Homeless Services Overview
City of Tacoma | Neighborhood and Community Services

City Council Study Session
September 19th, 2023

Neighborhood and Community Services

Director

Code Compliance

Community and Human Services

Resource Allocation and Management

Code Support Services

Community Wellness

Homeless Strategy, Systems & Services (3 FTE)

Homeless Engagement Alternative Liaisons (8 FTE)
City of Tacoma Homeless Strategy

- Delivered to Council September 2022
- Aligned with Pierce County Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness
- Focused on reaching ‘Functional Zero’ – episodes of homelessness are rare, brief and one-time. Prioritize immediate access to emergency shelter and permanent housing.

1) Ensure affordable housing is available and accessible to Tacoma residents.
   - Create flexibility in contracting
   - Leveraged publicly and partner-owned land for affordable housing
   - Integrated culturally competent and trauma informed practices

2) Everyone experiencing homelessness in Tacoma, or impacted by homelessness, can access services and support.
   - Hire additional HEAL Team members.
   - Eliminate known barriers to accessing shelter.
   - Establish strategic outreach schedule with HEAL Team and service providers.
   - Create “By-Name List” (CPEH 5.1)

3) The shelter system in Tacoma offers all people a safe and dignified experience that is easy to access.
   - Contracted with new providers and implemented new shelter models
   - Modified existing temporary shelter regulations
   - Published weekly reporting on shelter bed utilization, capacity, and availability
   - Coordinate shelter providers to create accessible intake services (CPEH 4.2)
   - Increase shelter staff workforce

4) Tacoma’s homeless service system provides individuals and families with access to a continuum of tailored supports to prevent and end homelessness.
   - Increase Temporary Financial Assistance
   - Invest in direct MHSUD interventions that meet best practice standards.

5) Tacoma’s homeless service system provides individuals and families with access to permanent, stable housing in order to end the cycle of homelessness.
   - Support existing service and shelters providers transition into providing housing and housing services
   - Acquisition of Aspen Court to use for Permanent Supportive Housing
Homeless Services Budget

2023-2024 Homeless Services Budget by Fund

- General Fund: $24,009,724 (67%)
- Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Sales Tax: $11,707,580 (33%)

2023-2024 Homeless Services by Expenditure Area

- Permanent Supportive Housing: $39,051
- Supportive Services: $723,089
- Prevention: $2,119,789
- Encampment Response: $2,801,629
- Housing Services: $3,824,357
- Sheltering: $26,209,389

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