

# *Continuum of Care Plan for Thurston County*



*Researched and Compiled by the Thurston County Housing Task Force  
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*Copies of this document are available at:  
The Housing Authority of Thurston County  
503 W 4th Ave  
Olympia, WA 98501*

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## ***Purpose, Principles & Goals of Developing Continuum of Care System***

The community's integrated system of housing and related services is cooperatively developed and open to any provider developing a program that maintains, enhances, or meets a gap in services to meet the needs of the homeless. The seven components are integrally linked and rely on support services throughout the system in order for the continuum to function. The provider network actively involves current and formerly homeless in their discussions. The community is informed of the plans and seeks to have the service plan approved by the whole community in order to secure adequate resources for the programs. This is the purpose and the process by which the community has developed and will maintain this Continuum of Care system.

The purpose of the Continuum of Care Plan is to create and coordinate a comprehensive set of services and housing choices designed to move individuals and families out of homelessness.

The plan provides an avenue for various members of the community, businesses, and service providers to view what housing problems and solutions are in the community annually, revise it as necessary, and to work together to reduce the gaps that have been identified.

## ***Summary of Plan***

The Thurston County Continuum of Care Plan uses the model outline provided in the Guidebook for Developing Local Continuum of Care Plans for Homeless People published by the Low Income Housing Institute in December 1996. The Plan consists of four parts:

1. Community Planning Process
2. Existing Services for the Homeless
3. Gaps Analysis – Priority of Needs
4. One Year – Long Range Plans

## ***Origins of Continuum of Care Planning***

The Thurston County Continuum of Care Plan originated in 1994 with the *Phase II Report, Recommendation for An Integrated System of Housing and Services for Homeless Persons*. This report, requested by the Homeless Services Committee and prepared by the Housing Task Force, is the basic Continuum of Care Plan that has been used by all major jurisdictions. Since its adoption, the report has served as an effective tool in guiding the community to meet the needs of the homeless in Thurston County.

In reviewing the 1994 document, planners and service providers determined that the original plan needed to be enhanced. Specifically, it was determined that more attention was needed to address homeless services to special needs populations and youth, and that a formal evaluation process take place annually.

## ***Current Year Summary***

In the spring of 2002 the Housing Task Force agreed to merge two subcommittees into one. The Homeless Services Subcommittee and the Move to Housing Subcommittee combined efforts including Continuum of Care Planning process. The subcommittee retained the title of Move to Housing.

Much has been done in 2002 and 2003 to further the community's efforts to reduce homelessness and to learn about creative solutions to end homelessness in Thurston County. Housing Task Force members have organized several tours of facilities who offer "best practices" examples of how to provide services and housing. The eight local jurisdictions have signed agreements to become a consortium for the purpose of bringing nearly 1 million dollars in HUD HOME funding into the community by September of 2003. An application has been submitted for HUD McKinney funds for a permanent housing project to serve the chronically homeless, mentally ill population in our community. Four local jurisdictions formed the Interjurisdictional Forum on Homelessness (IFH), a group that meets monthly and whose members share a common vision to reduce homelessness by 50% by 2005.

In crisis mode, the Forest Glen Subcommittee to the HTF was formed and met weekly from May of 2002 to April of 2003 to prevent over 62 households living in a dilapidated apartment complex from becoming homeless.

## ***Description of the Community Planning Process/Organization***

### ***Annual Planning Cycle***

Date	Group	Main Topic
June - September	Continuum of Care Subcommittee	Review past winter, Work on One-year Plan
October - November	Continuum of Care Subcommittee	Conduct homeless count with state, Educate local professionals and review HUD McKinney Projects
December	Continuum of Care Subcommittee	Provider outreach, community meetings, shelter coordination, Analyze counts, gaps, surveys
January	Continuum of Care Subcommittee	Analyze counts, gaps, surveys
February	Continuum of Care Subcommittee	Present analysis to HTF and community
March	Continuum of Care Subcommittee	Review past winter
April	Continuum of Care Subcommittee	Set Priorities and Determine One-year Plan and Long Range Plan
May	Continuum of Care Subcommittee	Continuum of Care Plan Completed

### ***Planning Process Narrative 2003***

The Housing Task Force spent most of the summer of 2002 planning for the Cold Weather Overflow Shelter. The cities and county offered to rotate the provision of shelter in their buildings in the event that the shelters become full and the temperature drops below 32 degrees. A Governmental Group Subcommittee was formed to coordinate the Overflow shelter.

The Move to Housing subcommittee continued to meet to look at those who are hard to serve within the existing shelter system.

The Continuum of Care Subcommittee began meeting in early winter to plan for the one night counts of homeless people in the county and to update the Continuum of Care Plan. The count took place on Monday, February 24, 2003. The committee enlisted the help of Tedd Kelleher from the state office of Community, Trade and Economic Development to help with data management. Tedd developed a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) as a way to track homelessness and to obtain unduplicated counts of that population. The subcommittee used the system Tedd modified for our project. The subcommittee also enlisted help from shelters, agencies who provide services to the homeless as well as schools, churches, jails and the like. Volunteers went out into the streets and into the woods in an effort to not miss anyone in this count. Once again, Bread & Roses played a major role in getting information about those who were homeless but not accessing shelter.

The community is increasingly interested in refining how the homeless are counted to be sure none are missed. The Housing Authority of Thurston County is taking part in testing a HMIS program. Subcommittee members are excited to learn more about the system and hope to use it locally among all shelter providers. This would improve our ability to understand homelessness in Thurston County so that we can better fill the housing gaps.

**2003 Planning Meetings**

<b>Date of Meetings</b>	<b>Planning Topics (assess needs, discuss teen shelter development, annual plan, child care planning, etc)</b>
July 15, 2002	ESN's new Homeless Resource Advocacy Program was presented to the Housing Task Force, Recommendation's by task force to elected officials about policy making around blighted housing and relocation and prevention of homelessness.
August 19, 2002	Associated Ministries meeting about planning for winter shelter. Expected capacity is 20 individuals
October 9, 2002	The Government subcommittee of the Housing Task Force met to plan for the cold weather overflow system for the coming winter.
October 16, 2002	Coc/MTH subcommittee of Housing Task Force met to discuss homeless count, the increasing need for shelter and planning around that and the need for low barrier services.
October 18, 2002	The Government subcommittee of the Housing Task Force met to plan for the cold weather overflow system for the coming winter.
October 21, 2002	HTF meeting. Continue planning around cold weather overflow system.
October 22, 2002	The Government subcommittee of the Housing Task Force met to plan for the cold weather overflow system for the coming winter.
November 5, 2002	Cold weather overflow shelter planning
November 13, 2002	Coc/MTH subcommittee of Housing Task Force met to discuss homeless count
November 15, 2002	Government subcommittee met to finalize plans for winter shelter
November 18, 2002	At regular HTF meeting, plan was drafted to form an inter-jurisdictional committee of elected officials to do some long range planning on homeless issues. Planning was also done about scheduling a focus group on housing and homeless issues to be included in a community-wide survey about broader community perceptions.
November 19, 2002	Cold weather overflow shelter planning
December 3, 2002	Cold weather overflow shelter planning
December 17, 2002	Cold weather overflow shelter planning
December 2002	CoC planning group met on the upcoming homeless count
January 2, 2003	Cold weather overflow shelter planning
January 9, 2003	Community Assessment Project
January 14, 2003	The Inter-jurisdictional Forum on Homelessness was formed and met officially for the first time
January 13, 2003	Focus group to gather data on homeless and housing issues in Thurston County conducted by the United Way
January 15, 2003	Cold weather overflow shelter planning
January 28, 2003	Cold weather overflow shelter planning
February 4, 2003	IFH homeless planning meeting
February 6, 2003	Community Assessment Project
February 21, 2003	Consolidated planning process with HOME Consortium
February 24, 2003	Point in time homeless count took place county-wide
March 11, 2003	The Government subcommittee of the Housing Task Force met to plan for the end of the cold weather overflow system for the winter.
March 12, 2003	MTH/CoC meeting discussing the outcomes of the homeless count so far
March 17, 2003	Homeless count and cold weather overflow shelter debrief
March 24, 2003	Consolidated planning process with HOME Consortium
April 9, 2003	Consolidated planning process with HOME Consortium
April 3, 2003	Community Assessment Project
April 4, 2003	Permanent housing for chronically homeless mentally ill project planning
April 14, 2003	IFH homeless planning meeting, elected officials

April 25, 2003	Permanent housing for chronically homeless mentally ill project planning
May 1, 2003	Community Assessment Project
May 1, 2003	Permanent housing for chronically homeless mentally ill project planning
May 13, 2003	IFH meeting, Feeding the Hungry Partnership, new permanent supportive housing project planning
May 14, 2003	MTH/COC met on completing the gaps matrix and on prioritizing our local projects coming up for renewal under McKinney
May 19, 2003	McKinney grant planning, gaps matrix planning
June 11, 2003	IFH homeless planning meeting

*Participants in 2003 Planning Process*

Specific Names of CoC Organizations/Persons	Geographic Area Represented	Subpopulations Represented, if any* ( SMI, SA, VETS, HIV/AIDS, DV, Y)	Level of Participation (activity and frequency) in Planning Process
<b>State agencies:</b>			
<b>DSHS Olympia CSO</b> -Tom Kramer, Liz Bergh	Thurston County	Welfare Recipients, homeless individuals and families	Attends infrequently
<b>Department of Corrections</b> – Judy Combes	Regional Western Washington	Inmate population	Attends most meetings
<b>Local government agencies:</b>			
<b>Thurston County Board of Commissioners</b> -Commissioner Cathy Wolfe, Vickie Larkin	Thurston County		Attends all meetings
<b>Thurston County Sheriff’s Department</b> -Neil McClanahan	Thurston County		Chair, Thurston County Housing Task Force and co-Chair CoC subcommittee, Attends all meetings
<b>City of Olympia</b> -Ken Black, Steve Hall, Matthew Green, Todd Babcock	City of Olympia		Attends most meetings
<b>City of Lacey</b> -Scott Spence, Lorraine Wilson, Mary Dean	City of Lacey		Attends all meetings
<b>City of Tumwater</b> - Karen Valenzuela, Doug Baker	City of Tumwater		Attends most meetings
<b>Public Housing Authorities (PHAs):</b>			
<b>Housing Authority of Thurston County</b> - Forris Chaney, Theresa Balducci, James Gutierrez, Ruth Gutierrez Ann Pulliam	Thurston County		Attends all meetings
<b>Nonprofit organizations: (includes Faith-Based organizations):</b>			
<b>Salvation Army</b> -Steve Beadle, Major Kinnamon, Mike Orvatis	Thurston County		Attends all meetings
<b>Emergency Shelter Network</b> -Ann Matthews, Kirsten DiCicco	Thurston County		Attends all meetings
<b>Behavior Health Resources</b> -Stacy Sanders, John Masterson	Thurston County	SMI,SA	Attends most meetings
<b>South Sound Mental Health Services</b> -Marcie Stiltner, Shannon Deighan, Gary	Thurston County	SMI, SA	Attends most meetings

Davis			
<b>Bread &amp; Roses</b> -Selena Kilmoyer, Paddy O'Brien, Ruth Sherer	Thurston County		Attends all meetings
<b>Capitol Clubhouse</b> -Lee Stone	Thurston County	SMI	Attends occasionally
<b>Disabled American Veterans</b> -John Ancoch	Thurston County	VETS	Attends most meetings
<b>Union Gospel Mission</b> -Harriet Wehnes	Thurston County		Attends occasionally
<b>NAMI</b> -Carol Apple, Judy Combes	Thurston County	SMI	Attends occasionally
<b>United Communities AIDS Network</b> -Ellen Supplee, Heidi Larson	Thurston County	HIV/AIDS	Attends occasionally
<b>The Moms' House</b> -Diane Smith	Thurston County	Y	Attends infrequently
<b>LIHI</b> – Clare Tremper	Thurston County		Attends infrequently
<b>Community Youth Services</b> -Maureen McLemore, Annie Blackledge	Thurston County	Y	Attends most meetings
<b>Safeplace</b> - Mary Pontarolo, Marisa Kaneshiro	Thurston County	DV	Attends occasionally
<b>Fleetwood Apts</b> - Wendy Wilson			Attends infrequently
<b>Crisis Clinic</b> – Dick Hinkle			Attends occasionally
<b>Columbia Legal Services</b> – Greg Provenzano, Vince Brown, Bruce Neas			Attends most meetings
<b>Timberland Libraries</b> – Cheryl Heywood			Attends most meetings
<b>Businesses / Business Associations:</b>			
<b>Olympia Downtown Association</b> -Paul Seabert	Downtown Olympia		Attends occasionally
<b>Windermere Real Estate</b> , OTCAR Realtors Assoc. – Mark Kitabayashi	Thurston County		Attends most meetings
<b>Homeless / Formerly homeless persons:</b>			
Melanie Watson	Thurston County		Attends most meetings
Unitarian Universalist Church-William Arensmeyer	Thurston County		Attends occasionally
Rick McVeigh	Thurston County		Attends occasionally
<b>Other: e.g.: Law Enforcement:</b>			
Hospital/Medical:	Nm,		
<b>Providence Sound Home Care</b> -Sandra McClanahan	Thurston County		Attends most meetings
<b>Health Department</b> – Heidi Henderson	Thurston County		Attends infrequently
<b>Sheriff's Department</b> – Neil McClanahan	Thurston County		Attends all meetings
Funders:			

***Mailing List Invitees***




Name	Company	Friedt, Kathy	
Balducci, Theresa	HATC	Wolfe, Cathy	Thurston Co Commissioner
Hill, Maureen	HATC	Deighan, Shannon	SSMH
Black, Ken	City of Olympia	McClanahan, Neil	Thurston County Sheriff
Hinkle, Dick	Crisis Clinic	Grudis, Paul	Mercy Housing
Mathews, Ann	ESN	Putas, Shawne	
Hoover, Gene	St Michaels Shelter	Spence, Scott	City of Lacey
Lowell, Chris	HATC	Beadle, Steve	Salvation Army
Mitchell, Marji	Family Support Ctr	Freedman, Mark	Thurston-Mason RSN

Rose, Gary	Timberland RSN	Toal, Pam	United Way
Kilmoyer, Selena	Bread & Roses	Larkin, Vickie	Thurston County Comm office
O'Brien, Paddy	Bread and Roses	Erlandson, Kathy	Associated Ministries
Wehnes, Harriet	Union Gospel	Sanders, Stacy	BHR
SMITH, DIANE	MOM'S HOUSE	Huffman, Cheryl	
Keith, Dottie	Thurston County	Musselewhite, James	
ENGLE, KAY	OUT OF THE WOODS	Provenzano, Greg	Columbia Legal Services
Wilson, Lorraine	City of Lacey	Arendt, Giles	CYS
McArthur, Cherise	Veterans Affairs	Apple, Carole	NAMI
Desta, Lee	HED	Amberson, Susan	SeaMar
Combes, Judy	DOC-CPU	Shelan, Charles	CYS
Neal, Mark		Jones, Stella	Shared Housing
Cecil, Cindy	Yelm Community Services	Pontarolo, Mary	Safeplace
Bridges, Ann	Safeplace	Watson, Melanie	HATC
Carle, Alice		Roberts, Alison	
Tremper, Claire	LHI	Combes, Judy	DOC-CPU
Cox, Wendy	CYS	Lind, Marc	
Owen, Phillip	Capital Clubhouse	Pulliam, Ann	HATC
Apple, Carple	NAMI	Gutierrez, Ruth	HATC
Mc Veigh, Fredderick	Cold & Hungry Coalition	Gutierrez, James	HATC
Green, Matthew	City of Olympia	Chaney, Forris	HATC
Barnell, Steve	Cold & Hungry Coalition	Watson, Melanie	HATC
Supplee, Ellen		EDLIN, JANICE	City of Tumwater
harris, Derrick	CYS	Schlecht, Anna	City of Olympia
Loyle, Linda	Veterans Affairs	DeCicco, Kirsten	TOGETHER
Babcock, Todd	City of Olympia	Mund, Cindy	DSHS
Hall, Steve	City of Olympia	Wills, Bob	DSHS
Stiltner, Marcee	SSMH	Swift, Earlyse	TOGETHER
Wehnes, George	Union Gospel	von Briesen, Brendan	Comm on Hispanic Affairs
Biles, Stan	City of Olympia	Castenada, Jenaro	Voces Unidas
Lewis, Pavan		Godderz, Rik	Refugee & Immigrant Services
Lewis, Lew	HATC	Neas, Bruce	Columbia Legal Services
Laws, Karyn		Rothman, Cheryl	CYS
Ficker, John	CYS	Horne, Beth	Safeplace
Sackrison, Graeme	City of Lacey	Berg, Marilou	City of Olympia
Ebner, Gordy	Advocate	Sharmilla	Safeplace
Edwards, Dwight	HATC	Reyes, Larrayne	
Chance, Craig	HATC	Kitabayashi, Mark	Windermere
Bouchard, Coral		Peobody, Monica	Welfare Rights Org Coalition
Noel, Cheryl	HATC	Davis, Gary	South Sound Mental Health
Heywood, Cheryl	Timberland Regional Library	Weber, Terry	DOC
Masterson, John			

### ***Evaluation and Updating***

This document recognizes the roles of the Housing Task Force and its Move to Housing/Continuum of Care Subcommittee in the implementation of the Continuum of Care Plan.

#### **Thurston County Housing Task Force (HTF)**

-  Membership includes elected representatives of the cities of Lacey, Olympia and Tumwater; a Thurston County Commissioner; representatives from homeless shelters; representatives of agencies which provide services for homeless; representatives from the faith community; representatives of the homeless population, Department of Corrections, Department of Social and Health Services, law enforcement, veterans, businesses, education; and advocates for mentally ill, disabled and persons with HIV/AIDS.
-  Meets monthly to identify new housing and shelter needs and to discuss possible solutions.
-  Facilitates allocation of funds from ESGP and ESAP.

## **Move to Housing/Continuum of Care Subcommittee**

- ☞ Membership includes representatives from most local jurisdictions, mental health services providers, homeless outreach workers, the housing authority and other homeless services providers.
- ☞ Fall meetings assess new developments in the area of homelessness and homeless prevention. Appoints a steering committee to analyze, plan and submit recommendations to solve major problems.
- ☞ Winter/Spring meeting considers recommendations of steering committee. Directs the steering committee to execute action plan, to evaluate agency proposals for funding to address homeless issues, and to identify new issues to be presented at the Move to Housing/Continuum of Care Subcommittee's fall meeting.

## ***Proposal Evaluation and Rating***

In response to the necessity for each community to have a process for ranking competing and complementary proposals, this report recommends the adoption of the program selection criteria below (except for criteria that conflict with the funding source) and the application of the criteria by the Move to Housing/Continuum of Care Subcommittee.

- ☞ The project has identifiable outcomes
- ☞ The project is ready to proceed
- ☞ The project meets an Identified Gap with greater points for higher need
- ☞ The project replaces or maintains an essential existing or lost service
- ☞ The project addresses primary reasons for homelessness
- ☞ The project is measurable and does not duplicate service
- ☞ The project developer/manager has a demonstrated track record or is connected with known capacity or ability
- ☞ The project leverages other resources and partners
- ☞ The project has a resident-driven service component
- ☞ The project proposes an effective delivery

## ***Profiles of Homelessness in Thurston County***

Homelessness is caused by a complex set of circumstances. The federal government through the Interagency Council on Homelessness has published a report entitled Priority: Home! The Federal Plan to Break the Cycle of Homelessness. The report identified two broad classes of problems that lead to homelessness: "crisis poverty", those problems that could be traced to poverty, complicated by some unforeseen developments; and "chronic disability", homelessness accompanied by disabling conditions.

The first group of homeless persons consists of people who have episodes of homelessness associated with poverty. The causes of their homelessness are related to employment opportunities, education level, job skills, domestic violence, poor parenting, and poor household management skills. Most often a crisis related to these causes has led to their homelessness.

The second broad category is homeless persons with chronic disabilities. In addition to their homelessness and poverty, they have the compounded issues of chronic health problems, severe mental illness, substance abuse or other problems that result in a disabling condition.

The structural causes identified in the federal plan for homelessness include poverty, changes in the labor market, decline in the purchasing power of income assistance programs, and the lack of affordable housing.

It is impossible to get an exact count of the number of people who are homeless at any given time. Counts of people served are gained from the agencies that provide shelter beds. However, this does not give us numbers on those who are turned away, who are denied shelter for one reason or another or who elect to live in places not designed for

human habitation. We have anecdotal histories from service providers but no on-going absolutely reliable numbers. This is not a phenomenon unique to Thurston County, but we have taken steps to conduct point-in-time studies and to collect data through a central clearinghouse.

Some initial point-in-time censuses were taken in Thurston County in August, 1993 and in February, 1994. These studies found that between 100 and 120 adults can be identified as homeless at any given time. Forty to sixty percent of those who are homeless were also homeless somewhere else prior to coming to the county. The Shelter Capacity Assessment found that on any given night, as many as 170 people were in shelters: this broke down to 10 to 15 families with children; 30 to 40 children and youth of which about 10 were unaccompanied youth; up to 15 single women and 100 single men.

From CTED, we have a count of households who were served by Emergency Shelter Assistance Program (ESAP). During fiscal year 1996, 1,664 households were served. The number actually served during 1996 were based on a survey of shelters indicates that closer to 2,616 individuals were sheltered when statistics are included for facilities not funded through the State program; this number includes the 400 single men reported to have been served by Mission of Hope during its eight months of operation in 1996.

The Emergency Shelter Assistance Program reports for Thurston County that 33,206 bed nights were provided in SFY 2000. That number increased to 42,619 bednights in SFY 2001. These numbers do not reflect the increase of those served by local churches through the ESN.

## ***Existing Housing and Shelter Resources-Inventories***

### ***Prevention Programs***

Prevention is acknowledged to be the most cost effective method of providing service and least disruptive to a family's life when the existing housing can be maintained.

Homeless prevention activities can take many forms, but the ones covered specifically by the Continuum of Care Plan are those targeting at-risk households. Prevention activities come in the form of rental assistance, eviction prevention assistance and landlord/tenant mediation in order to avoid becoming homeless. See below for a listing of prevention organizations and the populations they serve.

**Table 1: Prevention**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Population Served</b>
Dispute Resolution Center	tenants/landlords
Columbia Legal Services	low income tenants
Thurston County Veterans Relief	veterans
Department of Social and Health Services	TANF families
Community Action Council (EFSP from FEMA)	low-income persons
St. Vincent DePaul	low-income persons
Family Support Center	low-income persons
Yelm Community Services	low-income persons
Individual churches	individuals and families
United Communities AIDS Network (Ryan White)	persons with HIV/AIDS
Behavioral Health Resources	chronically mentally ill
St. Peter Outpatient Psychiatric Unit	chronically mentally ill
South Sound Advocates	chronically mentally ill /chronic substance abusers
Salvation Army (ESAP)	low-income persons
Housing Authority of Thurston County (ESAP)	low-income persons
Safeplace (ESAP)	low-income persons
Witcher and Sigafoos Counseling (HOPWA)	persons with HIV/AIDS
Thurston County Tenants Union	tenants
Olympia Rental Owners Association	tenants/landlords
Thurston County Rental Association	tenants/landlords

## ***Existing Housing and Shelter Resources-Inventories***

### ***Emergency Shelters***

The shelter beds, which are available in this community, serve the overall population. There are limited beds available for those with contagious diseases, persons with a history of disruptive behavior, sex offenders or those with mobility impairment. In these cases most of the time the clients are given motel vouchers.

The Salvation Army is the main supplier of bed nights in this community. They serve single men, women and families. Their center is open during the day for women and children. HATC operates a small emergency shelter, as does Yelm Community Services. St. Michael's shelter is open during the winter months with 6 beds for single men on three nights of the week.

Since 2000 a Cold Weather/Overflow Shelter for single men has been operating by recommendation of the HTF and implemented by the City of Olympia, Tumwater, Lacey and Thurston County. This shelter is operated on an emergency overflow basis in situations of cold weather. The jurisdictions agree to host the emergency overflow shelter on a rotational basis during the months when we experience overnight temperatures below 32 degrees and the existing shelters are full.

**Table 2 Emergency Shelter Beds 2003**

#### **Individuals**

Bread and Roses	6
Salvation Army Shelter	78
Community Youth Services	10
Saint Michael's Church	6
Devoe St Shelter	44
Behavioral Health Resources (hospital diversion)	6

#### **Persons in Families with Children**

Bread and Roses	8
Emergency Shelter Network ( <i>Out of the Woods</i> )	17 *can use slots for individual women if not taken by families
Housing Authority Emergency Apartments	16
Safeplace for Victims of Domestic Violence	16
Salvation Army	8
Yelm Community Services	6

#### **Cold Weather Emergency Overflow**

Saint Michael's Church	9
City of Olympia	30
City of Lacey	15
City of Tumwater	15
Thurston County	15
Emergency Shelter Network	7 *during winter months, not related to cold weather

## ***Existing Housing and Shelter Resources-Inventories***

### ***Transitional Housing***

Transitional Housing is housing with a rental subsidy combined with supportive services. Families or individuals usually remain in transitional housing for one to two years. Most programs require that a family or individual be homeless to qualify, although some have lesser criteria such as recent homelessness, domestic violence, or be at imminent risk of homelessness. Housing support services are either provided by the housing organization or in partnership with a local service provider. Transitional housing is not necessarily "site specific". A transitional housing program could use existing facilities and provide appropriate services.

**Transitional Housing Program for Youth:** Community Youth Services operates two transitional housing programs for youth from 16 to 21 years of age. The **RISE program** was established through McKinney funding and is scheduled to operate with this funding through 2004. The Transitional Living Project operates in conjunction with the RISE Program but can serve youth 16 and 17 years old in partnership with the foster care system. New slots in the RISE program will be added beginning September, 2003, with HOME Program funds.

**Transitional Housing for Persons with Mental Illness:** The Housing Authority of Thurston County has been chosen as the administering agency for the Thurston County HOME Consortium's **HOME Program funding** to begin September 1, 2003. This funding will be used, in part, to replace the program serving the mentally-ill that was previously funded through the state HOME Program.

### **Transitional Housing Programs for Families:**

**The Housing and Transitional Services (HATS)** program operated by HATC and funded by the McKinney Grant for five year ending October of 2005. The HATS Program will receive funding through the HOME Program beginning in September of 2003, more than doubling its capacity with McKinney funding alone. The program will provide housing and supportive services for at least 30 families at any given time.

**THOR Program** - HATC also operates 7 units of transitional housing that serve families for up to two years. These units are funded through the state's THOR Program. To qualify to live in these units the family must be homeless at the time and have an income at or below 50% of the median.

**Arbor Manor** serves 5 pregnant and/or parenting women less than 21 years of age in a group transitional housing program in Lacey.

**The Olympia Union Gospel Mission** has 8 units that serve families at the 50% of median income level or below.

**Table 3: Transitional Housing 2003**

#### **Individuals**

Community Youth Services	34
Union Gospel Mission (men in recovery)	10

#### **Families**

Olympia Union Gospel Mission	8
Housing Authority Community Services	39
Arbor Manor	5

#### **Special Needs**

Mentally Ill	50
Other special needs	36

## ***Existing Housing and Shelter Resources-Inventories***

### ***Supportive Services***

Once families and individuals are able to access housing, the key to assisting these persons to break the cycle of homelessness and maintain a safe, decent and affordable home are support services. These services help formerly homeless persons to identify those behaviors and circumstances that have caused them to be homeless in the past and aid them to rectify these behaviors and identify those circumstances so that their housing is not jeopardized in the future.

There are a number of agencies in Thurston County, which provide support services. Safeplace provides group therapy and counseling for domestic violence survivors. Behavioral Health Resources provides counseling for mental health clients and chemically dependent persons. The Salvation Army has a community job referral program. South Sound Mental Health Services provides chemical dependency counseling for women as well as services for the mentally ill. Community Youth Services provides a youth outreach worker in the downtown Olympia area whose focus is on homeless and troubled youth. The Family Support Center is mostly a clearinghouse for community information.

**Table 4: Supportive Services 2003**

South Sound Mental Health Svcs	Homeless Outreach and Mental Health services
DSHS Olympia CSO	Cash Assistance, Medical, Food stamps, childcare vouchers, emergency assistance, employment counseling, etc
Bread and Roses	Shelter, advocacy, transportation
Thurston County Veterans' Assistance Fund	Rent, utilities and food for eligible veterans
Salvation Army	Shelter, meals, showers, bus passes, rental assistance, prescription aid, utility assistance, case management
Housing Authority of Thurston County	Shelter, rental assistance, transitional housing, information and referral, homeless daycare, community voice mail, Individual Development Account Program, summer lunches for kids
Safeplace	Domestic Violence Shelter, advocacy, counseling, support groups, rental asst.
Yelm Community Services	Shelter, First Steps Maternity Case Management, food bank, clothing bank, summer lunches for kids, homeless childcare program
Behavioral Health Services	Mental Health counseling, permanent supportive housing, hospital diversion
ESN/Family Support Center	Advocacy, Overflow Shelter Coordination, Information and Referral
Union Gospel Mission	Transitional housing, household items, emergency help and support, meals
Catholic Community Services	Rental assistance
Community Action Council	Rental Assistance, utility assistance, First Steps, WIC
Universal Unitarian Church	Shelter, food assistance for homeless with special dietary needs
Associated Ministries	Overflow shelter
St. Vincent De Paul	Rent and utility assistance
Sacred Heart Church	Rent and utility assistance
Columbia Legal Services	Legal information and advocacy
Crisis Clinic	Support and information
First Steps Providers	Case management, support and information
Community Youth Services	Shelter, First Steps Case Management, Homeless Outreach, Employment
Thurston County Food Bank	Food
YWCA	Other bank, personal items that cannot be purchased with food stamps
Madison Elementary	Homeless children's program
Homes First	Permanent housing and support services

Habitat for Humanity	Homeownership program
Mercy Housing at Evergreen Vista Apartments	Supportive services to residents and non residents
Sea Mar Community Health Center	Medical, dental, mental health services and outpatient substance abuse services, insurance enrollment, medication programs

## ***Existing Housing and Shelter Resources-Inventories***

### ***Permanent Affordable Housing***

Low cost housing and case management services top the list as the resources most needed in the community to reduce the incidence of homelessness. Permanent affordable housing can be made available through private rentals with lower rents; units with below-market rents contractually restricted to keep rents affordable for persons whose incomes are below 50% of the median for the area; and government-assisted units where the subsidy is attached to the unit (project-based) or moves with the tenant (tenant-based). The project-based subsidized units and below-market rentals are owned by a number of for-profit and not-for-profit developers in the community. The tenant-based assistance programs are operated by the Housing Authority of Thurston County.

**Table 5: Permanent Affordable Housing**

Apartment Complex	Number of units up to 30% of Median Income	Number of units up to 50% of Median Income	Number of units up to 60% of Median Income
Ashwood Downs		49	
Boardwalk ( <i>elderly only</i> )		282	
Casa Madrona ( <i>elderly and disabled only</i> )	70		
College Glen		42	122
Courtside			211
Crown Pointe			160
Deschutes Cove	44		
Evergreen Villages	180		
Evergreen Vista		104	
Fern Ridge			99
Fleetwood Apartments	42		
Homes First	16		
Horizons West		24	
Killion Court ( <i>elderly and disabled only</i> )	20		
Krislin Apartments ( <i>elderly and disabled only</i> )		24	
Magnolia Villa	21		
Mansfield	8		
Martin Terrace	39		
Olympia Heights			
Olympia Village ( <i>elderly and disabled only</i> )	48		
Providence St. Francis House ( <i>elderly and disabled only</i> )	50		
Rainier Apartments ( <i>elderly and disabled only</i> )	22		
Sandstone Apartments ( <i>elderly and disabled only</i> )	30		
Shadowood		22	
South Sound Villa ( <i>elderly and disabled only</i> )	70		
Spring Court		4	
Stuart Place			36
The Olympian Apartments ( <i>elderly and disabled only</i> )	50		
Tolmie Cove	44		
Tumwater Apartments ( <i>elderly and disabled only</i> )	50		

Uhler Apartments	4		
Yelm Cove	32		
<b>Total Units</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>628</b>

## ***Existing Housing and Shelter Resources-Inventories***

### ***Serving the Special Needs Populations***

All the Special Needs housing listed in Table 5 is accompanied with some support services either directly from the housing provider, through a self-managed model or through the partnership of a service provider and a housing owner.

**Table 6: Special Needs Housing with Support Services**

<b>Agency/Project</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Number of units</b>
<b><u>Individuals</u></b>		
Oxford Houses	Adults in recovery from Chemical Dependency	24
Behavioral Health Resources	Persons with mental illness	15
HATC/UCAN	HIV/AIDS	4
Homes First! in Partnership with SSOU	Adults with developmental disabilities	5
Mansfield Apartments	Persons with mental illness	8
Yelm Community Services	Adults with Developmental Disabilities	4
BHR Tumwater Cove	Chronically Mentally Ill Adults	8
B&B	Chronically Mentally Ill Adults	14

### **Families with Children**

## ***How the Existing System Serves the Homeless***

### ***Outreach***

A result of the original effort that culminated in the Phase II Recommendation, South Sound Mental Health Services provides Outreach Workers at 1 FTE to seek out and interview homeless who are mentally ill or substance abusers. The aim is to persuade them to seek treatment, usually the first step in enabling them to find transitional shelter or permanent housing. The worker often provides advocacy and assistance in locating a place of residence and information and referral on other resources. Community Youth Services, in partnership with the City of Olympia, also provides a street outreach worker in downtown Olympia, Rochester, Yelm, Tenino, Lacey and Tumwater.

### ***Access***

Emergency shelter for the general homeless population is provided through Salvation Army, Bread and Roses or Yelm Community Services. Individuals and families who are homeless are given information about these shelters from many sources in the community. The Housing Authority of Thurston County receives many calls from those seeking shelter and works to help the callers' access appropriate shelter. In addition, shelters refer to each other, outreach workers refer people in need and many referrals come from agencies such as DSHS and local mental health agencies.

Since November of 1990, families and unaccompanied women and families with children who could not access beds in the above shelters have been placed in church facilities or private homes through the Emergency Shelter Network.

From December 1996 through March 1997, unaccompanied men who could not or would not use Salvation Army facilities stayed at the Cold Weather Shelter provided by the cities of Lacey, Olympia and Tumwater. This Cold Weather/Overflow shelter system was reestablished and has been available since the winter of 2000/2001 when the forecast temperature is 32 degrees Fahrenheit or below and the current shelter system for men is full. The Emergency Shelter Network and the Salvation Army provided screening and collaborate in volunteer host recruitment. An unmet need discussed later in this Plan is that of individuals who are not served by the present system because the policies, practices or resources of the shelters do not meet the needs of some homeless individuals.

### ***Assessment***

Shelters routinely perform intake assessments aimed at insuring the safety and well-being of guests and staff. The South Sound Mental Health Services Outreach Workers perform assessments to determine eligibility for treatment programs. Emergency Shelter Network maintains a centralized shelter database aimed at providing an accurate accounting of homeless people who have been placed in shelters and the total number of bed nights. These data include gender, age, family status, name of shelter, and city or state of last permanent address of shelter guests. This database provides a continuing assessment of the homeless situation in the county.

### ***Housing***

The Housing Authority of Thurston County manages four apartments in its Shelter/Transitional program and provides continuing case-managed shelter for families coming from homeless circumstances and/or transferring from Salvation Army, Bread and Roses and Safeplace.

Union Gospel Mission has 8 transitional housing units for families.

Behavioral Health Resources maintains 5 emergency apartments for persons with mental illness.

Safeplace provides 16 emergency beds for women and families fleeing domestic violence

Community Youth Services has crisis beds available to youth referred through the state system. Haven House also has two beds available only on referral by DSHS. Community Youth Services provides three transitional housing beds through its Independent Living Skills program. These placements usually are 9 to 15 months in length and are combined with case management and group counseling services. CYC also serves approximately 35 youth with transitional housing and support services through the RISE Program and the Transitional Living Project.

### *Services*

In addition to the generalized services available in the community as discussed above, some specialized services are available to homeless and at-risk populations that fit into the continuum of care:

- ☛ South Sound Mental Health Services provides case management for persons with mental illness, substance abuse problems and disabilities.
- ☛ Behavioral Health Resources provides a variety of services for persons with mental illness and with chronic substance abuse.
- ☛ The Family Support Center provides the lead in homeless prevention services. Limited cash assistance is also provided by Community Action Council, St Vincent De Paul, and Yelm Community Services, Salvation Army, Safeplace and The Housing Authority of Thurston County. Financial assistance is also provided to individuals by local churches and fraternal organizations.
- ☛ Thurston County maintains a training program available to lower income individuals. State of Washington's Employment Security Department maintains a Job Service Center and a computerized network of job listings. Counselors are available when an individual arrives at the employment and training centers to assist them in locating the information on a job for which they may be qualified. Counselors also teach the individual about the computer system and the program for resumes.
- ☛ In addition to Community Job Service centers and the Thurston County Training Program, employment related training is provided at Community Youth Services, Job Search Network, South Puget Sound Community College, Department of Social and Health Services WorkFirst Program for individuals on Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), and the Refugee and Immigrant Service Center.
- ☛ Salvation Army also provides a day labor service for their guests and other persons who sign in a daily log. Labor Ready is also available for temporary physical labor jobs.

## Continuum of Care: Housing Gaps Analysis Chart

	Current Inventory in 2003	Under Development in 2003	Unmet Need/ Gap
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### Individuals

Example	Emergency Shelter	100	40	26
Beds	Emergency Shelter	126	15	20
	Transitional Housing	29	64	15
	Permanent Supportive Housing	42	40	15
	Total	197	119	50

### Persons in Families With Children




Beds	Emergency Shelter	91	0	20
	Transitional Housing	146	28	27
	Permanent Supportive Housing	0	0	32
	Total	237	28	79

## Continuum of Care: Homeless Population and Subpopulations Chart

Part 1: Homeless Population	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
<b>Example:</b>	<b>75 (A)</b>	<b>125 (A)</b>	<b>105 (N)</b>	<b>305</b>
1. Homeless Individuals	173	40	185	398
2. Homeless Families with Children	12	31	27	70
2a. Persons in Homeless Families with Children	51	87	68	206
<b>Total (lines 1 + 2a)</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>604</b>
Part 2: Homeless Subpopulations	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
1. Chronically Homeless	40			
2. Seriously Mentally Ill	32			
3. Chronic Substance Abuse	32			
4. Veterans	32			
5. Persons with HIV/AIDS	4			
6. Victims of Domestic Violence	73			
7. Youth	75			

## ***Gaps Analysis Narrative***




Major gaps identified in Thurston County's continuum of shelter, housing and services provided:

-  Bottle necks are formed because of many coming out of shelter with few spaces available for them in transitional housing and affordable permanent housing.
-  Lack of shelter, transitional housing and permanent supportive housing for those with special needs who are hard to serve or who are not able to be served by the system of current providers. Gaps identified for mentally ill, substance abusers and those with at home medical treatment needs.
-  Lack of transitional housing and services for other special needs populations: victims of domestic violence and single parent families.










The recent community discussions reaffirm the conclusion of the Phase II Report and the Thurston County Continuum of Care Plan 1997 and 1999. While the community needs to address the crisis respite needs of homeless persons, and to provide resources in each component of the continuum, the ultimate goal of the community's plan is to have sufficient resources in the prevention, transitional, supportive and permanent housing and support services areas as to minimize the time that an individual or family needs to be in a temporary shelter.

## ***The Priority Needs of the Community***

The Move to Housing Subcommittee reaffirms the priority of needs in the community as cited in Continuum of Care Plans in past years:

-  Transitional housing with case management and housing support services
-  Permanent supportive housing
-  Special needs shelter for those who are not best served by the existing shelter system

The Thurston County Continuum of Care Plan of 2003 continues forward the values from the previous Continuum of Care plans:

-  Maintain existing emergency shelters
-  Maintain the Emergency Shelter Network
-  Maintain and encourage the continuation of the overflow shelter beds
-  It is understood that emergency shelter beds constitute the highest cost in the provision of housing for the homeless. As a result, it is felt that the focus should not be on the development of new shelters. The only exception would be the recommendation of perhaps looking into the need for creating beds for mental health consumers and those dually-diagnosed with mental health/substance abuse problems.
-  Focus on the "bottle necks" in the Continuum of Care process by increasing transitional housing, case management, and housing support services.
-  Increase case management and housing support services as these are critical components in moving individuals and families from homelessness and assisting them in becoming stabilized.
-  Increase the availability of affordable permanent housing.
-  Locate source of funding for tenant relocation purposes.
-  Increase special needs population transitional housing and services for the following populations:
  - Domestic Violence Victims
  - Mentally Ill
  - Medically challenged
  - Substance Abusers
  - Dually-Diagnosed

## *One-Year Plan 2003*

	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Progress</b>
<b>Prevention</b>	Local homeless shelters, advocates, service providers and DSHS Case Managers will continue to collaborate and build relationships. Focus on educating those at risk of homelessness as to how to avoid losing their current housing.	
<b>Outreach</b>	Encourage local outreach providers and other agencies to consider exploring funding resources, such as HUD McKinney, to provide additional homeless outreach to the Thurston County community.	
<b>Emergency Shelter</b>	Study overflow shelter system in place for Winter 2002-2003 and work with local shelters and service providers to enhance, improve or replace that system for Winter 2003-2004. Encourage local churches who have not participated in Associated Ministries sheltering to consider doing so.	
<b>Transitional Housing</b>	Support HOME Consortium in implementing the TBRA component of the new dollars coming September 2003.	
<b>Permanent Supportive Housing</b>	Explore partnerships between mental health and housing providers. Move to Housing/CoC subcommittee and BHR continue to recruit support and other funding for permanent housing project to support the chronically homeless, mentally ill.	
<b>Special Needs Shelter</b>	The Housing Task Force members and its subcommittees will continue to learn about how other providers serve this population and to learn about “best practices”. Bread & Roses will explore shelter options for the homeless with medical needs.	

## *Long Range Plan 2003*

	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Progress</b>
<b>Prevention</b>	Increase public's knowledge of rental assistance providers and support the increase in the supply of transitional housing slots and of affordable housing units in Thurston County.	
<b>Outreach</b>	Continue to seek community and jurisdictional support for outreach workers.	
<b>Emergency Shelter</b>	Continue to support current providers. Explore more effective overflow and special needs shelter ideas. Explore Respite Health House.	
<b>Transitional Housing</b>	Support existing transitional housing providers. Support continued McKinney funding. Support HOME Consortium's provision of TBRA with partnering agencies. Encourage special needs providers to explore transitional housing for their populations.	
<b>Permanent Supportive Housing</b>	Continue making connections with services providers and housing providers. Support projects applying for funding for supportive housing. Support BHR's permanent housing project for the chronically homeless mentally ill. Inform agencies about the Housing Authority of Thurston County's Project-based Voucher RFP process.	
<b>Special Needs Shelter</b>	Support local agencies in research into shelter, housing and services concepts for those with mental illness and medical needs. Encourage participation in Respite Health House meetings.	

***Progress - One-Year Plan 2002***

	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Progress</b>
<b>Prevention</b>	Local homeless shelters, advocates, service providers and DSHS Case Managers will continue to collaborate and build relationships	Much partnering has taken place at the Move to Housing Subcommittee meetings. There are also many informal partnering happening within the provider community. The Forest Glen subcommittee prevented an estimated 62 households from becoming homeless as the dilapidated apartment complex was shut down.
<b>Outreach</b>	Encourage local outreach providers and other agencies to consider exploring funding resources, such as HUD McKinney, to provide additional homeless outreach to the Thurston County community. Work on local jurisdictions to fund more outreach workers.	Community Youth Services has expanded their homeless youth outreach to the county. They now have – workers
<b>Emergency Shelter</b>	Study overflow shelter system in place for Winter 2000-2001 and work with local shelters and service providers to enhance, improve or replace that system for Winter 2001-2002.	A subcommittee was formed to coordinate overflow shelter system services over the winter. They met weekly October through December, then as needed afterward
<b>Transitional Housing</b>	Housing Authority of Thurston County will apply to renew its HUD McKinney Grant for its HATS Program. Salvation Army will be considering adding transitional units for single men and women to their programs.	The Housing Authority will receive funding for a 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> year of the HATS Program
<b>Permanent Supportive Housing</b>	Salvation Army will explore this concept as well as transitional housing. Explore partnerships between mental health and housing providers.	Because of local involvement in statewide coalitions concerning homelessness, a commitment was made to fund a project providing permanent housing to the chronically homeless mentally ill in the community. The Move to Housing Subcommittee will continue to work with BHR to develop this project and make application in 2003.
<b>Special Needs Shelter</b>	The Housing Task Force will gather and share information regarding McKinney funding for “Safe Havens”.	A tour of a safe haven and a tour of a HOME funded facility have taken place over the past year in the community’s efforts to look at alternative sheltering programs for the local special needs population