

# Homelessness in Auburn: *What are we doing to respond?* *How are our services impacted?*

Presentation for the Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness  
Meeting 2: December 17, 2016

City of Auburn Departments (Police, Parks, Community Services,  
Planning & Development) and  
Valley Regional Fire Authority

# Today's Presentation

- We will hear from the following City Departments:
  - Police
  - Community Services
  - Parks
  - Planning and Development
- We will also hear from the Valley Regional Fire Authority (providing fire and emergency response in Auburn, Algona and Pacific)
- The information in this powerpoint presentation summarizes the written materials in your packets.

# POLICE

- Our Department's Mission and Vision:
  - *To provide professional law enforcement services to our community*
  - *To be a premier law enforcement agency that is trusted, supported and respected.*
- Basic services:
  - *911 general calls for service criminal and civil.*
  - *Traffic enforcement.*
  - *Felony criminal investigations (Person/Property crimes, Special Investigations ( Narcotics, Vice Crimes).*
  - *Special Weapons and Tactics.*
  - *Police records, warrants, WACIC/NCIC, court orders, pistol licenses, Evidence and Property.*
  - *Community Programs, Police Volunteers, Block Watch, Accreditation, Citizens Academy, Community Response Team (CRT).*

# POLICE

- **ISSUES/CHALLENGES RELATED TO HOMELESSNESS:**
  - *Being homeless is not a crime*
  - *Mental illness*
  - *Some homeless persons choosing the lifestyle*
  - *Limited resources other than incarceration*
  - *General public perception/unrealistic expectations*

# POLICE

## PRIMARY RESPONSE TO HOMELESSNESS

### Community Response Team

- *Two full time officers*
- *Problem solving mission*
- *Quality of life issues*
- *Coordination with outside agencies to address issues*

# POLICE

- SERVICE STRENGTHS:
  - *Officers are trained in handling mental illness.*
  - *Officers are trained in available resources.*
  - *Developed rapport due to frequent contact.*
  - *Ability to focus CRT on homeless issues.*
- VOIDS IN SERVICES
  - *Officers need effective services (referrals).*
  - *Arrests and Criminal charges are not always the best solution.*
  - *Homeless persons becoming ineligible for court mandated treatment.*

POLICE

- FINAL THOUGHTS.....

# Community Services

- Our Department's Mission: City of Auburn Community Services mission is to strengthen ties in the community by reaching out through education, outreach and civic engagement.
- Our role in providing city services, generally:

The Community Services Division is responsible for: Human Services, Veteran Services and Neighborhood programs which include:

- CDBG and general fund grants
- Housing Repair
- National Night Out
- Neighborhood meetings
- Community and Veteran Resource navigation

# Community Services

- Issues/challenges we see relating to Homelessness in Auburn:
  - No shelter and very limited transitional housing options
  - Difficulty navigating supportive service systems
  - Misperception of different homeless populations
  - Disproportionate delegating of resources in region
  - Transportation
  - Limited capacity within supportive services

# Community Services

- Our programs/services in response to these issues:
  - The City funds over 40 programs with General and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) monies that focus on:
    - Abused & Neglected Children
    - Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
    - Physical & Mental Health/Substance Abuse
    - Poverty Reduction
  - The City also partners with other government entities and nonprofits to strategize and collaborate on efforts to address homelessness in our region.
  - In 2015 Auburn along with other SKC cities and several nonprofits put together funds for a full time homeless and housing planner for the entire SKC region.

# Community Services

- Our strengths:
  - The City has a good relationship with local and regional providers and government entities in the SKC region. Our strength is our ability to partner, collaborate and leverage existing resources to address significant regional issues.
- Service gaps we observe:
  - We do not have the capacity to serve the current homeless population. There are no emergency shelter services or enough affordable housing in the region to meet the need.
  - There is also a significant gap in community based wrap around services for vulnerable populations who are at highest risk to become homeless.

# Community Services

- Other observations:
- A large need for laundry/shower services, as well as a day drop-in center for homeless adults.
- Lack of knowledge of awareness of the resources and services available to them.

# Parks Department

- Our Department's Mission: To "Protect the City of Auburn's natural beauty through a vibrant system of parks, open space, and trails while enhancing the quality of life for our citizens by providing outstanding recreational and cultural opportunities."
- Our role in providing city services, generally: Provide a safe place and clean environment for park users to recreate and enjoy the City of Auburn Parks System.

# Parks Department

- Issues/challenges we see relating to Homelessness in Auburn:
  - Park Safety is first and foremost.
  - Parents have indicated that they are hesitant to take their kids to parks where the homeless congregate (Les Gove and Veteran's Memorial).
  - Trail users have indicated that they do not feel comfortable or safe along trails where homeless camps are common (Interurban, White River, Les Gove).
  - Parks staff recently conducted an online survey for the City's Park Plan update. In an open ended question about parks, over 1/4 of respondents had concerns about homelessness in parks.

# Parks Department

- Issues/challenges we see relating to Homelessness in Auburn:
  - The mess associated with homeless activity in parks and open space areas.
  - Trash in active park areas – Including drug paraphernalia.
  - Shopping carts and belongings left unattended – They desire a safe place to store their belongings so they tend to leave these items unattended in high use areas.

# Parks Department

- Issues/challenges we see relating to Homelessness in Auburn:
  - Beyond the City's active use park areas, open space areas present a whole different set of challenges.
  - Parents are hesitant to let their kids explore forested areas.
  - Parks staff and PD spend a significant of time trespassing people out of undeveloped open space areas.
  - Environmental impacts.
  - If we are not proactive in visiting these areas for extended periods of time then the mess that is left in the wake can be staggering.
  - **GOAL** – Every acre, every month.



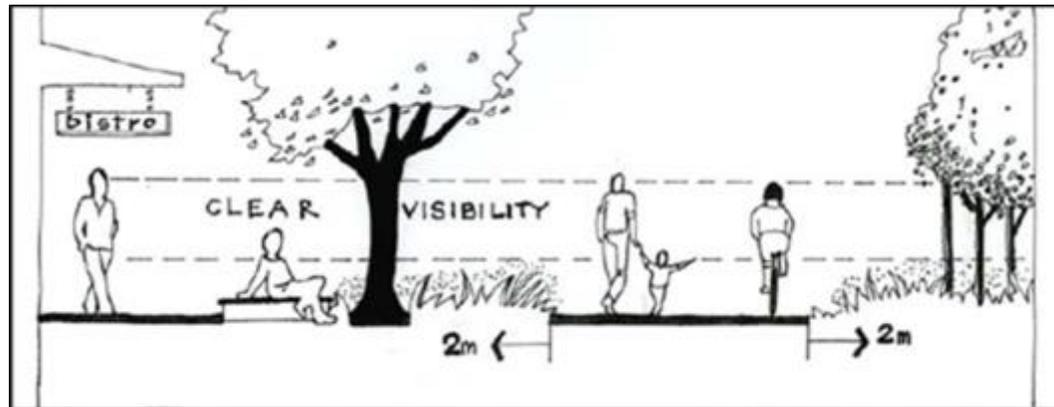


# PARKS DEPARTMENT

- Our programs/services in response to these issues:
  - An enormous amount of staff time by Parks and PD is spent addressing homeless issues in parks.
  - Typically when we get a call or a report of a camp, Parks staff will visit the camp to see if it is active or abandoned.
  - If it is active then we will contact PD, and take them to the location to trespass the individual or group of individuals.
  - Once it is abandoned then Parks coordinates cleanup efforts.
  - Cleanup efforts are done by either Parks staff, Community services crews, or a private company depending on a number of factors (size of the camp, how much human waste there is, and drug paraphernalia).
  - **GOAL** – Keep small, catch early. Philosophy goes back to every acre, every month.

# PARKS DEPARTMENT

- Our programs/services in response to these issues:
  - Increase appropriate and intended uses (Trails and Frisbee golf)
  - Prevention through environmental design.





# PARKS DEPARTMENT

- Our strengths:
  - Interdepartmental relationships with Police and Code Enforcement.
  - Relationships with Library staff, AYR, Food Bank, etc.
  - A Proactive approach to addressing issues ensures that camps don't go unnoticed, reducing the likelihood for the need of large scale cleanup.
- Service gaps we observe:
  - With limited staff to address these issues if we turn our backs on the issue for even a short amount of time then we end of playing catch up and having to make up for lost time.
  - The “right hand needs to talk to the left hand”. Communication between City Departments and Community Organizations is key!

# PARKS DEPARTMENT

- Other observations:
  - The homeless individuals that we encounter in parks are not typically the single mom down on her luck with her kids sleeping in her car.
  - They do not appear to be veterans in need of veterans services to get back on their feet - Veterans **MUST** be taken care of any time any place.
  - The majority of individuals that we encounter in our parks appear to be relatively young able bodied individuals.
  - When it comes to locating services in and around our parks it is important to consider this: **The right service, at the right location, at the right time.**

# DEPARTMENT Community Development & Public Works

- Our Department's Mission:  
To serve the Auburn community by providing consistent, high quality customer service; to implement City Council goals in land use, planning, environmental protection, building safety and efficiency while continuing to build and maintain relationships for a better community.
- Our role in providing city services, generally:
  - Streets, water, sewer, stormwater
  - Fleet
  - Permitting of development
  - Code enforcement

# DEPARTMENT Community Development & Public Works

- Issues/challenges we see relating to Homelessness in Auburn:
  - We have no place to send the homeless we encounter.
  - Arresting or citing people for violations of “no trespass” orders becomes one of our only “tools.”

# DEPARTMENT Community Development & Public Works

Our programs/services in response to these issues:

*We respond to:*

- **Reports of squatters occupying abandoned properties**
  - Requires coordination with PD, property owner
- **Reports of encampments**
  - Mitigating trash and debris left behind
    - On public property we coordinate clean up with Parks, Solid Waste, Community Service Crews.
    - On private property we work with property owner. They are responsible to clean up. We offer information about ways to protect their property.

# Encampment in Auburn



This may be all  
they own...

But it can't stay here



Potential for  
negative  
environmental  
impact





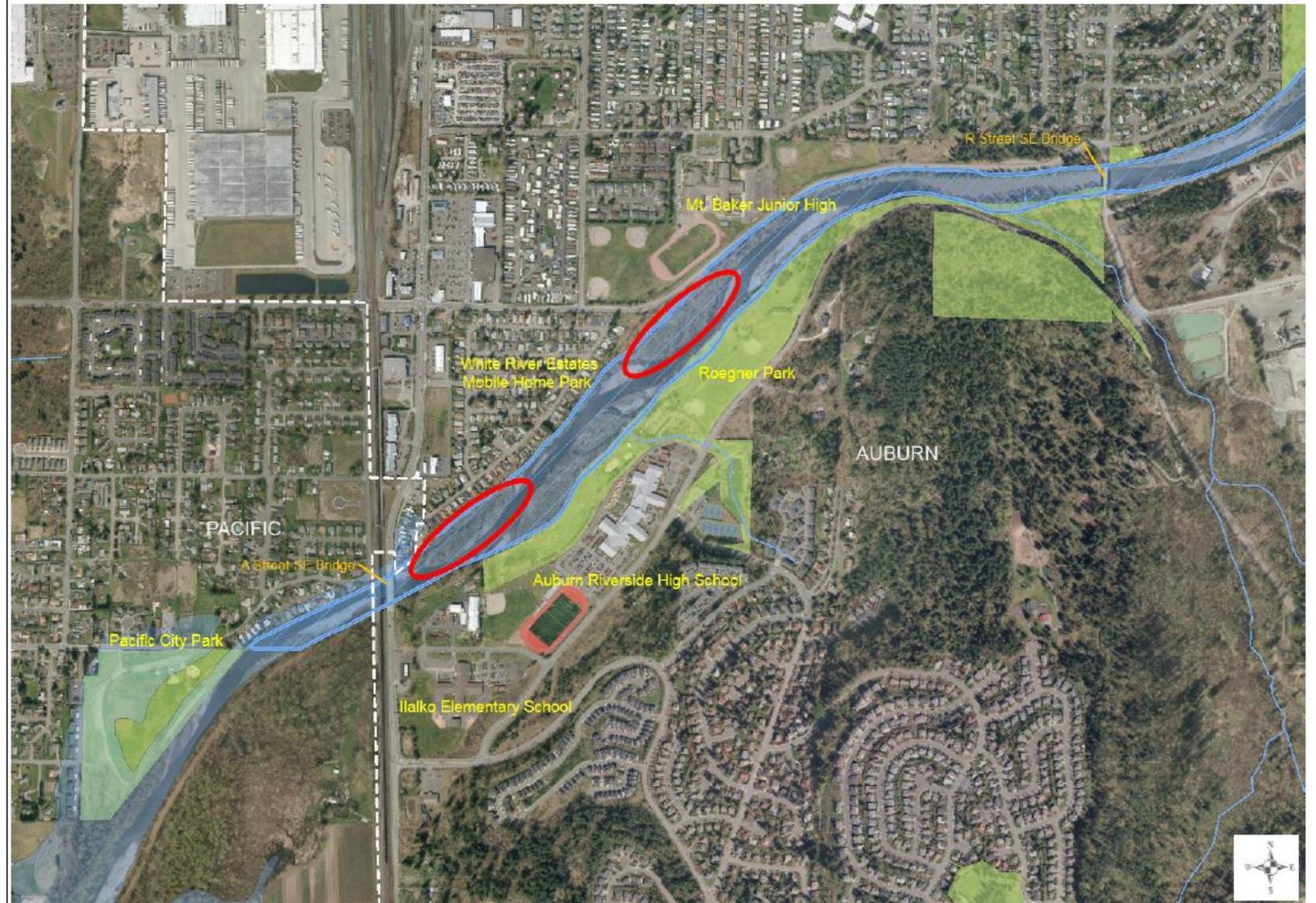
Built on  
protected  
wetlands



# Environmental and health risk



North Bank White River Between A Street SE and R Street SE in Auburn, Areas Occupied by Homeless Persons - Summer 2015



White River 'Island' Site



Auburn Riverside High School

# DEPARTMENT Community Development & Public Works

- Our strengths:
  - Responsive to the needs of the community
  - Pro-actively address the issues
  - Work collaboratively with other agencies/departments
  - Willing to take enforcement action when necessary
- Service gaps we observe:
  - No place to send those we encounter.
    - We wish we could be more helpful: You can't stay here but you can go here."

# DEPARTMENT Community Development & Public Works

- Other observations: Behaviors cause other ramifications and issues
  - Rummaging through garbage containers looking for cigarettes and food creates an additional mess and further taxing resources.
  - Damaging property/receptacles - breaking locks to gain access.
  - Putting themselves and our service providers at risk when gaining access for shelter.

# Valley Regional Fire Authority

- Our Department's Mission:
  - "The VRFA creates a safer community through effective prevention, preparedness, and aggressive emergency response."
- Our role in providing city services, generally:
  - In addition to fire suppression, the VRFA provides emergency medical services, rescue response, and a variety of fire prevention and public education functions to the citizens of Auburn, Algona, and Pacific.

# Valley Regional Fire Authority

- Issues/challenges we see relating to Homelessness in Auburn:
  - Increased census and varied demographics
  - Complex needs
  - Risky behaviors
  - Limited social services
  - Access and safety

# Valley Regional Fire Authority

- Our programs/services in response to these issues:
  - First responders
  - Community healthcare referral
  - Ad-hoc services

# Valley Regional Fire Authority

- Our strengths:
  - Responder creativity and a willingness to help
  - Vulnerable populations committee
  - Community Medical Technician
- Service gaps we observe:
  - Data
  - Social services

# Valley Regional Fire Authority

- Other observations:
  - More census and demographic data is needed
  - Unified approach



# Presentation to Auburn Task Force on Homelessness

December 17, 2015

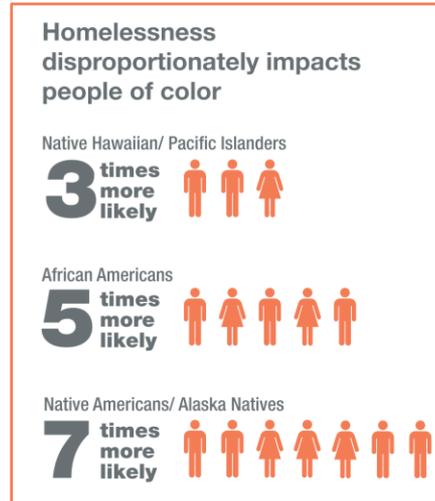
Megan Gibbard

All Home Youth & Young Adult Initiative

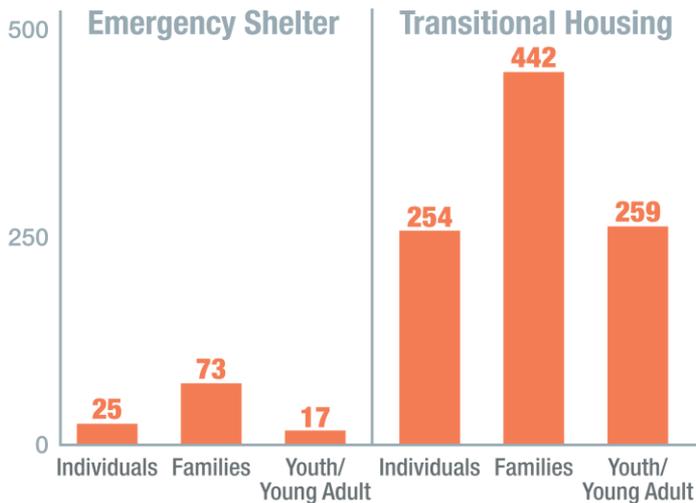
# Who is experiencing homelessness?



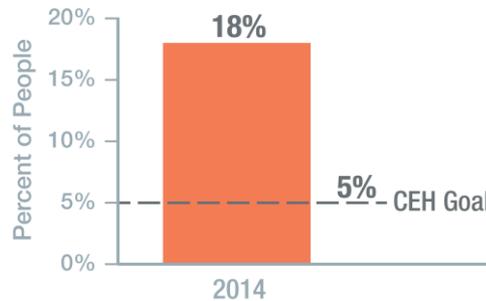
# Homelessness State of Emergency



## Length of Stay

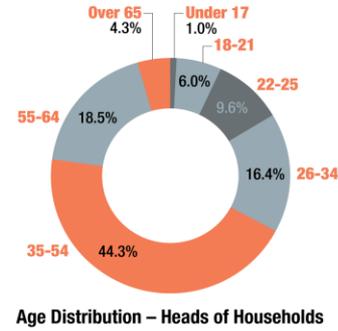
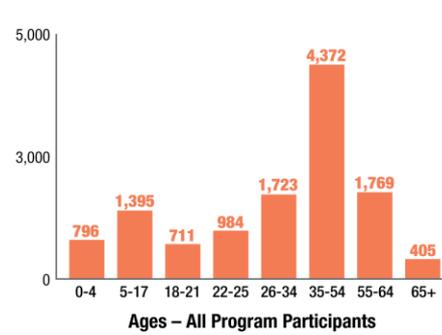


## Returns to Homelessness

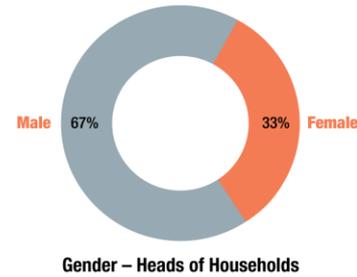
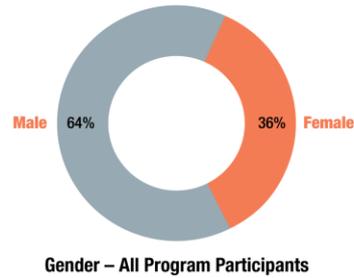


# Who's Homeless in King County

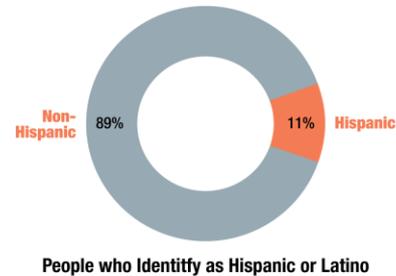
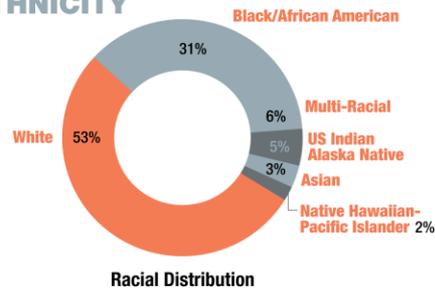
## AGE



## GENDER

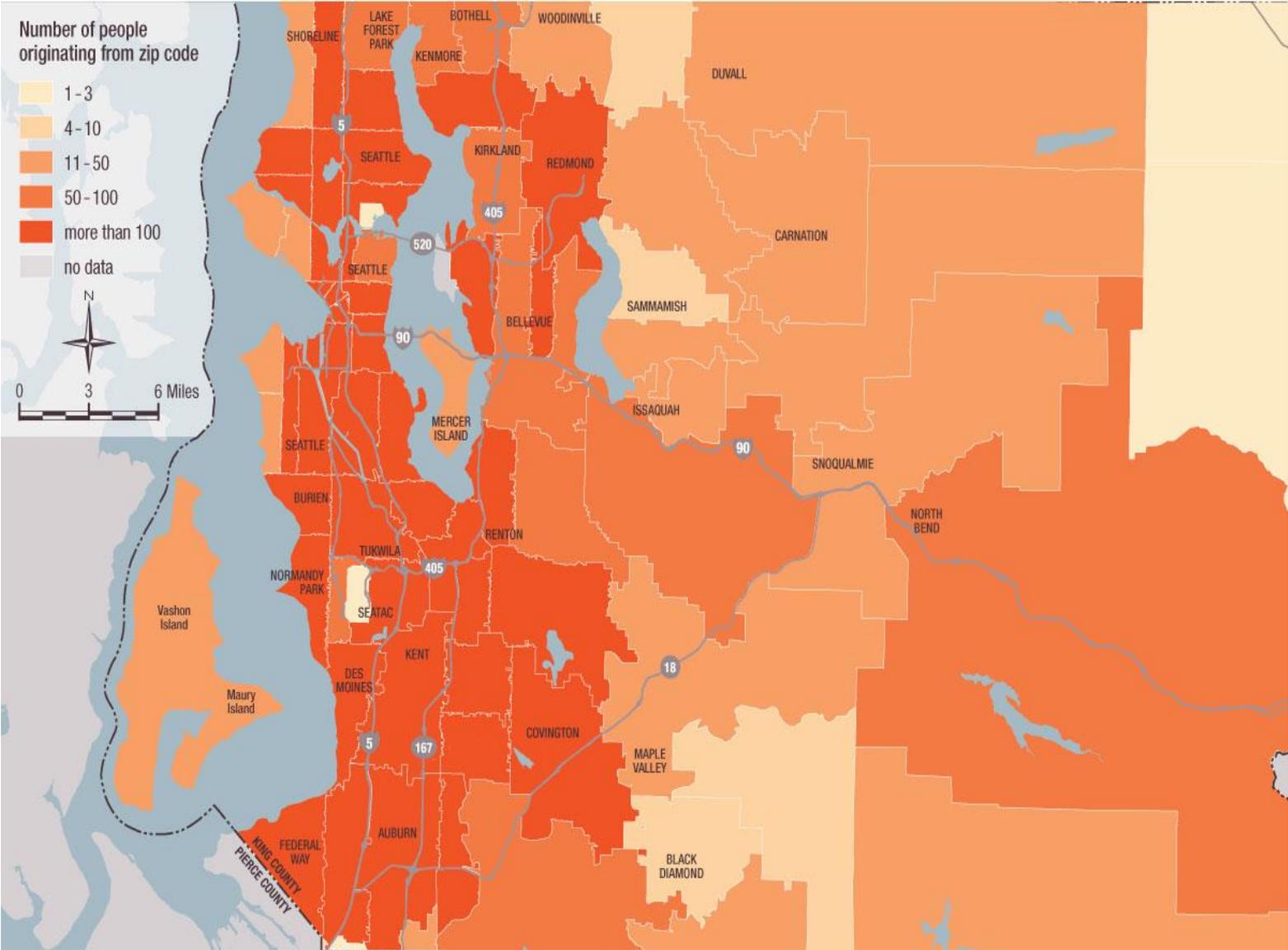


## RACE/ETHNICITY

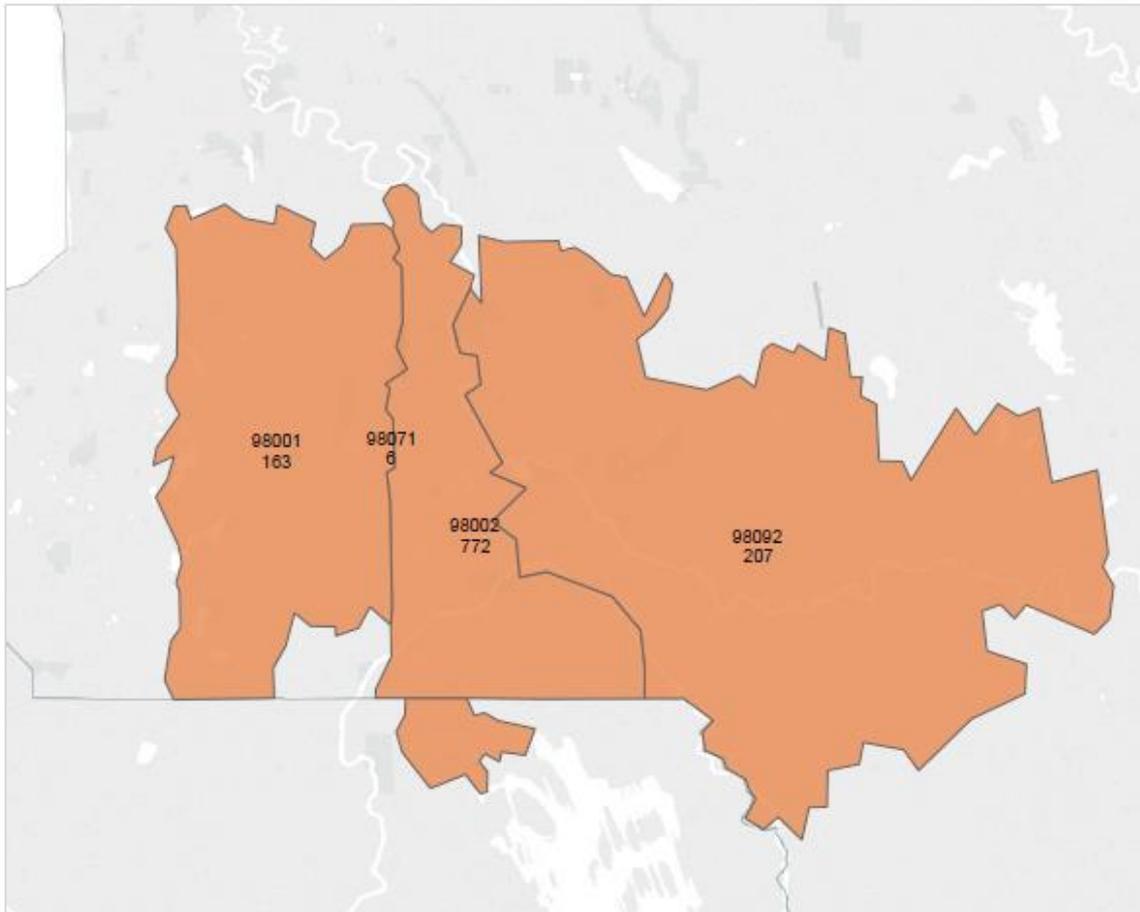


Race and ethnicity treated as separate categories, per HUD regulations

# In Every Zip Code in King County



## How many homeless clients in 2014 reported coming from Auburn?



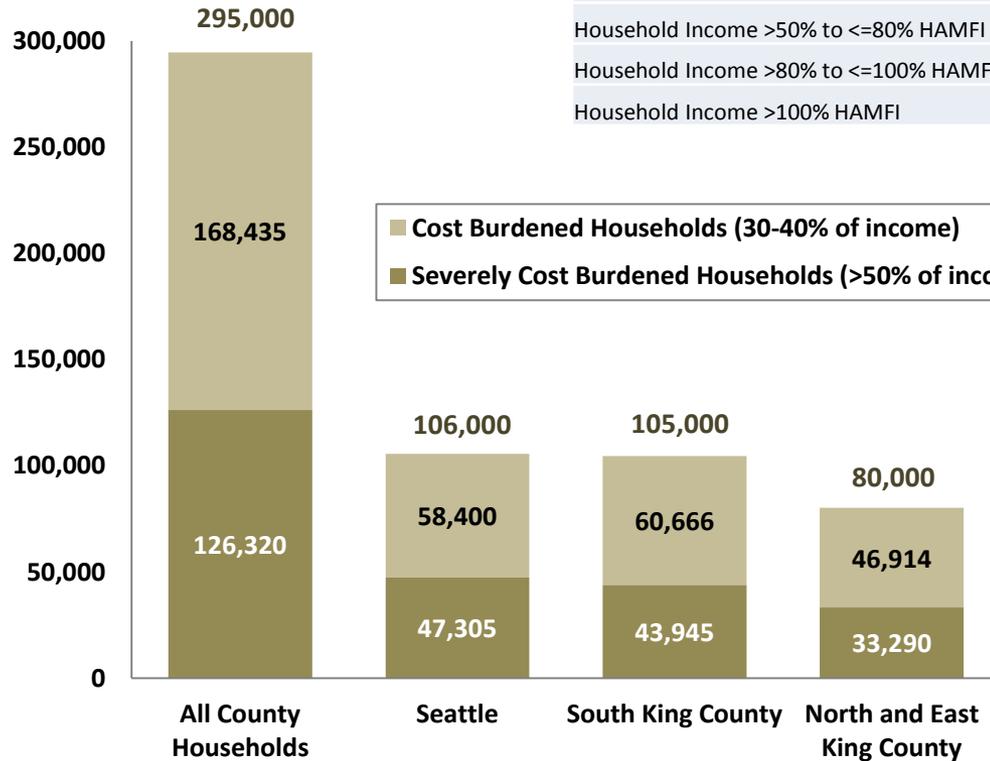
### Number of Homeless Clients in each Zipcode

98001	163
98002	772
98071	6
98092	207
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,148</b>



**In Auburn, 10.2% of families and 12.8% of the population were below the poverty line during the 200 census**

# Cost Burden - Auburn

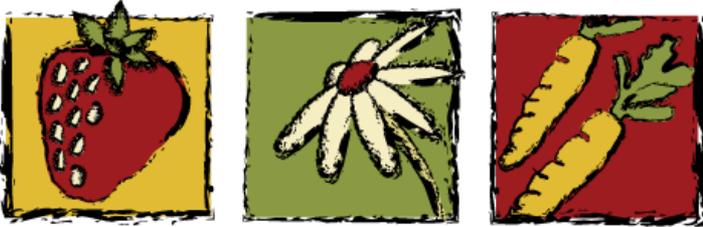


Auburn		
Income by Cost Burden (Owners and Renters)	Cost burden > 30%	Cost burden > 50%
Household Income <= 30% HAMFI	81%	71%
Household Income >30% to <=50% HAMFI	75%	26%
Household Income >50% to <=80% HAMFI	44%	12%
Household Income >80% to <=100% HAMFI	33%	11%
Household Income >100% HAMFI	19%	1%

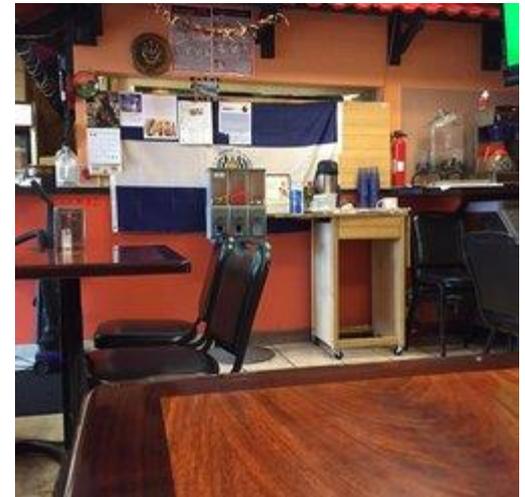
# Auburn, cont'd



## Auburn Int'l Farmers Market



Algona • Auburn • Pacific



# Causes of Homelessness Are Real



Research of 300+ cities and states found statistical correlation between these factors and rising homelessness:

## Housing market

Increase in rent of \$100 associated with 15% increase in homelessness in metro areas and 39% in suburban/rural

## Economic conditions

Areas with high poverty and unemployment rates associated with higher rates of homelessness

## Demographic composition

Areas with more Hispanic, baby boomer, and single person households associated with higher rates of homelessness

## Safety net

States with lower mental health expenditures associated with higher rates of homelessness

## Transience

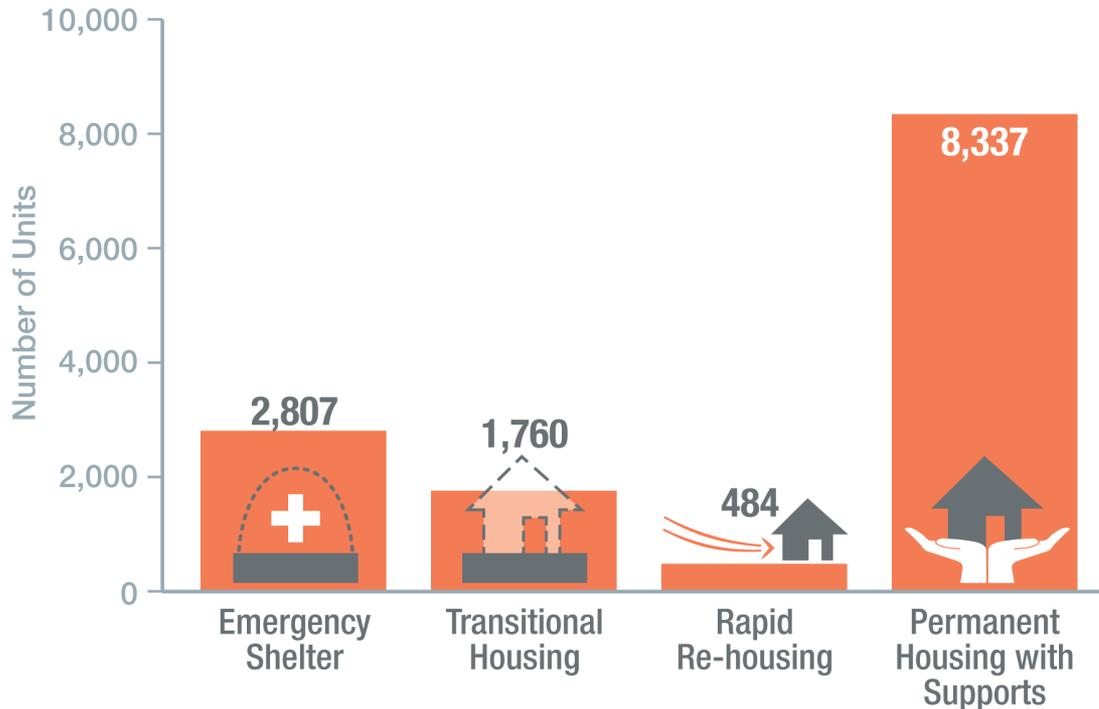
Areas with more recently moved people associated with higher rates of homelessness

Resource: Byrne, T., Culhane, D., et. al., "New Perspectives on Community-level Determinants of Homelessness" (2013): [Article](#) and [Summary](#)

# Housing Resources



## Crisis Response and Permanent Housing



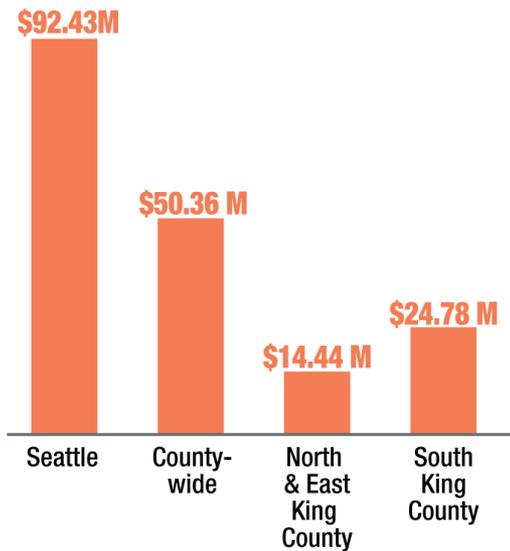
### Top 10 Cities: # of Housing Units Dedicated for the Homeless

1. New York
2. Los Angeles
3. **Seattle/King County**
4. District of Columbia
5. Chicago
6. Boston
7. Philadelphia
8. Phoenix/Mesa/Maricopa County
9. San Francisco
10. Miami / Dade County

# Financial Resources

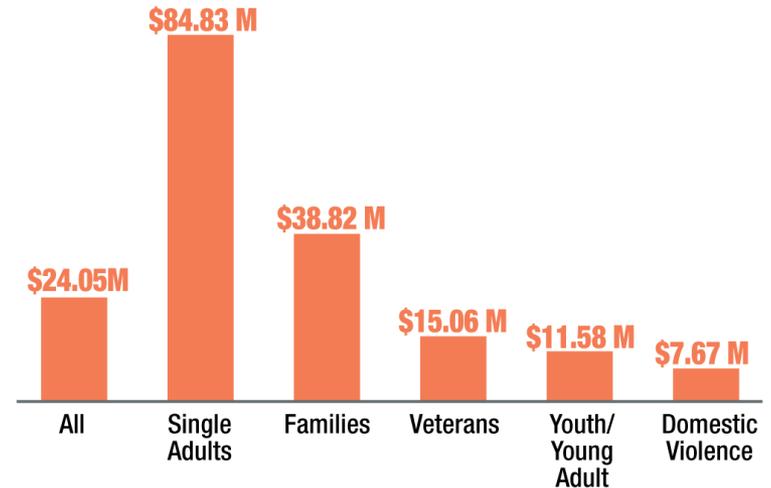


## FUNDING BY AREA SERVED



*Notes: Funding by Area Served shows the location of the funding recipient (organization). Programs available to all residents in the county are categorized as countywide.*

## FUNDING BY POPULATION



# Strategic Plan: 2015-2019



Homelessness is  
**Rare, Brief, and One-Time**

← Vision

Fewer homeless  
More housed

Fewer days  
Fewer returns

Reduced disparity  
Increased support

← Outcomes

**Goal 1:**

**RARE:**  
Address the  
causes of  
homelessness

**Goal 2:**

**BRIEF, ONE-TIME:**  
Improve and  
expand existing  
programs and  
processes

**Goal 3:**

**COMMUNITY:**  
Engage the entire  
Community to  
End Homelessness

← The goal and strategy  
for achieving our  
vision (for all  
populations)

Data-driven governance and accountability

← How we work  
together

Person-centered, collaborative, compassionate, equitable

← Our values

# Goal 1: Homelessness is **Rare**



Working together with community advocates, providers and partners we are aligning our efforts towards:

- Prevention
- Affordable housing
- Reducing cycle of criminal justice involvement and homelessness



# Goal 2: Homelessness is **Brief and One-Time**



For too many, a temporary crisis spirals into homelessness. Shortening the length of time families and individuals are homeless is key to reducing trauma. We are:

- Individualizing our approach to providing services we can address the immediate crisis quickly and flexibly.
- Recommitting to housing first, to get people into housing and then address health and wellbeing



# Goal 3: A *Community* to End Homelessness



It will take our entire community coming together in compassionate action to address the crisis of homelessness.

There is an opportunity – and a need – for every person to take action.

All Home is here to help you connect - we need you, your neighbors, your friends and family to join us in pushing for change through meaningful action.



# A system to respond to homelessness needs both:



## **Crisis Response –**

### **Outreach**

Address immediate needs of safety, provide crisis intervention, and connect people to basic services such as medical care, clothing, food and shelter.

### **Emergency Shelter**

Temporary residence to provide clients with safety and protection from exposure to the weather.

### **Transitional housing**

Temporary housing program to help the resident become a “productive member of society” or, in the case of youth, to assist them in learning to live independently.

# And a system to respond to homelessness needs:



## **Stabilization –**

### Supportive services

Can include case management, mental health or chemical dependency treatment, employment supports and so on.

### Homelessness prevention

Can include rental assistance, diversion, family reunification and mediation.

### Rapid rehousing

The most succinct definition is provided by HUD: Rapid Re-Housing is for “individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness and who need temporary assistance in order to obtain housing and retain it”

### Permanent housing types

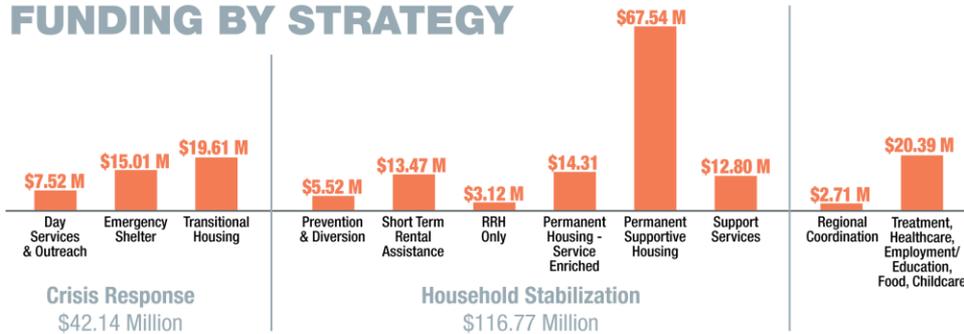
Includes Permanent Supportive Housing

# What do we currently spend on each strategy?

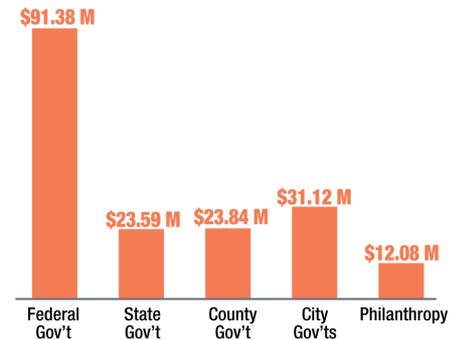


## Homelessness Investments 2014

### FUNDING BY STRATEGY



### FUNDING BY SOURCE



Federal	91.38	County	23.84
CDBG + HOME	3.79	General Fund + Special Projects	3.01
Health & Human Services	5.68	HOF/Doc Recording Fees	8.13
McKinney/Homeless Housing	22.91	Veterans & Human Services Levy	9.37
Public Housing	53.28	MIDD	2.60
VA	5.73	Other	0.73
<b>State</b>	<b>23.59</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>31.12</b>
CHG	2.78	Seattle General Fund	15.23
HEN	13.16	Seattle Housing Levy	12.10
Medicaid + Match	6.82	Human Services Funding	3.79
Other	0.82	Collaborative General Fund	
		<b>Philanthropy</b>	<b>12.08</b>
		UWKC	9.16
		Building Changes, Gates, Raikes, others	2.92

Notes: See previous page for details on the data source for this chart. The Human Services Funding Collaborative resources on this chart only include general funds.

# Questions?



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# Concerns, Underlying Causes and Questions – themes from feedback in Homework #1

Auburn Mayor's Task Force on  
Homelessness

Meeting 2

December 17, 2015



# Major Themes: Concerns

- Safety of residents
- Safety of the homeless
- Lack of services available to help the homeless in Auburn or close-by
- Negative community views, lack of public understanding, lack of tolerance
- Trash, debris left behind by homeless



# Major Themes: Underlying Causes

- Drug and alcohol addiction and/or mental illness
- Lack of affordable housing
- Poverty, lack of jobs, inadequate income
- Being homeless is a choice of some
- Lack of sufficient services to help



# Questions

- Questions about the situation in Auburn
- Questions about *what* the community can do to help: specific ideas—will they help?
- Questions about whether the community is *willing* to help



# Questions about the situation in Auburn

- How many homeless are there in Auburn?  
How many kids, families, etc.
- Where did the homeless come from?
- Why are they homeless? Why can't they get and keep housing?
- What services are available to help homeless individuals in Auburn?
- What do homeless individuals say they need to turn their lives around?



# Ideas presented as questions: Would this work?

- An emergency shelter in Auburn?
- More housing first units/permanent supportive housing?
- Map of resources available to give to homeless individuals?
- Reduce barriers to getting services, housing?
- Incentivize homeless –work, get sober in exchange for housing/services
- The challenge is everywhere—what can one city do?



# Will the community help?

- I don't know how to help homeless individuals.
- How can we educate the community about how to help?
- Is there political will to act?
- Is there community will to act?

## What's Available in Auburn? Draft dated 12/14/15

Population Group →	Families with children	Youth <18 & Young Adults (18-24)	Single Adults	Veterans	Domestic Violence
<b>Services Available in Auburn:</b>					
<b>Food Bank , Free Meals</b>	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Connecting people to services: crisis outreach workers</b>	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Day Center (day shelter)</b>		X			
<b>Hygiene facility (mobile or otherwise)</b>					
<b>Emergency Shelter (30-90 days)</b>					X
<b>Transitional Housing (3 months to 2 years)</b>					X
<b>Tent City or sanctioned mini-housing or car/camper park site for homeless</b>					
<b>Preventing Homelessness</b> • Diversion (referral to a shelter unit) • Short term rental assistance	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Rapid Rehousing and Support Services (&lt;12 months; for young adults, up to 2 years)</b>	X		X	X	
<b>Permanent Housing with Enriched services</b>					
<b>Permanent Supportive Housing (for homeless with chronic issues)</b>		X		X	
<b>Subsidized Public Housing (KCHA, other)</b>	X		X		
<b>Other Supportive Services:</b> • Job training • Mental Health care • Medical care	X	X	X	X	X

## What's available in South King County?

Population Group →	Families with children	Youth <18 & Young Adults (18-24)	Single Adults	Veterans	Domestic Violence
<b>Services Available in Auburn:</b>					
<b>Food Bank , Free Meals</b>	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Connecting people to services: crisis outreach workers</b>	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Day Center (day shelter)</b>	X	X			
<b>Hygiene facility (mobile or otherwise)</b>	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Emergency Shelter (30-90 days)</b>	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Transitional Housing (3 months to 2 years)</b>	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Tent City or sanctioned mini-housing or car/camper park site for homeless</b>					
<b>Preventing Homelessness</b> • Diversion (referral to a shelter unit) • Short term rental assistance	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Rapid Rehousing and Support Services</b> (<12 months; for young adults, up to 2 years)	X		X	X	
<b>Permanent Housing with Enriched services</b>					
<b>Permanent Supportive Housing</b> (for homeless with chronic issues)		X	X	X	
<b>Subsidized Public Housing (KCHA, other)</b>	X		X	X	
<b>Other Supportive Services:</b> • Job training • Mental Health care • Medical care	X	X	X	X	X