

Yakima County Homeless Coalition

The primary purpose of the Yakima County Homeless Coalition (YHC) is to develop and review the Yakima County Homeless 5-Year Plan. The 5-Year Plan will be reviewed annually by the Board of County Commissioners. The YHC is to collaborate with community members and interested parties to make homelessness in Yakima County brief and rare.

Chair and Vice-Chair

From the Homeless Housing and Assistance Program Charter, “At its first meeting of each calendar year, the Yakima County Homeless Coalition shall choose, by majority vote, a Chair and Vice-Chair from its membership.

Duties include: facilitating bi-monthly meetings of the Yakima County Homeless Coalition, assisting in agenda development

Yakima County Homeless Coalition Priorities (as named in the [charter](#))

- 5-Year Plan to End Homelessness
- Establish Housing Project Guidelines
- Data Collection and Review
- Youth Services
- Affordable Housing
- Homeless Services for Special Needs Populations
- Emergency Shelter

Executive Committee

Provides strategic oversight and accountability of the YHC. The Coalition Executive Committee shall serve as the liaison to make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners for plan updates and project guidelines. Executive Committee members should be engaged in processes and planning regarding homelessness in Yakima County.

All Executive Committee members are required to attend and participate in a minimum of 60% of the regular Coalition meetings each calendar year. Executive Committee shall meet quarterly, or more often as determined necessary by a majority vote of Coalition members. In 2019, Executive Committee met every other month in order to complete the 5-Year Plan.

Washington Balance of State Continuum of Care

The Department of Commerce is the Collaborative Applicant for the Washington Balance of State Continuum of Care (BoS CoC). The BoS CoC's 34 small and medium-sized counties receive about \$8 million annually for 50 permanent and temporary housing projects funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development Continuum of Care Program.

Yakima County elects 2 representatives to the Balance of State Continuum of Care Board (Steering Committee). The Steering Committee meets monthly via GoToWebinar and in-person quarterly (around the state, often in Olympia, though GoToWebinar is still available).

Subpopulation Committees include: Families without Children -Chronic Homeless, Youth, Veterans, Racial Equity, and Families with Children. Each committee typically meets 8-10 times per year. Committee chairs are also voting members of the Steering Committee.

Competitive Process Scoring Committee (CPSC)

Also defined by the [charter](#), the CPSC will be comprised of 7 community members with subject matter expertise but without a conflict of interest. Members will be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners from across the county. CPSC members will receive trainings to properly evaluate the competitive funding process and will then review and score applications independently. After scoring is complete, a recommendation will be made by the CPSC to the Board of County Commissioners, who will approve or deny the recommendation.