate efforts.**

Federal Services/Programs Currently Available

Department of Housing and Urban Development – HUD.gov

1. **The Continuum of Care (COC) Program** - Designed to promote communitywide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, and State and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless individuals, families, and communities by homelessness; promote access to and effect utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness.
2. **The Emergency Solutions Grants Program** – The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 (HEARTH Act) amended the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, revising the Emergency Shelter Grants Program in significant ways and renaming it the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program. The ESG Interim Rule took effect on January 4, 2012. The change in the program’s name, from Emergency Shelter Grants to Emergency Solutions Grants, reflects the change in the program’s focus from addressing the needs of homeless people in emergency or transitional shelters to assisting people to quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis and/or homelessness.
3. **Title V Federal Surplus Property for Use to Assist the Homeless** - Title V of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act enables eligible organizations to use unutilized, underutilized, excess, or surplus federal properties to assist persons experiencing homelessness. Eligible applicants are states, local governments, and nonprofit organizations. Properties, including land and buildings, are made available strictly on an "as-is" basis. No funding is available under Title V. Leases are provided free of charge and range from 1 to 20 years, depending on availability. Successful applicants may use the Title V properties to provide shelter, services, storage, and other benefits to persons experiencing homelessness.

State Services/Programs Currently Available

Washington State Department of Commerce

Office of Family and Adult Homelessness - The Office of Family and Adult Homelessness (OFAH) supports homeless crisis response systems and best practices that efficiently reduce the number of people living outside. OFAH's guiding principles are 1. All people deserve a safe place to live 2. Urgent and bold action is the appropriate response to people living outside 3. Interventions must be data driven and evidenced based.

1. *The Consolidated Homeless Grant (CHG)* - Provides resources to fund homeless crisis response systems to support communities in ending homelessness. Grants are made to local governments and nonprofits. Homeless crisis response systems respond to the immediacy and urgency of homelessness and make sure that everyone has a safe and appropriate place to live.
2. *Landlord Mitigation Program* - Washington state's Landlord Mitigation Law ([RCW 43.31.605](#)) became effective on June 7th of 2018 to provide landlords with an incentive and added security to work with tenants receiving rental assistance. The program offers up to \$1,000 to the landlord in reimbursement for some potentially required move-in upgrades, up to fourteen days' rent loss and up to \$5,000 in qualifying damages caused by a tenant during tenancy.
3. *Emergency Solution Grant (ESG)* - The purpose of the ESG program is to provide homelessness prevention assistance to households who would otherwise become homeless and to provide assistance to rapidly re-house persons who are experiencing homelessness. The funds under this program are intended to target individuals and families who would be homeless but for this assistance. The funds will provide for a variety of assistance, including: short-term or medium-term Rental Assistance, Housing Search and Placement, and Housing Stability Case Management.
4. *HOME Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)* – This program utilizes Federal funds to support communities providing utility, deposit and ongoing rental assistance. Commerce TBRA funds are contracted to local providers. Commerce does not provide direct rent or utility assistance. Eligible households are referred to TBRA through local Coordinated Entry Systems.

Office of Homeless Youth Prevention and Protection Programs – Their goal is to reduce and prevent homelessness for youth and young adults.

1. *HOPE/Crisis Residential Centers* - Temporary residence, assessment, referrals, and permanency planning services provided in semi-secure and secure facilities for youth ages 12 through 17 who are in conflict with their family, have run away from home, or whose health and safety is at risk.
2. *Street Youth Services (SYS)* – They connect youth under the age of 18 to services and resources through street and community-based outreach. Services can include either directly or through referral drug/alcohol abuse intervention, crisis intervention, counseling, access to emergency shelter or housing, prevention and education activities, employment skill building, advocacy, family-focused services, and follow-up support.
3. *Youth Adult Housing Program* - Resources for rent assistance, transitional housing, and case management for young adults ages 18 through 24.
4. *Independent Youth Housing Program* - Rental assistance and case management for eligible youth who have aged out of the state foster care system. Participants must be between 18 and 23 years old, have been a dependent of the state at any time during the four-month period preceding his or her 18th birthday, and meet income eligibility. Priority is given to young adults who were dependents of the state for at least one year.
5. *Young Adult Shelter* - Emergency, temporary shelter, assessment, referrals, and permanency planning services for young adults ages 18 through 24.

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

Emergency Programs – Designed for immediate help with the following areas: Eviction, No Food, Homelessness, Pregnancy Medical, Utility Shut Off, Domestic Violence, Medical Emergency, Non-Recipients of Benefits, Day Care Needed Due to Work, Circumstances which present harm to yourself or others.

1. *Medical Programs* - If you have a medical emergency, DSHS may have a medical program to help. A financial worker can explain more about the eligibility requirements of the medical programs provided by DSHS.
2. *Emergency Food Assistance* - If you have very little money and are in need of food, you may qualify for emergency food assistance. If you meet guidelines and are eligible for food assistance, your assistance will be available within seven days of your application's receipt at your Community Services Office. You may be eligible for expedited service if you meet any of the conditions below:

- 1) Little or no money
 - 2) Not enough money to cover your rent and utilities
 - 3) Have a destitute migrant or seasonal farm-worker household member whose available cash does not exceed \$100
3. *Emergency Cash Assistance* - If your family has an emergency and you need a one-time cash payment to get or keep safe housing or utilities, you may be eligible for the Additional Requirements for Emergent Needs (AREN) or the Diversion Program. To be eligible for these programs, you must meet ALL the requirements listed below:
- 1) Meet eligibility requirements for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), State Family Assistance (SFA), or Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA)
 - 2) Have an emergency housing, utility or other need; and
 - 3) Have a good reason that you had insufficient funds to pay your housing or utility costs.

Local Services/Programs Currently Available

Thurston County

Office of Housing and Homelessness - Thurston County's Office of Housing and Homeless Prevention purpose is threefold: (1) Create and preserve decent affordable housing; (2) End homelessness; and (3) provide capital investments which improve the viability, livability, and economic stability of Thurston County communities, particularly low-and moderate-income communities. The work is accomplished in partnership with the county's housing and social service providers and in cooperation with cities.

1. *Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)* - Thurston County has been designated an Urban County for the Federal CDBG Program. As the lead entity for this effort the County, in a partnership with Lacey, Tumwater, Yelm, Rainier, Tenino and Bucoda, receives federal funding to be used to serve low-income individuals and families in the county outside of the City of Olympia. Olympia operates as a separate entitlement program for CDBG resources. CDBG can fund a variety of programs including affordable housing, public facilities, public services, and economic development activities.
2. *Community Investment Partnership (CIP)* – The Thurston County Regional Health and Human Services Council and the United Way of Thurston County have created the Community Investment Partnership (CIP). The CIP members agree to work together and join resources to address common needs in meeting basic health and human service needs in the Thurston County Region.
3. *Homeless Housing Program* - Assists homeless persons and families whose income is at or below 30% of the area median income. Funding for the program is derived from legislative mandated surcharge fees on recording documents that are shared between the state and local counties.
4. *Affordable Housing Program* - Assists in the development and preservation of affordable low-income housing (defined as households at or below 50% of the area median income) to address critical local housing need. Funding for the program is derived from legislative mandated surcharge fees on recording documents that are shared between the state and local counties.

City of Olympia

1. **Mitigation Sites** - Mitigation sites are temporary, legal camping sites that provide a level of order, safety, dignity and cleanliness to reduce human suffering and the impacts of unmanaged camping on the community. The Olympia/Franklin mitigation site is not a permanent end state. It is the first step to manage a growing, unsustainable and immediate situation in Downtown.
2. **Plum Street Tiny House Village** - The Plum Street Tiny House Village is a temporary site that provides stable, managed shelter for 40-50 people experiencing homelessness in Olympia. The village has 30 tiny houses for 40+ single adults and couples without children. The tiny houses are each 8' x 12', insulated, have electricity and heat, windows, and a lockable door. There is also a security house, a communal kitchen, meeting space, bathrooms, showers, laundry, a case management office, and 24/7 staff providing security and management.

Non Profits Services/Programs Currently Available

Free Meals in Yelm

1. Emanuel Lutheran Church Tuesdays 6-7pm
2. Yelm Prairie Christian Center – Thursdays 6-7pm
3. Crossroads Community Covenant Church – Saturdays 6-7:30pm
4. First Baptist Church – Sundays 5-6pm

Food and Clothing Banks

1. Valley Heart Church – Wednesdays & Saturdays 9:30am-Noon
2. Yelm Community Services – Thursdays 1-4pm
3. Crossroads Community Covenant Church – Saturdays 3-5pm
4. St Columbian Church – Monday & Wednesday 6-8pm

Emergency Food Baskets

1. Emanuel Lutheran Church - Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays 9am-2pm

Homeless Resources (Hygiene)

1. Crossroads Community Covenant Church Monday-Friday 9am-2pm
2. Emanuel Lutheran Church Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 9am-Noon

Addiction Recovery Homes

1. Truly Motivated Transitional Living - Call for information 360.400.8685

Medical Equipment Bank

1. The Thurston County Medical Equipment Bank @ The Yelm American Legion Post #164 Saturdays 10-11am

Location Information

Emanuel Lutheran Church – 206 3rd St SE Yelm, WA 98597

Yelm Prairie Christian Center – 501 103rd Ave NE Yelm Ave Yelm, WA 98597

Crossroads Community Covenant Church – 11520 Bald Hill Rd SE Yelm, WA 98597

Valley Heart Church – 11318 Vail Cutoff Rd Rainier, WA 98576

St Columban Church – 506 1st Street Yelm, WA 98597

The Thurston County Medical Equipment Bank @ The American Legion Post #164 16733 103rd Ave S Yelm, WA 98597 Phone: (360) 456-8810

Truly Motivated Transitional Living - 11326 Bald Hill Rd SE Yelm, WA 98597

Yelm Community Services – 624 Crystal Springs Rd NW Yelm, WA 98597

Comprehensive List of Local Resources Compiled by this Taskforce

Site Name	Housing	Transitional	Emergency Shelter	Food Bank	Food Packs	Diners	Laundry	Shower	Hygiene Pack	Clothing	Blankets	Medical Equip	Haircare	Preventative & Acute Medical	Chronic Disease Management	Reproductive Health	Behavioral Health	Substance Abuse	Mentoring
Yelm Family Medicine												X		X	X	X			
Sea Mar												X		X	X		X	X	
Valley View Health Clinic												X		X			X		
Nisqually Valley VFW																			
Nisqually Valley Moose 1905				X															
Yelm Lions Club				X	X	X				X									
Yelm Rotary Club				X	X				X	X									
Love Abounds Here				X					X	X									
United Methodist				X															
Emmanuel Lutheran				X		X	X	X											
Jesus Name Pentacostal				X		X		X		X									
New Life Christian Ctr																			
Yelm Prairie Christian Ctr				X		X				X									
Crossroads Community				X		X			X	X		X							
Jesus Christ of LDS				X					X		X								
St Columban Catholic										X									
St Vincent De Paul Yelm	X	X																	
Linked Churches in Yelm		X				X				X									
Clip Joint Hair Salon													X						
DC's Treasures										X									
Truly Motivated Trans. Lvng.	X	X				X	X	X									X	X	X
Mothers to Many				X		X				X								X	X
Stand Up for Kids	X	X				X		X									X	X	X
Family Support Center	X	X	X					X									X		X
Sidewalk	X	X								X							X	X	X
Community Action Council	X	X								X							X	X	X
Together				X						X									X
Capitol Recovery Ctr		X															X	X	
Homes First	X																		

Analysis of Existing Services

Homelessness task force members Suzie LeFurgey and Debra Larson visited 15 Churches, Non-Profits, Veteran Organizations and other organizations around the City of Yelm and interviewed service providers as well as members of the homeless community. The analysis provided is the culmination of their survey responses.

PRIORITIES

The data was arranged according to one main question: “What is the most important need for homeless people that you serve?” Answers were compiled and grouped into priority by the researchers. The resulting priorities for Yelm participating organizations are as follows:

- I. Housing and Shelter, Psychological Counseling, and Clean Up Facilities including showers, laundry, and haircuts. (13 responses)
- II. A need for combined job skills training along with counseling and rehabilitation of those addicted to substances. This was described by one respondent as “Wrap-Around Social Services.” Job training includes assessment and development of marketable job skills, job application, resume preparation, interviewing techniques, financial management and general household management. Locally we have one resource called “Truly Motivated Transitional Living,” a program for recovering addicts and released prisoners. (10 responses)
- III. Additional Food options including dinners and Food Banks in Yelm. (8 responses)
- IV. Services for women and children needing shelter, a safe place to stay and referrals to resources. Shelter from domestic violence is only found in Olympia at “Safe Place” which does not always have beds available. (5 responses)

DISCUSSION

The present situation regarding the top priority needs is discussed below.

Priority I:

There are three high priority needs grouped at number one. The first is a need for a **homeless shelter and housing**. While Yelm had a homeless shelter at the Yelm Community Services (UCBO) in the past, that shelter has been closed for many years. This means that there is only limited space available at the Police Department even in the most severe winter weather, referred to as a “Code Blue” by the County. The “code blue” designation is for extreme winter weather. The only help we found available is

through the County's "Shelter in Place Program" that gives blankets, tarps and warm clothing to the homeless that are camping outside or living in their vehicles. Keylee Marineau is the Public Health Homeless Coordinator and will help get emergency supplies for those out in the winter weather.

Next area rated in the top three is **Mental Health Counseling**. The only free psychological counseling we were able to find was at Sea Mar Community Health Clinic in Yelm. There also are Psychological counselors who have fees for service and may take Apple Health (Medicaid) patients. Some substance abuse counseling is beginning in Yelm through outreach by Capital Recovery Center from Olympia. They have provided an outreach counselor that is working with a few individuals.

The last need rated in the top three is clean up. The only shower available in Yelm is located at the Emanuel Lutheran Church but it is currently out of order. A grant proposal has been submitted to the Nisqually Tribe to acquire funds to repair the plumbing in the church bathroom. When the shower is operating again the "Linked" pastors group will help with supervision of the shower during the hours of operation. On an individual basis some churches indicated they would allow a homeless individual to use their facility. Currently there is no place for the homeless to shower and clean up. The Emanuel Lutheran Church will do homeless people's laundry by appointment. Several groups in town provide "hygiene bags" to the homeless. These bags are filled with soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, Q-tips, nail clippers, razor, etc.

Priority II:

Combined Job Training and Counseling or "Wrap-Around Social Services" are only available through the organization called "Truly Motivated Transitional Living" (TMTL) which is located in Yelm. They provide services to men and women in transitioning from drug rehabilitation and prison to fully functioning members of society. The program participants live in 4 houses operated by TMTL. Some job training help is available through the SPSCC in Olympia and Lacey. Employment Security Department can also help.

Priority III:

This need is for additional meals and food bank hours and locations.

Currently Yelm has a Food Bank open on Thursday between 1-4 pm at Yelm Community Services (YCS) at 624 Crystal Springs Rd NW Yelm. YCS also has a low-cost clothing outlet and vouchers are available to assist people in buying clothing and household items. Vouchers are provided there. The Crossroads Covenant Church also operates a Food Bank and free Clothing Bank. Their hours for operation are 3-5 pm on Saturdays and the address is 11520 Bald Hill Rd SE Yelm. Rainier also has a Food Bank at Valley Heart Church that provides food on Wednesday and Saturday 9:30 to Noon at 11318 Vail Cutoff Rd in Rainier. More Food Banks are located in Lacey and Olympia

Analysis of Thurston County Homeless Housing plan 2017-2022

Developed by the Thurston County Homeless Coordinator in 2016 with coordination of area agencies and community participation, this plan included best practices in housing and service programs; reviewed model plans from other Washington Counties; conferred with regional stakeholders; and, developed milestones for homeless populations for each demographic. The Homeless Housing Homeless Housing Plan is a living document that will be updated annually with progress documentation and will be used to organize and deliver housing solutions to meet the specific needs of people who are homeless or near homeless. They found that while appropriate housing is a solution for all the populations, there is not a 'one-size-fits-all' approach. People served will require various levels of service based upon their unique circumstances.

The Homeless Housing Plan calls for a regional focus on the following **three primary strategic goals**:

1) **Expand Housing Resources**: Expand the inventory of low-income housing in both non-profit and for-profit sectors and grow the sources of available funding. Goal of 500 total units to include sub-goals for each homeless sub-population, including 360 units for single adults, 100 units for families with children, and 40 units for youth.

2) **Standardize Best Practices**: Establishment of system-wide basic standards for all service providers to increase housing placement and reduce returns to homelessness. Strategies also to address best practices for Coordinated Entry (CE) and Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) reporting.

3) **Regionalize Public Homeless Policy**: Build a cohesive, regional policy framework via zoning, development and related policy areas to create a unified and effective approach. Focus to include: a. Increased Housing Densities; b. Creation of Regional Housing Development Standards; and, c. Integration of Regional Planning Processes; and, d. Explore Other Municipal Resources.

Based on a 2015 Housing Needs Assessment, the Thurston County Housing plan finds there are over 23,000 households (13,000 renters and 10,000 homeowners) in Thurston County that are at risk of homelessness. Non-profit housing developers estimate \$222,000 average to build a new unit of affordable housing. If new construction of housing was the primary affordable housing strategy, it would cost \$2.886 billion to address housing affordability for low income renters - and that would only assist those in rental housing. By contrast, Thurston County allocated approximately \$800,000 for construction of new affordable housing in 2017, or 0.05% of the need.

The primary goal of the Homeless Housing Homeless Housing Plan is to get to “Functional Zero” for all populations experiencing homelessness. Functional Zero is defined as follows: “At any point in time, the number of people experiencing sheltered or unsheltered homelessness

will be no greater than the current monthly housing placement rate for that specific demographic of people experiencing homelessness.”

Thurston County Homeless Housing Work Plan – To achieve the 3 primary strategic goals, the plan identified sub goals, objectives and strategies and tasks which was intended to simplify the plan for use by policy makers, funders and other community planners across Thurston County. Listed below are the goals, objectives and strategies:

Goal 1 - Expand Housing Resources

Reduce Homelessness in Thurston County by Half in Homeless Housings or by December 31, 2022.

HOUSING OBJECTIVE A: Increase inventory of diversion, rapid rehousing, and Permanent Supportive Housing. Strategy: Housing A- 1: Successfully identify and divert all applicable households. Strategy: Housing A- 2: Quickly rehouse all eligible households Strategy: Housing A- 3: Develop sufficient Permanent Supportive Housing stock to serve the most vulnerable

HOUSING OBJECTIVE B: Eliminate Chronic Veteran Homelessness in Thurston County. Strategy: Housing B-1: Create partnerships and utilize best practices for appropriate placement of Veterans and their families experiencing chronic homelessness. Strategy: Housing B-2: Coordinate mental health access and veteran specific program eligibility. Strategy: Housing B-3: Create a finance development task force to continue to create affordable housing for veterans and their families

HOUSING OBJECTIVE C: Achieve functional zero for Veterans. Strategy: Housing C-1: Create coordinated veterans employment housing hub for transitional Veterans and Job able veterans to reduce chronic homelessness Strategy: Housing C-2: Create affordable housing for aging Veterans Population

HOUSING OBJECTIVE D: Strengthen existing shelter capacity to maximize exits to housing Strategy: Housing D-1: Strengthen existing shelter capacity

HOUSING OBJECTIVE E: Provide adequate support services for housing stability Strategy; Housing E-1: Ensure that voluntary supportive services and flexible retention funds are available to all people placed into permanent housing Strategy Housing E-2: Increase job and income growth for people placed into permanent housing once housing stability is achieved

Goal 2: Standardize Best Practices

Sub-Goals: Establish best practices as basic standards; Maximize impact of existing resources; Foster stronger coordination across systems; Improve access to housing for vulnerable households and rural communities; strengthen data quality and reporting timeliness.

BEST PRACTICE OBJECTIVE A: Prioritize unsheltered and vulnerable households, convert existing programs to Housing First / Low Barrier model Strategy: Best Practice A-1: Provide adequate training and monitoring to support providers Strategy: Best Practice A-2: Integrate services & planning with the behavioral health and healthcare systems

BEST PRACTICE OBJECTIVE B: Improve and enhance coordinated entry Strategy: Best Practice B-1: Improve access to coordinated entry services Strategy: Best Practice B-2: Address exits to homelessness from institutions

BEST PRACTICE OBJECTIVE C: Enhance System Performance Reporting Strategy: Best Practice C-1: Improve HMIS data quality Strategy: Best Practice C-2: Improve HMIS Reporting

BEST PRACTICE OBJECTIVE D: Strengthen network of social services for all homeless subpopulations

Goal 3: Regionalize Public Homeless Policy

Coordinate a Cohesive Regional Policy Framework on Homeless Housing and Services.
Sub Goal: Create a regional body modeled after the Seattle Housing Affordability and Livability Agenda (HALA) scaled to Thurston County jurisdictional capacities and available resources; explore public policy options to maximize the development of new low cost housing resources; maximize public policy options to preserve existing low cost housing resources.

REGIONAL POLICY OBJECTIVE A: Develop Closer Alignment of Regional Comprehensive Plans, Development Standards, and Government Plans. Strategy: Regional Policy A-1: Explore options to increase housing densities in all jurisdictions to support lower-cost housing and fair housing. Strategy: Regional Policy A-2: Create Regional Housing Development Standards. Strategy: Regional A-3: Integration of Governmental Plans and Planning Processes. Strategy: Regional A-4: Explore Other Municipal and Funding Resources Strategy: Regional A-5: Develop a Comprehensive Inventory of Affordable and Low Cost Housing Strategy: Regional A-6: Clarify Roles and Relationships of Regional Planning Groups

Neighboring Municipalities' Ordinances Relating to Homelessness

Many nearby jurisdictions did not have ordinances with specific language relating to homelessness. Some cities utilized their budget process in the past to create services such as housing or the programs mentioned in other sections of this report. Others utilize their planning commissions to help staff create possible ordinances and recommendations for their councils to discuss and take action on.

City of Lacey

Ordinance 1557 "Enforcement of Camping"

Prior to issuing any citation based on conduct which occurs between the hours of 10pm and 7am, the investigating officer shall inquire whether the camping is due to homelessness. If the officer learns that such is the case, the officer shall determine, in accordance with relevant department policy, whether adequate shelter space is available to accommodate the subject of the investigation. If the officer determines that all such shelter space is full, the officer shall not issue a citation. If the officer determines adequate shelter space to be available, the officer may, within his or her discretion, issue a citation and/or provide directions the shelter location or offer a one-time transport to the shelter location. These provisions are not applicable to conduct which occurs in areas of the city zoned residential. At no time shall camping be allowed in residential areas.

Ordinance 1549 "Unlawful Camping/storing personal property"

It is unlawful to camp and for any person to store personal property, including camp facilities and camp paraphernalia in the following areas: any park, any street, any publicly owned parking lot or publicly owned area improved or unimproved.

City of Olympia

Ordinance 7142 "Emergency Housing Facility"

Temporary emergency housing that may include tents and small structures organized and managed as temporary accommodations for homeless people, and may be hosted by a faith-based organization, not-for-profit organization, or a unit of government. Emergency Housing Facilities shall be permitted as an accommodation of faith-based exercise by a Host Agency and Sponsoring Agency, or by a unit of government, or by a not-for-profit organization. Each Host Agency and Sponsoring Agency shall jointly apply for a permit under this Section and shall jointly certify compliance with all applicable requirements for approval and conditions of this Chapter and the application.

Ordinance 7146 “State of public health emergency related to homelessness”

Declares a state of public health emergency relating to human health and environmental conditions caused by increasing homelessness; authorizing such actions as are reasonable and necessary in light of such emergency to mitigate the conditions giving rise to such public health emergency; declaring an emergency so this ordinance shall be effecting upon adoption; and providing for sunset of this ordinance.

Recommendations for the City of Yelm on how to coordinate or create services, programs, or facilities for the homeless community

The following recommendations were voted on and passed by the Yelm Homelessness Taskforce members on Oct 15, 2019. Below the approved recommendations are a list of “tied” recommendations.

Approved Recommendations

1. Monthly Low-Income Clinic hosted by the City at Yelm Community Center (YCC)

a. Cost to City

- i. Admin time: Email reminders to participating partners
- ii. Admin time: Public reminders on Facebook, website, and NVN
- iii. Public Works time: open, setup, cleanup, lockup YCC
- iv. Electricity/water/maintenance

b. Participating Partners

- i. WA DSHS
- ii. Thurston Housing
- iii. Thurston Co Volunteer Legal Clinic
- iv. Medical/Dental aid
- v. Mental/Addiction aid
- vi. Yelm city staff: Admin, Public Works

c. Goals

- i. Provide access to services to those in need

2. Permanent Homelessness Commission

a. Cost to City

- i. Admin time: minute-taker
- ii. Admin time: advertise for, accept, and organize applications to commission

b. Participating Partners

- i. 5-7 residents of the City of Yelm or Urban Growth Area, fully self-regulating
- ii. Yelm city staff: Admin

c. Goals

- i. Interact with and coordinate local volunteer/service groups in the Yelm area
- ii. Produce and maintain list of available services to homeless/low-income individuals
- iii. Interface with Yelm Police Dept (YPD) to coordinate embedded volunteer social services, if present
- iv. Provide quarterly report/recommendations to Yelm City Council

3. Increase law enforcement of Yelm regulations

- a. Cost to City*
 - i. YPD time: patrol, testifying at hearings
 - ii. City Attorney time: prosecution
 - iii. Court time: more hearings/paperwork/processing
 - iv. Increased wear and tear on city vehicles
- b. Participating Partners*
 - i. Yelm City Staff: YPD, Municipal Court
- c. Goals*
 - i. Utilize code and ordinances to remove/prosecute offenders

4. Review of current City of Yelm code and ordinances

- a. Cost to City*
 - i. Admin time: prep docs for advisory boards (planning, parks, etc) and participate in those boards
 - ii. City Attorney: time to review current regs for legal questions
 - iii. Admin time: prep docs for study sessions and coordinate review efforts
 - iv. Admin time: prepare/present changes to Council for vote
 - v. City Attorney: time to review changes for legal challenges
 - vi. IT time: enter changes into code and ordinances
- b. Participating Partners*
 - i. Yelm City staff: Admin, IT
 - ii. City Attorney
 - iii. City Council
 - iv. Advisory Boards
- c. Goals*
 - i. To create humane regulations that don't infringe on Constitutional rights of homeless individuals

5. Work with local non-profits and services to coordinate efforts

- a. Cost to City*
 - i. Admin time: perform all duties listed in "goals" in 2 of this document (homelessness commission)
- b. Participating Partners*
 - i. All services providers listed under "Local Services/Programs Available" in addition to others who come forward
 - ii. Yelm city staff: Admin
- c. Goals*
 - i. All goals listed in 2c of this document

Recommendations with a Tie Vote

- 1. Move Thurston County Code Blue events from Public Safety Building to YCC**
 - a. Cost to City*
 - i. Public Works time: open, setup, cleanup
 - ii. YPD time: officer to stand watch
 - iii. Electricity/water/supplies
 - b. Participating Partners*
 - i. Thurston County Hazardous Weather Task Force/Public Health Director
 - ii. Yelm City Staff: YPD, Public Works
 - c. Goals*
 - i. Protect more civilians by providing a less intimidating space for hazardous weather events
- 2. Public Works Jobs Program**
 - a. Cost to City*
 - i. Public Works time: training, supervising
 - ii. Admin time: human resources processing
 - iii. Hourly wages
 - iv. Union negotiations
 - v. Liability insurance
 - b. Participating Partners*
 - i. Yelm City Staff: Admin, Public Works
 - c. Goals*
 - i. Empowerment of homeless individuals through wages and training
 - ii. Reduced homelessness as trained people move into permanent housing