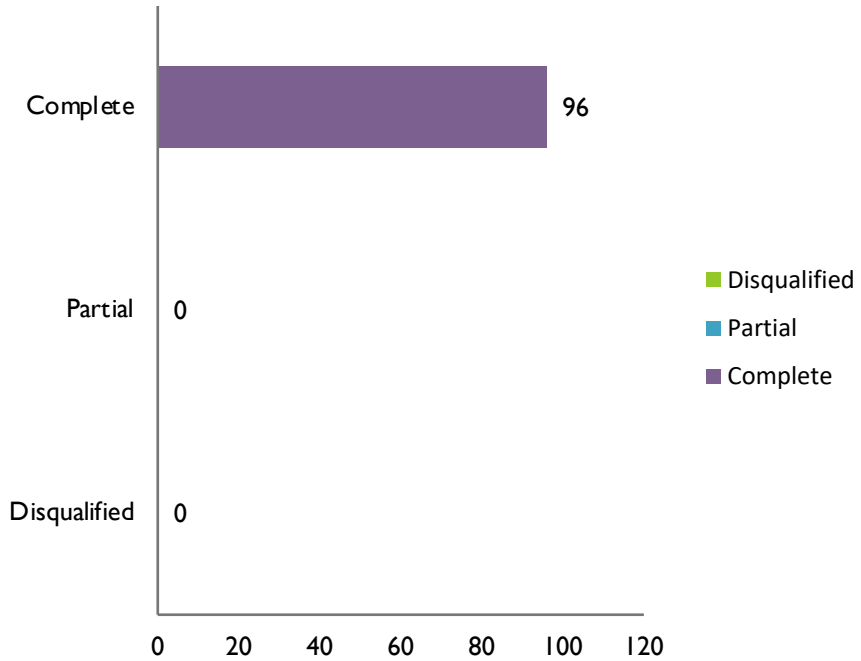


# WHAT MATTERS MOST IN LACEY

Community Survey Report

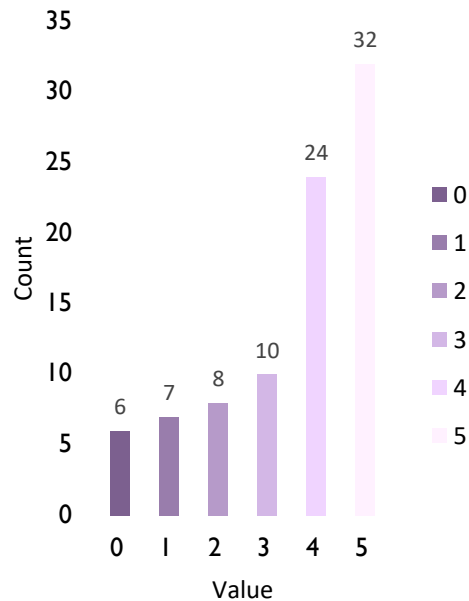
March 9, 2021



## RESPONSE STATISTICS

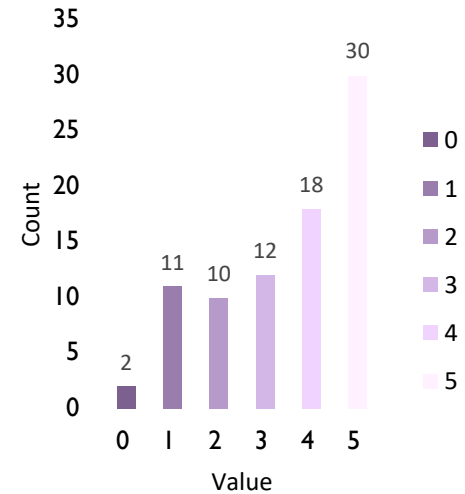
LACEY PLAN IS PART OF  
COORDINATED REGIONAL EFFORT.

*I. Just prior to the open house, workgroup members each identified what they thought was most important for Lacey to address in its plan. Those topics are listed below. Use the slider bars below to rate how important you think each approach is from 0 (not important at all) to 5 (extremely important).*



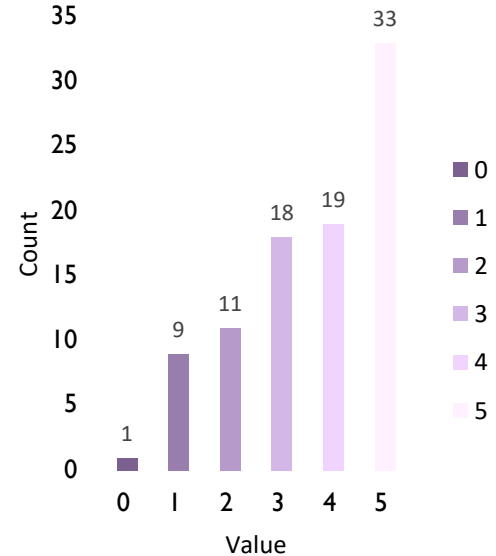
## ACCESS TO SERVICES NEEDS IMPROVEMENT.

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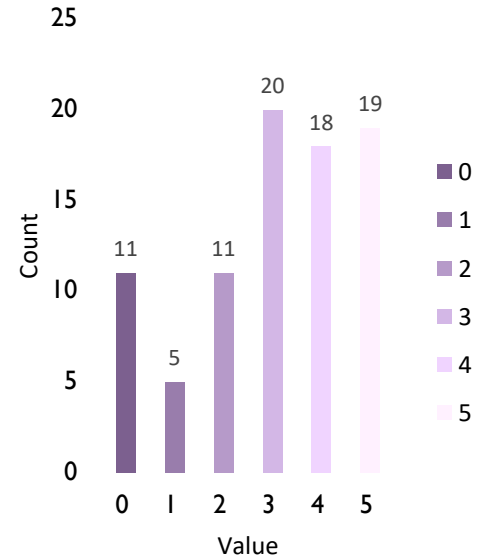
## THE PLAN SHOULD BE FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE.

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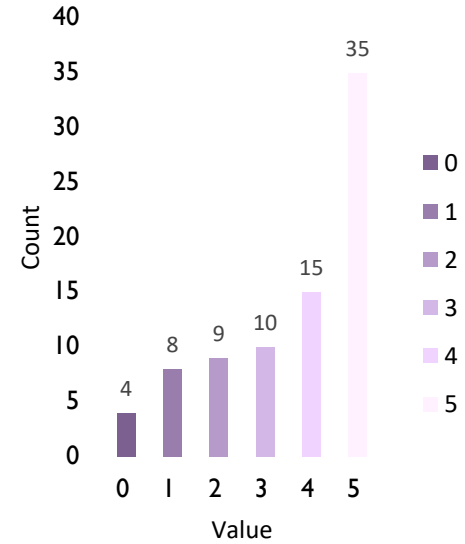
## LACEY PLAN FOCUSES ON LACEY'S STRENGTHS.

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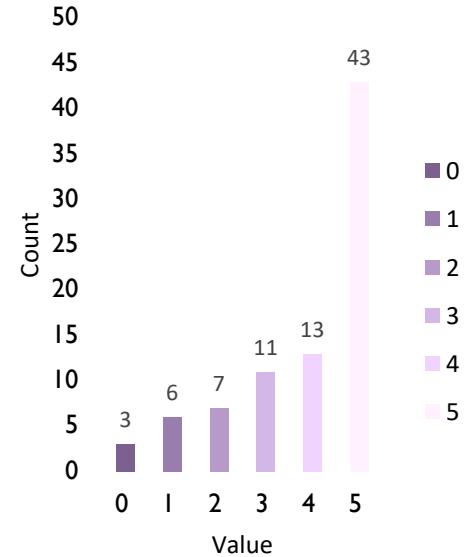
APPROACH SHOULD BUILD TRUST  
WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE HOUSELESS.

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**DIVERSE STRATEGIES ARE NEEDED TO MEET DIVERSE NEEDS.**

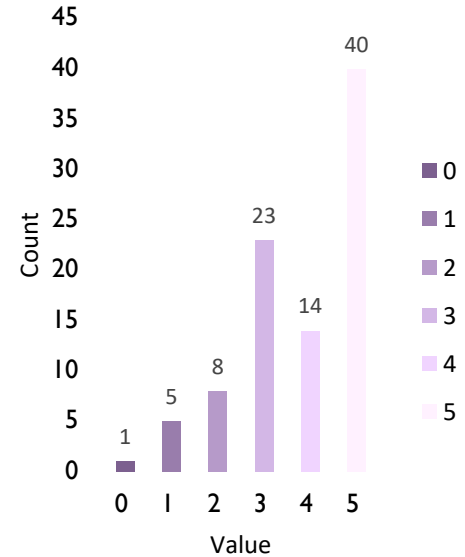
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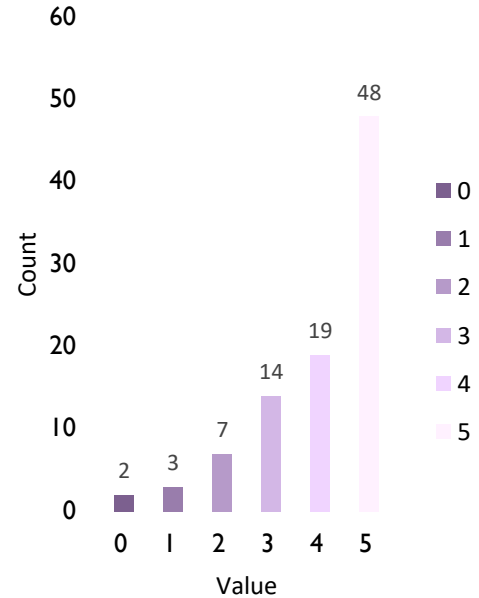
PERFORMANCE SHOULD BE MEASURED FOR ACCOUNTABILITY.

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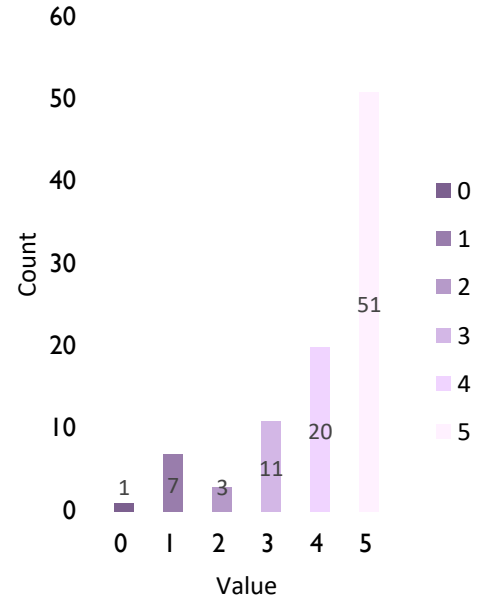
ALL INVOLVED NEED TO BE  
ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR PART OF  
SOLUTION.

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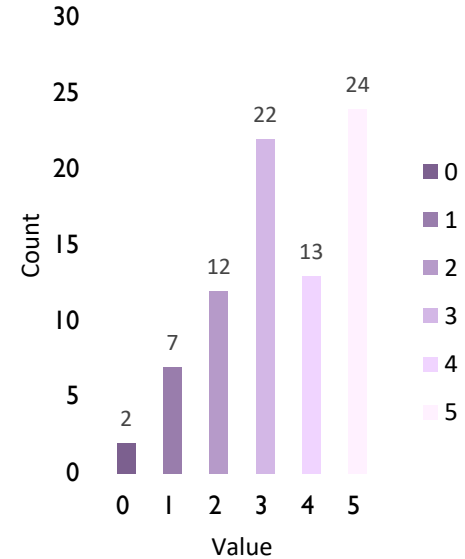
IMPACTS TO BUSINESSES AND HOUSED NEIGHBORS NEED TO BE ADDRESSED.

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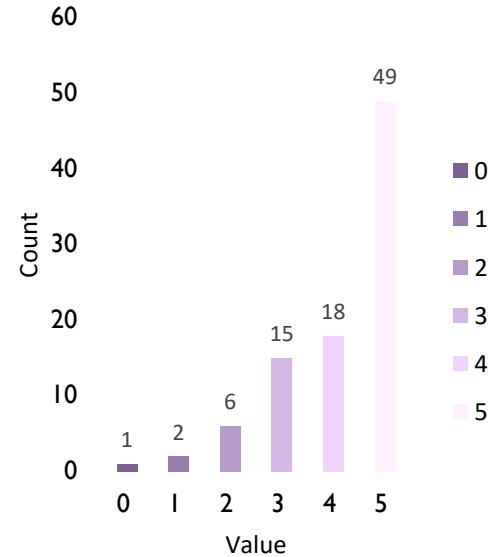
MORE OUTREACH PERSONNEL ARE  
NEEDED.

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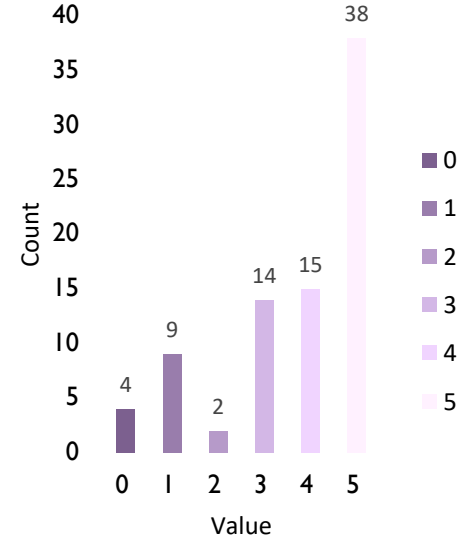
INCLUDE STRATEGIES THAT HELP PEOPLE  
BECOME MORE SELF-SUFFICIENT.

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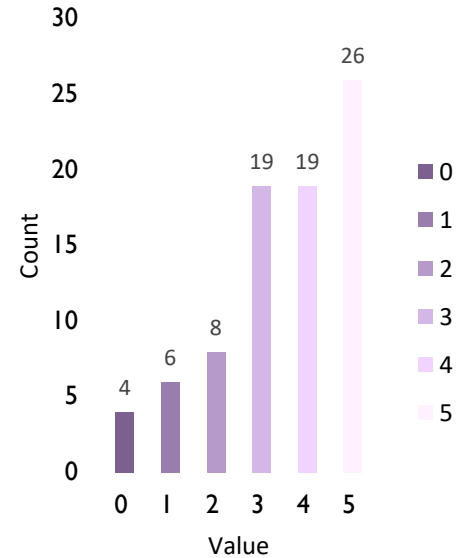
## DEVELOP LOW-COST HOUSING SOLUTIONS.

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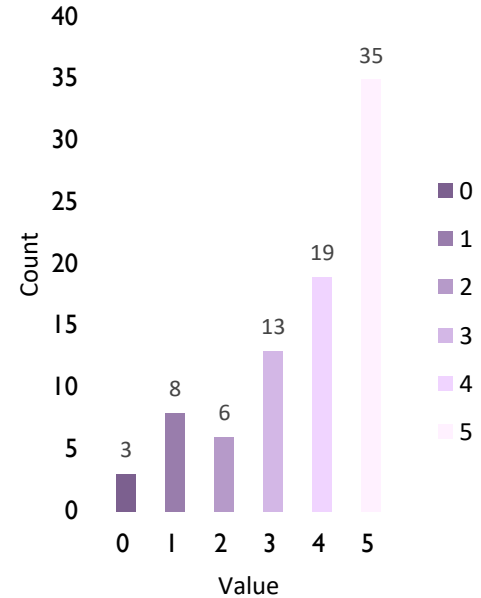
FIND A WAY TO ADDRESS ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES.

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INCLUDE PLANS TO ADVOCATE FOR  
ADDITIONAL FUNDING AND OTHER  
RESOURCES.

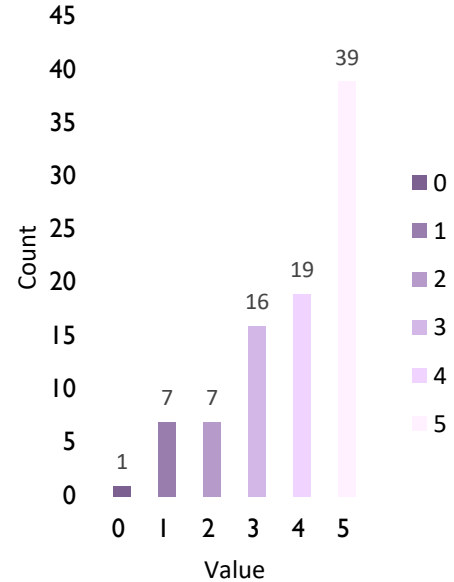
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INCLUDE NEEDED SUPPORT SERVICES  
WHEN PROVIDING SHELTER AND/OR  
HOUSING SERVICES.

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## 2. FROM THE ABOVE LIST OR ANYTHING THAT YOU WOULD'VE LIKED TO HAVE SEEN ON THE LIST, WHAT DO YOU THINK IS MOST IMPORTANT FOR LACEY? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

"Include support services" needs to be more than handing out resource lists to people without phones, computers, or transportation. "Address ACES" must include Lacey's 879 houseless students who are being traumatized by houselessness now.

Looking at federal grants for housing. Programs that are available from HUD.

Alternative forms of funding outside the community and other than raising taxes.

Creating and maintaining family friendly atmosphere where shoppers and park goers are not harassed, sworn at, propositioned, or have to dodge used needles should be the number one priority.

The idea of developing low-cost housing is the wrong concept. How about thinking about how important it is to house people and how much are we willing to or need to spend to make that happen? Focusing on only low-cost indicates this is about the value of the people who 'deserve' those homes.

I believe the homeless ARE offered solutions, such as housing, temp housing, food stamps, free medical care etc in exchange for these services, they are expected to follow rules. THEY need to be held accountable for THEIR choices. Right now, their needs seem to put above all else. My family has worked hard everyday to own our own home, put food on the table etc... we follow the rules/laws.

We need to address affordable housing alternatives immediately. Getting rid of encampments, trash, and holding those in need of help accountable for taking some responsibility for their situation and resolution. Those with severe mental illness need hospitalization/appropriate sheltering & supervision until they are capable of self-care.

Job creation strategies.

Lacey needs to return to a safe and vibrant commercial scene. The current homeless situation is driving customers away.

There are numerous services and programs already in existence. The fact is that homeless people do not want help or to change. I have this information first hand from speaking to homeless people in Lacey who do not want a job or housing or mental health or drug treatment - only cash to enable their chosen lifestyle.

A need to address immediate issues while the long term solutions are developed and implemented. Such as cleaning up the garbage, keeping people fed, and sheltered from the cold (warming centers).

Coordinated efforts that balance compassion and accountability for ALL

## 2. FROM THE ABOVE LIST OR ANYTHING THAT YOU WOULD'VE LIKED TO HAVE SEEN ON THE LIST, WHAT DO YOU THINK IS MOST IMPORTANT FOR LACEY? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

Coordinated efforts that balance compassion and accountability for ALL

The people experiencing homelessness also need to be an active part of the solution, no matter what that solution is. Just receiving services does nothing to end the cycle of homelessness if the person receiving the services does not want to change!

The most important thing for Lacey is to not enable homeless people to continue living a feral existence outside of a lawful society. There must be consequences for illegal behavior whether that be treatment, counseling, mandatory services, mental health commitment, inpatient treatment, or jail.

As you listed above low cost housing solutions are deeply needed. The cost of housing is a barrier that I strongly feel could be reduced to the benefit of our community.

Address emergency and transitional housing needs first before figuring out support services, job training, etc. To have shelter is a basic need that needs filling before trust can be earned.

Understanding the complexity of the issue. If being on the streets is somebody's best option, we need to understand the reasons why. There are many reasons and therefore many pieces to the solutions.

It is great to see the acknowledgement that this is a very complex issue. There are so many reasons people are unhoused, it will take many different solutions to offer people choices that work toward long term stability.

Lacey needs a balanced plan that combines shorter term and longer term solutions, and also mobilizes resources from private and faith communities as well as state and county government.

There are many still living in their homes that are struggling with financial and diminishing mental capabilities that will be finding themselves on the street.

Finding ways to keep them in their homes without added costs would be helpful

Work with the state and federal government to get better access to free health care, including mental health.

Environmental clean up after camps are removed.

Environmental health of the camps... bathrooms, trash, sharps disposal, and toxic chemical testing/removal.

Allow law enforcement to protect businesses and private property.

Providing more services for drug addiction and mental health issues

## 2. FROM THE ABOVE LIST OR ANYTHING THAT YOU WOULD'VE LIKED TO HAVE SEEN ON THE LIST, WHAT DO YOU THINK IS MOST IMPORTANT FOR LACEY? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

Individual accountability is key to providing long-term assistance and sustainable solutions.

Ensure that responding to homelessness does not result in overlooking our laws.

It's important to have some shelter programs available that don't require people to be sober or drug free first. Stable housing can often provide a foundation from which people can build a better life. Low income housing for people who are on the edge of becoming homeless is critically important!

Addressing ACEs is an odd thing to include on this list. Is this meant to suggest that the city of Lacey should try to make sure kids have safe, nurturing homes? Yes. Of course. Or does this mean, address the impacts of high ACEs scores for unhoused individuals? I think this latter idea is more relevant. Still hard.

We need to make sure that people are held accountable and that people in need are helped to become self-sufficient.

Enforcing the laws when individuals refuse the services provide

Being part of a coordinated regional effort.

Deal with the homeless that want help. Many don't want help and will waste time and money without any change!

Need mental health services and meds for sure

Make them pick up garbage if hanging around. Do some of their own cleanup. No excuse for mess!

Addressing the needs of the homeless AND the community in the NEAR -term while working on "affordable housing" for the community as a longer-term goal.

Develop low cost shelter and housing. Shelter is the most important component. All others depend on secure and safe shelter.

I had an idea of using state parks. They have electrical hookups. Motor homes would be able to hook up and why not put portable huts in the spaces with heat. Utilize what we have

Solutions should be equitable in the sense of "fair to all individuals".

Please work diligently on solving the homeless mess we see around Lacey - do what it takes and pay attention to what other communities are doing that are successful.

Develop low-cost solutions

People should be accountable for their actions and rules have to be follow.

## 2. FROM THE ABOVE LIST OR ANYTHING THAT YOU WOULD'VE LIKED TO HAVE SEEN ON THE LIST, WHAT DO YOU THINK IS MOST IMPORTANT FOR LACEY? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

Development of housing alternatives AND provision of appropriate support services for all involved.!

Early childhood needs plus life preparation in the high schools is needed. Stress importance of educational planning, job experience AND need for further skill training or apprenticeships. Encourage future learning of any kind and teach what delayed gratification means. Educate, educate, educate! Accept youth as they are and help them get ready for adulthood.

Develop ownership of a range of solutions because there is no one solution.

Accountability, for all residents. Providing assistance is part of a solution, but for the city to orderly without crime and litter there must be accountability. Balance, between assisting Lacey residents and becoming the destination campground.

Lacey will be over-run by the Marxists in the form of "social justice" racism. NTPS has already fallen (see their post where they considered Asians as White) and Timberland Library. Violence will go up and our minority community will be hurt the worst. Back your officers and hold out as long as you can.

Hold people accountable for their actions. Some people need services and supports but are incapable of making good decisions to help themselves. Allowing them to use drugs, live on sheltered, and place themselves in a precarious situation is cruel. Many programs mean well but unless people can make wise decisions to accept them and take care of themselves the programs will be ineffective.

The first step would be to provide, at least, temporary or emergency housing. The real problem is to identify and address reasons for homelessness. Obviously, this isn't just a problem for Lacey. All the Thurston County (at least) officials and residents need to be involved. And it is clearly not a one idea solution.

Lacey's lack of housing is not going to get better. We need to act on this issue now before our homeless population grows even more.

All solutions must be built with the sole outcome being either treatment or to become self supporting themselves. No tent cities or temporary shelters should be built. All illegal activity should be met with arrest every time regardless of outcome.

It seems like Lacey is starting to be more like a nice bedroom community to Olympia. I'd like to see more of that.

Impact on taxpayers and local businesses regarding illegal activity

Clean up the trash everywhere and enforce laws!!! This beautiful city should not be treated this way. Olympia has given it to the drug addicts! ugh Please do not allow this any further.

## 2. FROM THE ABOVE LIST OR ANYTHING THAT YOU WOULD'VE LIKED TO HAVE SEEN ON THE LIST, WHAT DO YOU THINK IS MOST IMPORTANT FOR LACEY? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

I think there needs to be a clear pathway for people living on the street to get off the street. From tents to tiny homes. From tiny homes to supported housing. From supported housing to independent living. I think there should be wrap around service at each step. Providers need to be able to offer substance, mental health, education, and employment services at each step.

A clean city.

House the houseless at all cost!

When people are focused on basic survival need they can't improve upon their basic needs without help. Offering help as well as responsibilities to give back allows for self growth and accomplishment. Offering services for proper mental health and addiction services that are realistic. It is more than helping them meet their basic needs in order to make real change. It takes teaching and true support to help improve ones standings.

Less tolerance for drugs and crime. Period.

Weekly garbage/survey teams cleaning up abandoned/occupied house less camps. Control the trash that is accumulated.. I feel this would take pressure off the situation.

I'd like for us to remember that the people experiencing homelessness are not the issue, they are people who deserve care, respect and dignity.

Keeping that in mind will help us navigate these decisions with integrity and understanding.

Keep residents safe

Finding ways to support family units as well as single people that need chemical dependency or mental health services so an appropriate plan can be made that addresses the barriers to services that these issues raise.

Housing needs to be available for everyone. Housing is a basic human right.

keep people off sidewalks

In my opinion focus should be on getting these folks into services and off the streets, they are absolutely destroying the ecosystem and polluting the lands. The message the state is sending to hard working residents is that they do not care where these folks decide to hunker down or care about the destruction to the earth.

Impacts to businesses and neighborhoods. A lot of what we are seeing in Lacey is not homelessness because a family lost their housing. It is mental illness, drug addiction, and life choices. It is WAY out of hand.

## 2. FROM THE ABOVE LIST OR ANYTHING THAT YOU WOULD'VE LIKED TO HAVE SEEN ON THE LIST, WHAT DO YOU THINK IS MOST IMPORTANT FOR LACEY? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

Lacey needs to be cleaned- the garbage piled is ugly and not safe

The safety of the Public and clean up of the homeless camps allover town.

Build better relationships with unhoused people

most important is to stop being so selfish towards the taxpayer, protect us, you allow the homeless to steal, to do drugs, to defacate all over the streets, to pile garbage and turn washington in to a literal cesspool of garbage, no consequences for thefts, their camps are disgusting and all you do is throw money at them.

Setting up a diverse strategies for diverse needs.

Include the houseless in the process. No sense in creating perceived solutions vs actual needed solutions.

There are many aspects to being homeless. Those that don't want help and/or not be part of society, need to be moved out of society. Harsh, I know, but let's get help to those that want it, need it and are willing to work toward making a better life for themselves and their families.

Publish as soon as possible any information to all Lacey residents, a better informed community is important.

Helping people get back on their feet and down a path that won't lead them back into the streets

Finding new inventive solutions. Looking at cost...is it cheaper to just put these people in housing and provide them mental health resources?

Sustainable solutions.

Options in terms of how to deal with the drugs.

## 4. WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE WITH LACEY'S COMMUNITY WORKGROUP ON HOMELESSNESS?

The federal programs are great forms of gathering alternative funding and rent assistance.

[https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/comm\\_planning/affordablehousing/programs/home/#:~:text=The HOME Investment Partnerships Program,or homeownership or providing direct](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/affordablehousing/programs/home/#:~:text=The HOME Investment Partnerships Program,or homeownership or providing direct)

The solution to homelessness is housing. Without housing being a #1 priority, at a variety of entry levels, with and without supports, homelessness will never be resolved.

It is a problem. I don't want to live in an area where homelessness lets you have free reign. Where drug addicts are enabled to carry on with their choices. We have laws for a reason. If you break the law, pay the price. What happened to the law abiding, hardworking people's rights ???

There needs to be better documentation and communication of results. All residents see is never-ending encampments, horrific trash, and broken down vehicles.

While working on the issue of getting people housed and other resources, I'd like to see more bathrooms available near homeless camps and a laundry truck.

This is a tough issue to tackle. Thank you for taking it on!

Please work with other jurisdictions on coordinated efforts. Businesses and citizens will help if there is a plan.

There appears to be an abundance of services available - if only the people needing the services would avail themselves to them.

I am distressed by the lack of engagement by those most often marginalized and minoritized in our community. This format requires stable internet connection, an email address, fluency in reading and writing English, free time, data literacy, an understanding of basic local government structure, and a commitment to civic engagement that drives one to continue through this arduous engagement platform. I do not know a single person in my social, professional, neighborhood circle that I feel comfortable inviting to participate in this process because none of them have what it takes to navigate this platform. This process should be scrapped and started over with organizations that deal with overrepresentation in homelessness and other spheres - community organizations that know how to equitable engage those closest to an issue. I spent 2 hours participating in this Virtual Open House. I would like to be compensated at least \$100 for the expertise in feedback that I provided. I'm impressed with what has been presented by the workgroup.

[Repeat proposal from open house idea wall, re: conditional shelter permit

Accessibility of services starts with transportation. People without licenses or insurance often can't get to a bus stop or an office that is far from where they are staying. Health issues (mental & physical) make it impossible for many people to live close to others.

People with children are often afraid to seek help, worrying that their children will be taken from them. How can we help families without ripping them apart?



## 4. WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE WITH LACEY'S COMMUNITY WORKGROUP ON HOMELESSNESS?

I would like to add an awareness of folks who are unhoused due to medical conditions (multiple chemical sensitivities, molds, Lyme disease...) these conditions are exploding and it is a growing subset for whom many traditional "solutions" don't work.

Watch the videos on tiny houses created by the FAITH Alliance for Tiny Houses and provide the framework for a partnership between the city and faith/private organizations.

I have watched several homeless in Lacey who have been living on the street for over 20 years and have watched them deteriorate in front of our eyes. They should be placed in a mental institute that can help them detox and get stabilized and then into suitable living conditions. I understand that our laws state they have to request to be there but this is unacceptable. The situation was evident as to what was going to happen when they closed Western State in the 1990's and released everyone onto the streets because it was not humane, at least they were warm, fed and stabilized as much as possible. I would say what has happened over the past 20 years is less humane. The mentally ill need to be cared for, stabilized and released if possible and if it is a revolving door at least they have a door to go through to get help for a while. The system needs to be easier to access for the homeless that are displaced and have not begun using drugs and are just looking for help to get back into society on their terms. If they do not want to become a functioning member of our society (in the manner they would like to live) they should find another city to live in and use their up their resources.

Recognize our broken economic system as a root cause of homelessness. Being homeless is not a moral failing if a path to thriving is impossible. Addiction is not a moral failing, but a mental health issue that we are not preventing.

Thank you for preparing these materials and working on solutions.

I'm grateful you put together this open house. I also sincerely think that more direct outreach is needed, and I think the Workgroup should do another open house once they've identified tangible options for addressing homelessness to get community feedback on preferred tactics and strategies.

Measurable results/ benchmarks and changes made when benchmarks are not met

People want a clean and beautiful city to live in. We don't have the answers that's why we rely on our city leadership to tackle these difficulties. You have to spend money on this and you have institute consequences that homeless campers don't like. Is that jail? No. but living on public property shouldn't be acceptable either. Fix it, stop talking and start doing. you are the leaders.

## 4. WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE WITH LACEY'S COMMUNITY WORKGROUP ON HOMELESSNESS?

There are no reasonable housing around! And as housing continues to rise in cost we will have more homeless and more families and single women with kids on the streets! No cost of living increases and food is higher then ever! Until there are options folks can afford, this problem will only get worse! Sorry Lacey can't be independent and "go it alone". This is a regional issue and Lacey can't be "part of the problem" and attempt solutions that don't fit with regional efforts.

Engage the educational community

Look at boarding houses as a possibility. Homeless can't afford to rent a house or apartment.

It is very sad to see. So many of us have trucks. If you see it , get a group to go and clean it up. We all think it is someone elses job. Just think of it as your kids bedroom, they can live with their garbage but when it starts smelling you go in and clean it. Put the homeless to work helping, give them some pride. I can't even imagine...if my lights go out for an hour I am in a panic. When you have lost something internally your external existence means nothing.

Equity means fairness not equal outcome.

We desperately need bigger and better short term AND long term housing options AND support services.

You need a balanced approach that is a combination of short term and longer termed actions.

Homelessness is a tough topic that people have strong opinions on. Don't be afraid to make the tough choices even if it is not popular for a large group of people. It is impossible to please everyone. Try to keep the city's best interest in mind and not personal, political, or ideological interests. The public understands that this is a multifaceted issue that does not have a single solution, but the patience and understanding will only last a short while. So you will have to show progress and improvements often.

Think carefully about helping Lacey's homeless citizens without becoming a magnet for non-Lacey-citizens to move here for the benefits.

Nothing

Thank you for the work you are doing. I know this is a difficult job and there are no easy solutions.

Street people who are drug addicts or mentally ill need treatment.

True homeless who have been met with temporary hard times should be directed to services to get them back on their own feet.

## 4. WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE WITH LACEY'S COMMUNITY WORKGROUP ON HOMELESSNESS?

I want them all gone. Push them to Olympia, which is already a giant homeless slum encampment.

Get there people into treatments, not in our woods destroying the environment. How has this been allowed to be legal for them??? What happened to litter laws?

No

Find ways to work with and support law enforcement

I think it's a growing problem and glad to see the city is working to address it. In the past homeless care was centralized to a few providers in Olympia. It needs to be spread out and supported by everyone in the region. I think we all can agree housing projects were a bad idea. Creating low income neighborhoods is a bad idea. But having low income housing options in affluent areas is a good idea. Areas that have grocery stores and parks and schools nearby. A good example is the variety of housing options off 37th ave near the Middle School. There are residential houses from the 300-400k, there's the mobile home park in the 100 to 200k and there's the habitat for humanity neighborhood being built and the high density townhomes. The mix of high value properties and low value properties means that those schools will continue to be funded through property taxes. The parks will be maintained and enjoyed by everyone. We need more of these mixed value neighborhoods. I'd like to see City of Lacey purchase some houses or townhomes and offer low rents in high property value areas.

They need to have a strict plan and act fast because our city is getting horrible with all the trash in the streets and homeless people harassing shoppers.

There needs to be city responsibility in clean up and offering garbage services to homeless encampments. A huge problem with the encampments is trash for both the people living in them and complaints by citizens/businesses. Find a solution to this and you help with dignity and responsibility for the houseless and the rest of the surrounding communities.

Thank you for your work and efforts.

House the houseless!

It's hard, thankless work and I'm sure you all are heavily criticized. On behalf of the Lacey citizens - THANK YOU! This is such important work (literally, life or death for many) and I sincerely appreciate your service and commitment to finding a solution.

## 4. WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE WITH LACEY'S COMMUNITY WORKGROUP ON HOMELESSNESS?

Keep its residents safe and make progress. The police are vital to the community

Families with children, especially our youth, need special services and prioritization. Juggling school and homelessness is a serious struggle. Finding solutions to not only reach the parents, but the foster care youth who age out and have no place to go. This doesn't have to happen. Reach out to DHS and ensure these kids have a safety net.

Just throwing money at the problem doesn't work. Just decriminalization doesn't work. The current situation with so many folks living in encampments isn't good for anyone. Adequate housing needs to be provided.

keep streets safe

The cost of living here is a major problem. Something needs to be done for folks to be able to afford to buy a home here or we all are going to be homeless. I make decent money and am 1 paycheck away of not having a place to live due to the extremely inflated costs of living here, it's insane.

Advocacy groups get the most voice. The rest of us are voiceless. Driving through the city and seeing the garbage and tents is unacceptable. Government is failing everyone.

Please clean our community -

That we don't feel safe going out in the evenings anymore because of the homeless camps and people passed out along the streets.

stop treating them the way you do, stop giving them everything when all they is repay you with more theft, more trash, more needles for our kids to pick up in the parks, your support for them is killing lacey, endangering our children, the millions that have been spent have achieved nothing except making the homeless population grow, disgusting

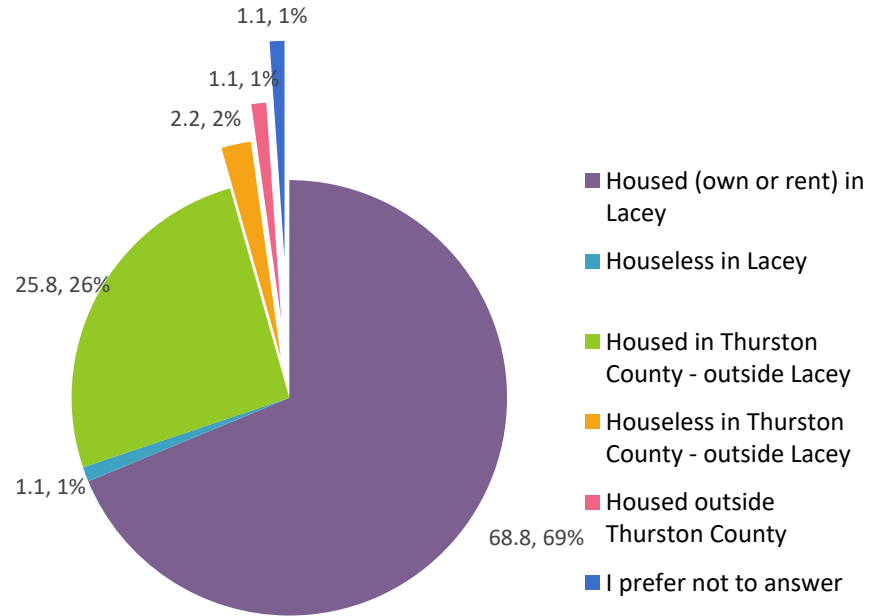
Thank you for taking up this work and thinking about impact on, and learning from, our neighboring communities. We can't just shift the problem to the next town!

No

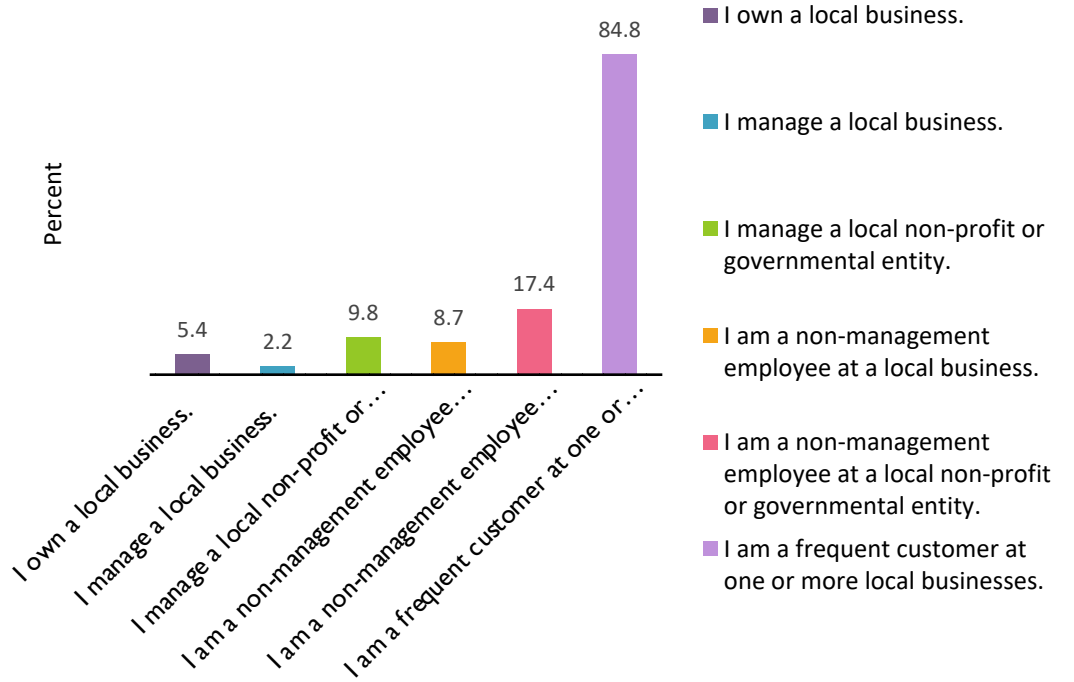
We must address drug addiction and mental health resources, the more complicated it is, the worse for everyone

Enforcement and rule of law are critical for the long-term success of civil society, this needs to be a focus— even though just enforcing the "rules" is not the whole solution.

5. WHAT IS YOUR LIVING SITUATION?  
(CHOOSE ONE.)



6. WHAT IS YOUR  
RELATIONSHIP TO LOCAL  
BUSINESSES/EMPLOYERS?  
(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.)



7. PLEASE NOTE IF YOU LIVE WITH A DISABILITY IN ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES. (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.)

