

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE: Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness
DEPARTMENT: Human Services
PRESENTED BY: George Smith, Human Services Planner
Rob Beem, Human Service Manager

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

In 2005, "A Roof Over Every Bed in King County: Our Community's Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness" (hereafter referred to as the *Ten Year Plan*) was developed in order to pull together the necessary resources from across the County to address the growing issue of homelessness. A key element of the Ten Year Plan's strategy is to build and sustain the political will to end homelessness. To do this key stakeholders from throughout the county are formally endorsing the Ten Year Plan and committing to align their funding and staffing efforts with the strategies it contains. To date King County and nine cities representing 75% of the population of the County have endorsed the Ten Year Plan.

Mr. Bill Block, of the Committee to End Homelessness addressed the City Council at the September 5th dinner meeting. A summary of the full Ten Year Plan is attached. In his presentation he laid out the following five key strategies contained in the Ten Year Plan:

1. Prevent homeless by addressing the root causes of the problem.
2. Build or acquire 9,500 units of housing over the next ten years.
3. Increase the efficiency of the existing system.
4. Build and sustain the public and political will to end homelessness.
5. Measure and report outcomes.


Following this presentation and discussion, Council directed staff to prepare a motion indicating the City of Shoreline's endorsement of the Ten Year Plan.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Endorsement of the Ten Year Plan does not commit the city to any specific funding commitments.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council approve a motion to endorse the Ten Year Plan To End Homelessness and direct staff to work with the Committee To End Homelessness and other public and private partners to implement the strategies contained in the Plan.

Approved By: City Manager  City Attorney _____



10 Year Plan to End Homelessness in King County

Finally, a real plan to end homelessness . . .

"A Roof Over Every Bed in King County" within ten years

How many people are homeless in King County?

On any given night more than 8,000 people are homeless in King County. This includes at least 400 youth and young adults, and approximately 2,400 people in families. About 2,500 meet the federal definition of chronically homeless, often with disabling conditions. As a community, we know this is unacceptable.

What are we doing about homelessness?

For the first time in our community's history, we are coming together to end homelessness. The Committee to End Homelessness in King County - made up of representatives from nonprofit organizations, business, local government, homeless advocacy groups, and the faith community - has developed the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness in King County. This plan will end homelessness, not merely manage it. It will do so through prevention, by creating permanent housing, and by providing supportive services to help those in need prepare for and maintain long-term housing. Ending homelessness requires that we build the public and political will to resolve our most visible social issue.

Why is it so important to end homelessness?

Homelessness is expensive. Not only does it take a toll on people's lives, it is a huge financial burden on society. Tens of millions of dollars are spent each year in King County to feed, shelter, shower, medically treat or imprison homeless people. As we move more of these folks into housing and employment whenever possible — and as we help them to become more independent and productive — we will spend far less in emergency services and they will contribute far more to their community and to the economy.

What is in the Ten-Year Plan?

The plan lays out a series of specific strategies and actions, with clear goals and measurable outcomes, for local leaders and their organizations to pursue over the next

decade. It guides investment of limited local resources to services that serve homeless people most effectively. The plan works to ensure alignment and coordination among all the entities in our community that are engaged in meeting the needs the homeless, and builds on local and national best practices for resolving homelessness. The key strategies are to:

1. Prevent homelessness

Work together to make sure an adequate supply of appropriate housing and supportive services are available to help people stay in their homes. These services include rent and utility assistance, job training, employment and education assistance, health care, mental health counseling, foster care and chemical dependency treatment.

2. Move people rapidly from homelessness to housing

Place homeless people as quickly as possible in permanent housing and then help them to stabilize and function independently by providing them with the supportive services they need to be successful in their homes.

3. Build the public and political will to end homelessness

Expand our community's commitment to ending homelessness by educating the public, tracking our successes and building on them, and establishing steady funding.

How does the Plan differ from current practices?

The Plan asks for a major change in how we do business and calls for broad and systemic integration of "best practices". In the context of ending homelessness this means integrating services and housing through single points of entry (providing access to both housing and services), service enriched permanent supportive housing (helping individuals get and keep their housing), and common funding processes (to avoid fragmentation of funds and services). These system changes will create efficiencies, avoid duplication and keep persons housed rather than cycling through an expensive system. Studies have shown that providing housing to chronically homeless individuals is significantly more efficient and economic than the current system. For example, a local study in 2003 found that the 40 highest users of the sobering center and Harborview emergency room were chronically homeless individuals whose services cost an excess of \$2 million. Housing them in supportive housing reduces their use of these expensive services, and is a much better use of public dollars.

How will the plan be implemented?

As of the fall of 2005, the following groups have been or are being formed:

A **Governing Board** made up of more than 20 influential leaders will provide high-level oversight. They will help to sustain the vision and leadership of the plan. More specifically, they will guide planning, coordinate current funding, and work to create additional resources.

A **Consumer Advisory Council** will be comprised of people who are currently homeless or who have experienced homelessness in the past who will represent the broad interests and needs of homeless people countywide.

An **Interagency Council** will include partners working to end homelessness in King County. The Interagency Council will work to sponsor changes to current programs; coordinate data collection, analysis and reporting; recommend policy direction to the Governing Board; and create ways to better serve people experiencing homelessness.

Five Committees will focus on implementation strategies. Three will integrate housing and services solutions for the target population groups (Single Adults, Families and Youth) and create new approaches and efficiencies in keeping with the Plan. Two other committees will focus on overarching strategies. Communications, Public Awareness and Legislative Advocacy will focus on day to day communications, legislative advocacy and creating long term public will, and Resource Development and Alignment will focus on creating new resources and maximizing the use of existing resources while being sensitive to other community needs. The Resource Committee will also recommend priorities for funds generated under the Homeless Housing Assistance Act ("2163").

Staff support for implementing the plan will be provided by the King County Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) and funded in collaboration with the City of Seattle, United Way of King County and others.

How can you get involved?

- Find a way to help or contribute — financially, as a volunteer, or as an advocate who works to build support for the plan by talking with neighbors, friends and government officials.

For more information, contact Bill Block, Director of the Committee to End Homelessness, 206-205-5506 or Gretchen Bruce, Program Manager, at 206-296-5251.