

Lacey Community Workgroup on Homelessness Open House Report

With support from City staff and facilitators from The Athena Group, Lacey's Community Workgroup on Homelessness hosted a virtual open house, February 15-March 1, 2021. Community members were invited to review what the workgroup has learned to date and share their comments and questions. Two confidential surveys – one for the community, in general, and one for businesses – were linked to the site and made available for responses through March 8.

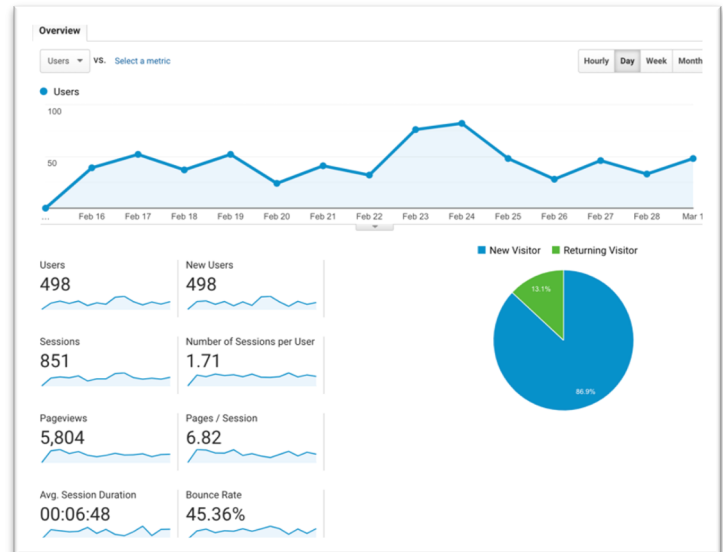
Outreach and Participation

The City of Lacey reached out broadly and with targeted efforts to promote participation in the event and the community and business surveys. General outreach efforts included January and February articles in the [LaceyLife newsletter](#), a [Conversation with the Council on Homelessness in Lacey](#), information on the [workgroup web page](#), and frequent [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) posts in advance of and throughout the event. In addition, two articles on the [city's efforts to address homelessness](#) generally and more specifically on the [open house](#) were published in *Thurston Talk*. Workgroup members were given promotional material to share through their networks, and the City conducted targeted email campaigns to the following groups:

- City Council
- City Boards
- City Commissions
- Lacey Youth Council
- City of Lacey staff
- Lacey South Sound Chamber
- Thurston Chamber
- Thurston Economic Development Commission
- Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) distribution list (motels and tourism businesses)
- Visitor Convention Bureau
- North Thurston Public Schools
- Faith community
- Home Owners Associations
- Parks & Recreation Program users
- Lacey Service Clubs (Lions, Kiwanis, Rotary, etc.)
- Multiple Listing Service
- Realtors Association
- Regional Partners (Regional housing Council, Hazardous Weather Task Force, Housing Action Team, Thurston County, City of Tumwater, City of Olympia)
- Non-profit service providers (Catholic Community Services, Community Youth Services, Family Support, Interfaith, Salvation Army, Providence, etc.)
- SAGE, Stonewall Youth, Pizza Klatch, PFLAG
- Lacey Police Department
- Thurston Regional Planning Council

Additionally, Rick Walk, Lacey Director of Community and Economic Development, and Community Resource Unit officers visited encampments to talk with people sheltering there about the open house. Meagan Picard, Athena facilitator, shared information about it with regional outreach workers, and Friend of Athena and Lacey resident Erin Jones promoted the event on [her Facebook page](#).

Nearly 500 unique individuals visited the open house, according to Google Analytics. Most people visited once, and a few were very active users (including station hosts), which reflects typical behavior at an in-person community meeting. See the snapshot of activity framed to the rate.



The bounce rate (viewing only one page) is fairly normal, as reported by Google Analytics: “As a [general rule], you're aiming for a website bounce rate of under 40%. Between 40% and 55% is usually okay, while 55-65% shows significant room for improvement.” We would’ve liked to have seen a lower bounce rate, but we also know that participation requirements that encourage more productive dialogue limits participation. That was a trade-off decision made consciously.

Of the 498 site visitors, 13% (65) registered and actively participated in the forum. This does not include the 17 city staff members (6), Athena facilitators (3), and workgroup members (8) that participated, most of whom were station hosts. 112 people viewed the open house site tour video.

A total of 151 substantive, non-staff/workgroup comments were posted to the site. Following is the number of non-staff/workgroup comments by station:

- Conditions and Causes: 20
- Housing and Shelter: 41
- Mental and Behavioral Health: 15
- Income and Employment: 8
- Information and Connection: 10
- Community Impacts: 16
- Idea Wall: 41

In addition to the visible discussions on the open house, 96 people participated in the survey on what they believe is most important for Lacey to address and 12 individuals responded to the business survey. See separate reports on results of those surveys.

Comments by Theme

The remainder of this document was developed as a resource to support workgroup members in establishing goals and developing strategies to make progress toward those goals. It is not intended to be read through, start to finish. Workgroup members are advised to review comments in themes pertinent to the goals and strategies they are considering as well as any that may have been overlooked or given limited attention to date.

All comments are organized by identified themes, as listed in alphabetical order in the index below. Comments that include multiple themes are listed more than once (under each theme). We’ve also included reference to where (in the open house site) comments were made.

All comments are reported as originally written (not edited for typos or misspellings, though spacing is sometimes removed to prevent unnecessary lengthiness of this already lengthy document). All comments also include other participants' and station hosts' replies, if related to the theme where the original comment was shared (not including simple acknowledgements by station hosts). Some replies are displayed separate from the parent comment if it includes a new theme not addressed in the parent comment.

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Accountability	
Comments	Reference
I see these vouchers as one of perhaps many limited duration incentives for persons to improve their circumstances. Although each circumstance is different, having some sort of planning factor will enable officials to plan/manage the program and provide expectation management for applicants.	2.2 Housing-Shelter, p.2
Thank you for your comment. FYI - Groups in Olympia have reviewed a number shelter models. Durability in our winter weather was found to be an issue in some, especially with the Pallet model and with something called a "Conestoga Hut" model being used in Eugene Oregon. As a result, the LIHI 96sf "stick built" model has been the model used in Thurston County so far. A new, even smaller 64sf "stick design micro-house" model is planned by the City of Olympia for use in converting the currently all tent "mitigation site" downtown with 80+ of these units by next fall. It's a design was developed by a local non-profit for use in one of the local tent camps, where a number are currently in use. Like all the models, the "micro" has a locking door and a window, but costs under \$1000, about a third of the LIHI model. I should also mention that much of the construction of the 80 micro-units is, under supervision, being done by residents of the "mitigation" site. A 'put people to work" effort. --Thank you, Jim, for educating me about the 64sf "stick design micro-house" model. It sounds like a better solution than Pallet Homes for winter. I'm also encouraged to learn that residents are constructing and the units were designed locally.	2.2 Housing-Shelter, p.3
Thank you for the link, Brad. The Austin, TX village for chronically homeless is truly remarkable – and what a unique idea to have bed and breakfast rentals to bring in the community and revenue for the Mobile Loaves and Fishes program. I like the idea that formally unhoused residents have leadership opportunities in the garden and to lead tours. The “Tiny House Expedition” channel has several videos highlighting examples to end homelessness." --I love all the comments and ideas! I'm also glad that the Texas Mobile Loaves and Fishes program was brought up, because it's such a great example of a program that works! There's so many more elements to the program than just the housing- sense of community, sense of pride and ownership in one's space, supportive services, sense of purpose with everyone being expected to work or help the community in some way. Another program that has similar elements and seems to be working is a veteran based program: the veterans community project https://www.veteranscommunityproject.org/ I think it would serve our community well to consult with programs that work and implementing recommended protocols before starting any new tiny home villages "	2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.3
DPierpoint- I completely agree with you. We need to start tracking programs that have verifiable results and funnel funding to those programs, and stop draining millions of dollars into programs that aren't working. On a smaller scale, the City of Lacey can consult with programs that have verifiable results, and direct any related city taxpayer dollars into programs that work, and have those programs provide annual reports on their outcomes.	3.1 Addiction-Mental Health, p.4
This discussion thread can lead to some sustainable solutions involving public-private partnerships and programs. I would ask the workgroup to consider the possibilities of holding participants accountable for their personal growth and development when in receipt of resources.	4.1 Income-Work, p.1
(See also page-long proposal from Idea Wall shown in Diverse Strategies section, starting with, “Understanding there is no clear solution...”)	
Basic Needs, Support Services, Related Models	
Comments	Reference
The homeless can't afford “affordable housing”. The simplest form of secure weather resistant shelter is the first priority. Virtually all else will fail absent somewhere secure to sleep and store belongings. We need more rooming houses where a person can rent a lockable room and use facilities.	2.4 AHS, p.36

<p>I visited a site in Tacoma, a large tent with 100 private spots inside. Shower, laundry and food areas provided that are available for tenants. It has been a couple years, but would be interesting to see the statistics of that program now to see if it has been a success. I would ask not only program managers of the site, but police and neighbors of the property.</p>	<p>2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.3</p>
<p>Perhaps as a way to get the community involved in ending homelessness, get the 258 churches in the county that Brad mentioned (and all places of worship) to consider hosting families temporarily, not individuals. Here's an example: FHN (Family Housing Network), Fort Collins, CO - Fifteen host congregations, each supported by a partner congregation, rotated pre-covid each week to welcome guest families into their buildings for overnight shelter, generally for up to three months. Community members volunteered to deliver and cook meals for them; others volunteered to sleep in the building with the guest; 93% of families are employed, 52 families have moved on to permanent housing. http://www.familyhousingnetwork.org/our-programs/#1521279252381-274337fd-c199</p>	<p>2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.3</p>
<p>Regardless of the cost, the biggest issue for using any of these "minimal housing" options is finding a site to put them. One that the neighbors and community as a whole will accept. And also be willing to provide the minimal level of the ongoing support services that would be required. Food, hygiene, garbage, etc. Within Thurston County we currently have 4 sites that range from 7 to 29 units, and soon the 80 unit site. Other communities have sites that are single unit or only 2-3 units, while others have sites of over 100. But the successful sites all have built strong community support. How do we get that?</p>	<p>2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.3</p>
<p>Formal Shelter and Transitional Housing needs are being met on a tiny scale by Tiny House Villages. There is a warm, dry, locked space to restart and access resources for next steps.</p>	<p>2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.3</p>
<p>You light my fire Brad. City staff providing job training on maintaining the community. imagine getting McDonalds or Wendy's to put a small fast food building in it with limited menu to provide food. Staffed by residents. Job training and income. one of the Non Profits can provide the food supplies and working along side the private business. I like it or something like it.</p>	<p>2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.2</p>
<p>I'm incredibly in favor of supporting law enforcement by embedding mental health personnel with them to speed up response times and get folks the care they need when in crisis. --Thank you for your suggestion. A number of communities have implemented the "embedded" approach in different forms. Olympia currently has a small program in place. I'm sure this will be discussed by the Lacey workgroup, probably in relation with the suggestion of expanding outreach efforts in general. Your Station Host. --I didn't know about this program [Familiar Faces] prior to reading this. I just looked it up and it looks great! I love the idea of peer navigators helping connect others to resources. It reminds me of other programs (such as outreach in Union Gospel Mission), that have people that are in recovery that have been there, be volunteers that help with outreach. I think this also helps reduce stigma, and provide hope.</p>	<p>3.1 Addiction-Mental Health, p.3</p>
<p>Evidence supports that peer support is a critical and effective strategy for ongoing health care and sustained behavior change for people with SMI and SA.. and other conditions, and its benefits can be extended to community, organizational and societal levels. A peer support specialist is someone with the lived experience of recovery from a mental health condition, substance use disorder, or both. Pierce County Washington reduced involuntary hospitalization by 32% by using certified peer specialists offering respite services, a savings of 1.99 million dollars in one year ..Ever city and county should invest in PC training andd volunteers..</p>	<p>3.1 Addiction-Mental Health, p.1</p>
<p>Using the term "safely housed" for someone struggling with addiction is misleading. The user is not safe when ingesting or injecting serious illegal drugs and potentially the people living around them are not safe. I have seen the positive results programs like Drug Court have on individuals who need help. They have the motivation from the court, but get proper treatment, find jobs and housing if necessary. The recidivism rates are much lower than those without the assistance. I have sat in court as they tell their stories of success and how they got their lives back. It is a multi-faceted approach. There is documented proof drug court works.</p>	<p>3.1 Addiction-Mental Health, p.4</p>

<p>Waiting for "rock bottom" is a motivator for some, unfortunately overdose, either accidental or intentional can lead to death. Hopefully the City plan tries to assist people before.</p> <p>--Thank you for your comment. At present substance abuse and mental health services are regional at the county level. A list of available community services in Thurston County follows this page in NEXT (3.2). Connection with the homeless population requires outreach and Lacey Police has a small unit performing that task at present. However, the lack of appropriate facilities and sufficient services limit what actions they can take. A couple of questions asked below in the "solutions" section may be of interest to you for follow up. Your station host.</p>	<p>3.1 Addiction-Mental Health, p.4</p>
<p>Wild Grief https://wildgrief.org/</p>	<p>3.2 Svcs List, p.2</p>
<p>How many individuals can these programs serve total? Are existing programs often at or close to capacity, or do we have "enough" services?</p> <p>--At present Mental Health Court and Veteran's Court have a combined limit of just under 100. Drug Court has a limit of just over 100. So, about 200 total. These are 18-24 month programs, so only a handful of openings a month. Expansion is limited by the physical limits of available courtroom time and judge time. More courtroom space would be primary, then an additional court judge or two. There is money available for added support staff and services. Thank you for your question. Your Station Host.</p>	<p>3.1 Addiction-Mental Health, p.4</p>
<p>Definitely an idea to pursue. FYI - Lacey has a new Behavior Health facility near Fred Meyer and Providence has plans for another in Hawks Prairie. Like facilities in other cities, these are regional and serve more than Thurston County. As far as the county jail and courts are concerned, when a mental health competency assessment is required, people are held until they can be sent to Western State Hospital. The wait list for Western can be as long as 6 months. That's sometimes longer than the usual sentence for the crime they committed. Your Station Host.</p> <p>--Good point Jim. Waiting for Western State Hospital may be one of the issues that need looked at. Can they be immediately sent to Eastern Washington or Out of State to get these services when we need them? Might be worth a look.</p> <p>--I'm not sure. I know Western is still decertified (since 7/2018) but operating at some level. And the state is funding construction of a new facility. Here is the link to the latest monthly progress report :</p> <p>https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/BHSIA/FMHS/Trueblood/2021Trueblood/Trueblood-Report-2021-01.pdf</p> <p>--Your comment reminds me of the "not in my backyard" mentality of shipping people out of town to deal with the potential impacts they might contribute to. I actually would love if more trained professionals in the field of addiction and mental health were available and present, right here in my city. We need it - all of us, not just those experiencing homelessness. I'd be curious to hear more about your statement "The facilities them selves would be a huge cost to the community." Can you say more about that?</p> <p>--Thank you for participating. Lacey has supported building two behavior health facilities, one open, one in progress. These were private investments triggered by Lacey interest and regional need. Oversight reporting indicates Western is old and the service model is not working. Still not recertified, it is serving patients. The replacement for Western State Hospital is a planned state investment with a sizable cost in tax dollars (\$500+Mil), to be located in Lakewood. It's unclear from information so far the relationship between Western and Eastern State Hospitals and the ability to share caseloads, but it would seem likely but expensive. Your Station Host</p> <p>--Hi Amber I totally agree that more Addiction and Mental Health treatment opportunities would be very beneficial to dealing with the crisis we are currently facing. I am hoping we can increase our focus on addressing these issues as a means of dealing with the homeless crisis. In reference to the cost of facilities and staffing, that was directed at any attempt we would make for the City to provide those facilities, staffing, maintenance etc. If there are private businesses such as St. Peters or others willing to provide these services to our area, I'm all in.</p>	<p>3.1 Addiction-Mental Health, p.3</p>

<p>--Thank you Jim for the information. As a mental health professional, I can attest to the new behavioral health hospital in Lacey already being an asset to my clients. I am grateful we have this facility so close and accessible to our community!</p>	
<p>I would very much like more context for this statement. "Lacey should not try to make it easier to continue living outdoors." Does this mean there's an active desire to provide shelter to those in need instead of allowing them to continue to live outside, or just that we should not try to alleviate the suffering of others?</p>	<p>3.1 Addiction-Mental Health, p.1</p>
<p>So many issues that need to be addressed. I keep going back to providing basic needs food, water, shelter and security. Providing a array of options for the basic needs seems like the most likely strategy for success. This slide on minimum income vs. Job, brings to mind the 22 people who are working but are homeless. Providing affordable basic needs seems like a good solution, where rents are reduced to level that someone with SSDI benefits or minimum wage find it affordable.</p> <p>-- Thanks for visiting my station. Have you thought about various unintended consequences of providing basic needs rather than providing more opportunity for someone to provide their own needs?</p> <p>-- For instance, people would be sheltered? I think that positive outcome outweighs any unintended consequences I can imagine. I'm not sure I follow your point. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs shows us that thriving in society or a career or in relationships is possible only after basic survival needs are met. Shelter makes success in all those other parts of your life possible.</p>	<p>4.1 Income-Work, p.1</p>
<p>I was referring to some of the responses I got from some of the employers. When I worked for Evergreen Counseling Center in Hoquiam, finding employment for people with mental illness I frequently got the same response about wanting reliable employees. It made finding employment for the mentally ill much easier because they were reliable..</p>	<p>4.1 Income-Work, p.1</p>
<p>MH issues ... this is an issue of state funding for MH services.. and supportive services in place when discharged .. Even if housed, a person with Severe MH and SA issues may not stant the shousing w/o supportive services lile pperpecialist, crisis intervenons inplace..place.. an issue funding period.. From exprince and work,, i knw MANY SMI ppl and RECOVERY is possible.. I knw this from work and experince.. I have seen it !! IN my own mfily. a cousin was in and out of local jail..n bc of MH , she is now a homeonwer and Peer specilaist with a MS in HR... Took years .. but RECOVERY is possible .. i see it everyday.. PPL in Recovery form SA and MH doing well.. So, the solution is funding for the necessary MH and SA services.. FUND MH and SA treatment..</p> <p>--I agree, the State has failed in handling Western State Hospital and proper mental health approach.</p>	<p>6.1 Comm'y Impacts, p.1</p>
<p>It is difficult for me to isolate the issue in Lacey when the Olympia and Lacey borders are hard for me to define and to know which homeless encampment or target area is in which region that can potentially impact the initial data. I anticipate there is a lot of fluidity to how people in trouble flow in and out of each region. The public health and mental health issues are extremely apparent along Capitol Lake and on Martin Way. Regions like those are probably part of Olympia and its management plan but, they create a stigma that many working homeless with kids in school become grouped into.</p> <p>With the expansive warehousing district of Lacey (i.e. Medline, Home Depot, Target, etc.), has there been and discussion with these large employers to assist in the community beyond the typical business taxes? Has there been any discussion to rezone land being sold for commercial reasons only to have another warehouse or group of storage units be constructed and zone it for suitable housing for reasonable rent? Has local government discussed using pre-existing structures that sit empty such as the Olympia Brewery to construct affordable housing or provide transitional housing? Has there been discussion about a reallocation of part of the city budget to grow a much needed social services sector that attracts well qualified social workers and counselors that can truly help individuals get through the difficult steps of locating the correct resources, applying, and accessing what is already available?</p>	<p>Idea Wall</p>

<p>I am sure all of the above thoughts/questions have already occurred with the Council. I wanted to at least try to contribute to the solution for the initial phases of an action plan rather than be one that provides individual opinion.</p>	
<p>Treatment Sales Tax is very limited and just another pool of money for use in a multi-faceted approach. Since Mental Health and substance abuse will need to be addressed, Lacey should do what it can to get some of these funds for use. We should not limit ourselves when looking for funding and last time I saw the TST account balance, there was a healthy reserve fund. --(see more discussion in Funding section)</p>	Idea Wall
<p>Creating legal and accessible hygiene management system. Sanitation is a basic need and a real concern for unhoused people and community health. In Portland, Oregon composting sanitation systems are legal and have established code requirements that must be met for approval. We could duplicate the legislation and pave the way to cheap, easily managed and hygienic waste management in encampments and noncode compliant dwellings. ReCode Now, a Portland based advocacy group, wrote the language and got this idea made into law. This link takes you to their work and provides a sensible framework for creating accessible sanitation- https://www.recodenow.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Recode-Model-composting-toilet-code-3.24.15.pdf -- Wonderful resource not to have to reinvent the wheel.</p>	Idea Wall
<p>(See also page-long proposal from Idea Wall shown in Diverse Strategies section, starting with, "Understanding there is no clear solution...")</p>	
<p>Business Impacts</p>	
<p>Comments</p>	<p>Reference</p>
<p>The Community impacts seem to just be focused on contact to the City Departments. Is there data on police contact, code enforcement? For a business to make contact with a city department most likely it has dramatically escalated and directed contact by the police. Having that data I believe would add more texture of the issue businesses are seeing. --Thanks for your comment and that is a good suggestion. The Lacey Police Department does track the number of contacts that are made with homeless individuals. This data, along with information on where the data was collected, would provide more context.--city staff station host</p>	6.1 Comm'y Impacts, p.1
<p>It seems to be missing the impact a business that is located near a homeless camp sees. I do not know if Businesses were surveyed and do realize small businesses do not typically have time to be involved with these surveys. --Thanks for your comment. See the section above specific to business impacts. The city continuously engages with its business community as they are a vital part of addressing the issues. - city staff station host --I also wanted to chime in to say that a small team from the workgroup tried to host a community conversation with local businesses, but given everything businesses have been struggling with, there weren't enough businesses able to participate. Because of that, we have included a very brief business survey as part of this station - see the red and blue question pin next to the business impacts section. We are working on additional ways to gather that input that works well for businesses. We will share what we learn as soon as we have meaningful information to share. --I have discussed this process with several people, business owners included and most have no idea this is happening. Nobody to blame, its very hard to get people involved. Specifically businesses near the Chehalis Trail and Sleater Kinney. I had to go ask, they did not know about this website. We can't do everything online, need to go to them. People are overwhelmed with on-line surveys, but willing to talk to a person. From my view of activity in town, COVID is not a restriction from meeting with citizens. --Hi, my name is Rondale and I am a small business owner in the plaza right behind Kohl's. We are near the trail and have a lot of activity with people coming and going to the trail and encampments. I would greatly appreciate being reached out to, as myself and my colleagues (in</p>	6.1 Comm'y Impacts, p.3

<p>the same suite) have a lot of information to share about our experience. We have been in that building since 2017 and the criminal activity has gotten significantly worse, to the point that we need security there day and night, and now have multiple locked doors for our clients to get to our office. As a female business owner, I do not feel safe in this community and am considering moving my business to another city when my lease is up.</p>	
<p>Thank you, I was also curious if citizens will be able to see any surveys that have been turned in by businesses. I would be available to meet with business owners/managers and get their feedback if needed.</p> <p>--Yes. once the open house and surveys are closed. we will compile the comments and information received and provide the information to the Workgroup as well as post the information on the Community Workgroup on Homelessness web page. Rick Walk, Station Host.</p> <p>--Hi DPierpoint, I am a local small business owner and mental health professional. I would be happy to provide more information/feedback if anyone would like to reach out to me. I also work with a group of colleagues that would probably be willing to do the same.</p>	Idea Wall
Cause Perception, Root Cause	
Comments	Reference
<p>I'm also providing my input, for what it's worth, that I had provided separately to the Lacey City Council over the course of the last year and a half.</p> <p>"I'm writing to reiterate what I provided during the public solicitation for comments on the proposed revision to the so-called emergency housing ordinance that was being developed in 2019. Although perhaps well-intentioned, it was based on the false premise that there is a homeless problem. In reality, homelessness is merely a symptom of the underlying cause(s) and problem. I maintain the vast majority of the homeless consist of the following: (1) Those that have been released from supportive care or have been diagnosed physically and/or mentally incapable of living independently on their own. (2) Those that, for whatever reason, are addicted to drugs and are incapable of living on their own. (3) The remainder are those that are capable of making a living to support themselves and choose not to.</p> <p>The proposed revisions will only exacerbate and encourage more "homeless" to come to the Lacey area to set up shop. A better approach, to reduce the numbers and "attraction" to Lacey is to legally require those that are physically and mentally capable of getting a job (or two, if need be) in order to pay for housing and basic subsistence instead of allowing them to use very limited (city) resources; get those mentally or physically incapable into appropriate institutions that will provide for their welfare; lastly, provide substance abuse recovery and prevention to the remainder to get them out of the vicious cycle. It's not realistic or practical to think that having the city of Lacey establish as many shelters as it deems necessary will decrease the numbers of "homeless". This unsuccessful method of attempting to fix this "homeless" problem by primarily dealing with the symptoms is already clearly evident in Olympia, Bellingham, and other west coast cities. The real fixes come with (re) instilling in the person the sense of personal responsibility and self worth."</p> <p>I recommend that vagrancy be considered and added as a condition or cause of "homelessness"; i.e., the people that are capable of providing for themselves by getting a job, yet choose not to. Also, also as another condition or cause, I recommend including what is attracting the "homeless" to Lacey or Olympia and not to another city or town elsewhere?</p>	1.2 PIT Report
<p>How many "homeless" choose that way of life? That should be added as a condition or cause; anecdotally at least, I suggest, there are those that choose to live this way rather than become a contributing and responsible member of society.</p> <p>--Thank you for your comment. That topic was discussed this year as we were planning the PIT. However because we did an observational count this year, not the same survey approach as in previous years, that's a helpful suggestion for next year's survey. -Station host</p> <p>--I heard Dan Malone, director of Downtown Emergency Services Center in Seattle speak to this a few years ago. They found when opening buildings, they've found that they fill quickly, even</p>	1.1 Conditions-Causes, p.5

<p>when targeting sets of individuals. I don't have the exact numbers, but they approached the unhoused people who were identified as using the most costs and resources with housing. It only took asking about 70 people to fill 65 spots (and the remainder were open to housing once they saw what the housing situation was like). Most people don't want to live on the street. This article mentions some of that: https://www.seattletimes.com/opinion/stable-permanent-housing-is-a-first-step-toward-treatment/</p>	
<p>Why would “eviction/loss of housing” be identified as a condition? In itself, eviction is not a cause; it’s a result of some other actual condition (e.g., mental health, abuse/neglect domestic violence, job loss) listed.</p> <p>--That is a great point James. its not accurate to assume all evictions are because the rent went up. And even if the individual is evicted secondary to not being able to pay the rent its worth taking a look at where's the money going? That may help identify the help that can be provided to the individual.</p> <p>--This data comes directly from unhoused people - it's what they report. Surveyors ask, "Why did you lose your home?" and the person may say, "I lost my job, didn't get my unemployment, and I got evicted," and this is counted as two different categories (job loss/unemployment, and eviction/loss of housing) since in some cases there's more than one reason. But if a landlord decides to sell their property, they may simply give tenants sufficient notice and then sell, even if the other factors aren't in play.</p> <p>--Landlords are always thought to be wealthy. Many are not! I know some who have worked their whole lives to have a couple rental properties and it is their retirement income. Rents go up when taxes go up, State of Washington forgave rent, but not mortgages. Some owners of rental property are not willing to take anymore risks with their future. That results in fewer rental properties available.</p> <p>--I agree, and this needs to be included and addressed in the study as another potential condition or cause contributing to “homelessness”.</p>	<p>1.1 Conditions-Causes, p.5</p>
<p>Do PIT surveyors ask, "What is the main reason you lost your home/became homeless?"</p> <p>--This survey is not scientific, I'm not sure if they try to find out why they lost their home, why they got evicted or why they lost their job.... may be much more to the story and would be beneficial to know. Several of the categories are most likely linked. But remember, no answers are verified.</p> <p>--Precisely. Eviction or loss of housing is the result of a “condition”, not a condition in and of itself. This study needs to focus on and pinpoint those reasons in order to attack and reduce those causes of homelessness; otherwise, we’re treating the symptom; i.e., “eviction/loss of housing “ is not the cause and should not be the basis for justifying or allowing establishment of more “camps”. For example, an unexpected or significant increase in rent would be another cause or condition for eviction/loss of housing.</p>	<p>1.1 Conditions-Causes, p.5</p>
<p>A catastrophic loss of family is often a contributor to homelessness. Programs that offer a sense of community, social support and connection, hope, and purpose are crucial.</p>	<p>5.1 Resources, p.2</p>
<p>No doubt this is a complex issue affecting a great many areas, communities, and cities in the area. I appreciate the spectrum of emotions and efforts to educate the larger public. I also encourage the workgroup to attempt to investigate/peel back larger social issues surrounding why people end up without adequate shelter over time and opportunities to address those causes.</p>	<p>6.1 Comm’y Impacts, p.3</p>
<p>“HOMELESSNESS IS A SYMPTOM NOT THE PROBLEM”</p> <p>There are many problems causing individuals and sometimes entire families to become homeless. We must assure the true problem creating homelessness is understood and addressed to help each of these individuals.</p> <p>Not dealing with the problem not only proliferates the symptom, but has debilitating effects on the individuals experiencing the symptoms. Individuals that have been productive and proud, when forced to be dependent on others to care for them and their families experience a wide</p>	<p>Idea Wall</p>

range of sometimes debilitating psychological experiences. Depression as well as many other Psychological Disorders may be triggered by this devastating loss of independence. The homeless population that is the most visible and uses more individual City services per individual than any of the others must be provided incentives to participate and opportunities to regain their self esteem, regain their self-sufficiency and get free of government support.

--Thank you for participating and I value your opinion William. I see that you understand the intensity of the pain and disempowerment that results from loss of agency and independence. I am curious about your emphasis on getting off government support as a main goal, when accepting and seeking government help is often inaccessible, suppressed or not trusted. Many unhoused people distrust governmental support, can't/won't navigate the process and receive few of the benefits they qualify for. I see one of the main goals of outreach as helping to bridge the gap between vulnerable families and the service they qualify for. Perhaps a way to articulate both these realities is to state a goal of connecting people in need with governmental services that can build long-term capacity for autonomy?

--Being unhoused is certainly an indicator of an underlying issue that needs to be explored, but I really do feel "dependence on the system" is NOT it. Most who are unhoused have very little contact with "the system." They are often not connected due to access issues, trust issues, and many others. We need to look at why being unhoused is the best option to them. Which options are they choosing from & why? Anxiety, depression and other debilitating psychological experiences are certainly a big part of their experience, but services that are meeting their needs and helping them to achieve their goals are helping those issues, not making them worse.

--Hi William! I am a mental health professional in Lacey and I appreciate what you said. There is so much more to the problem of homelessness (all of the things you mentioned and more). I fully agree that people need to be encouraged to regain self-esteem and self-sufficiency, and I feel that this is often through people having a sense of purpose- whether that purpose be in a job, volunteering, outreach, or helping others in some way. For many of the homeless, we cannot just put people in housing without other services and expect it to solve the problem. I know that due to mental and physical disabilities, not everyone can work a typical 40 hour/week job, but given the right supports, people are much more capable than we often give them credit for. I worked for a community mental health agency that had a supportive employment program, which helped people with serious mental health issues such as schizophrenia, be able to work part-time. It was amazing to see how much this boosted the self-esteem of these clients. I understand that these issues are complicated and not easy to solve, but the summary of my point is this. People need a sense of purpose, and I highly recommend that if a housing community is built, there are requirements for the people living there to contribute in some way, whether it be working, volunteering, or helping others through outreach, etc.

Community-Building, Community Connection/Support Systems, Relevant Models

Comments	Reference
<p>I have been fascinated with images of a large tennis bubble that can be turned into a micro-neighborhood. Astro-Turf, little fences, mailboxes as a starting point from the streets. An "Olympia style" mitigation site covered and managed by the residents. A type of HOA. Residents can pay rent as a small percentage of what they have. Covenants and security. Water, electricity, all services and as the crisis subsides the facility can be repurposed as a sports venue.</p> <p>--I really like several of these ideas which I think could have a relatively quick impact and provide a relatively quick response that supplements longer term actions as part of a balanced approach that combines faster actions with longer term actions.</p>	<p>2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.2</p>
<p>Thank you for the link, Brad. The Austin, TX village for chronically homeless is truly remarkable – and what a unique idea to have bed and breakfast rentals to bring in the community and revenue for the Mobile Loaves and Fishes program. I like the idea that formally unhoused residents have leadership opportunities in the garden and to lead tours. The “Tiny House Expedition” channel has several videos highlighting examples to end homelessness."</p>	<p>2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.3</p>

<p>--Perhaps as a way to get the community involved in ending homelessness, get the 258 churches in the county that Brad mentioned (and all places of worship) to consider hosting families temporarily, not individuals. Here's an example: FHN (Family Housing Network), Fort Collins, CO - Fifteen host congregations, each supported by a partner congregation, rotated pre-covid each week to welcome guest families into their buildings for overnight shelter, generally for up to three months. Community members volunteered to deliver and cook meals for them; others volunteered to sleep in the building with the guest; 93% of families are employed, 52 families have moved on to permanent housing. http://www.familyhousingnetwork.org/our-programs/#1521279252381-274337fd-c199</p> <p>--I love all the comments and ideas! I'm also glad that the Texas Mobile Loaves and Fishes program was brought up, because it's such a great example of a program that works! There's so many more elements to the program than just the housing- sense of community, sense of pride and ownership in one's space, supportive services, sense of purpose with everyone being expected to work or help the community in some way. Another program that has similar elements and seems to be working is a veteran based program: the veterans community project https://www.veteranscommunityproject.org/ I think it would serve our community well to consult with programs that work and implementing recommended protocols before starting any new tiny home villages</p>	
<p>Regardless of the cost, the biggest issue for using any of these "minimal housing" options is finding a site to put them. One that the neighbors and community as a whole will accept. And also be willing to provide the minimal level of the ongoing support services that would be required. Food, hygiene, garbage, etc. Within Thurston County we currently have 4 sites that range from 7 to 29 units, and soon the 80 unit site. Other communities have sites that are single unit or only 2-3 units, while others have sites of over 100. But the successful sites all have built strong community support. How do we get that?</p> <p>--I'm not sure how to cultivate strong community support, but I have heard that Opportunity Village in Eugene, Oregon promotes self-governed tiny home communities as transitional housing; they began in 2013. In one of their videos they mentioned that 30 units seems to be an appropriate size for a community. Has SquareOne Villages been researched?</p>	2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.3
<p>Social connection and a sense of purpose is so important for people! Just building housing without supportive services will not work. Please consult with programs that HAVE worked, to help people not only get out of homelessness, but also rebuild their lives. As noted throughout this virtual open house, there are multiple facets to homelessness and the problem. Here are two amazing programs that are helping the homeless problem:</p> <p>https://mlf.org/community-first/ A veteran focused community for the homeless: https://www.veteranscommunityproject.org/ Please consider consulting with programs that show efficacy and results before any tiny home communities are built in Lacey.</p>	5.1 Resources, p.2
<p>A catastrophic loss of family is often a contributor to homelessness. Programs that offer a sense of community, social support and connection, hope, and purpose are crucial.</p>	5.1 Resources, p.2
<p>Oak City Cares project in Raleigh, NC might be a model to look at. https://oakcitycares.org/</p>	5.1 Resources, p.1
Community Capacity	
Comments	Reference
<p>How many individuals can these programs serve total? Are existing programs often at or close to capacity, or do we have "enough" services?</p> <p>--At present Mental Health Court and Veteran's Court have a combined limit of just under 100. Drug Court has a limit of just over 100. So, about 200 total. These are 18-24 month programs, so only a handful of openings a month. Expansion is limited by the physical limits of available courtroom time and judge time. More courtroom space would be primary, then an additional</p>	3.1 Addiction-Mental Health, p.4

<p>court judge or two. There is money available for added support staff and services. Thank you for your question. Your Station Host.</p>	
Criminal Justice System Involvement, Therapeutic Courts, Law Enforcement	
Comments	Reference
<p>As you indicated, one-size housing, just as one-size service levels, don't always work. Current service capacity for Thurston County Drug Court is a little over 100 at a time for an 18 month course of treatment. Veterans Court and Mental Health Courts have a combined capacity of just under 100 for a 24 month course of treatment. All three courts have a rigorous selection process where many will never qualify. Those that don't qualify serve time in jails that are ill equipped to provide the services and adequate reentry coordination, including housing, for inmates to be successful upon release. When released many, even when provided housing are unwilling or unable, because of rules or restrictions, to stay in the available housing option. They then return to the streets and many quickly return to the correctional system. While they represent a small percentage (PIT says 25-30%?) of the homeless, they tend to be the most visible and cause the most community disruption. And a large drain on available resources. Given the limits of the current treatment courts and correctional systems in Thurston County, what would you suggest the City of Lacey, or the Lacey community as a whole, try to do to help address those homeless individuals with substance and/or mental health issues? The committee would like any additional ideas you have, either here as comments, as comments or questions on other sections as you review them or on the "idea wall" at the end of the website presentation. Thanks again for your thoughts and any ideas you may have - Your station host.</p>	<p>3.1 Addiction-Mental Health, p.4</p>
<p>Using the term "safely housed" for someone struggling with addiction is misleading. The user is not safe when ingesting or injecting serious illegal drugs and potentially the people living around them are not safe. I have seen the positive results programs like Drug Court have on individuals who need help. They have the motivation from the court, but get proper treatment, find jobs and housing if necessary. The recidivism rates are much lower than those without the assistance. I have sat in court as they tell their stories of success and how they got their lives back. It is a multi-faceted approach. There is documented proof drug court works...</p> <p>--As you indicated, one-size housing, just as one-size service levels, don't always work. Current service capacity for Thurston County Drug Court is a little over 100 at a time for an 18 month course of treatment. Veterans Court and Mental Health Courts have a combined capacity of just under 100 for a 24 month course of treatment. All three courts have a rigorous selection process where many will never qualify. Those that don't qualify serve time in jails that are ill equipped to provide the services and adequate reentry coordination, including housing, for inmates to be successful upon release. When released many, even when provided housing are unwilling or unable, because of rules or restrictions, to stay in the available housing option. They then return to the streets and many quickly return to the correctional system. While they represent a small percentage (PIT says 25-30%?) of the homeless, they tend to be the most visible and cause the most community disruption. And a large drain on available resources. Given the limits of the current treatment courts and correctional systems in Thurston County, what would you suggest the City of Lacey, or the Lacey community as a whole, try to do to help address those homeless individuals with substance and/or mental health issues? The committee would like any additional ideas you have, either here as comments, as comments or questions on other sections as you review them or on the "idea wall" at the end of the website presentation. Thanks again for your thoughts and any ideas you may have - Your station host.</p> <p>--Thank you, I actually do have some ideas. As a former participant in the Strophy Foundation which supports the therapeutic courts, I understand the limitations on numbers, but for every graduate, there is success and low recidivism. Perhaps a new court "Homeless Court" could be developed similar to Veterans Court, DV Court, Mental Health Court and others.</p> <p>Do you think the Idea Wall is best for more detail and funding ideas?</p> <p>Thank you again</p>	<p>3.1 Addiction-Mental Health, p.4</p>

<p>I'm incredibly in favor of supporting law enforcement by embedding mental health personnel with them to speed up response times and get folks the care they need when in crisis. --Thank you for your suggestion. A number of communities have implemented the "embedded" approach in different forms. Olympia currently has a small program in place. I'm sure this will be discussed by the Lacey workgroup, probably in relation with the suggestion of expanding outreach efforts in general. Your Station Host.</p>	<p>3.1 Addiction-Mental Health, p.3</p>
<p>Could Lacey establish a training program for volunteers to do some low level outreach? Give people the baseline skills necessary to assist, and teach them how to connect unhoused individuals with more comprehensive resources? I would love to see the CRU's impact amplified, both by adding paid trained staff (there are only three people, right?) and also possibly by utilizing trained community volunteers.</p>	<p>3.1 Addiction-Mental Health, p.3</p>
<p>At present Mental Health Court and Veteran's Court have a combined limit of just under 100. Drug Court has a limit of just over 100. So, about 200 total. These are 18-24 month programs, so only a handful of openings a month. Expansion is limited by the physical limits of available courtroom time and judge time. More courtroom space would be primary, then an additional court judge or two. There is money available for added support staff and services. Thank you for your question. Your Station Host.</p>	<p>3.1 Addiction-Mental Health, p.4</p>
<p>A "homeless court" is a great idea to consider. Thanks. However, as far as TST funding, the Treatment Sales Tax is a "county" tax and the county treatment courts and programs funded are county-wide "services." Funds are not allocated to local jurisdictions. Lacey is getting it's share of the funds when Lacey residents use the treatment courts and program services, as they currently do in significant numbers. TST funds are not discretionary and can only be used for mental health or substance related "services". With a few limited exceptions, housing is not covered. By law, even "prevention" programs are excluded. If Lacey wanted to develop a TST fundable program, partnering maybe with a non-profit, services could still only be provided to the homeless with a diagnosed substance or mental health issue. So not all homeless. And it would be open to all Thurston County resident homeless, not just Lacey's. A number of current TST funded programs do target and serve the the county's homeless, including Lacey's. So... Where could resources for a "homeless court" come from? Would you see that as a Lacey take on, maybe as a pilot effort or something the county should consider? -- DPierpoint, thank you for your input. I agree with you that accountability on multiple levels is crucial, and that funded programs should have accountability back to the taxpayers. My previous comments advocate for new funding projects to consult with other programs that have shown evidence for success already. I appreciate your information about the drug courts, that's helpful to know!</p>	<p>Idea Wall (See page-long proposal shown in Diverse Strategies section, starting with, "Understanding there is no clear solution...")</p>
<p>As an answer to the homeless condition, some have suggested "more policing" or "arrest them if they won't go to a shelter or come back". I think there needs to be a "community reality check" on this approach. A day in the county jail costs \$110 or more, a significant portion of which is paid by the city. Police cannot arrest someone without cause and sleeping on public property is not cause unless a shelter space or other alternative sanctioned site is available, is offered and refused. The reports from the jail and shelters indicate they are at capacity. And a day in jail with court costs are way more expensive than just offering a night in a motel. What is the point of an arrest for a non-violent crime if the net result is just a costly but quick release and a return to the streets?</p>	<p>Idea Wall</p>
<p>All programs have budget limits. I think 200 is a great number, considering people are graduating and new participants entering on a regular basis. What people against using the courts forget is when done with the program, CHARGES ARE DROPPED! The program is intended to help people, not punish. And since according to the numbers, only a portion of the population have issues related to criminal conduct this would only be a part of the overall solution. Housing, job training and other topics are dealt with in a different way. If we are suppose to be looking for solutions and since there is NO one solution, we should be thinking of a multi-faceted approach. This is going to take time and if we get 20 people off the street the first year, try for 40 the next. I want</p>	<p>Idea Wall</p>

<p>to see success, people out of the cycle of despair. Must be realistic for sure, funding is a challenge. Millions are being spent and the problem is getting worse so I am a believer that we must adjust some things, millions of dollars are available. I am pleased there are so many people concerned and wanting to see things get better. We all may have different views on how to get there, but the end goal is the same. We will need more than one path to success and the path to success looks different for those needing help. I hope at the conclusion there is discussion on what variety of programs will be needed in Lacey.</p> <p>There are Cities doing good work, getting measurable results and I want Lacey to be a leader in this area. Lacey has an opportunity and based on the obvious increase in camps, Lacey has a need to have a solid plan. It can be done!</p>	
Data, Definitions, Process	
Comments	Reference
<p>--Landlords are always thought to be wealthy. Many are not! I know some who have worked their whole lives to have a couple rental properties and it is their retirement income. Rents go up when taxes go up, State of Washington forgave rent, but not mortgages. Some owners of rental property are not willing to take anymore risks with their future. That results in fewer rental properties available.</p> <p>--I agree, and this needs to be included and addressed in the study as another potential condition or cause contributing to "homelessness".</p>	<p>1.1 Conditions-Causes, p.5</p>
<p>Do PIT surveyors ask, "What is the main reason you lost your home/became homeless?"</p> <p>--This survey is not scientific, I'm not sure if they try to find out why they lost their home, why they got evicted or why they lost their job.... may be much more to the story and would be beneficial to know. Several of the categories are most likely linked. But remember, no answers are verified.</p> <p>--Precisely. Eviction or loss of housing is the result of a "condition", not a condition in and of itself. This study needs to focus on and pinpoint those reasons in order to attack and reduce those causes of homelessness; otherwise, we're treating the symptom; i.e., "eviction/loss of housing " is not the cause and should not be the basis for justifying or allowing establishment of more "camps". For example, an unexpected or significant increase in rent would be another cause or condition for eviction/loss of housing.</p>	<p>1.1 Conditions-Causes, p.5</p>
<p>Why would "eviction/loss of housing" be identified as a condition? In itself, eviction is not a cause; it's a result of some other actual condition (e.g., mental health, abuse/neglect domestic violence, job loss) listed.</p> <p>--That is a great point James. its not accurate to assume all evictions are because the rent went up. And even if the individual is evicted secondary to not being able to pay the rent its worth taking a look at where's the money going? That may help identify the help that can be provided to the individual.</p> <p>--This data comes directly from unhoused people - it's what they report. Surveyors ask, "Why did you lose your home?" and the person may say, "I lost my job, didn't get my unemployment, and I got evicted," and this is counted as two different categories (job loss/unemployment, and eviction/loss of housing) since in some cases there's more than one reason. But if a landlord decides to sell their property, they may simply give tenants sufficient notice and then sell, even if the other factors aren't in play.</p> <p>--Landlords are always thought to be wealthy. Many are not! I know some who have worked their whole lives to have a couple rental properties and it is their retirement income. Rents go up when taxes go up, State of Washington forgave rent, but not mortgages. Some owners of rental property are not willing to take anymore risks with their future. That results in fewer rental properties available.</p> <p>--I agree, and this needs to be included and addressed in the study as another potential condition or cause contributing to "homelessness".</p>	<p>1.1 Conditions-Causes, p.5</p>
<p>Do we have age demographics for this group? I'm guessing this is typically younger individuals.</p>	<p>1.1 Conditions-Causes, p.5</p>

<p>--Good question. The County should be able to cross reference this with with the demographic data collected. I can certainly check on that. Thanks! - Station Host</p>	
<p>Honestly, I am from Missouri, " the show me state." i just dont find these stats credible.. with BPOC and homelessness in TC.. having done thr PIT count and and the US census in TC... does not seem add up..</p> <p>--Thank you for your comment. Is your question about the total number of unsheltered or the demographic data? Both have been difficult to get perfectly accurate. The PIT census is just one tool to count the number of people experiencing homelessness. It is generally assumed to be an undercount because participants have to agree to filling out a census form. This year, because of the pandemic, an observation-based count was completed for the unsheltered. It will provide less demographic data but potentially a more accurate count of those observed living unsheltered. Thank you for participating! - Station Host</p>	<p>1.2 PIT report, p. 12</p>
<p>Spell out "BIPOC". Reason: It is not universally known what it stands for; it is not an "everyday" term. Furthermore, all abbreviations should be spelled out at least once or just use plain language.</p> <p>--Great comment. Appreciate that one. Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. (BIPOC) for those that read this comment thread. – Station Host</p>	<p>1.1 Conditions-Causes, p.2</p>
<p>What are the definitions of "homeless" and "unsheltered"? 'Sounds as though they're being used interchangeably which does not make sense. What are the parameters for someone to be considered "homeless" vs "unsheltered"? As part of the PIT, where is any data on how long someone's been homeless vs unsheltered and what's been done to get them off the streets permanently; i.e., how (successful) are the causes and conditions being addressed and reduced thereby decreasing the need for additional shelters or encampments? If this is not the focus of this study, we will do little to reduce the homeless or unsheltered population.</p> <p>--Thank you for your question. The PIT report on page 15 discussions this issue. "Unsheltered" is a category of homelessness. The issue of chronic homelessness is also discussed. The PIT report is meant to show a snapshot in time, not dig into the details of why. That is important but out of the scope of the PIT. It is a topic I can assure you is discussed quite a bit among service providers, policy makers, etc. Thank you for participation. - Station host</p>	<p>1.2 PIT report, p. 11</p>
<p>...I think the assumption is that "risk of continued growth" means more people moving here but not being able to build enough housing to keep up or catch up from our current deficit of units, which would continue to exacerbate housing costs. I believe this is pointing to a supply and demand issue. Thanks for participating! - Station Host</p> <p>--I think that is not a valid assumption. If that's what's inferred, there needs to be a much more detailed and fact justified explanation as to the how and why. As currently written, the paragraph does not address or explain the heading; i.e., how and why is continued growth a risk? Rather, the paragraph talks about households that may be risk of losing housing should their personal circumstances change.</p>	<p>1.1 Conditions-Causes, p.4</p>
<p>What lessons were learned from the 2010 high homeless count that can be applied in 2021? Will I read about them later in this 53-page strategy?</p>	<p>2.4 Affordable Housing Strategy (AHS), p.24</p>
<p>Can you please provide more information on how many properties/units are available for low-income tenants at the below-market housing authority properties? I think this is a great idea to help reduce the number of people that become homeless- since rent in WA seems to be skyrocketing at unreasonable rates, and there are many people that are working and want to continue working, but are close to the edge with the high cost of living and rent. This seems like a less costly and quicker solution than section 8 housing (which has a lot of its own problems and complications, including long wait lists and difficulty with people getting off section 8 housing). How are below-market properties funded? What are their eligibility requirements? How can we have more properties that keep people in affordable housing but also require them to continue working?</p>	<p>2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.1</p>

"This information is no longer correct. Community Action Council now operates Coordinated Entry for shelters and permanent supportive housing.	2.2 H-S Svcs, p.1
SideWalk continues to offer Rapid rehousing/diversion assistance to adults without children."	2.2 H-S Svcs, p.1
Business hours are now Mon - Thurs 10-5pm	2.2 H-S Svcs, p.1
Income limit for 1 person is now \$1571 and 2 persons is \$1796	2.2 H-S Svcs, p.1
No longer offer intensive case management. Change to limited.	2.2 H-S Svcs, p.1
Again, this is outdated information. Community Action Council now handles all referrals to shelters and Quixote Village, Drexel house, Billy Frank Jr. Place, etc...	2.2 H-S Svcs, p.5
What could an explanation be for why the 2013 data seems to stand out from the other years? --Collection of the Point-In-Time data is a county-wide effort, done on an assigned day in January, mostly by volunteers and not always managed by county staff. So slightly different each year depending on: weather, how many people are available to collect, and how well the various cities get involved. So, the PIT is imperfect and prone to undercounts. But done consistently the same way over time, it does provide some useful trends. I see no obvious reason for the dip in the 2013 PIT report. Here is the link: https://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/sscp/pdf/2013pitcensusreportforthurstoncounty.pdf Your Station Host	3.1 Addiction-Mental Health, p.4
Wild Grief https://wildgrief.org/	3.2 Svcs list, p.2
Significant barriers? Did you interview ppl and determine these were significant barriers? Depression? Crminal history? lost id? lack of skills? surely you jest..List of SIGNIFICANT barriers...There are MANY jobs that are felony friendly all over Thurston County.... lack of skills...too MANY jobs that are entry level for that to be a SIGNIFCANT barrier. There are many resources that immed. address and and eleminate most of the listed barriers... Eccpetion: disability income resticted hr.. yes,, that is a barrier bc housng costs exceeds the wages ... but in that case you can qualify for HUD housing.. SEVERE MH and behavioral ... that is a definite significant barrier.. Based on my personal experience, research and work experience, Substance abuse, and MH issues and credit ratings.. are the SIGNIFICANT barriers tht require SIGNIFICANT resources to address. treatment , services and supprt.. those are long term needs. and ongoing services needed for that.. ... The rest are issues that can be addressed and removed as barriers.. period.. Livable wage..? get a second job... Even with a college degree, I have had to get a second job to pay the rent .. feed kids,, transportations... etc,, --Thank you for your input! Yes, the committee has done interviews of Lacey residents and held information seminars with field experts. We have not done direct interviews of homeless persons but depended on the input of experts. The significant barriers indicated stemmed from this process.	4.1 Income-Work, p.1
Hello. Thx for putting on this open house. Do we have any information about the #/% of unhoused people that successfully found housing? --Hi Rob, Thanks for your timely question. Our Community Resource Unit provided an update on last night's episode of Conversations with the Council (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MuzuJ1YBFBE). Chief Robert Almada shared that out of 237 contacts, the Community Resource Unit successfully placed 15 individuals into shelter, transitional, or permanent housing. If you have any other questions, I am happy to help!	5.1 Resources, p.1
I wish the Community Cafe Collaborative were listed here, under a new category called "Leadership Development" or "Community Organizing". Community Cafes are gatherings rooted in conversations and authentic connections, and are organized by people closest to a given issue or topic. What resources exist for people who are currently houseless to 1) grow into their potential by practicing/building their leadership in the community or 2) to exchange stories, resources, ideas, and calls to action in a culturally responsive environment? Community Cafes	5.2 Svcs List, p.2

<p>have the power to do that, and affect real change when hosts partner with system actors (like City of Lacey, school district leaders, etc.) to shift policies, practices, and culture. The Community Cafe Collaborative can provide mentoring, coaching, co-hosting, or technical assistance to those interested in gathering folks together for this kind of conversation. thecommunitycafe.org</p>	
<p>Although Senior Services for South Sound is listed in a separate category, they also belong in the "Housing Assistance" category for their Home Share Program (https://southsoundseniors.org/programs/home-share-program/). My husband and I participated in this program as home providers, and were matched with someone whose housing needs were compatible with our ideal tenant profile (rent was the right amount for both of us, lifestyles meshed well, etc.). This person happened to be elderly but the program is actually open to anyone 18 or over, I believe. At the time we were matched, there were 4x as many home seekers as home providers.</p>	<p>5.1 Resources, p.1</p>
<p>This is great! Thank you for making this comprehensive list! Very helpful for community providers like myself.</p>	<p>5.1 Resources, p.1</p>
<p>Thank you for making this! Very helpful! Specifying shelter requirements/eligibility is helpful</p>	<p>5.3 Shelter-Housing, p.1</p>
<p>The Community impacts seem to just be focused on contact to the City Departments. Is there data on police contact, code enforcement? For a business to make contact with a city department most likely it has dramatically escalated and directed contact by the police. Having that data I believe would add more texture of the issue businesses are seeing. --Thanks for your comment and that is a good suggestion. The Lacey Police Department does track the number of contacts that are made with homeless individuals. This data, along with information on where the data was collected, would provide more context.--city staff station host</p>	<p>6.1 Comm'y Impacts, p.1</p>
<p>I'm appalled by the absence of conversation surrounding implicit, explicit bias and racism as key causes and impacts of homelessness. I want to know how many local housing covenants have racist undertones, how our local home financing industry has edged out potential BIPOC homeowners, if Lacey's law enforcement has undergone an implicit bias audit... This presentation of Community Impacts lacks any real acknowledgment of racism existing in our city, and reflects a white dominant worldview that perpetuates racism by not bringing it to the table. I'm very disappointed. --Thanks Amber for your comment and participation. City government takes equity issues very seriously as Lacey is statistically the most diverse city in Thurston County. Housing covenants have been reviewed throughout the city and no cases of racial bias were found. These policies have been illegal since adoption of the federal Fair Housing Act in 1968. An Equity Commission is being established to provide recommendations on how the City as an organization can address racial bias issues including recommendations on policing policies as you have suggested.--city staff station host --Correlation is not causation. While there is some correlation of race or other minority status to homelessness, this does not mean that racial bias is the cause.</p>	<p>6.1 Comm'y Impacts, p.3</p>
<p>It seems to be missing the impact a business that is located near a homeless camp sees. I do not know if Businesses were surveyed and do realize small businesses do not typically have time to be involved with these surveys. --Thanks for your comment. See the section above specific to business impacts. The city continuously engages with its business community as they are a vital part of addressing the issues. - city staff station host --I also wanted to chime in to say that a small team from the workgroup tried to host a community conversation with local businesses, but given everything businesses have been struggling with, there weren't enough businesses able to participate. Because of that, we have included a very brief business survey as part of this station - see the red and blue question pin next to the business impacts section. We are working on additional ways to gather that input that works well for businesses. We will share what we learn as soon as we have meaningful information to share.</p>	<p>6.1 Comm'y Impacts, p.3</p>

<p>--I have discussed this process with several people, business owners included and most have no idea this is happening. Nobody to blame, its very hard to get people involved. Specifically businesses near the Chehalis Trail and Sleater Kinney. I had to go ask, they did not know about this website. We can't do everything online, need to go to them. People are overwhelmed with on-line surveys, but willing to talk to a person. From my view of activity in town, COVID is not a restriction from meeting with citizens.</p> <p>--Hi, my name is Rondale and I am a small business owner in the plaza right behind Kohl's. We are near the trail and have a lot of activity with people coming and going to the trail and encampments. I would greatly appreciate being reached out to, as myself and my colleagues (in the same suite) have a lot of information to share about our experience. We have been in that building since 2017 and the criminal activity has gotten significantly worse, to the point that we need security there day and night, and now have multiple locked doors for our clients to get to our office. As a female business owner, I do not feel safe in this community and am considering moving my business to another city when my lease is up.</p>	
<p>Two comments: 1) I'm very interested in the timeline for the workgroup after today. 2) I think leaving this "Open House" site up so that information continues to be available, even if the comments function is deactivated, would really help. Please consider this. There's so much information on this page I want to be able to continue to share it and direct people to it.</p>	<p>6.1 Comm'y Impacts, p.3</p>
<p>First, THANK YOU for providing this virtual open house. I've learned a lot from it and am appreciative that the council has formed a committee dedicated to addressing homelessness. I hope the committee and our council understands that people are afraid temporary encampments will become permanent -- and the problem will only grow larger. If we just provide camps, housing, food, toilets, and needles, then we will never solve the problem. Most homeless people want to get back on their feet and become contributing members of the community again. I hope we can help them do that.</p>	<p>6.1 Comm'y Impacts, p.3</p>
<p>Could you please disclose the Athena Group's affiliation/involvement as well as any financial agreements and future contracts you may have with the city of Lacey? While I value the research information you have provided and I will have to review it again multiple times, I question full immersion in a management consultant group even if local. The time and money you spent on producing something to promote community involvement may have been better spent addressing the root cause and acting on it.</p> <p>-- The Athena Group's link is https://www.athenaplace.com/. There is lots of information about them there.</p> <p>-- Thank you for your comment and interest in Lacey's Community Workgroup on Homeless Open House. The issues and impacts surrounding homeless is a very important topic for the Lacey City Council. This topic of homelessness is a very emotional conversation with many perspectives. As such, any strategies, programs or projects the City initiates will require the allocation resources, which is why it is important to the City Council that we undertake this community driven process and dialogue to develop the City's response plan. The City of Lacey is a diverse community and the Council formed a workgroup that reflects that diversity. In order to work through the many perspectives, opinions, emotions and ideas we need to have a process that promotes a safe place to learn, listen, share opinions and ideas for everyone. In order to accomplish this, the City Council determined the need to have professional facilitators with expertise in these types of community conversations and to facilitate the conversations into a plan with strategies that the community can support. Based on their knowledge, skills and expertise, the City hired The Athena Group to help the City of Lacey with this conversation. The City Council established the current budget of \$85,000 for this process. Thank you again for your comments and interest in this important community conversation. Rick Walk, AICP Station Host.</p> <p>-- Thank you for all of this information Rick. I am thankful and hopeful that the City Council is working on such a hot topic in the area that has escalated even more over the past year with Covid. There are a lot of concerned citizens and taxpayers that have quite a few opinions. I don't want my initial question about disclosure regarding the outside consulting group to sound</p>	<p>Idea Wall</p>

insensitive. Their detailed research provided a lot of very valuable information that will hopefully guide and direct the next steps...I appreciate you monitoring these posts and the work you are doing.	
A posting from Jill R - I went on the website you sent... suggest the committee read it from the point of view of a houseless person. The barriers thrown up are many, ie, registering, logging in, watching a video to navigate the website, not being able to simply provide insights from their point of view due to policies, and lack of user-friendly brevity.	Idea Wall
From Jill R. - The homeless need a place to "say it like it is" from their point of view. Their feedback is the most insightful as they live as houseless individuals daily. Suggest we ask them: "What do you, as a person who is not living in a house/apt, want the City of Lacey to know about your personal history and daily existence?"	Idea Wall
Thank you, I was also curious if citizens will be able to see any surveys that have been turned in by businesses. I would be available to meet with business owners/managers and get their feedback if needed. --Yes. once the open house and surveys are closed. we will compile the comments and information received and provide the information to the Workgroup as well as post the information on the Community Workgroup on Homelessness web page. Rick Walk, Station Host. --Hi DPierpoint, I am a local small business owner and mental health professional. I would be happy to provide more information/feedback if anyone would like to reach out to me. I also work with a group of colleagues that would probably be willing to do the same.	Idea Wall
I want to thank City staff and the citizen volunteers for working on this issue and giving us all an opportunity to give feedback. I have seen first hand the struggle and tragic end of life that can occur in and around a homeless camp. I also know wonderful people who overcame the situation and are now living wonderful lives. Lacey has an opportunity to build a program that works, save lives and gets families back together. It will not be easy and many challenges exist, but it can be done. Hard work ahead.....doing the right thing is not always easy but I wish the best for this community.	Idea Wall
Demographics, Disparities, Population Group Impacts/Services	
Comments	Reference
Do we have age demographics for this group? I'm guessing this is typically younger individuals. --Good question. The County should be able to cross reference this with the demographic data collected. I can certainly check on that. Thanks! - Station Host	1.1 Conditions-Causes, p.5
Framing this by also providing the "availability" stats for the overall population of individuals with disabilities would be really useful. I know that according to the American Community Survey, people with disabilities only represent 6-7% of the workforce. That might be a bit underreported, but it still makes these numbers shown here hugely over-representative compared to the general public.	1.1 Conditions-Causes, p.2
Why does it say "over represented"? What is the supposed baseline that causes the so-called over representation? Why is this data point be highlighted? Is it being inferred or assumed that how a person looks is a primary reason for his or her homelessness? --Thanks for your question. "Over represented" means that there are more people than expected, compared to the population. Foreexample, 50% of the Lacey population is male, but if 75% of unsheltered persons are male, then that would be an over representation. The BIPOC community, is over represented among the unsheltered population, when you look at the general population. If 19% of our community are BIPOC, then one would expect, if all things were equal, the % of unsheltered to be about the same. -Station Host --This is the old "correlation is not causation" issue. BIPOC (Black Indigenous People Of Color) tend to occupy certain sections of the economic strata but it is that fact that is the likely cause of being unsheltered, not the fact that they are BIPOC.	1.1 Conditions-Causes, p.2
I like City of Lacey's idea of pre-approved ADU plans. Here is what the City of Los Angeles has started: an Accelerator Program pairs older adults — who are at risk of lacking shelter as a result	2.4 AHS, p.35

<p>of rising housing costs — with homeowners willing to provide a stable home by offering their ADUs as rentals https://adu.lacity.org/</p> <p>--Thank you for the link to the LA Accelerator ADU program. That looks like a great idea and program. We have had discussions about developing a similar concept of pairing seniors with rentals. I will pass this information on in addition to being incorporated into the Community Workgroup on Homelessness process. Rick Walk, Station Host.</p>	
<p>If housing is too expensive for a person with a disability to procure, we need to either lift the benefits to the housing access "floor", lower the cost of housing, or subsidize the difference. Does the Workgroup have a plan to address either of the latter two possible options?</p>	<p>4.1 Income-Work, p.1</p>
<p>I wish the Community Cafe Collaborative were listed here, under a new category called "Leadership Development" or "Community Organizing". Community Cafes are gatherings rooted in conversations and authentic connections, and are organized by people closest to a given issue or topic. What resources exist for people who are currently houseless to 1) grow into their potential by practicing/building their leadership in the community or 2) to exchange stories, resources, ideas, and calls to action in a culturally responsive environment? Community Cafes have the power to do that, and affect real change when hosts partner with system actors (like City of Lacey, school district leaders, etc.) to shift policies, practices, and culture. The Community Cafe Collaborative can provide mentoring, coaching, co-hosting, or technical assistance to those interested in gathering folks together for this kind of conversation. thecommunitycafe.org</p>	<p>5.2 Svcs List, p.2</p>
<p>I'm appalled by the absence of conversation surrounding implicit, explicit bias and racism as key causes and impacts of homelessness. I want to know how many local housing covenants have racist undertones, how our local home financing industry has edged out potential BIPOC homeowners, if Lacey's law enforcement has undergone an implicit bias audit... This presentation of Community Impacts lacks any real acknowledgment of racism existing in our city, and reflects a white dominant worldview that perpetuates racism by not bringing it to the table. I'm very disappointed.</p> <p>--Thanks Amber for your comment and participation. City government takes equity issues very seriously as Lacey is statistically the most diverse city in Thurston County. Housing covenants have been reviewed throughout the city and no cases of racial bias were found. These policies have been illegal since adoption of the federal Fair Housing Act in 1968. An Equity Commission is being established to provide recommendations on how the City as an organization can address racial bias issues including recommendations on policing policies as you have suggested.--city staff station host</p> <p>--Correlation is not causation. While there is some correlation of race or other minority status to homelessness, this does not mean that racial bias is the cause.</p>	<p>6.1 Comm'y Impacts, p.3</p>
<p>It is difficult for me to isolate the issue in Lacey when the Olympia and Lacey borders are hard for me to define and to know which homeless encampment or target area is in which region that can potentially impact the initial data. I anticipate there is a lot of fluidity to how people in trouble flow in and out of each region. The public health and mental health issues are extremely apparent along Capitol Lake and on Martin Way. Regions like those are probably part of Olympia and its management plan but, they create a stigma that many working homeless with kids in school become grouped into.</p> <p>With the expansive warehousing district of Lacey (i.e. Medline, Home Depot, Target, etc.), has there been and discussion with these large employers to assist in the community beyond the typical business taxes? Has there been any discussion to rezone land being sold for commercial reasons only to have another warehouse or group of storage units be constructed and zone it for suitable housing for reasonable rent? Has local government discussed using pre-existing structures that sit empty such as the Olympia Brewery to construct affordable housing or provide transitional housing? Has there been discussion about a reallocation of part of the city budget to grow a much needed social services sector that attracts well qualified social workers and counselors that can truly help individuals get through the difficult steps of locating the correct resources, applying, and accessing what is already available?</p>	<p>Idea Wall</p>

<p>I am sure all of the above thoughts/questions have already occurred with the Council. I wanted to at least try to contribute to the solution for the initial phases of an action plan rather than be one that provides individual opinion.</p>	
<p>Support community programs that already exist to grow to meet the needs we have. Don't chase the shiny new ideas - new businesses - build capacity in our existing programs/businesses.</p> <p>-- Is there a particular type of services where you would like to see capacity built? Thanks for the prompt, HF2021! i hope others will also give their thoughts on this question. --Meagan, site administrator/facilitator</p> <p>-- There is a real lack of support services to allow people to share a home - esp seniors, people in recovery, people exiting incarceration, people exiting the mental health system. There are landlords who COULD serve them in a shared housing situation (without building a 'facility') if those people has dependable outside supports. Permanent supportive housing does not have to look like one agency providing everything an individual needs.</p> <p>--Great details - very helpful - thank you! All that visit the site: what do you think about these different types of housing? Would you like to see strategies like these in Lacey's plan? --Meagan, site admin/facilitator</p> <p>--There is the old concept of the "boarding house" (like the "rooms" that Holmes and Watson rented from Mrs. Hudson). There are some issues related to this. Probably the biggest is parking. Most developments that have street parking are crowded with cars at night. The addition of more from tenants would be difficult to manage. Then, of course, there are private deed restrictions that limit homes to "single family" occupation. Any regulatory solution to allow boarding houses would have to take these restrictions, parking and transportation, and neighborhood safety into account. One advantage would be that allowing boarders might assist homeowners to afford their homes.</p> <p>--Edwin, I like your idea of boarding houses. Some tenants might be willing to walk or bus to services/shopping to avoid the cost of a car and alleviate road/parking congestion. I am experimenting with riding an adult tricycle instead of owning a car.</p> <p>--This is a great exchange of ideas, Ed, Debra Ann and HomesFirst folks - thanks for the thoughtfulness! The conversation is surfacing some important trade-offs. Would it be worthwhile for folks to have a solution that increases parking challenges if it decreases homelessness? Are there ways to allow for shared housing options that don't create parking challenges? Are there particular areas where shared housing wouldn't be allowed, regardless of city policy? Keep the good conversation coming, all...--Meagan, site admin/facilitator</p> <p>--Statistics indicate that, with a sizable elderly population, over 50% of the homes in Lacey are occupied by only 1 or 2 people even though most have 3 bedrooms. So the "space" is to house everyone already exists. The issue is how to share those homes or move people to accommodations that better fit family size. Sharing a home, the "boarding house" concept proposed, only works where a trust level is present. South Sound Senior Services has such a program but has had little success. A number of seniors have signed up willing to live and share expenses with someone, But it has been hard to find owners of houses willing to share their home, even as their ability to afford to stay in there home dwindles. The issue is "trust". I think we tend to keep to ourselves too much as a society and the thought of someone we really don't know living in our house is scary, risky. The lack of trust is because "it's different". How could we get enough participation in such programs locally to convince enough people it's okay, something "our community" at least sees a normal or reasonable thing to do?</p> <p>--Well, trust must flow in both directions. We DO have B&Bs. Ever wonder where state legislators stay when attending a session? My point, though, was less to suggest a particular solution but to encourage the city to enable solutions by reducing restrictive ordinances and policies.</p> <p>--It is important to have both. There are many great existing programs, but this is not a one size fits all situation. Homes First is great, but not every family is a match for your program. There needs to be options for people with a wide range of needs. Those unhoused due to medical needs, are often not able to move in to a conventional, previously owned home. Others with</p>	<p>Idea Wall</p>

<p>severe mental health issues, may not be a good fit for a typical subdivision. We need a wide range of options for individuals with many different challenges to housing.</p> <p>--Hi, Michael. Thanks for taking part in the conversation! It strikes me that your thinking about enabling a wide range of options is aligned with what the workgroup has been thinking recently. Are there any options that you would NOT want to see included? Anything that wouldn't work well in Lacey? --Meagan, site admin/facilitator</p>	
<p>Homeless Children and their Families. After two weeks of "open house" input, I am surprised at how little notice has been given in discussions to this area. For almost every homeless child counted by the school districts, there is at least one parent, grandparent or guardian who is also homeless, and usually more family members that are also not counted. It is clear, in the PIT demographics collected, these "support" individuals are not represented much there either. The official Lacey 2020 PIT Count was 40, not including the non-participating we know exist. The OSPI school student count for NTPS was 879, including 191 students that were not doubled up. Granted, these are two differently developed counts. Because of federal and state confidentiality rules, districts do not report and can't provide family information, even if they informally collect it. Yes, many of these families double up with friends or relatives and are technically "housed". But that is a condition that can and does change frequently into true homelessness, and very quickly sometimes. My question: How can we begin to better identify and determine the needs of what appears from the numbers to be a large, potentially hidden homeless and near homeless population, one that might alter planning decisions and success</p> <p>-- Thank you Jim for bringing this up! I think this is an important point that is often overlooked. I know that I often think of the "homeless" as people I see on the streets, but as you brought up, there are a lot of people that are also homeless and near homeless that are couch-surfing/ technically "housed", that we are not seeing everyday. This is also an important group to serve and help! My main thought about helping this population was if we could provide more subsidized housing (apartment complexes that have a reasonable income limit that provide below market rates to help people with affordable housing). I'm not sure how these properties are subsidized or if it's something that only Housing Authority can manage, or can the city of Lacey supplement/fund some of their own properties?</p>	Idea Wall
<p>Diverse Strategies, "Housing First" Considerations</p>	
<p>Comments</p>	<p>Reference</p>
<p>"Using the term "safely housed" for someone struggling with addiction is misleading. The user is not safe when ingesting or injecting serious illegal drugs and potentially the people living around them are not safe.</p> <p>I have seen the positive results programs like Drug Court have on individuals who need help. They have the motivation from the court, but get proper treatment, find jobs and housing if necessary. The recidivism rates are much lower than those without the assistance. I have sat in court as they tell their stories of success and how they got their lives back. It is a multi-faceted approach.</p> <p>There is documented proof drug court works.</p> <p>Expanding the toolbox: The whole-of-government response to homelessness (United States Interagency Council on Homelessness)</p> <p>In part "..... envisions an approach that dramatically reduces homelessness by engaging and assessing families and individuals with a trauma-informed approach to care that addresses the real root causes of homelessness." and ".....The federal government's policy shift in 2013 to prioritizing housing first as a one-size-fits-all approach has not worked to reduce homelessness for all populations and communities."</p> <p>I firmly believe we must track programs that show verifiable results and cease funding those that cannot show results. We are spending millions of dollars as a state and billions nationally and the issue is not getting better.</p> <p>The document above talks about the need for a multi-faceted approach and highlights the failure of simply trying to house people without helping them with the root cause of their situation.</p>	<p>3.1 Addiction-Mental Health, p.4</p>

<p>There are plenty of examples of jurisdictions spending millions of dollars and not making progress. There are also programs like drug court which has verified success and people have their lives back."</p> <p>--As you indicated, one-size housing, just as one-size service levels, don't always work. Current service capacity for Thurston County Drug Court is a little over 100 at a time for an 18 month course of treatment. Veterans Court and Mental Health Courts have a combined capacity of just under 100 for a 24 month course of treatment. All three courts have a rigorous selection process where many will never qualify. Those that don't qualify serve time in jails that are ill equipped to provide the services and adequate reentry coordination, including housing, for inmates to be successful upon release. When released many, even when provided housing are unwilling or unable, because of rules or restrictions, to stay in the available housing option. They then return to the streets and many quickly return to the correctional system. While they represent a small percentage (PIT says 25-30%?) of the homeless, they tend to be the most visible and cause the most community disruption. And a large drain on available resources. Given the limits of the current treatment courts and correctional systems in Thurston County, what would you suggest the City of Lacey, or the Lacey community as a whole, try to do to help address those homeless individuals with substance and/or mental health issues? The committee would like any additional ideas you have, either here as comments, as comments or questions on other sections as you review them or on the "idea wall" at the end of the website presentation. Thanks again for your thoughts and any ideas you may have - Your station host.</p>	
<p>First, THANK YOU for providing this virtual open house. I've learned a lot from it and am appreciative that the council has formed a committee dedicated to addressing homelessness. I hope the committee and our council understands that people are afraid temporary encampments will become permanent -- and the problem will only grow larger. If we just provide camps, housing, food, toilets, and needles, then we will never solve the problem. Most homeless people want to get back on their feet and become contributing members of the community again. I hope we can help them do that.</p> <p>--No silver bullets. We need a wide range of options that serve all levels, each with a realistic plan for success and where moving up the housing chain seems possible.</p>	6.1 Comm'y Impacts, p.3
<p>Support community programs that already exist to grow to meet the needs we have. Don't chase the shiny new ideas - new businesses - build capacity in our existing programs/businesses.</p> <p>-- Is there a particular type of services where you would like to see capacity built? Thanks for the prompt, HF2021! i hope others will also give their thoughts on this question. --Meagan, site administrator/facilitator</p> <p>-- There is a real lack of support services to allow people to share a home - esp seniors, people in recovery, people exiting incarceration, people exiting the mental health system. There are landlords who COULD serve them in a shared housing situation (without building a 'facility') if those people has dependable outside supports. Permanent supportive housing does not have to look like one agency providing everything an individual needs.</p> <p>--Great details - very helpful - thank you! All that visit the site: what do you think about these different types of housing? Would you like to see strategies like these in Lacey's plan? --Meagan, site admin/facilitator</p> <p>--There is the old concept of the "boarding house" (like the "rooms" that Holmes and Watson rented from Mrs. Hudson). There are some issues related to this. Probably the biggest is parking. Most developments that have street parking are crowded with cars at night. The addition of more from tenants would be difficult to manage. Then, of course, there are private deed restrictions that limit homes to "single family" occupation. Any regulatory solution to allow boarding houses would have to take these restrictions, parking and transportation, and neighborhood safety into account. One advantage would be that allowing boarders might assist homeowners to afford their homes.</p>	Idea Wall

<p>--Edwin, I like your idea of boarding houses. Some tenants might be willing to walk or bus to services/shopping to avoid the cost of a car and alleviate road/parking congestion. I am experimenting with riding an adult tricycle instead of owning a car.</p> <p>--This is a great exchange of ideas, Ed, Debra Ann and HomesFirst folks - thanks for the thoughtfulness! The conversation is surfacing some important trade-offs. Would it be worthwhile for folks to have a solution that increases parking challenges if it decreases homelessness? Are there ways to allow for shared housing options that don't create parking challenges? Are there particular areas where shared housing wouldn't be allowed, regardless of city policy? Keep the good conversation coming, all...--Meagan, site admin/facilitator</p> <p>--Statistics indicate that, with a sizable elderly population, over 50% of the homes in Lacey are occupied by only 1 or 2 people even though most have 3 bedrooms. So the "space" is to house everyone already exists. The issue is how to share those homes or move people to accommodations that better fit family size. Sharing a home, the "boarding house" concept proposed, only works where a trust level is present. South Sound Senior Services has such a program but has had little success. A number of seniors have signed up willing to live and share expenses with someone, But it has been hard to find owners of houses willing to share their home, even as their ability to afford to stay in there home dwindles. The issue is "trust". I think we tend to keep to ourselves too much as a society and the thought of someone we really don't know living in our house is scary, risky. The lack of trust is because "it's different". How could we get enough participation in such programs locally to convince enough people it's okay, something "our community" at least sees a normal or reasonable thing to do?</p> <p>--Well, trust must flow in both directions. We DO have B&Bs. Ever wonder where state legislators stay when attending a session? My point, though, was less to suggest a particular solution but to encourage the city to enable solutions by reducing restrictive ordinances and policies.</p> <p>--It is important to have both. There are many great existing programs, but this is not a one size fits all situation. Homes First is great, but not every family is a match for your program. There needs to be options for people with a wide range of needs. Those unhoused due to medical needs, are often not able to move in to a conventional, previously owned home. Others with severe mental health issues, may not be a good fit for a typical subdivision. We need a wide range of options for individuals with many different challenges to housing.</p> <p>--Hi, Michael. Thanks for taking part in the conversation! It strikes me that your thinking about enabling a wide range of options is aligned with what the workgroup has been thinking recently. Are there any options that you would NOT want to see included? Anything that wouldn't work well in Lacey? --Meagan, site admin/facilitator</p>	
<p>Understanding there is no clear solution, I would like to see a multi-faceted approach. City of Lacey Affordable Housing Strategy (pg24) shows 3 categories on a chart. Transitional, Sheltered and Unsheltered.</p> <p>Transitional - All of the discussion about Affordable Housing is directed to this group along with job training or assistance in finding a job if needed. Resources to make them successful and every effort to ensure they move in a positive direction. One thing I seldom hear is AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE. When child care can cost as much as rent, it defeats the whole purpose of finding cheap rent. I know single mothers who struggle terribly with child care costs.</p> <p>Sheltered - Must determine what caused their situation and direct them to appropriate resources. Job loss, drugs, mental illness, eviction or whatever.</p> <p>Unsheltered - Build a stable place with tiny homes, or dry tent spots for them to go. Perhaps complete with showers and laundry facilities. Work must be done to stay at the encampment (cleaning garbage, laundry and cooking food). Begin working on job training and finding more permanent living space. Rules apply like everywhere else in society, if they have a drug issue, send them to detox/treatment (may be outside of Thurston County or out of State) this is being done in other cities! Resources and treatment facilities are out there. Mental health treatment, job training and other assistance provided depending on the situation. Reuniting with family</p>	Idea Wall

<p>should always be attempted (which may need a counselors assistance). People suffering mental illness get support to stabilize their condition. On-going assistance to ensure they continue treatment/medication could really help long-term with this population.</p> <p>Camps on private and public property can be cleared because there are options for the unhealthy camps currently being allowed. If laws are violated, subjects must be held accountable - except instead of jail they are sent to "Homeless Court" modeled after other therapeutic courts like Drug Court, Veterans Court and Mental Health Court. Here treatment and accountability help people get their lives back. I have seen the results first hand and it is very powerful. Individuals who otherwise would not seek treatment, found it possible with the extensive support of the court. At graduation it is moving to see families back together and someone proud of their accomplishments. They are also much less likely to go back, as the recidivism rate is low.</p> <p>Redirect some of the Millions currently being spent from programs who cannot show success. (not everything works) Treatment Sales Tax (TST) dollars in Thurston County are currently used for therapeutic courts and Lacey should be getting its portion of that money. The State of Washington and Thurston County are budgeting millions for the homeless issue and Lacey could apply for some of those dollars.</p> <p>Track success, fine tune in areas not showing success. I am not opposed to affordable housing (inarguable comment) but it is a much bigger problem than just housing and we must diversify our thinking to deal with this. We must be willing to admit that some of the subjects we need to help had good jobs, good homes and families until something in their life took it all away, and it can't be fixed by putting them in a tiny structure alone.</p> <p>I have been to camps, I have talked to homeless and I have seen the sad results of these situations and want to help. There will be no ONE solution and we must start having real discussions about the need for multiple paths to success. It is not going to be easy, but lets start with a small program and grow it. Organizations that get funding must start showing success (measurable), they are getting a lot of tax dollars and should be accountable.</p> <p>I want what is best for Lacey and although I hope the other communities do well, I don't want to get stuck doing what Olympia does unless we agree it will work. So far, I have not seen anything in Olympia that interests me, although I will keep an open mind. The City was formed to govern as it sees best for Lacey residents.</p>	
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Effectiveness, Measures	
Comments	Reference
<p>What are the definitions of "homeless" and "unsheltered"? 'Sounds as though they're being used interchangeably which does not make sense. What are the parameters for someone to be considered "homeless" vs "unsheltered"? As part of the PIT, where is any data on how long someone's been homeless vs unsheltered and what's been done to get them off the streets permanently; i.e., how (successful) are the causes and conditions being addressed and reduced thereby decreasing the need for additional shelters or encampments? If this is not the focus of this study, we will do little to reduce the homeless or unsheltered population.</p>	<p>1.2 PIT report, p. 11</p>
<p>Perhaps as a way to get the community involved in ending homelessness, get the 258 churches in the county that Brad mentioned (and all places of worship) to consider hosting families temporarily, not individuals. Here's an example: FHN (Family Housing Network), Fort Collins, CO - Fifteen host congregations, each supported by a partner congregation, rotated pre-covid each week to welcome guest families into their buildings for overnight shelter, generally for up to three months. Community members volunteered to deliver and cook meals for them; others volunteered to sleep in the building with the guest; 93% of families are employed, 52 families have moved on to permanent housing. http://www.familyhousingnetwork.org/our-programs/#1521279252381-274337fd-c199</p>	<p>2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.3</p>

<p>--I love all the comments and ideas! I'm also glad that the Texas Mobile Loaves and Fishes program was brought up, because it's such a great example of a program that works! There's so many more elements to the program than just the housing- sense of community, sense of pride and ownership in one's space, supportive services, sense of purpose with everyone being expected to work or help the community in some way. Another program that has similar elements and seems to be working is a veteran based program: the veterans community project https://www.veteranscommunityproject.org/ I think it would serve our community well to consult with programs that work and implementing recommended protocols before starting any new tiny home villages</p>	
<p>Thank you for your comment. FYI - Groups in Olympia have reviewed a number shelter models. Durability in our winter weather was found to be an issue in some, especially with the Pallet model and with something called a "Conestoga Hut" model being used in Eugene Oregon. As a result, the LIHI 96sf "stick built" model has been the model used in Thurston County so far. A new, even smaller 64sf "stick design micro-house" model is planned by the City of Olympia for use in converting the currently all tent "mitigation site" downtown with 80+ of these units by next fall. It's a design was developed by a local non-profit for use in one of the local tent camps, where a number are currently in use. Like all the models, the "micro" has a locking door and a window, but costs under \$1000, about a third of the LIHI model. I should also mention that much of the construction of the 80 micro-units is, under supervision, being done by residents of the "mitigation" site. A 'put people to work" effort.</p>	<p>2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.3</p>
<p>I firmly believe we must track programs that show verifiable results and cease funding those that cannot show results. We are spending millions of dollars as a state and billions nationally and the issue is not getting better.</p>	<p>3.1 Addiction-Mental Health, p.4</p>
<p>DPierpoint- I completely agree with you. We need to start tracking programs that have verifiable results and funnel funding to those programs, and stop draining millions of dollars into programs that aren't working. On a smaller scale, the City of Lacey can consult with programs that have verifiable results, and direct any related city taxpayer dollars into programs that work, and have those programs provide annual reports on their outcomes.</p>	<p>3.1 Addiction-Mental Health, p.4</p>
<p>The question about creating more Mental Health and Addiction treatment centers in Lacey or even Thurston county makes me think: These businesses require staffing that may be difficult to get and expensive to maintain. The facilities them selves would be a huge cost to the community. Other Cities use treatment services that already exist in other Cities and even other states. It may be faster and more cost efficient to utilizes underused facilities in locations that already have the facilities and treatment professionals with available space. The cities provide bus or plan fare for the recipient.</p>	<p>3.1 Addiction-Mental Health, p.3</p>
<p>Evidence supports that peer support is a critical and effective strategy for ongoing health care and sustained behavior change for people with SMI and SA.. and other conditions, and its benefits can be extended to community, organizational and societal levels. A peer support specialist is someone with the lived experience of recovery from a mental health condiNon, substance use disorder, or both. Pierce County Washington reduced involuntary hospitalization by 32% by using certified peer specialists offering respite services, a savings of 1.99 million dollars in one year ..Ever city and county should invest in PC training andd volunteers..</p>	<p>3.1 Addiction-Mental Health, p.1</p>
<p>So many issues that need to be addressed. I keep going back to providing basic needs food, water, shelter and security. Providing a array of options for the basic needs seems like the most likely strategy for success. This slide on minimum income vs. Job, brings to mind the 22 people who are working but are homeless. Providing affordable basic needs seems like a good solution, where rents are reduced to level that someone with SSDI benefits or minimum wage find it affordable. -- Thanks for visiting my station. Have you thought about various unintended consequences of providing basic needs rather than providing more opportunity for someone to provide their own needs?</p>	<p>4.1 Income-Work, p.1</p>

<p>-- For instance, people would be sheltered? I think that positive outcome outweighs any unintended consequences I can imagine. I'm not sure I follow your point. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs shows us that thriving in society or a career or in relationships is possible only after basic survival needs are met. Shelter makes success in all those other parts of your life possible.</p>	
<p>Social connection and a sense of purpose is so important for people! Just building housing without supportive services will not work. Please consult with programs that HAVE worked, to help people not only get out of homelessness, but also rebuild their lives. As noted throughout this virtual open house, there are multiple facets to homelessness and the problem. Here are two amazing programs that are helping the homeless problem: https://mlf.org/community-first/ A veteran focused community for the homeless: https://www.veteranscommunityproject.org/ Please consider consulting with programs that show efficacy and results before any tiny home communities are built in Lacey.</p>	<p>5.1 Resources, p.2</p>
<p>Hello. Thx for putting on this open house. Do we have any information about the #/% of unhoused people that successfully found housing? --Hi Rob, Thanks for your timely question. Our Community Resource Unit provided an update on last night's episode of Conversations with the Council (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MuzuJ1YBFBE). Chief Robert Almada shared that out of 237 contacts, the Community Resource Unit successfully placed 15 individuals into shelter, transitional, or permanent housing. If you have any other questions, I am happy to help!</p>	<p>5.1 Resources, p.1</p>
<p>First, THANK YOU for providing this virtual open house. I've learned a lot from it and am appreciative that the council has formed a committee dedicated to addressing homelessness. I hope the committee and our council understands that people are afraid temporary encampments will become permanent -- and the problem will only grow larger. If we just provide camps, housing, food, toilets, and needles, then we will never solve the problem. Most homeless people want to get back on their feet and become contributing members of the community again. I hope we can help them do that. --No silver bullets. We need a wide range of options that serve all levels, each with a realistic plan for success and where moving up the housing chain seems possible.</p>	<p>6.1 Comm'y Impacts, p.3</p>
<p>All programs have budget limits. I think 200 is a great number, considering people are graduating and new participants entering on a regular basis. What people against using the courts forget is when done with the program, CHARGES ARE DROPPED! The program is intended to help people, not punish. And since according to the numbers, only a portion of the population have issues related to criminal conduct this would only be a part of the overall solution. Housing, job training and other topics are dealt with in a different way. If we are suppose to be looking for solutions and since there is NO one solution, we should be thinking of a multi-faceted approach. This is going to take time and if we get 20 people off the street the first year, try for 40 the next. I want to see success, people out of the cycle of despair. Must be realistic for sure, funding is a challenge. Millions are being spent and the problem is getting worse so I am a believer that we must adjust some things, millions of dollars are available. I am pleased there are so many people concerned and wanting to see things get better. We all may have different views on how to get there, but the end goal is the same. We will need more than one path to success and the path to success looks different for those needing help. I hope at the conclusion there is discussion on what variety of programs will be needed in Lacey. There are Cities doing good work, getting measurable results and I want Lacey to be a leader in this area. Lacey has an opportunity and based on the obvious increase in camps, Lacey has a need to have a solid plan. It can be done!</p>	<p>Idea Wall</p>
<p>(See also page-long proposal from Idea Wall shown in Diverse Strategies section, starting with, "Understanding there is no clear solution...")</p>	

Encampments	
Comments	Reference
Neighbors and community are worried about the location because they have seen the results that have been allowed to occur. The State of Washington has allowed camps to develop at nearly all on/off ramps of I-5 in cities, yet the Capital Campus is completely clear of any camps? The State has spent millions of dollars and is willing to spend millions more, perhaps there is state property that could be used, local control but on state property.	2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.3
<p>It seems to be missing the impact a business that is located near a homeless camp sees. I do not know if Businesses were surveyed and do realize small businesses do not typically have time to be involved with these surveys.</p> <p>--Thanks for your comment. See the section above specific to business impacts. The city continuously engages with its business community as they are a vital part of addressing the issues. - city staff station host</p> <p>--I also wanted to chime in to say that a small team from the workgroup tried to host a community conversation with local businesses, but given everything businesses have been struggling with, there weren't enough businesses able to participate. Because of that, we have included a very brief business survey as part of this station - see the red and blue question pin next to the business impacts section. We are working on additional ways to gather that input that works well for businesses. We will share what we learn as soon as we have meaningful information to share.</p> <p>--I have discussed this process with several people, business owners included and most have no idea this is happening. Nobody to blame, its very hard to get people involved. Specifically businesses near the Chehalis Trail and Sleater Kinney. I had to go ask, they did not know about this website. We can't do everything online, need to go to them. People are overwhelmed with on-line surveys, but willing to talk to a person. From my view of activity in town, COVID is not a restriction from meeting with citizens.</p> <p>--Hi, my name is Rondale and I am a small business owner in the plaza right behind Kohl's. We are near the trail and have a lot of activity with people coming and going to the trail and encampments. I would greatly appreciate being reached out to, as myself and my colleagues (in the same suite) have a lot of information to share about our experience. We have been in that building since 2017 and the criminal activity has gotten significantly worse, to the point that we need security there day and night, and now have multiple locked doors for our clients to get to our office. As a female business owner, I do not feel safe in this community and am considering moving my business to another city when my lease is up.</p>	6.1 Comm'y Impacts, p.3
<p>First, THANK YOU for providing this virtual open house. I've learned a lot from it and am appreciative that the council has formed a committee dedicated to addressing homelessness. I hope the committee and our council understands that people are afraid temporary encampments will become permanent -- and the problem will only grow larger. If we just provide camps, housing, food, toilets, and needles, then we will never solve the problem. Most homeless people want to get back on their feet and become contributing members of the community again. I hope we can help them do that.</p> <p>--No silver bullets. We need a wide range of options that serve all levels, each with a realistic plan for success and where moving up the housing chain seems possible.</p>	6.1 Comm'y Impacts, p.3
(See also page-long proposal from Idea Wall shown in Diverse Strategies section, starting with, "Understanding there is no clear solution...")	
Environmental Impacts	
Comments	Reference
I have an overall concern about the impacts building more housing has on our environment and natural resources. How are these impacts being taken into account?	2.2 AHS, p.38

Funding	
Comments	Reference
<p>Are there housing equity policies that require apartment complexes to rent a certain, small percentage of units to low-income or unhoused residents? A small number of units in every complex in Lacey would add up significantly. Even ONE unit in each medium to large complex would be significant. Of course there would probably need to be support from the city to manage this and there would need to be mutual respect from the landlord/property to the individual/family and from the individual/family to the landlord/property. If needed, perhaps this could be subsidized through a property or sales tax? I would gladly vote for a small increase in tax to help house people in the community.</p> <p>Similarly, there are many housing developments in Lacey that may have HOAs that prevent ADUs from being built (I live in one of them!) Are there policies that could encourage or require those neighborhoods to allow ADUs?</p> <p>--Thank you for your input. The covenants under which HOAs operate are private, contractual agreements which it would be of questionable legality for the city to override. The owners of property in HOAs bought their homes with the expectation that those contractual obligations would be enforced. Equity demands that they are. There are already many requirements related to building affordable housing in city planning. These are complicated by the already large fees associated with a new development. Did you know that upwards of \$25K is required per single family home in fees before a single spade of dirt can be turned for the foundation? One of the reasons for the lack of low cost housing is the high cost of building of which these fees are part.</p>	2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.2
<p>We don't have unlimited funding. If our neighbors become homeless, we should take care of them, but that doesn't mean we have to shoulder the responsibility or bear the cost of caring for people who hear about the help we're providing and begin showing up from California or Portland or Seattle -- even if they amount to less than 25% of our (current or future) homeless population. We should add a residency clause to our homeless policy: "In order to stay in an encampment, a shelter, or a housing project authorized by the city, an individual must have been a Thurston county resident for a period of one year or more, before they became homeless."</p> <p>What would a policy like that do? First and foremost it would not create a magnet and we would not find our homeless population growing out of control. Secondly, it would allow us to focus our city's limited resources on offering a hand-up to our neighbors at a time in their lives when they need us the most. Finally, a "residency requirement" would alleviate the concerns (real or imagined) of many locals who believe "if you build it, they will come." You could gain their support if they knew the city's efforts were intended to help only their neighbors.</p>	5.1 Resources, p.1
<p>MH issues ... this is an issue of state funding for MH services.. and suppotive services in place when discharged .. Even if housed, a person with Severe MH and SA issues may not staunt the shousing w/o suppotive services lile ppspecialist, crisis intervenons inplace..place.. an issue funding period.. From exprince and work,, i knw MANY SMI ppl and RECOVERY is possible.. I knw this from work and experince.. I have seen it !! IN my own mfily. a cousin was in and out of local jail..n bc of MH , she is now a homeonwer and Peer specilaist with a MS in HR... Took years .. but RECOVERY is possible .. i see it everyday.. PPL in Recovery form SA and MH doing well.. So, the solution is funding for the necessary MH and SA services.. FUND MH and SA treatment..</p> <p>--I agree, the State has failed in handling Western State Hospital and proper mental health approach.</p>	6.1 Comm'y Impacts, p.1
<p>I don't see how the current direction that our cultural in government and business is going to decrease homelessness. COL needs to decide if they/we want to make a substantial fiscal investment or see more and more visible homelessness. We all created this problem and we can solve it. We as citizens of Lacey have so many resources we can resolve a lot of it if we applied ourselves.</p>	6.1 Comm'y Impacts, p.3
<p>I'm hoping that we can promote a stronger social housing program. Social housing that disconnects housing stock from the market place and targets existing minimum wages to offer</p>	Idea Wall

<p>housing solutions using city/county/state real estate assets. I've watched the City of Vancouver BC react to growing homelessness over the last few years prior to moving back to Thurston County. The City has successfully built over 650 units for low income homelessness using city land and prefabricated structures that can go from design to move in ready in less that 1.5 years. More here: https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/supportive-housing.aspx</p> <p>I support taxes to direct funding to these services and investments. Lack of progress is returning deteriorating conditions. Reading thru the data collected by the work group supports the idea that rental rates that have rightly increased wealth to property owners, has had an impact on those not able to flourish in society. Value increases and wealth generation are good indicators and support healthy local economies, but they need tax rates that provide a safety net to maintain life for those in trouble - for the benefit of those in trouble, but also for the benefit of society of the whole.</p> <p>Lastly, Here is another Vancouver BC strategy developed privately to act as housing gap filling - since large projects have a long development schedule: http://www.lanefab.com/tinytownhouse</p>	
<p>Treatment Sales Tax is very limited and just another pool of money for use in a multi-faceted approach. Since Mental Health and substance abuse will need to be addressed, Lacey should do what it can to get some of these funds for use. We should not limit ourselves when looking for funding and last time I saw the TST account balance, there was a healthy reserve fund.</p> <p>--On the TST reserve fund: Having served on the TST Advisory Committee in the past, I'm aware of this issue. Being tied to the economy and tax revenues, it is hard to gage what revenue will come in. In order to provide time for funded programs to adjust or provide alternative funding, a sizable reserve has been maintained. Given that, each year the economists project what dollars should be reserved, what can be spent. That was stable until a couple of years ago. Revenues have kept exceeding projections. One would have expected COVID to cut revenues but it didn't. Other than the Treatment Courts themselves, all the other TST funded programs are discretionary. Most of them fill the unfunded but critical gaps between Fed, State and other county funded programs. Programs that, because of legislative or legal limitations, can't or don't cover all costs. If eliminated, some TST programs would have huge ripple effect impacts on the success of the much larger programs they support or connect with. Reserves are maintained to ensure any abrupt reduction in revenue would not disrupt service levels too quickly. New programs, program enhancements and capacity expansions are proposed and funded all the time. TST spending has increased as a result, trying to keep up with revenues. But budget cycles take time. An interesting issue concerning the Treatment Courts is their inability to expand. Thurston County Drug, Veterans and Mental Health Courts have a combined capacity of only about 200 participants at a time, each with 18-24 month participation timeframes. Because of limited courtroom, judges and support staff numbers, and a lack of courthouse space availability for increasing those numbers, that 200 participant capacity limit keeps the court programs from expanding, even as the need grows and more money is available. As a result, more non-court community programs have been funded.</p> <p>--I did find this on the Tacoma website. They are using TST type funding for a homeless camp, most likely for only services: ____The Stability Site was established in June 2017. Initially, the site contained individual tents inside of a larger temperature controlled structure with individual pallet shelters located outside the structure. In spring 2020, the City improved the site by replacing all tents with pallet shelters and moving all shelters into the temperature controlled structure. Streamlining operations has also helped reduce expenses. The site provides: 58 shelter units, serving up to 100 individuals....Basic human amenities including restrooms, garbage services, handwashing stations and drinking water...Case management services...Access to food and other supportive services including temporary employment...For 2021-2022, we expect to spend \$3.6 million using General Fund and Mental Health Substance Use Disorder Sales Tax funds... (So partially funded by Pierce County's TST equivalent funds)</p> <p>--I did find this on the Tacoma website. Webblink1 They are using TST type funding for a homeless camp, most likely for only services: ____The Stability Site was established in June 2017. Initially,</p>	Idea Wall

<p>the site contained individual tents inside of a larger temperature controlled structure with individual pallet shelters located outside the structure. In spring 2020, the City improved the site by replacing all tents with pallet shelters and moving all shelters into the temperature controlled structure. Streamlining operations has also helped reduce expenses. The site provides: 58 shelter units, serving up to 100 individuals....Basic human amenities including restrooms, garbage services, handwashing stations and drinking water...Case management services...Access to food and other supportive services including temporary employment...For 2021-2022, we expect to spend \$3.6 million using General Fund and Mental Health Substance Use Disorder Sales Tax funds... (So partially funded by Pierce County's TST equivalent funds) And a page of statistics: of 452 served 2017 thru 1/28/2021, 62 current, 390 left, 121 into housing, so 31% success rate....Weblink2</p>	
<p>HOME FUND - One advantage Olympia has is access to funding for homeless support through it's Home Fund. Whatever planning Lacey develops will require funding. Some external sources are already being accessed and maybe some others will be identified. But it seem unrealistic for the Mayor and City Council to devise ways to address homeless support funding rather than being up front with the citizens, providing a plan and as part of that eventually asking to enact something like Olympia's Home Fund for Lacey.</p> <p>--Hi, Jim. Thanks for all the thoughtful leadership you have brought from the workgroup into this forum! Thanks also for prompting thinking about funding, given that it could expand or restrict the options the City of Lacey and possible local partners have for addressing homelessness and related issues that make preventing or exiting homelessness more difficult. It would be really good to hear what others in the community think about funding as the workgroup gets ready to develop strategies. Folks, what do y'all think? Is there some additional type or level of funding that you would support, or do you want the community to do what it can within existing resources? Please share your thoughts! --Meagan, site admin/facilitator</p> <p>--We should have, as a stretch goal, not to increase any taxes to fund homeless solutions. We should first remove impediments to solutions provided by private funding.</p> <p>--I would support funding that is clear on its goals/guidelines/expectations and is held to accountability standards for the taxpayers. I also would definitely support funding for programs that built/based on evidence-based programs, and I feel like a lot of community members might also support funding if they were reassured that they weren't throwing their money into a black hole. I feel like there are many programs in other cities that appear to be costing absurd amounts of money without providing any information/evidence to the public about what they are actually doing to help the problem. Trust and transparency with the public and taxpayers is key, in my opinion. For example, I just looked at the website for the tiny home community in Olympia. I don't know much about this community or how effective it has been, so I can't speak to that. But looking through the website, it was not easy to find statistics on the efficacy of the program-some clear, quick numbers right upfront might be helpful for the public to gain trust in these programs.</p>	Idea Wall
<p>(See also page-long proposal from Idea Wall shown in Diverse Strategies section, starting with, "Understanding there is no clear solution...")</p>	
<p>Growth</p>	
<p>Comments</p>	<p>Reference</p>
<p>I see these vouchers as one of perhaps many limited duration incentives for persons to improve their circumstances. Although each circumstance is different, having some sort of planning factor will enable officials to plan/manage the program and provide expectation management for applicants.</p>	<p>2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.2</p>

Housing Barriers, Cost, Cost-Equity, Options/Models	
Comments	Reference
<p>Why is rent more expensive than many mortgages? I've heard this a lot anecdotally, and I imagine the annual income of some renters may be lower than some mortgage-holders. It is simply market influence? Higher demand for rental units than mortgages?</p> <p>--Good question Robin. My take: It's hard to equate mortgage payments and rents. Mortgage payments only reflect part of the total cost of home ownership. Realize, most landlords are still paying a mortgage on their property like the homeowner. So, for the homeowner, besides the cost of the mortgage, ALL the utilities must now be paid. And then there is the cost of ongoing maintenance: paint, appliance repair, plumbing and electrical issues, roof, landscaping, etc. These costs come as a big shock to many a new homeowner. With establishing rental rates, a landlord must factor in all those costs not paid by the renter and build reserves to cover them. And, as with the homeowner, as property values rise, annual property tax and insurance costs rise for the landlord also. All landlords expect to make a profit. Part of that is long-term, in increased equity and property value. But most landlords still expect some monthly cash income. Finally, "supply and demand" drives the cost of both a home and rent, many times at a faster rate than incomes rise. That is the case currently in Lacey and all of Western Washington. When housing supply does not meet the demand, the result is "inflated rents and home sale prices" paid by those who can afford them. That cuts many lower income out of the market, adding to the problem. The increases get reflected in increased property values for all. That in turn raises property taxes and insurance rates. Both the landlord and the homeowner feel that pinch. The landlord can increase their "income" by passing those costs on to the renter in the form of rent increases. The homeowner must cut back on expenses or hope for a pay raise. Many that can't pay, lose their ability to stay in a house or even rent, end up doubled up with roommates or maybe family. When those options are not available, many people become homeless.</p> <p>--Jim's reply is excellent and covers pretty much everything that goes into rental costs. One additional factor, though, is that the higher prices for rentals in a limited market SHOULD encourage development of greater supply. That's the old supply/demand curve from Economics 101. There are some factors outside the market that drive up costs like fees and regulations associated with building new housing. It is estimated that it costs somewhere near \$25K before a single spadeful of dirt can be turned on a new single family home in Thurston County. This is one area that Lacey can at least partially address. As a WG member, that will be part of my input.</p> <p>--Thanks for your question. I think the assumption is that "risk of continued growth" means more people moving here but not being able to build enough housing to keep up or catch up from our current deficit of units, which would continue to exacerbate housing costs. I believe this is pointing to a supply and demand issue. Thanks for participating! - Station Host</p> <p>--I think that is not a valid assumption. If that's what's inferred, there needs to be a much more detailed and fact justified explanation as to the how and why. As currently written, the paragraph does not address or explain the heading; i.e., how and why is continued growth a risk? Rather, the paragraph talks about households that may be at risk of losing housing should their personal circumstances change.</p>	1.1 Conditions-Causes, p.4
<p>--Landlords are always thought to be wealthy. Many are not! I know some who have worked their whole lives to have a couple rental properties and it is their retirement income. Rents go up when taxes go up, State of Washington forgave rent, but not mortgages. Some owners of rental property are not willing to take anymore risks with their future. That results in fewer rental properties available.</p> <p>--I agree, and this needs to be included and addressed in the study as another potential condition or cause contributing to "homelessness".</p>	1.1 Conditions-Causes, p.5
<p>With the high costs of rent, this is unreasonable for many people in already lower-paying jobs to have this much cash on hand. Also, if there is already more demand than supply for housing, a landlord/property management company is almost always going to go with the higher income tenant without legal/criminal/credit history problems. So even if they have the income</p>	2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.2

<p>requirements and enough money for the upfront costs, they are facing an uphill battle against a lot of competition for the same rental unit.</p>	
<p>Are there housing equity policies that require apartment complexes to rent a certain, small percentage of units to low-income or unhoused residents? A small number of units in every complex in Lacey would add up significantly. Even ONE unit in each medium to large complex would be significant. Of course there would probably need to be support from the city to manage this and there would need to be mutual respect from the landlord/property to the individual/family and from the individual/family to the landlord/property. If needed, perhaps this could be subsidized through a property or sales tax? I would gladly vote for a small increase in tax to help house people in the community.</p> <p>Similarly, there are many housing developments in Lacey that may have HOAs that prevent ADUs from being built (I live in one of them!) Are there policies that could encourage or require those neighborhoods to allow ADUs?</p> <p>--Thank you for your input. The covenants under which HOAs operate are private, contractual agreements which it would be of questionable legality for the city to override. The owners of property in HOAs bought their homes with the expectation that those contractual obligations would be enforced. Equity demands that they are.</p> <p>There are already many requirements related to building affordable housing in city planning. These are complicated by the already large fees associated with a new development. Did you know that upwards of \$25K is required per single family home in fees before a single spade of dirt can be turned for the foundation? One of the reasons for the lack of low cost housing is the high cost of building of which these fees are part.</p> <p>--It's closer to \$35,000--Bob K station host</p>	<p>2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.2</p>
<p>Can you please provide more information on how many properties/units are available for low-income tenants at the below-market housing authority properties? I think this is a great idea to help reduce the number of people that become homeless- since rent in WA seems to be skyrocketing at unreasonable rates, and there are many people that are working and want to continue working, but are close to the edge with the high cost of living and rent. This seems like a less costly and quicker solution than section 8 housing (which has a lot of its own problems and complications, including long wait lists and difficulty with people getting off section 8 housing). How are below-market properties funded? What are their eligibility requirements? How can we have more properties that keep people in affordable housing but also require them to continue working?</p>	<p>2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.1</p>
<p>The homeless can't afford "affordable housing". The simplest form of secure weather resistant shelter is the first priority. Virtually all else will fail absent somewhere secure to sleep and store belongings. We need more rooming houses where a person can rent a lockable room and use facilities.</p>	<p>2.4 AHS, p.36</p>
<p>Child care is seldom mentioned as much as rent, even though it can cost as much if not more. I know single parents who struggle trying to meet both rent and child care. Also, property taxes continue to increase and we wonder why landlords must increase rent to keep up? It is all connected.</p> <p>--Excellent point about child care costs.</p>	<p>2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.2</p>
<p>Increase in ADU's could eventually have a significant impact on low rental space if they can be built or remodeled in an affordable manner.</p> <p>--Thank you for your comment. The City of Lacey has maintained flexibility in allowing ADU's in residential neighborhoods. In addition to the flexible zoning standards, Lacey has launched a program to provide pre-approved ADU plans to provide more opportunity to homeowners who may want to add an ADU to their lot. Contact the Lacey Community and Economic Development Department for more information. 360-491-5642.Rick W. Station Host.</p>	<p>2.4 AHS, p.35</p>
<p>Was the Habitat for Humanity neighborhood completed in 2020 or delayed due to covid?</p>	<p>2.4 AHS, p.29</p>

ADUs are beneficial to retired folks who want to age-in-place by collecting rent from ADU to supplement their income – or – they can move into ADU and rent out larger front house to family in need of space.	2.4 AHS, p.33
I like City of Lacey's idea of pre-approved ADU plans. Here is what the City of Los Angeles has started: an Accelerator Program pairs older adults — who are at risk of lacking shelter as a result of rising housing costs — with homeowners willing to provide a stable home by offering their ADUs as rentals https://adu.lacity.org/ --Thank you for the link to the LA Accelerator ADU program. That looks like a great idea and program. We have had discussions about developing a similar concept of pairing seniors with rentals. I will pass this information on in addition to being incorporated into the Community Workgroup on Homelessness process. Rick Walk, Station Host.	2.4 AHS, p.35
Density and walkability go hand-in-hand. If duplexes, ADUs, etc. are near bus lines and stores, residents can choose not to own a car so streets don't become congested for original neighbors.	2.4 AHS, p.37
What are other examples of infill housing? --In fill housing can take many forms from a townhome, triplex, cottage housing, courtyard housing. The statement that an inclusionary housing requirement "competes with with other mixed-use and infill housing priorities" is referring to the need to fully understand the cost/benefits before proceeding with inclusionary housing policies. These programs are generally in larger Cities with very high value housing markets. If the local market does not support this approach then will the program impact the number of all housing starts for large and small projects. thereby decreasing the supply pipeline. A full study of the pros and cons would need to be developed before a program like this could be considered. Rick Walk, Station Host.	2.4 AHS, p.46
Facilitating the creation of ADUs should help, but not solve, the problem. Especially if the ADUs are located in bikeable/walkable areas. A friend put an ADU in my back yard in Lacey last year, and Lacey staff were very helpful, and the project went very smoothly. --Great point Robert. We need all forms of additional housing. Bob Kagy--Station Host	2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.1
I realize that housing is a much bigger problem than just within the City of Lacey limits, and the Lacey UGA is growing soo rapidly. Not all residents are thrilled about the changing ADU laws and many see them as bringing down their property values.	2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.1
I see these vouchers as one of perhaps many limited duration incentives for persons to improve their circumstances. Although each circumstance is different, having some sort of planning factor will enable officials to plan/manage the program and provide expectation management for applicants.	2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.2
If housing is too expensive for a person with a disability to procure, we need to either lift the benefits to the housing access "floor", lower the cost of housing, or subsidize the difference. Does the Workgroup have a plan to address either of the latter two possible options?	4.1 Income-Work, p.1
So many issues that need to be addressed. I keep going back to providing basic needs food, water, shelter and security. Providing a array of options for the basic needs seems like the most likely strategy for success. This slide on minimum income vs. Job, brings to mind the 22 people who are working but are homeless. Providing affordable basic needs seems like a good solution, where rents are reduced to level that someone with SSDI benefits or minimum wage find it affordable.	4.1 Income-Work, p.1
Social connection and a sense of purpose is so important for people! Just building housing without supportive services will not work. Please consult with programs that HAVE worked, to help people not only get out of homelessness, but also rebuild their lives. As noted throughout this virtual open house, there are multiple facets to homelessness and the problem. Here are two amazing programs that are helping the homeless problem: https://mlf.org/community-first/ A veteran focused community for the homeless: https://www.veteranscommunityproject.org/ Please consider consulting with programs that show efficacy and results before any tiny home communities are built in Lacey.	5.1 Resources, p.2

<p>Although Senior Services for South Sound is listed in a separate category, they also belong in the "Housing Assistance" category for their Home Share Program (https://southsoundseniors.org/programs/home-share-program/). My husband and I participated in this program as home providers, and were matched with someone whose housing needs were compatible with our ideal tenant profile (rent was the right amount for both of us, lifestyles meshed well, etc.). This person happened to be elderly but the program is actually open to anyone 18 or over, I believe. At the time we were matched, there were 4x as many home seekers as home providers.</p>	<p>5.2 Svcs List, p.1</p>
<p>More homes that are affordable to low-income people in our community (less than 80% of AMI). -- Thanks for this suggestion, HF 2021! Are there particular kinds of homes that you would like to see? --Meagan, site administrator/facilitator -- I updated to our org name. At this point, all homes are good homes if they focus on serving low-income people. Shared homes, sfh, duplex, tri, etc. All good. Neighborhood homes are even better rather than housing that sticks all 'those people' away from neighborhoods.</p>	<p>Idea Wall</p>
<p>Focus on providing housing not just building housing. There are a multitude of ways to provide homes and many are more environmentally friendly than building. -- Can you explain what you mean by "providing" versus "building" housing? Are they existing structures that you think could be converted to housing, or are you talking about prefab structures or reducing costs in some way? Thanks for the intriguing suggestion! --Meagan, site administrator/facilitator -- Language is powerful. When we only talk about BUILDING from scratch that is what the focus becomes. Using pre-existing structures to provide a home is viable and has been working in our community for many years. As affordable land becomes scarcer and more expensive, we need to think outside the 'build box' and look at what we already have in our community that can be used to provide safe, health, and affordable homes. --I agree, HomesFirst. I read about an outside-the-box idea in Los Angeles County: a warehouse turned into an 85-bed shelter. https://www.dailynews.com/2020/07/06/north-hollywood-bridge-beds-help-turn-the-tide-on-sheltering-las-homeless-officials-say/</p>	<p>Idea Wall</p>
<p>Don't assume everyone who needs an affordable homes also needs intensive social services. Many simply need a home that is healthy which they can afford.</p>	<p>Idea Wall</p>
<p>Support community programs that already exist to grow to meet the needs we have. Don't chase the shiny new ideas - new businesses - build capacity in our existing programs/businesses. -- Is there a particular type of services where you would like to see capacity built? Thanks for the prompt, HF2021! i hope others will also give their thoughts on this question. --Meagan, site administrator/facilitator -- There is a real lack of support services to allow people to share a home - esp seniors, people in recovery, people exiting incarceration, people exiting the mental health system. There are landlords who COULD serve them in a shared housing situation (without building a 'facility') if those people has dependable outside supports. Permanent supportive housing does not have to look like one agency providing everything an individual needs. --Great details - very helpful - thank you! All that visit the site: what do you think about these different types of housing? Would you like to see strategies like these in Lacey's plan? --Meagan, site admin/facilitator --There is the old concept of the "boarding house" (like the "rooms" that Holmes and Watson rented from Mrs. Hudson). There are some issues related to this. Probably the biggest is parking. Most developments that have street parking are crowded with cars at night. The addition of more from tenants would be difficult to manage. Then, of course, there are private deed restrictions that limit homes to "single family" occupation. Any regulatory solution to allow boarding houses would have to take these restrictions, parking and transportation, and neighborhood safety into account. One advantage would be that allowing boarders might assist homeowners to afford their homes.</p>	<p>Idea Wall</p>

<p>--Edwin, I like your idea of boarding houses. Some tenants might be willing to walk or bus to services/shopping to avoid the cost of a car and alleviate road/parking congestion. I am experimenting with riding an adult tricycle instead of owning a car.</p> <p>--This is a great exchange of ideas, Ed, Debra Ann and HomesFirst folks - thanks for the thoughtfulness! The conversation is surfacing some important trade-offs. Would it be worthwhile for folks to have a solution that increases parking challenges if it decreases homelessness? Are there ways to allow for shared housing options that don't create parking challenges? Are there particular areas where shared housing wouldn't be allowed, regardless of city policy? Keep the good conversation coming, all...--Meagan, site admin/facilitator</p> <p>--Statistics indicate that, with a sizable elderly population, over 50% of the homes in Lacey are occupied by only 1 or 2 people even though most have 3 bedrooms. So the "space" is to house everyone already exists. The issue is how to share those homes or move people to accommodations that better fit family size. Sharing a home, the "boarding house" concept proposed, only works where a trust level is present. South Sound Senior Services has such a program but has had little success. A number of seniors have signed up willing to live and share expenses with someone, But it has been hard to find owners of houses willing to share their home, even as their ability to afford to stay in there home dwindles. The issue is "trust". I think we tend to keep to ourselves too much as a society and the thought of someone we really don't know living in our house is scary, risky. The lack of trust is because "it's different". How could we get enough participation in such programs locally to convince enough people it's okay, something "our community" at least sees a normal or reasonable thing to do?</p> <p>--Well, trust must flow in both directions. We DO have B&Bs. Ever wonder where state legislators stay when attending a session? My point, though, was less to suggest a particular solution but to encourage the city to enable solutions by reducing restrictive ordinances and policies.</p> <p>--It is important to have both. There are many great existing programs, but this is not a one size fits all situation. Homes First is great, but not every family is a match for your program. There needs to be options for people with a wide range of needs. Those unhoused due to medical needs, are often not able to move in to a conventional, previously owned home. Others with severe mental health issues, may not be a good fit for a typical subdivision. We need a wide range of options for individuals with many different challenges to housing.</p> <p>--Hi, Michael. Thanks for taking part in the conversation! It strikes me that your thinking about enabling a wide range of options is aligned with what the workgroup has been thinking recently. Are there any options that you would NOT want to see included? Anything that wouldn't work well in Lacey? --Meagan, site admin/facilitator</p>	
<p>The two most important issue areas related to the bulk of the homeless population are the cost and supply of appropriate housing and the availability of jobs and business opportunities. These affect the homeless that are generally invisible but easiest to help. The least costly and most effective ways for the city to deal with these issues is to reduce the regulatory barriers and costs associated with housing, jobs, and business. While what Lacey can do is often limited by the state, county, and other jurisdictions, it has some autonomy in these areas and some influence on the others beyond that of the individual citizen. These areas should be the primary ones addressed by the committee.</p> <p>-- I appreciate your point of view, Edwin, and agree that housing (affordable and sufficient supply) is one of the most important issues. To me the second most important issue is a living wage. In the 50+ page attachment for Station #2, it highlighted what current retail clerks earn. During this pandemic they are considered essential workers and deserve to afford appropriate housing near their jobs.</p> <p>--Thank you Edwin for your comment, I agree that removing a lot of the regulatory barriers would help immensely. In the virtual open house, I commented multiple times about how important it is to consult with other programs that are already established and working (the Community First tiny home community in Texas was mentioned multiple times and I feel is a prime example of a successful program). We don't need to reinvent the wheel, but instead, how can we use what we</p>	Idea Wall

<p>learn from successful programs to help the homeless, then problem solve through the local red tape and regulatory barriers ?</p>	
<p>It is difficult for me to isolate the issue in Lacey when the Olympia and Lacey borders are hard for me to define and to know which homeless encampment or target area is in which region that can potentially impact the initial data. I anticipate there is a lot of fluidity to how people in trouble flow in and out of each region. The public health and mental health issues are extremely apparent along Capitol Lake and on Martin Way. Regions like those are probably part of Olympia and its management plan but, they create a stigma that many working homeless with kids in school become grouped into.</p> <p>With the expansive warehousing district of Lacey (i.e. Medline, Home Depot, Target, etc.), has there been and discussion with these large employers to assist in the community beyond the typical business taxes? Has there been any discussion to rezone land being sold for commercial reasons only to have another warehouse or group of storage units be constructed and zone it for suitable housing for reasonable rent? Has local government discussed using pre-existing structures that sit empty such as the Olympia Brewery to construct affordable housing or provide transitional housing? Has there been discussion about a reallocation of part of the city budget to grow a much needed social services sector that attracts well qualified social workers and counselors that can truly help individuals get through the difficult steps of locating the correct resources, applying, and accessing what is already available?</p> <p>I am sure all of the above thoughts/questions have already occurred with the Council. I wanted to at least try to contribute to the solution for the initial phases of an action plan rather than be one that provides individual opinion.</p>	<p>Idea Wall</p>
<p>I'm hoping that we can promote a stronger social housing program. Social housing that disconnects housing stock from the market place and targets existing minimum wages to offer housing solutions using city/county/state real estate assets. I've watched the City of Vancouver BC react to growing homelessness over the last few years prior to moving back to Thurston County. The City has successfully built over 650 units for low income homelessness using city land and prefabricated structures that can go from design to move in ready in less that 1.5 years. More here: https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/supportive-housing.aspx</p> <p>I support taxes to direct funding to these services and investments. Lack of progress is returning deteriorating conditions. Reading thru the data collected by the work group supports the idea that rental rates that have rightly increased wealth to property owners, has had an impact on those not able to flourish in society. Value increases and wealth generation are good indicators and support healthy local economies, but they need tax rates that provide a safety net to maintain life for those in trouble - for the benefit of those in trouble, but also for the benefit of society of the whole.</p> <p>Lastly, Here is another Vancouver BC strategy developed privately to act as housing gap filling - since large projects have a long development schedule: http://www.lanefab.com/tinytownhouse</p>	<p>Idea Wall</p>
<p>What is "Affordable Housing"</p> <p>When we talk about needing more affordable housing in Lacey, I am not sure we are all talking about the same thing or see the full scope of what we might be including or excluding. Our discussion has been focused on rising house prices and rental rates and how that is affecting homelessness. An "acceptable" affordable housing option is viewed differently depending on one's circumstance. In my view, I see a spectrum of at least five housing categories with completely different sets of "affordable housing" issues.</p> <p>Primarily, we want people with jobs to be able to call Lacey home and not be priced out. Wages and jobs versus housing costs and availability. That is a long-range issue, requiring legislative action and regional solutions in addition to any independent planning Lacey could act on.</p> <p>Second is "subsidized permanent housing" for people with limited incomes or disabilities, where some "rent" is usually paid. Primarily apartments, but some are houses. This is a "growing needs" group as the currently housed on limited or fixed incomes are being pressed, where growing</p>	<p>Idea Wall</p>

<p>expenses are about to force them out, possibly into some form of homelessness. Many are elderly retirees or young working families with children.</p> <p>Third is “transitional housing” for those who are coming out of prison or rehab, from a shelter or other homeless condition. Subsidized, short-term and controlled housing, usually combined with coordinated services, and where substance or mental health may not be an issue.</p> <p>Fourth is something Lacey lacks, the “traditional homeless shelters” and mitigation-site type housing. “Just off the street” housing. Organized, usually with services and rules. The new entries here are the temporary Tiny House Villages and micro-homes. Unlike the Quixote Village model, these are lower cost temporary placements that can be sized in number and moved if necessary.</p> <p>Last, there are those who will continue to choose to live nomadically, “in the rough”, in tents, cars, RVs, etc. Perceived to be a growing population in Lacey. Because of a past bad experiences, mental health or substance issues, a few will be unwilling to accept help no matter the housing option. Legally they cannot be jailed or forced to leave the streets. Whatever this “housing” condition is called, we will need to plan for addressing this population and whatever continued support funding it requires.</p> <p>Whatever planning Lacey does, in my mind, needs to address the needs of all of these populations. Either regionally or within its jurisdiction.</p>	
<p>Lacey clearly needs a combination of policies that can leverage private developer actions and home-owner actions to increase low income housing availability, and this is being worked on by the City Council and staff (ADU and in-filling regulations, and developer incentives.). These can be complemented by a homefund type of financing and and some incentives to have non-profits and businesses and faith communities put their resources into play to move the needle significantly for reducing homelessness. Transitional housing such as tiny house villages could make a small dent in the issue in a cost-effective way, but it must be linked to to more low-income housing, either by repurposing some underutilized or vacant buildings or finding new sources of funds for new or rehabbed apartments or innovative modular structures. (similar to the suggestions from Vancouver). This is not easy, but we need to work on it as a community with a shared regional issue.</p>	Idea Wall
<p>(See also page-long proposal from Idea Wall shown in Diverse Strategies section, starting with, “Understanding there is no clear solution...”)</p>	
Livable Income Options, Work, Work Barriers/Options	
Comments	Reference
<p>I’m also providing my input, for what it’s worth, that I had provided separately to the Lacey City Council over the course of the last year and a half.</p> <p>“...A better approach, to reduce the numbers and “attraction” to Lacey is to legally require those that are physically and mentally capable of getting a job (or two, if need be) in order to pay for housing and basic subsistence instead of allowing them to use very limited (city) resources; get those mentally or physically incapable into appropriate institutions that will provide for their welfare; lastly, provide substance abuse recovery and prevention to the remainder to get them out of the vicious cycle.”</p>	<p>1.1 Conditions-Causes, p.4</p>
<p>Perhaps as a way to get the community involved in ending homelessness, get the 258 churches in the county that Brad mentioned (and all places of worship) to consider hosting families temporarily, not individuals. Here's an example: FHN (Family Housing Network), Fort Collins, CO - Fifteen host congregations, each supported by a partner congregation, rotated pre-covid each week to welcome guest families into their buildings for overnight shelter, generally for up to three months. Community members volunteered to deliver and cook meals for them; others volunteered to sleep in the building with the guest; 93% of families are employed, 52 families have moved on to permanent housing. http://www.familyhousingnetwork.org/our-programs/#1521279252381-274337fd-c199</p>	<p>2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.3</p>
<p>"I love all the comments and ideas! I'm also glad that the Texas Mobile Loaves and Fishes program was brought up, because it's such a great example of a program that works! There's so many more elements to the program than just the housing- sense of community, sense of pride</p>	<p>2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.3</p>

<p>and ownership in one's space, supportive services, sense of purpose with everyone being expected to work or help the community in some way. Another program that has similar elements and seems to be working is a veteran based program: the veterans community project https://www.veteranscommunityproject.org/ I think it would serve our community well to consult with programs that work and implementing recommended protocols before starting any new tiny home villages</p>	
<p>I have been fascinated with images of a large tennis bubble that can be turned into a micro-neighborhood. Astro-Turf, little fences, mailboxes as a starting point from the streets. An "Olympia style" mitigation site covered and managed by the residents. A type of HOA. Residents can pay rent as a small percentage of what they have. Covenants and security. Water, electricity, all services and as the crisis subsides the facility can be repurposed as a sports venue.</p>	<p>2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.2</p>
<p>Can you please provide more information on how many properties/units are available for low-income tenants at the below-market housing authority properties? I think this is a great idea to help reduce the number of people that become homeless- since rent in WA seems to be skyrocketing at unreasonable rates, and there are many people that are working and want to continue working, but are close to the edge with the high cost of living and rent. This seems like a less costly and quicker solution than section 8 housing (which has a lot of its own problems and complications, including long wait lists and difficulty with people getting off section 8 housing). How are below-market properties funded? What are their eligibility requirements? How can we have more properties that keep people in affordable housing but also require them to continue working?</p>	<p>2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.1</p>
<p>Significant barriers? Did you interview ppl and determine these were significant barriers? Depression? Crminal history? lost id? lack of skills? surely you jest..List of SIGNIFICANT barriers...There are MANY jobs that are felony friendly all over Thurston County.... lack of skills...too MANY jobs that are entry level for that to be a SIGNIFICANT barrier. There are many resources that immed. address and and eleminate most of the listed barriers... Eccpetion: disability income resticted hr.. yes,, that is a barrier bc housng costs exceeds the wages ... but in that case you can qualify for HUD housing.. SEVERE MH and behavioral ... that is a definite significant barrier.. Based on my personal experience, research and work experience, Substance abuse, and MH issues and credit ratings.. are the SIGNIFICANT barriers tht require SIGNIFICANT resources to address. treatment , services and supprt.. those are long term needs. and ongoing services needed for that.. ... The rest are issues that can be addressed and removed as barriers.. period.. Livable wage..? get a second job... Even with a college degree, I have had to get a second job to pay the rent .. feed kids,, transportations... etc,,</p> <p>--Thank you for your input! Yes, the committee has done interviews of Lacey residents and held information seminars with field experts. We have not done direct interviews of homeless persons but depended on the input of experts. The significant barriers indicated stemmed from this process. One question. Can you provide some input on the types of jobs that are "felony friendly". That would be very helpful to our future work on the committee. Thanks, again.</p> <p>--This subject sparked my curiosity so I did some research to find out if having a felony was a barrier. I was so curious because i hired people for grocery stores for 8 years and it would not have been a barrier to have had a felony in your past. The background check would provide additional information that would determine if the person was hirable. I had to know if things had changed from my experiences. Today I went to Les Schwab, Office Max, Petco, Boot Barn, and Safeway. The felony itself would not be a barrier to any of those employers. Best Buy Manager could not share their hiring practices with the public so no answer there. It appears to me at least that having a felony by itself would not be a barrier to employment. I believe finding employment for that population is doable. Like me all the managers I talked to want hard working employees that will come to work when its their shift. That is one of the biggest barriers most are experiencing. Unreliable employees.</p> <p>-- Your comment reminded me of a conversation I recently had with my housemate. As they searched for work this winter, they noted that many businesses currently hiring will not provide</p>	<p>4.1 Income-Work, p.1</p>

<p>full-time employment - they provide part-time employment, and by doing so avoid having to support their employees with benefits. So... unreliable employees or unreliable employers? --I was referring to some of the responses I got from some of the employers. When I worked for Evergreen Counseling Center in Hoquiam, finding employment for people with mental illness I frequently got the same response about wanting reliable employees. It made finding employment for the mentally ill much easier because they were reliable.. --Amber, thanks for your input. Reliability refers to a commitment to one's agreement such as arriving on time, giving a days work for a days pay, paying on time, and so forth. Hiring a full time employee requires the employer to make certain commitments. Another way of looking at the issue is from the point of view of the "gig" worker. Are you familiar with that terminology? What do you think of it? Should a worker be free to take a job at whatever compensation the worker wishes? Why (not)? Why are some states making laws/rules that inhibit the gig worker?</p>	
<p>Some cities are able to provide temporary or permanent amenities like these [hygiene, laundry services]. Are the costs of offering these for our unhoused residents being explored? This seems like another place ripe for public/private partnership.</p>	<p>4.1 Income-Work, p.1</p>
<p>“HOMELESSNESS IS A SYMPTOM NOT THE PROBLEM” There are many problems causing individuals and sometimes entire families to become homeless. We must assure the true problem creating homelessness is understood and addressed to help each of these individuals. Not dealing with the problem not only proliferates the symptom, but has debilitating effects on the individuals experiencing the symptoms. Individuals that have been productive and proud, when forced to be dependent on others to care for them and their families experience a wide range of sometimes debilitating psychological experiences. Depression as well as many other Psychological Disorders may be triggered by this devastating loss of independence. The homeless population that is the most visible and uses more individual City services per individual than any of the others must be provided incentives to participate and opportunities to regain their self esteem, regain their self-sufficiency and get free of government support. --Thank you for participating and I value your opinion William. I see that you understand the intensity of the pain and disempowerment that results from loss of agency and independence. I am curious about your emphasis on getting off government support as a main goal, when accepting and seeking government help is often inaccessible, suppressed or not trusted. Many unhoused people distrust governmental support, can't/won't navigate the process and receive few of the benefits they qualify for. I see one of the main goals of outreach as helping to bridge the gap between vulnerable families and the service they qualify for. Perhaps a way to articulate both these realities is to state a goal of connecting people in need with governmental services that can build long-term capacity for autonomy? --Being unhoused is certainly an indicator of an underlying issue that needs to be explored, but I really do feel "dependence on the system" is NOT it. Most who are unhoused have very little contact with "the system." They are often not connected due to access issues, trust issues, and many others. We need to look at why being unhoused is the best option to them. Which options are they choosing from & why? Anxiety, depression and other debilitating psychological experiences are certainly a big part of their experience, but services that are meeting their needs and helping them to achieve their goals are helping those issues, not making them worse. --Hi William! I am a mental health professional in Lacey and I appreciate what you said. There is so much more to the problem of homelessness (all of the things you mentioned and more). I fully agree that people need to be encouraged to regain self-esteem and self-sufficiency, and I feel that this is often through people having a sense of purpose- whether that purpose be in a job, volunteering, outreach, or helping others in some way. For many of the homeless, we cannot just put people in housing without other services and expect it to solve the problem. I know that due to mental and physical disabilities, not everyone can work a typical 40 hour/week job, but given the right supports, people are much more capable than we often give them credit for. I worked for a community mental health agency that had a supportive employment program, which helped</p>	<p>Idea Wall</p>

<p>people with serious mental health issues such as schizophrenia, be able to work part-time. It was amazing to see how much this boosted the self-esteem of these clients. I understand that these issues are complicated and not easy to solve, but the summary of my point is this. People need a sense of purpose, and I highly recommend that if a housing community is built, there are requirements for the people living there to contribute in some way, whether it be working, volunteering, or helping others through outreach, etc.</p>	
<p>(See also page-long proposal from Idea Wall shown in Diverse Strategies section, starting with, "Understanding there is no clear solution...")</p>	
<p>Migration, Residency</p>	
<p>Comments</p>	<p>Reference</p>
<p>I think this is REALLY important. That too often houseless people are "accused" of coming here for the amenities. The myth of "build it and they will come". The reality is... the majority of unhoused folks are from Thurston county - and the SAME RATE of housed people move here from other places as unhoused. One of my favorite questions to ask groups is "Who here was born in Thurston County? Who has moved here? Who has moved here in the last 10, 5, 1 year? Why?"</p>	<p>1.1 Conditions-Causes, p.1</p>
<p>I'm also providing my input, for what it's worth, that I had provided separately to the Lacey City Council over the course of the last year and a half. "I'm writing to reiterate what I provided during the public solicitation for comments on the proposed revision to the so-called emergency housing ordinance that was being developed in 2019. Although perhaps well-intentioned, it was based on the false premise that there is a homeless problem. In reality, homelessness is merely a symptom of the underlying cause(s) and problem. I maintain the vast majority of the homeless consist of the following: (1) Those that have been released from supportive care or have been diagnosed physically and/or mentally incapable of living independently on their own. (2) Those that, for whatever reason, are addicted to drugs and are incapable of living on their own. (3) The remainder are those that are capable of making a living to support themselves and choose not to. The proposed revisions will only exacerbate and encourage more "homeless" to come to the Lacey area to set up shop..."</p>	<p>1.1 Conditions-Causes, p.4</p>
<p>We don't have unlimited funding. If our neighbors become homeless, we should take care of them, but that doesn't mean we have to shoulder the responsibility or bear the cost of caring for people who hear about the help we're providing and begin showing up from California or Portland or Seattle -- even if they amount to less than 25% of our (current or future) homeless population. We should add a residency clause to our homeless policy: "In order to stay in an encampment, a shelter, or a housing project authorized by the city, an individual must have been a Thurston county resident for a period of one year or more, before they became homeless." What would a policy like that do? First and foremost it would not create a magnet and we would not find our homeless population growing out of control. Secondly, it would allow us to focus our city's limited resources on offering a hand-up to our neighbors at a time in their lives when they need us the most. Finally, a "residency requirement" would alleviate the concerns (real or imagined) of many locals who believe "if you build it, they will come." You could gain their support if they knew the city's efforts were intended to help only their neighbors.</p>	<p>5.1 Resources, p.1</p>
<p>Do we have system to connect the homeless to their point of origin and tap the resources from there former communities for support ? A large number of the homeless currently have no connection to our community except by the virtue of laws that give them use of public lands. When do we get equal access to those public lands. I would like to walk down those public areas and not wade through the trash and drug paraphernalia. Placing the burden for this National issue on the Lacey Community is unrealistic. --Hi, Westlake. Thanks for your comments and question! I encourage you to check out station 1 for more information on in-migration to Thurston County. A bit more than 1/3 of unsheltered folks in the community reported coming from outside the county, though that is not say that there isn't connection to the area (may be family or other connections). This is basically the same in communities throughout the country, and people who are unhoused move between communities for many of the same reasons people who have housing do. That said, many service</p>	<p>Idea Wall</p>

<p>providers do strive to connect people with their best support systems, which may be outside Lacey. Lacey's homeless outreach coordinator told the Workgroup that the police department's Community Resource Unit has provided assistance with getting people back to these supports when appropriate. Whether or not folks are originally from Lacey, the trash and drug paraphernalia situation is a big concern that many community members share and one that could be solved in a variety of ways. Is there a solution that you would like to see that you think could work well for all involved? --Meagan, site administrator/facilitator (By the way, please do update your registration to use your full, real name. This is a request we are making of everyone to promote discussions more like being in a physical room together.)</p> <p>--A subject for discussion: With the number of comments and interest in Outreach, how it has been successful in other places, the positive results of Lacey's CRU, and how plans might be to increased or augmented the current CRU duties with other services not currently provided, I think there needs to be a discussion on how that might be implemented. We ask a lot of our police officers and I would be reluctant to add more to their plate. While there is a need for some police involvement with the homeless population, have we been asking too much of our officers? With the suggestion to increase outreach, is the police department and our line officers the right resource? Do they just need more trained CRU officers? Or, if we plan to increase both the amount and service level CRU is expected to deliver, is it time to reassess what tasks could potentially be moved from line officers and moved to a more robust and responsive outreach team? A CRU group equipped to responsively assist officers and deal with substance, mental health issues as well as the ongoing, day-to-day, homeless outreach and services? Would such a team best be part of the police department or separate?</p>	
Mobility, Housing/Shelter/Services Siting Factors	
Comments	Reference
Density and walkability go hand-in-hand. If duplexes, ADUs, etc. are near bus lines and stores, residents can choose not to own a car so streets don't become congested for original neighbors.	2.4 AHS, p.37
Based on population of Lacey and Olympia, I think Lacey needs to step up to it's responsibility for all members of the community, and provide safe and secure shelter, which is close to bus lines.	2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.3
Neighbors and community are worried about the location because they have seen the results that have been allowed to occur. The State of Washington has allowed camps to develop at nearly all on/off ramps of I-5 in cities, yet the Capital Campus is completely clear of any camps? The State has spent millions of dollars and is willing to spend millions more, perhaps there is state property that could be used, local control but on state property.	2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.3
Thanks for hosting this. There are approx. 258 Churches in Thurston County and lots of public land and available private property. When the issues of homelessness become a true movement of a community of compassion the issue become same. Perhaps Lacey can spearhead a Countywide movement to encourage everyone to get involved. In past times of crisis we set up camps for housing. Perhaps we could make campgrounds for our current crisis that could be repurposed for campgrounds for recreation. Have you seen this. Creativity and compassion combined. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xBJxvJ5hw0c --Tiny houses are a great resource at reduced cost. The big issue is where to site them? Thanks for you comments Brad. Bob Kagy station host	2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.3
Neighborhood Conditions – Paraphernalia, RVs, Shopping Carts, Trash, Waste (Human)	
Comments	Reference
I frequently walk my dogs at Rainier Vista park, which is a beautiful park. This year the trash and destruction in the field behind the park has gotten significantly worse, with daily trash, broken glass, drug paraphernalia, and human feces.	6.1 Comm'y Impacts, p.1
Where I live, there's a beautiful home that is near a lake, which has a yard almost completely filled with motorhomes and campers, covered with tarps. I never thought anything of it until I noticed a lot of foot traffic this past summer, going in and out of the driveway, leading to the home. I looked closer and the RV's look "lived in" and not in good condition either. I definitely	6.1 Comm'y Impacts, p.1

<p>think this is a homeless camp or half way house. Unfortunately, this causes a downfall in our neighborhood, because there are abandoned shopping carts, trash lining the gutters, and since it sits directly across the street from Rainier Community park, we have them congregating there. I don't think that any single family house in a residential neighborhood should be allowed to have multiple groups of people, living in RV's that are parked on the property. Thank you.</p> <p>--As a member of the WG, one of my particular interests is the homeowner/HOA community. I know that many HOAs have contractual restrictions on property use, especially such as described. These are in the nature of "deed restrictions", not zoning. I did a check on the Lacey Municipal Code and could not find a code section specifically related to this issue but I think there is one. I have asked Lacey administration for some help on this. It could turn out that a code update would be required as part of our feedback to the council.</p>	
<p>The amount of trash that is found in the gutters, behind buildings, or stuck in the bushes along the sidewalks is insurmountable. It's even worse driving the freeway and seeing the "landfill" in the median. I come from California, and I have to say that the community service workers there, really make a difference. Not sure why it's not in effect out here in Washington, where it can be so beautiful!!</p>	6.1 Comm'y Impacts, p.1
Neighborhood Improvement Strategies	
Comments	Reference
<p>It will take a significant, coordinated effort to clean the camps involving all the stakeholders: municipal governments, campers, residents, service organizations. This can be done if we decide to do it, if there is the political will. And we simply have to, the current course is unsustainable, demoralizing for the campers, infuriating to the residents.</p>	6.1 Comm'y Impacts, p.1
<p>The amount of trash that is found in the gutters, behind buildings, or stuck in the bushes along the sidewalks is insurmountable. It's even worse driving the freeway and seeing the "landfill" in the median. I come from California, and I have to say that the community service workers there, really make a difference. Not sure why it's not in effect out here in Washington, where it can be so beautiful!!</p> <p>--There are visible challenges in the normal clean up efforts along Interstate 5, which is the jurisdiction of the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). The City of Lacey is working with WSDOT to find creative solutions to these challenges. We have also noticed the increase in trash from illegal dumping and the decrease in clean up efforts, such as the Adopt a Highway volunteer programs which are struggling to function under COVID-19 restrictions.</p>	6.1 Comm'y Impacts, p.1
Other Cost Factors	
Comments	Reference
<p>Child care is seldom mentioned as much as rent, even though it can cost as much if not more. I know single parents who struggle trying to meet both rent and child care. Also, property taxes continue to increase and we wonder why landlords must increase rent to keep up? It is all connected.</p>	2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.2
<p>If housing is too expensive for a person with a disability to procure, we need to either lift the benefits to the housing access "floor", lower the cost of housing, or subsidize the difference. Does the Workgroup have a plan to address either of the latter two possible options?</p>	4.1 Income-Work, p.1
Outreach, Readiness for Help/Change, Related Service Models	
Comments	Reference
<p>I'm incredibly in favor of supporting law enforcement by embedding mental health personnel with them to speed up response times and get folks the care they need when in crisis.</p> <p>--Thank you for your suggestion. A number of communities have implemented the "embedded" approach in different forms. Olympia currently has a small program in place. I'm sure this will be discussed by the Lacey workgroup, probably in relation with the suggestion of expanding outreach efforts in general. Your Station Host.</p> <p>--I didn't know about this program [Familiar Faces] prior to reading this. I just looked it up and it looks great! I love the idea of peer navigators helping connect others to resources. It reminds me</p>	3.1 Addiction-Mental Health, p.3

<p>of other programs (such as outreach in Union Gospel Mission), that have people that are in recovery that have been there, be volunteers that help with outreach. I think this also helps reduce stigma, and provide hope.</p>	
<p>Could Lacey establish a training program for volunteers to do some low level outreach? Give people the baseline skills necessary to assist, and teach them how to connect unhoused individuals with more comprehensive resources? I would love to see the CRU's impact amplified, both by adding paid trained staff (there are only three people, right?) and also possibly by utilizing trained community volunteers.</p>	<p>3.1 Addiction-Mental Health, p.3</p>
<p>Evidence supports that peer support is a critical and effective strategy for ongoing health care and sustained behavior change for people with SMI and SA.. and other conditions, and its benefits can be extended to community, organizational and societal levels. A peer support specialist is someone with the lived experience of recovery from a mental health condition, substance use disorder, or both. Pierce County Washington reduced involuntary hospitalization by 32% by using certified peer specialists offering respite services, a savings of 1.99 million dollars in one year ..Ever city and county should invest in PC training andd volunteers.. -- Thank you for your interest and comments. Some of your concerns and the suggestion for "more outreach" are covered below in the "solutions" section of this page. Peer support is one form of outreach the city will be considering. Your station host.</p>	<p>3.1 Addiction-Mental Health, p.1</p>
<p>Waiting for "rock bottom" is a motivator for some, unfortunately overdose, either accidental or intentional can lead to death. Hopefully the City plan tries to assist people before. --Thank you for your comment. At present substance abuse and mental health services are regional at the county level. A list of available community services in Thurston County follows this page in NEXT (3.2). Connection with the homeless population requires outreach and Lacey Police has a small unit performing that task at present. However, the lack of appropriate facilities and sufficient services limit what actions they can take. A couple of questions asked below in the "solutions" section may be of interest to you for follow up. Your station host.</p>	<p>3.1 Addiction-Mental Health, p.4</p>
<p>I love that we have outreach programs in our community!</p>	<p>5.1 Resources, p.3</p>
<p>Do we have system to connect the homeless to their point of origin and tap the resources from there former communities for support ? A large number of the homeless currently have no connection to our community except by the virtue of laws that give them use of public lands. When do we get equal access to those public lands. I would like to walk down those public areas and not wade through the trash and drug paraphernalia. Placing the burden for this National issue on the Lacey Community is unrealistic. --Hi, Westlake. Thanks for your comments and question! I encourage you to check out station 1 for more information on in-migration to Thurston County. A bit more than 1/3 of unsheltered folks in the community reported coming from outside the county, though that is not say that there isn't connection to the area (may be family or other connections). This is basically the same in communities throughout the country, and people who are unhoused move between communities for many of the same reasons people who have housing do. That said, many service providers do strive to connect people with their best support systems, which may be outside Lacey. Lacey's homeless outreach coordinator told the Workgroup that the police department's Community Resource Unit has provided assistance with getting people back to these supports when appropriate. Whether or not folks are originally from Lacey, the trash and drug paraphernalia situation is a big concern that many community members share and one that could be solved in a variety of ways. Is there a solution that you would like to see that you think could work well for all involved? --Meagan, site administrator/facilitator (By the way, please do update your registration to use your full, real name. This is a request we are making of everyone to promote discussions more like being in a physical room together.) --A subject for discussion: With the number of comments and interest in Outreach, how it has been successful in other places, the positive results of Lacey's CRU, and how plans might be to increased or augmented the current CRU duties with other services not currently provided, I think</p>	<p>Idea Wall</p>

<p>there needs to be a discussion on how that might be implemented. We ask a lot of our police officers and I would be reluctant to add more to their plate. While there is a need for some police involvement with the homeless population, have we been asking too much of our officers? With the suggestion to increase outreach, is the police department and our line officers the right resource? Do they just need more trained CRU officers? Or, if we plan to increase both the amount and service level CRU is expected to deliver, is it time to reassess what tasks could potentially be moved from line officers and moved to a more robust and responsive outreach team? A CRU group equipped to responsively assist officers and deal with substance, mental health issues as well as the ongoing, day-to-day, homeless outreach and services? Would such a team best be part of the police department or separate?</p>	
<p>(See also page-long proposal from Idea Wall shown in Diverse Strategies section, starting with, "Understanding there is no clear solution...")</p>	
<p>Panhandling</p>	
<p>Comments</p>	<p>Reference</p>
<p>I think there is not a clear message to people about how to best help the homeless, and it might help if the city of Lacey can provide some recommendations. For example, I think many people are conflicted/confused about if giving money directly to someone panhandling is helping or enabling (or if the panhandler is truly homeless, or just conning people to make money, if the money is going towards substance abuse, etc). When I lived in Marysville/Everett, WA area in 2012-2014 the opiate epidemic was so huge in the area that panhandling became aggressive at times (I personally had panhandlers come up to my car and knock on my window at night, follow me out of a restaurant to my car, etc). The city of Marysville installed signs on busy streetcorners that state, "keep the change. Don't support panhandling. Give to a local charity". I think some guidance like this may be helpful to many of the compassionate community members and may help redirect more funding to resources and programs that help the homeless.</p>	<p>6.1 Comm'y Resources, p.3</p>
<p>Regional Partners, Local Partners, Volunteers</p>	
<p>Comments</p>	<p>Reference</p>
<p>Perhaps as a way to get the community involved in ending homelessness, get the 258 churches in the county that Brad mentioned (and all places of worship) to consider hosting families temporarily, not individuals. Here's an example: FHN (Family Housing Network), Fort Collins, CO - Fifteen host congregations, each supported by a partner congregation, rotated pre-covid each week to welcome guest families into their buildings for overnight shelter, generally for up to three months. Community members volunteered to deliver and cook meals for them; others volunteered to sleep in the building with the guest; 93% of families are employed, 52 families have moved on to permanent housing. http://www.familyhousingnetwork.org/our-programs/#1521279252381-274337fd-c199</p>	<p>2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.3</p>
<p>Thanks for hosting this. There are approx. 258 Churches in Thurston County and lots of public land and available private property. When the issues of homelessness become a true movement of a community of compassion the issue become same. Perhaps Lacey can spearhead a Countywide movement to encourage everyone to get involved. In past times of crisis we set up camps for housing. Perhaps we could make campgrounds for our current crisis that could be repurposed for campgrounds for recreation. Have you seen this. Creativity and compassion combined. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xBJxvJ5hw0c</p>	<p>2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.3</p>
<p>Is LOTT involved in waiving fees for qualifying construction as well. Total burden should not be on the City. This may be discussed in another are. --Thank you for your comment. Currently, the fee waivers only apply to City fees. However, based on feedback received through this forum this topic can be brought forward to a regional conversation at the LOTT Board. Lacey, Olympia, Tumwater and Thurston County have elected representation on the LOTT Board and discuss and set policy. Rick W. Station host</p>	<p>2.4 AHS, p.34</p>

<p>I didn't know about this program prior to reading this. I just looked it up and it looks great! I love the idea of peer navigators helping connect others to resources. It reminds me of other programs (such as outreach in Union Gospel Mission), that have people that are in recovery that have been there, be volunteers that help with outreach. I think this also helps reduce stigma, and provide hope.</p>	<p>3.1 Addiction-Mental Health, p.4</p>
<p>Could Lacey establish a training program for volunteers to do some low level outreach? Give people the baseline skills necessary to assist, and teach them how to connect unhoused individuals with more comprehensive resources? I would love to see the CRU's impact amplified, both by adding paid trained staff (there are only three people, right?) and also possibly by utilizing trained community volunteers.</p>	<p>3.1 Addiction-Mental Health, p.3</p>
<p>This discussion thread can lead to some sustainable solutions involving public-private partnerships and programs. I would ask the workgroup to consider the possibilities of holding participants accountable for their personal growth and development when in receipt of resources.</p>	<p>4.1 Income-Work, p.1</p>
<p>Some cities are able to provide temporary or permanent amenities like these [hygiene/laundry services]. Are the costs of offering these for our unhoused residents being explored? This seems like another place ripe for public/private partnership.</p>	<p>4.1 Income-Work, p.1</p>
<p>I wish the Community Cafe Collaborative were listed here, under a new category called "Leadership Development" or "Community Organizing". Community Cafes are gatherings rooted in conversations and authentic connections, and are organized by people closest to a given issue or topic. What resources exist for people who are currently houseless to 1) grow into their potential by practicing/building their leadership in the community or 2) to exchange stories, resources, ideas, and calls to action in a culturally responsive environment? Community Cafes have the power to do that, and affect real change when hosts partner with system actors (like City of Lacey, school district leaders, etc.) to shift policies, practices, and culture. The Community Cafe Collaborative can provide mentoring, coaching, co-hosting, or technical assistance to those interested in gathering folks together for this kind of conversation. thecommunitycafe.org</p>	<p>5.2 Svcs List, p.2</p>
<p>It will take a significant, coordinated effort to clean the camps involving all the stakeholders: municipal governments, campers, residents, service organizations. This can be done if we decide to do it, if there is the political will. And we simply have to, the current course is unsustainable, demoralizing for the campers, infuriating to the residents.</p>	<p>6.1 Comm'y Impacts, p.1</p>
<p>The amount of trash that is found in the gutters, behind buildings, or stuck in the bushes along the sidewalks is insurmountable. It's even worse driving the freeway and seeing the "landfill" in the median. I come from California, and I have to say that the community service workers there, really make a difference. Not sure why it's not in effect out here in Washington, where it can be so beautiful!! --There are visible challenges in the normal clean up efforts along Interstate 5, which is the jurisdiction of the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). The City of Lacey is working with WSDOT to find creative solutions to these challenges. We have also noticed the increase in trash from illegal dumping and the decrease in clean up efforts, such as the Adopt a Highway volunteer programs which are struggling to function under COVID-19 restrictions.</p>	<p>6.1 Comm'y Impacts, p.1</p>
<p>MH issues ... this is an issue of state funding for MH services.. and supportive services in place when discharged .. Even if housed, a person with Severe MH and SA issues may not stant the shousing w/o supportive services lile ppspecialist, crisis intervenons inplace..place.. an issue funding period.. From exprince and work,, i knw MANY SMI ppl and RECOVERY is possible.. I knw this from work and experince.. I have seen it !! IN my own mfily. a cousin was in and out of local jail..n bc of MH , she is now a homeonwer and Peer specilaist with a MS in HR... Took years .. but RECOVERY is possible .. i see it everyday.. PPL in Recovery form SA and MH doing well.. So, the solution is funding for the necessary MH and SA services.. FUND MH and SA treatment.. --I agree, the State has failed in handling Western State Hospital and proper mental health approach.</p>	<p>6.1 Comm'y Impacts, p.1</p>

<p>--Here is a link to the latest monthly progress report on Western and Eastern State hospitals: as of 1/28/2021 https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/BHSIA/FMHS/Trueblood/2021Trueblood/Trueblood-Report-2021-01.pdf</p>	
<p>I have a concern. I recently read that Lacey joined the " Regional Housing Council" I am not opposed to a unified approach to "housing", but I am concerned the work and effort that has gone into this process for the City of Lacey for their homeless strategy will be a waste of time if bound to other jurisdictions and a countywide plan. Can someone explain if Lacey is committed to working on this issue for our community or already committed to a regional plan. I am very concerned we do not get involved or committed to the City of Olympia in our eventual strategy, as I think their approach is failing. Look forward to hearing more about this agreement and the future of this effort. I want to work on the City of Lacey! --Hi, Dusty Pierpoint. Thanks for the question! Most on the workgroup have said that it is important to be regionally coordinated, but I don't believe they take that to mean that Lacey's approach should be driven by other the approach of neighboring jurisdictions. I will ask a city rep to talk about their participation on the Council and how that relates to this work. --Meagan, site admin/facilitator --The City of Lacey did enter into an interlocal agreement with Thurston County and the Cities of Yelm, Tumwater and Olympia to form the Regional Housing Council. The Regional Housing Council replaces the former Health and Human Services Council (HHSC). The primary purpose of the Regional Housing Council is allocate Federal, State and local funding for services and projects that support access to safe and affordable housing and shelter consistent with the goals of the Thurston County 5-year Homeless Response Plan. The Regional Housing Council is also intended to be a forum to discuss issues, strategies and coordinate projects that have regional benefits. Here is a link to the Regional Housing Council webpage which will have more information. https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/phss/Pages/regional-housing-council.aspx The City of Lacey's participation in the Regional Housing Council is why the Homeless Workgroup and community engagement process to develop a homeless response plan for Lacey is important. Not only does this effort help guide how the City's responds to the homeless response issue within Lacey but also will provide guidance for City of Lacey representatives participating at the Regional Housing Council and the coordination of regional projects. Rick Walk, Station Host</p>	Idea Wall
Services Costs (to System)	
Comments	Reference
<p>The question about creating more Mental Health and Addiction treatment centers in Lacey or even Thurston county makes me think: These businesses require staffing that may be difficult to get and expensive to maintain. The facilities them selves would be a huge cost to the community. Other Cities use treatment services that already exist in other Cities and even other states. It may be faster and more cost efficient to utilizes underused facilities in locations that already have the facilities and treatment professionals with available space. The cities provide bus or plan fare for the recipient.</p>	<p>3.1 Addiction-Mental Health, p.1</p>
<p>Some cities are able to provide temporary or permanent amenities like these [hygiene/laundry services]. Are the costs of offering these for our unhoused residents being explored? This seems like another place ripe for public/private partnership.</p>	<p>4.1 Income-Work, p.1</p>
<p>All programs have budget limits. I think 200 is a great number, considering people are graduating and new participants entering on a regular basis. What people against using the courts forget is when done with the program, CHARGES ARE DROPPED! The program is intended to help people, not punish. And since according to the numbers, only a portion of the population have issues related to criminal conduct this would only be a part of the overall solution. Housing, job training and other topics are dealt with in a different way. If we are suppose to be looking for solutions and since there is NO one solution, we should be thinking of a multi-faceted approach. This is going to take time and if we get 20 people off the street the first year, try for 40 the next. I want</p>	Idea Wall

<p>to see success, people out of the cycle of despair. Must be realistic for sure, funding is a challenge. Millions are being spent and the problem is getting worse so I am a believer that we must adjust some things, millions of dollars are available. I am pleased there are so many people concerned and wanting to see things get better. We all may have different views on how to get there, but the end goal is the same. We will need more than one path to success and the path to success looks different for those needing help. I hope at the conclusion there is discussion on what variety of programs will be needed in Lacey.</p> <p>There are Cities doing good work, getting measurable results and I want Lacey to be a leader in this area. Lacey has an opportunity and based on the obvious increase in camps, Lacey has a need to have a solid plan. It can be done!</p>	
Shelter, Shelter Options/Models	
Comments	Reference
<p>I'm also providing my input, for what it's worth, that I had provided separately to the Lacey City Council over the course of the last year and a half.</p> <p>"...It's not realistic or practical to think that having the city of Lacey establish as many shelters as it deems necessary will decrease the numbers of "homeless". This unsuccessful method of attempting to fix this "homeless" problem by primarily dealing with the symptoms is already clearly evident in Olympia, Bellingham, and other west coast cities. The real fixes come with (re) instilling in the person the sense of personal responsibility and self worth."</p>	<p>1.1 Conditions-Causes, p.4</p>
<p>Based on population of Lacey and Olympia, I think Lacey needs to step up to it's responsibility for all members of the community, and provide safe and secure shelter, which is close to bus lines.</p>	<p>2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.3</p>
<p>The first priority should be available, safe and secure shelter. In other words, lockable, weather resistant shelter. Cost to those using should be minimal. After that we can address the multiple issues in homelessness.</p> <p>--I like all of Graeme's ideas above, especially to prioritize shelter that is safe and secure. After reading station #2 info, I'm impressed with the Pallet Homes model for inexpensive, quick-to-build emergency housing.</p>	<p>2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.3</p>
<p>My concern with the Pallet Homes is the high cost. The smallest one they list on their site is \$4,900. We need basic shelter for a few hundred dollars, top.</p> <p>-- Regardless of the cost, the biggest issue for using any of these "minimal housing" options is finding a site to put them. One that the neighbors and community as a whole will accept. And also be willing to provide the minimal level of the ongoing support services that would be required. Food, hygiene, garbage, etc. Within Thurston County we currently have 4 sites that range from 7 to 29 units, and soon the 80 unit site. Other communities have sites that are single unit or only 2-3 units, while others have sites of over 100. But the successful sites all have built strong community support. How do we get that?</p> <p>-- I agree with you, Graeme. I didn't realize there were more affordable options, like what Jim wrote about above. The topic of homelessness is new to me so I'm open to everyone's ideas.</p>	<p>2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.3</p>
<p>Thank you for your comment. FYI - Groups in Olympia have reviewed a number shelter models. Durability in our winter weather was found to be an issue in some, especially with the Pallet model and with something called a "Conestoga Hut" model being used in Eugene Oregon. As a result, the LIHI 96sf "stick built" model has been the model used in Thurston County so far. A new, even smaller 64sf "stick design micro-house" model is planned by the City of Olympia for use in converting the currently all tent "mitigation site" downtown with 80+ of these units by next fall. It's a design was developed by a local non-profit for use in one of the local tent camps, where a number are currently in use. Like all the models, the "micro" has a locking door and a window, but costs under \$1000, about a third of the LIHI model. I should also mention that much of the construction of the 80 micro-units is, under supervision, being done by residents of the "mitigation" site. A 'put people to work" effort.</p> <p>--Thank you, Jim, for educating me about the 64sf "stick design micro-house" model. It sounds like a better solution than Pallet Homes for winter. I'm also encouraged to learn that residents are constructing and the units were designed locally.</p>	<p>2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.3</p>

<p>Thanks for hosting this. There are approx. 258 Churches in Thurston County and lots of public land and available private property. When the issues of homelessness become a true movement of a community of compassion the issue become same. Perhaps Lacey can spearhead a Countywide movement to encourage everyone to get involved. In past times of crisis we set up camps for housing. Perhaps we could make campgrounds for our current crisis that could be repurposed for campgrounds for recreation. Have you seen this. Creativity and compassion combined. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xBJxvJ5hw0c</p> <p>-- Thanks Brad, the video was great. All this info we're collecting through this open house is being saved for our whole group to see and use as we work towards making recommendations to the city council. I love the community concept they are building in Austin.</p> <p>--Thank you for the link, Brad. The Austin, TX village for chronically homeless is truly remarkable – and what a unique idea to have bed and breakfast rentals to bring in the community and revenue for the Mobile Loaves and Fishes program. I like the idea that formally unhoused residents have leadership opportunities in the garden and to lead tours.</p> <p>--The “Tiny House Expedition” channel has several videos highlighting examples to end homelessness."</p> <p>--I love all the comments and ideas! I'm also glad that the Texas Mobile Loaves and Fishes program was brought up, because it's such a great example of a program that works! There's so many more elements to the program than just the housing- sense of community, sense of pride and ownership in one's space, supportive services, sense of purpose with everyone being expected to work or help the community in some way. Another program that has similar elements and seems to be working is a veteran based program: the veterans community project https://www.veteranscommunityproject.org/ I think it would serve our community well to consult with programs that work and implementing recommended protocols before starting any new tiny home villages "</p>	<p>2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.3</p>
<p>Perhaps as a way to get the community involved in ending homelessness, get the 258 churches in the county that Brad mentioned (and all places of worship) to consider hosting families temporarily, not individuals. Here's an example: FHN (Family Housing Network), Fort Collins, CO - Fifteen host congregations, each supported by a partner congregation, rotated pre-covid each week to welcome guest families into their buildings for overnight shelter, generally for up to three months. Community members volunteered to deliver and cook meals for them; others volunteered to sleep in the building with the guest; 93% of families are employed, 52 families have moved on to permanent housing. http://www.familyhousingnetwork.org/our-programs/#1521279252381-274337fd-c199</p>	<p>2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.3</p>
<p>I'm not sure how to cultivate strong community support, but I have heard that Opportunity Village in Eugene, Oregon promotes self-governed tiny home communities as transitional housing; they began in 2013. In one of their videos they mentioned that 30 units seems to be an appropriate size for a community. Has SquareOne Villages been researched?</p>	<p>2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.3</p>
<p>I visited a site in Tacoma, a large tent with 100 private spots inside. Shower, laundry and food areas provided that are available for tenants. It has been a couple years, but would be interesting to see the statistics of that program now to see if it has been a success. I would ask not only program managers of the site, but police and neighbors of the property.</p> <p>--I visited that site as well. It's called: Tacoma Tent City. Impressive. Tents on pallets in a huge tent. As I remember, it had 20 or so Pallet structures outside as well... Website says it's still active and Google Maps shows the site. I believe Olympia recruited that site manager or assistant (DeForrest) to develop their 100 tent mitigation site. Just no tent.</p>	<p>2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.3</p>
<p>I have been fascinated with images of a large tennis bubble that can be turned into a micro-neighborhood. Astro-Turf, little fences, mailboxes as a starting point from the streets. An "Olympia style" mitigation site covered and managed by the residents. A type of HOA. Residents can pay rent as a small percentage of what they have. Covenants and security. Water, electricity, all services and as the crisis subsides the facility can be repurposed as a sports venue.</p>	<p>2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.2</p>

<p>--I really like several of these ideas which I think could have a relatively quick impact and provide a relatively quick response that supplements longer term actions as part of a balanced approach that combines faster actions with longer term actions.</p> <p>-- I like the ideas above: tennis bubble, fast food job training, vacant warehouse space. I learned that "bridge" housing opened July 2020 in Los Angeles County. A manufacturing building was converted to have 85 beds under one roof – separate sleeping areas for men and women. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hLGIPH4jjKI</p> <p>--You light my fire Brad. City staff providing job training on maintaining the community. imagine getting McDonalds or Wendy's to put a small fast food building in it with limited menu to provide food. Staffed by residents. Job training and income. one of the Non Profits can provide the food supplies and working along side the private business. I like it or something like it.</p> <p>--Same idea but slightly different venue I heard about. Put this "community" in a vacant box store or warehouse... Sears, ShopKo... etc.</p>	
<p>thank you for sharing about successful programs! this gives me hope that we can come up with some solutions/programs for our community!</p>	<p>2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.3</p>
<p>Formal Shelter and Transitional Housing needs are being met on a tiny scale by Tiny House Villages. There is a warm, dry, locked space to restart and access resources for next steps.</p> <p>--Tiny houses are a great resource at reduced cost. The big issue is where to site them? Thanks for you comments Brad.</p> <p>Bob Kagy station host</p>	<p>2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.3</p>
<p>I really like several of these ideas which I think could have a relatively quick impact and provide a relatively quick response that supplements longer term actions as part of a balanced approach that combines faster actions with longer term actions.</p>	<p>2.1 Housing-Shelter, p.2</p>
<p>I would very much like more context for this statement. "Lacey should not try to make it easier to continue living outdoors." Does this mean there's an active desire to provide shelter to those in need instead of allowing them to continue to live outside, or just that we should not try to alleviate the suffering of others?</p>	<p>3.1 Addiction-Mental Health, p.1</p>
<p>So many issues that need to be addressed. I keep going back to providing basic needs food, water, shelter and security. Providing a array of options for the basic needs seems like the most likely strategy for success. This slide on minimum income vs. Job, brings to mind the 22 people who are working but are homeless. Providing affordable basic needs seems like a good solution, where rents are reduced to level that someone with SSDI benefits or minimum wage find it affordable.</p> <p>-- Thanks for visiting my station. Have you thought about various unintended consequences of providing basic needs rather than providing more opportunity for someone to provide their own needs?</p> <p>-- For instance, people would be sheltered? I think that positive outcome outweighs any unintended consequences I can imagine. I'm not sure I follow your point. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs shows us that thriving in society or a career or in relationships is possible only after basic survival needs are met. Shelter makes success in all those other parts of your life possible.</p>	<p>4.1 Income-Work, p.1</p>
<p>A solution I would love to see discussed and expanded on is a zoning permit for conditional shelter. The idea: A Conditional Shelter Permit.</p> <p>A permit issued by the county/city, used to allow legal occupancy of a structure that is not a house or is not up to housing code. The permit could be issued when the tenants would otherwise be rough sleeping, living in a vehicle or endangered by available shelter when the property owner gives permission. The permit would protect occupants from eviction and protect property owners from liability.</p> <p>Why Conditional Shelter Permits are needed: For many people, who do not have a home, buildings that do not yet meet code or are not houses are the best available option and preferred by those who are unsheltered.</p>	<p>Idea Wall</p>

<p>In the current model, when a building that is not code approved is occupied the occupation is deemed illegal, even when the owner of the building is willing to provide basic shelter to those in need. Eviction is the inevitable result.</p> <p>Eviction from illegally occupied dwellings leads to increased risk of negative outcomes, such as, police contact, loss of possessions, fewer and less safe ways to meet basic needs and being forced to inhabit legal or illegal homeless encampments.</p> <p>A Conditional Shelter Permit could mitigate the risk of the negative consequences of occupying a nonhouse building. A Conditional Shelter Permit can be a necessary stepping stone between living in an encampment and a code approved home.</p> <p>The Criteria for use: The property owner wishes to allow people/a person in need to use their property when other shelter is not available or safe. The property owner signs that they understand that they may terminate the agreement with 30 days warning. The building does not meet code for occupancy as a house. Any money exchanged between property owner and tenant is to cover costs and services, not to make a profit. When the tenant would otherwise be Rough Sleeping, living in a vehicle, or endangered by available shelter</p> <p>Rough sleeping Definition of rough sleeping for the purpose of permitting is when a person sleeps outdoors without the benefit of safety and a code approved shelter</p> <p>Living in a vehicle Definition of living in a vehicle for the purpose of permitting is occupying/sleeping in a-Car/truck Rv Motorhome Boat</p> <p>Endangered by available shelter Definition of Endangered by available shelter for the purpose of permitting is when available shelter would place the people/person at risk of-violence exploitation loss of personal autonomy or is medically inappropriate (including a risk of chemical dependence relapse)</p> <p>The unsheltered person signs stating that they understand this is an emergency use of a building to provide shelter and the building does not meet housing code.</p> <p>The tenant signs that they understand they may not sue the property owner for any of the risks of occupying the building</p> <p>-- Replies to the Conditional Use Permit idea below are not posting in the comment section. (To her post or to your request for comment. So I will try here.) This is a great, low cost idea that matches up people who want to help with those who need assistance to take a step forward. It helps people build trust because instead of fearing the county/city due to legal issues, the city/county supports progress within the framework. It helps people have a safe space for themselves & their things as they save money, research more options, and get connected with programs, if they choose.</p>	
<p>What is "Affordable Housing"</p> <p>When we talk about needing more affordable housing in Lacey, I am not sure we are all talking about the same thing or see the full scope of what we might be including or excluding. Our discussion has been focused on rising house prices and rental rates and how that is affecting homelessness. An "acceptable" affordable housing option is viewed differently depending on one's circumstance. In my view, I see a spectrum of at least five housing categories with completely different sets of "affordable housing" issues.</p> <p>Primarily, we want people with jobs to be able to call Lacey home and not be priced out. Wages and jobs versus housing costs and availability. That is a long-range issue, requiring legislative action and regional solutions in addition to any independent planning Lacey could act on.</p> <p>Second is "subsidized permanent housing" for people with limited incomes or disabilities, where some "rent" is usually paid. Primarily apartments, but some are houses. This is a "growing needs" group as the currently housed on limited or fixed incomes are being pressed, where growing expenses are about to force them out, possibly into some form of homelessness. Many are elderly retirees or young working families with children.</p>	Idea Wall

<p>Third is “transitional housing” for those who are coming out of prison or rehab, from a shelter or other homeless condition. Subsidized, short-term and controlled housing, usually combined with coordinated services, and where substance or mental health may not be an issue.</p> <p>Fourth is something Lacey lacks, the “traditional homeless shelters” and mitigation-site type housing. “Just off the street” housing. Organized, usually with services and rules. The new entries here are the temporary Tiny House Villages and micro-homes. Unlike the Quixote Village model, these are lower cost temporary placements that can be sized in number and moved if necessary.</p> <p>Last, there are those who will continue to choose to live nomadically, “in the rough”, in tents, cars, RVs, etc. Perceived to be a growing population in Lacey. Because of a past bad experiences, mental health or substance issues, a few will be unwilling to accept help no matter the housing option. Legally they cannot be jailed or forced to leave the streets. Whatever this “housing” condition is called, we will need to plan for addressing this population and whatever continued support funding it requires.</p> <p>Whatever planning Lacey does, in my mind, needs to address the needs of all of these populations. Either regionally or within its jurisdiction.</p>	
<p>(See also page-long proposal from Idea Wall shown in Diverse Strategies section, starting with, “Understanding there is no clear solution...”)</p>	
<p>Visibility of Unhoused Population</p>	
<p>Comments</p>	<p>Reference</p>
<p>A good reminder that for nearly every unhoused person that is seen, there is another person that goes unseen, living in their car or a temporary shelter.</p>	<p>1.1 Conditions-Causes, p.1</p>