HOMELESSNESS

Department of Commerce

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Background: Spanning across systems

- **Employment**
  
  Access to job training and job supports help individuals and families move from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

- **Education**
  
  Housing homeless school children improves their test scores by 30%.

- **Health**
  
  Housing chronically homeless people reduces their use of high-cost emergency care.

- **Criminal Justice**
  
  Reentry planning that includes housing reduces recidivism among offenders.
Background: **Homelessness**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results Washington Goal</th>
<th>2006 Homelessness Housing and Assistance Act</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decrease number of people who are homeless from 17,775 in 2013 to 16,000 by 2015 (10% reduction)</td>
<td>Decrease homelessness by 50% (from 21,962 to 10,981) by July 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Requires local and state plans, guided by performance data
- Provides $47 million/year via document recording fees ($31 million local; $16 state)
3.1.c. Decrease number of homeless people from 17,775 in 2013 to 16,000 by 2015 (10% reduction)

**Current State: Demographics of homelessness**

**Age Group**
- Adults, 77%
- Children, 22%
- Seniors, 1%

**Gender**
- Male, 56%
- Female, 44%

**Race/Ethnicity**
- White: 100,050
- Hispanic: 24,466
- African American: 31,704
- Asian / Pacific Islander: 9,711
- Native American: 17,804
- None: 9,026

**Location**
- Rural, 11%
- Urban - High density, 40%
- Urban - Medium density, 27%
- Urban - Low density, 21%
Count of people who are homeless \( \downarrow 14\% \) compared to 2006

January 2014 count:
- 18,839 TOTAL
- 6,289 unsheltered

Prevalence of unsheltered people in families with children \( \downarrow 56\% \); from 1,690 to 840 people

13 counties have met the 50% reduction goal
Opportunity: **Inconsistent performance between counties**

Inconsistent due to combination of:

- Different:
  - Implementation of best practices
  - Local economies

- Potentially inaccurate point in time counts

Statewide = -21%

- ≥ 50% reduction in homelessness
- ≤ 50% reduction in homelessness
- ↑ in homelessness

2006-2014 change in prevalence homelessness
Strategies:

I. Quantify differences between county implementations of best practices:

Measure correlation of success and county implementation of the following:

1. Coordinated entry
2. Rapid re-housing
3. Use of transitional housing
4. Targeted/limited prevention

II. Quantify differences between county economies:

Measure differences between counties in the following areas:

1. Change in rent burdens
2. Affordability
3. Rental availability
4. In-migration
5. Income changes

3.1.c. Decrease number of homeless people from 17,775 in 2013 to 16,000 by 2015 (10% reduction)
Strategies:

**III. Restructure state contracts to promote successful strategies**

For best practices that are correlated with success in Washington counties, modify state contracts to incentivize or require implementation
~ September 2015

**IV. Supplement point in time count measure**

Supplement count with twice annual measure of homelessness by county using existing administrative data from schools, DSHS, and housing providers
~ December 2015
Problem: \textit{Rents increasing / incomes declining}

195,235 households with extremely low incomes and severe cost burdens...and likely growing.
Strategies:

V. **Address affordability**

Affordable Housing Advisory Board will update plan to quantify the impact of proposed strategies on the number of cost burdened households

~ July 2016

VI. **Replicate successful inter-agency partnerships**

Continue and expand collaborations such as Ending Family Homelessness pilot and Vulnerable Families Partnership. Replicate this inter-agency coordination with other state partners

~ September 2015
3.1.c. Decrease number of homeless people from 17,775 in 2013 to 16,000 by 2015 (10% reduction)

**Strategy: DSHS Homeless Prevention Tools**

7,000 RISE Grant Basic Food Employment and Training

Food assistance recipients to be served in King, Pierce, Spokane and Yakima counties

299 Housing Pathway Pilot Program

Families who receive assistance from housing providers in Spokane, Snohomish, Mason, Cowlitz, Pacific, Jefferson, Whatcom and Wahkiakum counties

2,016 Additional Requirements for Emergent Needs

Families who received emergent assistance*

9,522 Housing and Essential Needs

Incapacitated adults*

*SFY14
3.1.c. Decrease number of homeless people from 17,775 in 2013 to 16,000 by 2015 (10% reduction)

### Detailed Action Plan:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Task Lead</th>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Expected Outcome</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Change contracts to incentivize or require best practices</td>
<td>Commerce</td>
<td>DSHS, ESD</td>
<td>Use of existing limited resources toward proven strategies</td>
<td>On track</td>
<td>September 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replicate successful inter-agency partnerships</td>
<td>Commerce</td>
<td>DSHS, DOC, OSPI, Workforce Dev, HCA, ESD</td>
<td>Improved system integration and efficiencies through targeted interventions.</td>
<td>On track</td>
<td>September 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantify differences between counties</td>
<td>Commerce</td>
<td>DSHS, Counties</td>
<td>Measure of best practice use, economic drivers and relationship to homelessness</td>
<td>On track</td>
<td>December 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create supplemental measure of homelessness</td>
<td>Commerce</td>
<td>DSHS, OSPI, DVA, OFM, DOL</td>
<td>Supplement will provide more regular/timely data, and provide a way of validating point in time</td>
<td>On track</td>
<td>June 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create affordable housing plan with quantified strategies</td>
<td>Commerce</td>
<td>Housing Finance Commission</td>
<td>Plan that clearly shows the scale of the proposed strategies</td>
<td>Not started</td>
<td>July 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Assistance Needed: Inter-Agency Collaboration

**Employment** – *Workforce Development Council, DSHS, Employment Security*
Access to job training and job supports

**Education** – *Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction*
Identify and assist homeless school children to improve educational outcomes

**Health** – *Health Care Authority, DSHS*
Pursue linkage between housing and health care delivery

**Criminal Justice** – *Department of Corrections*
Collaborate on re-entry to ensure stable housing
SPOKANE’S H3 PROGRAM:
HEALTH, HOUSING, AND HOMELESSNESS FOR THE MEDICALLY VULNERABLE

Empire Health Foundation

Kristen West-Fisher
Vice President of Programs and Operations
Problems, Opportunities & Approach:

Problem: Perverse Policies
- Policies drive low-income people to access high-cost health care

Opportunities: Cost Savings
- Medicaid/Medicare
- Emergency Room
- Criminal Justice system

Approach: Integrated Service Delivery
- Co-Investment
- Network Hub Administrator
- Network Service Providers
- Rapidly Adaptive
Current State & Challenges:

**Current State:**
- Early positive results
- Network developing, but incomplete

**Challenges:**
- Creating a new way of doing business
  - Fitting people into program silos
  - Accessing funding to operate network
  - Capturing savings
- Lack of specialized housing

### 2014 - 2015 Results

- **83 Referrals**
- **27 Enrolled**
- **23 Housed**

- 85% of clients housed to date
- Many clients housed in 20 days or less
- 68.5 days to housing (median)
- Time & effort needed to navigate program, funding, & data silos