November 2021 Mid Cycle Report

To meet the requirement of CHG funding all subcontractors much provide a 5-year plan to the Washington State Department of Commerce. Annual reporting requirements include the following:

Any local government receiving state funds for homelessness assistance or state or local homelessness document recording fees under RCW 36.22.178, 36.22.179, or 36.22.1791 must provide an annual report on the current condition of homelessness in its jurisdiction, its performance in meeting the goals in its local homeless housing plan, and any significant changes made to the plan. The annual report must be posted on the department's web site.

The length and format of the Annual Report is up to the local government, and at least, must address the following:

1. Current condition of homelessness in its jurisdiction.
2. Performance in meeting the goals in its local homeless housing plan.
3. Significant changes made to the plan.

Detailed review and performance feedback was requested by various agencies within and outside of the county's areas of influence or control. This feedback is instrumental to ensure that YCOHS will provide program support, education and funding to direct service providers that demonstrate the ability to establish efficient programs that will focus on prevention of homelessness and decrease active homelessness so that incidents are brief and rare. YCOHS had identified that the number one priority for this community is to increase all forms of housing. (Emergency, transitional and permanent supportive) to increase availability of bed placement.

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Current Condition of Homelessness in Yakima County

Category	Individuals	Households
Currently Homeless	663	553
Not Currently Homeless	39	38
Total surveyed	702	591

Individuals Not Experiencing Homelessness

Of the 702 individuals surveyed in the 2021 Point in Time, 39 were not experiencing homelessness on that day. Of the 39 not experiencing homelessness, only one was in stable housing, with the other 38 either couch surfing or in unstable housing. Couch surfing is defined as when a person is staying with family or friends on a temporary basis – this can be an indicator of individuals on the cusp of entering or re-entering homelessness. Twenty-four individuals, or 61%, of those not experiencing homelessness, had been served at some point by a homeless service provider. No additional analysis was conducted on this population group.

Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

In 2021, 663 individuals were identified in the Point in Time Count as experiencing homelessness in Yakima County. More than 1 in 3 individuals, or 39% counted, were unsheltered. The overall number of people experiencing homelessness increased by only one person since the 2020 Point in Time, but there was a significant shift from sheltered to unsheltered homelessness. The largest categorical increase was in individuals sleeping outdoors in unsanctioned encampments, which increased 75% from 2020. This shift from sheltered to unsheltered homelessness may reflect an increased level of anxiety regarding staying in congregate facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This section looks at various demographics of individuals by the following housing types.

- Unsheltered: Sleeping outdoors, vehicles, and sanctioned encampments
- Temporarily Sheltered: Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing

Individuals by Housing Type

		2020	2021	Percent 2021	Change 2021
Unsheltered	Outdoors	79	138	21%	75%
	Sanctioned Encampment	53	69	10%	30%
	RV/Boat & Vehicle	42	47	7%	12%
	Abandoned Building	6	7	1%	17%
	Total	**180**	**261**	**39%**	45%
Emergency Shelter	Single Adult Shelters	169	137	21%	-19%
	Extreme Weather Shelter/Vouchers	104	73	11%	-30%
	Family Shelters	33	27	4%	-18%
	DV Shelters	39	14	2%	-64%
	Medical Respite	6	2	0%	-67%
	Total	**351**	**253**	**38%**	-28%
Transitional Housing	Single Site	91	96	14%	5%
	Scatter Site	40	53	8%	33%
	Total	**131**	**149**	**22%**	14%
Grand Total		**662**	**663**	**100%**	0%

Percent of all Individuals:
- Unsheltered: 2020 27%, 2021 39%
- Emergency Shelter: 2020 53%, 2021 38%
- Transitional Housing: 2020 20%, 2021 22%

The following chart shows the overall count since 2007

15 Year Trend - Individuals

Year	Individuals
2007	684
2008	486
2009	446
2010	507
2011	443
2012	318
2013	563
2014	533
2015	538
2016	412
2017	616
2018	635
2019	439
2020	662
2021	663

Note: Only 38 Units of Transitional Housing were reported in 2019.

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Unsheltered

The term unsheltered includes individuals in encampments, both sanctioned and unsanctioned, as well as those sleeping in vehicles or RVs without running water.

Encampments

A little more than a quarter of those counted as unsheltered, 26% or 69 individuals, spent the night in a Sanctioned Encampment. While an Unsanctioned Encampment refers to any Encampments not permitted by law or ordinance on public and or privately owned property, a Sanctioned Encampment meets specific criteria described below. Encampments, Sanctioned or otherwise, are classified as Unsheltered at the direction of the Washington State Department of Commerce. Because of this, individuals who resided in an encampment on Point in Time night are counted as unsheltered.

Definition

The term encampment has connotations of both impermanence and continuity. People are staying in temporary structures or enclosed places that are not intended for long-term continuous occupancy on an ongoing basis. Inhabitants may be a core group of people who are known to one another and who move together to different locations when necessary, or they may be a changing group of people who cycle in and out of a single location. The physical structures that make up encampments can take many forms, including tents on pallets and shanties, or lean-to shacks built with scavenged materials. Structures may be simple or complex multiroom compounds. People experiencing homelessness in encampments may also stay in groups of cars or vans or in manmade tunnels and naturally occurring caves[1].

Sanctioned

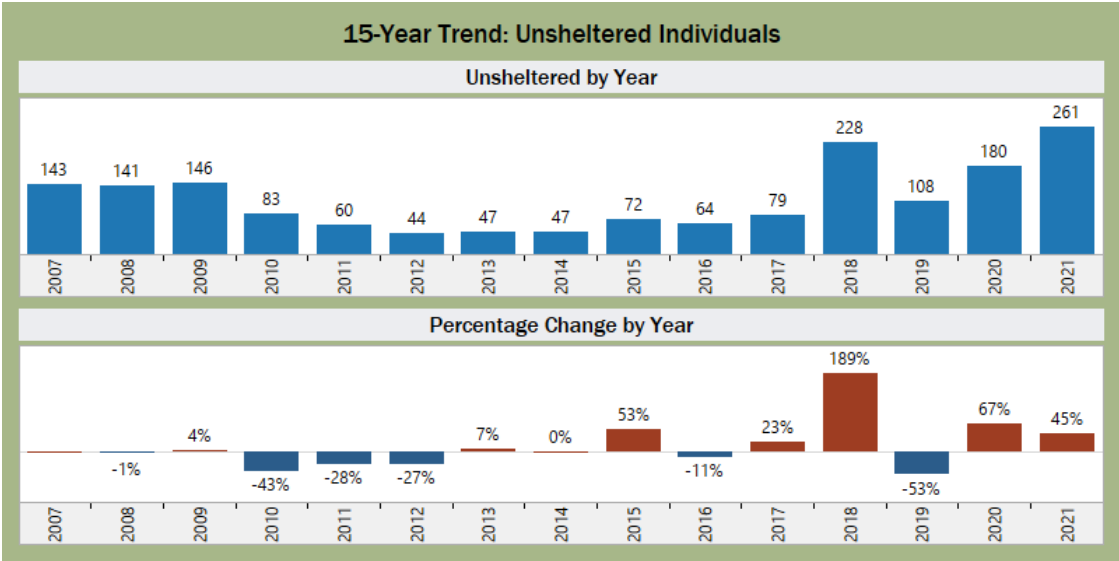The above that meets one or more of the following:

- Encampments permitted by law or ordinance on public and or privately owned property, usually only in designated locations
- May have established rules that govern the size, location, or duration of encampments
- May have a public agency or nonprofit organization manage encampments
- Infrastructure and public services—which may include laundry and potable water, common spaces for eating and meeting, lockers for storing belongings (including on a longer-term basis), meal services and food donations, job training programs, access to mail and voice mail services—provided by the municipality and private or faith-based organizations and volunteers
- May provide case management, including assistance applying for transitional or permanent housing and other benefits, appealing denials, and managing funds

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[1] Source: HUD Publication: Understanding Encampments

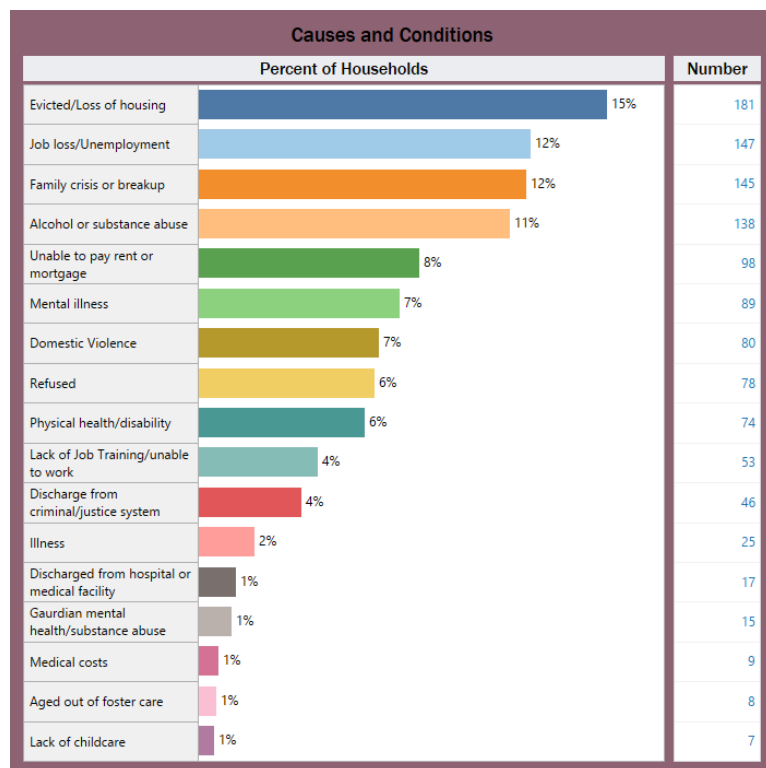Local 5 Year Homeless Housing Plan Annual Update 2021

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Unsanctioned

Encampments not permitted by law or ordinance on public and or privately owned property.

In 2021, there was a 45% increase in the number of individuals who were unsheltered from 2020.

Causes and Conditions

Individuals surveyed were asked about what contributed most to their homelessness. They were able to select more than one options; the following list is not weighted but rather shows the number of individuals who listed that condition as a contributing factor. When asked about causes and conditions, 94%%, or 475 households, responded with 78 households refusing.

Causes and Conditions		
Percent of Households		**Number**
Evicted/Loss of housing	15%	181
Job loss/Unemployment	12%	147
Family crisis or breakup	12%	145
Alcohol or substance abuse	11%	138
Unable to pay rent or mortgage	8%	98
Mental illness	7%	89
Domestic Violence	7%	80
Refused	6%	78
Physical health/disability	6%	74
Lack of Job Training/unable to work	4%	53
Discharge from criminal/justice system	4%	46
Illness	2%	25
Discharged from hospital or medical facility	1%	17
Gaurdian mental health/substance abuse	1%	15
Medical costs	1%	9
Aged out of foster care	1%	8
Lack of childcare	1%	7

Five-Year Plan Updates

The tables below share the feedback that was received from the various internal and external stakeholders in our current local five-year plan. Contributors included the YHC Executive Committee, Joint Data Committee Yakima Homeless Network/Yakima County Homeless Coalition and City of Yakima.

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Goal 1: Quickly identify and engage people experiencing homelessness through outreach and coordination between every system that encounters people experiencing homelessness.

Objective	Measured by	Status	Barriers/Evidence	Draft Recommendations
1.1 Design, implement, maintain, and utilize an efficient and compliant Coordinated Entry (CE) System	**Undefined**	**Complete[2]**	**It has been challenging to get all providers to attend CE meetings and for PSH providers to utilize the Matching Agent**	• *Design and Implement should be a different Objective from Maintain and Utilize*
1.2 Improve outreach to identify individuals experiencing homelessness and encourage participation in services through CE or BNL	**Undefined**	**Ongoing[3]**	**Not all outreach workers are Access Points – need a clear pathway to Access Points and CE Enrollment**	• *Add a measurement of number of enrollments in CE to identify if outreach has improved*
1.3 Implement prioritization policy in CE to prioritize housing for people with the greatest need, synchronize CE prioritization tool with ACI BNL	**Undefined**	**Complete[4]**	**Prioritization policy has been adopted and aligned with ACI BNL, but VI-SPDAT is due to be replaced**	• *Consider setting this activity as complete and adding the assessment tool to Goal 5* • *Include a measurement of adopting a new assessment tool that encourages inclusion and diversity.*

[2] Was identified as complete in the 2019 Update

[3] There is an overarching recommendation that ongoing activities be pulled out of the plan and displayed separately.

[4] Only complete as a new objective is created under Goal 5

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Objective	Measured by	Status	Barriers/Evidence	Draft Recommendations

1.4a Design, implement, maintain, and utilize an efficient and compliant By Name List (BNL) for YYA experiencing homelessness	**The existence of a BNL for YYA**	**Complete[5]**	**None**	• *Design and Implement should be a different Objective from Maintain and Utilize*
				  o *The design and implement are complete*
				  o *Maintain and utilize is ongoing*
				• *Recommend making this activity and the next one parallel in numbering*

1.4b Design, implement, maintain, and utilize an efficient and compliant BNL for veterans experiencing homelessness	**The existence of a BNL for Veterans**	**Not Met**	**Need HMIS access for the Veterans Administration**	• *Recommend making this activity and the previous one parallel in numbering*
				• *Design and Implement should be a different Objective from Maintain and Utilize*
				  o *The design and implement have not been started*
				  o *Maintain and utilize has not been started*

Goal 2: Operate an effective and efficient homeless crisis response system that moves people into stable permanent housing as swiftly as possible.

Objective[6]	Measured by	Status	Barriers/Evidence	Draft Recommendations
2.1 Increase exits to permanent housing from	**Exits to Perm Housing via the CHG**	**Not met**	**2021 rate is 11%** **2020 rate is 19%** **2019 rate 10%**	• *Define the specific progress that needs to be made annually (Acceptable Progress: 5% Increase*

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[5] Only set to complete if maintain and utilize is placed in a separate section
[6] Dates in objectives need to be addressed and made consistent.

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Objective[6]	Measured by	Status	Barriers/Evidence	Draft Recommendations
Emergency Shelter (ES) to 26% by June 30, 2020 .	Performance Tracker			*in Exits to Permanent Housing annually)* • *Suggested rewording "Increase exits to Permanent Housing from ES by 5% from the previous year until 50% rate is met"* • *Leave as stated until new commence goals are provided. Additional Discussion needed for assigning an internal % goal.*
2.2 Increase exits to permanent housing from Rapid-Rehousing (RRH) programs to 80% by June 30, 2020	Exits to Perm Housing via the CHG Performance Tracker	Not Met	2021 rate is 63% down from 2020 rate is 65% up from 2019 rate of 61%	• *Define the specific progress that needs to be made annually (Acceptable Progress: 5% Increase in exits to permanent housing from Rapid-Rehousing annually)* • *Suggested rewording "Increase exits to Permanent Housing from RRH by 5% from the previous year until 80% rate is met"* • *Leave as stated until new commence goals are provided. Additional Discussion needed for assigning an internal % goal.*
2.3 Increase retention of permanent housing from Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) programs to 92% by June 30, 2020	Retention Rate via the CHG Performance Tracker	Complete	2021 rate is 98% up from 2020 Rate is 97% same as 2019 rate of 97%	• *Need to address how to track non-HMIS beds* • *Leave as stated until new commence goals are provided. Additional Discussion needed for assigning an internal % goal.*
2.4 Increase percent unsheltered served by homeless response system to 49% by June 30, 2020	System Prioritization via the CHG Performance Tracker	Complete	2021 rate is 57% down from 2020 rate is 59% up from 2019 rate of 53%	• *Recommend another 5% increase as State goal is not met* • *Leave as stated until new commence goals are provided.*

Objective[6]	Measured by	Status	Barriers/Evidence	Draft Recommendations
				Additional Discussion needed for assigning an internal % goal.
2.5 Reduce returns to homelessness after exit to permanent housing to less than 10% by 2025	**Returns to homelessness via the County Report Cards**	**Not Met**	**2019 Rate is 17% up from 2018 rate is 13%**	• *Suggested rewording "Decrease returns to homelessness by 5% from the previous year until 10% rate is met"* • *Objective has a delivery date outside of the scope of the plan which ends in 2024* • *Leave as stated until new commence goals are provided. Additional Discussion needed for assigning an internal % goal.*
2.6 Reduce average length of time homeless of those served to less than 90 days by 2025	**Average Length of time via the County Report Cards**	**Not Met**	**2019 rate was 104 Days up from 2018 rate was 84 days[7]**	• *Need a deeper dive to identify why this rate is going up – initially it appears there needs to be a stronger emphasis on Prevention and RRH in upcoming biennium* • *Objective has a delivery date outside of the scope of the plan which ends in 2024*
2.7 Increase percentage of exits from street outreach to positive outcome destinations as defined by HUD System Performance Measures to >76% by 2025	**Positive Exits**	**Unknown**	**Unsure where to find measurement**	• *Recommend removing this objective as there is no current system to measure* • *Leave as stated until new commence goals are provided. Additional Discussion needed for assigning an internal % goal.*

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[7] Overall – there needs to be a response to some of these measures that are going in the opposite direction

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Objective[6]	Measured by	Status	Barriers/Evidence	Draft Recommendations
2.8 Increase system-wide percentage of exits to permanent housing to >59% by 2025	**Exits to Perm Housing**	**Not Met**	**2019 rate was 30% down from 2018 rate was 33%**	• *Need a deeper dive to identify why this rate is going up – initially it appears there needs to be a stronger emphasis on Prevention and RRH in upcoming biennium* • *Objective has a delivery date outside of the scope of the plan which ends in 2024* • *Leave as stated until new commence goals are provided. Additional Discussion needed for assigning an internal % goal.*
2.9 Continue to provide the services, infrastructure, and resources that make up the homeless response system, as described in Appendix I	**Undefined**	**Unknown**	**Vague**	• *Recommend this be removed from the list of objectives* • *Leave as stated until new commence goals are provided. Additional Discussion needed for assigning an internal % goal.*
2.10 Begin the transition of the Yakima County Correctional Center to the Yakima Community Care Campus, as described in Appendix III	**Undefined**	**Ongoing**	**COVID response, zoning issues, leadership turnover**	• *This is such a large project; it should have its own goal and activities with a timeline. There are no other activities other than start the project* • *Leave as stated until new commence goals are provided. Additional Discussion needed for assigning an internal % goal.*
2.11 Provide an additional update to the plan in 2021 to refresh and refocus the plan for the final three years of 2022 through 2024 based on a thorough assessment of unmet needs & gaps.	**Update to the plan**	**On going**	**Capacity**	• *Recommend changing the activity to an annual evaluation rather than one for three years.* • *Recommend the Homeless SIM be utilized for the assessment of gaps*

Objective[6]	Measured by	Status	Barriers/Evidence	Draft Recommendations
				• *Leave as stated until new commence goals are provided. Additional Discussion needed for assigning an internal % goal.*

Goal 3: Support the development of adequate affordable housing and permanent supportive housing[8].

Proposed Reframe of Goal #3: Increase the availability and accessibility of affordable and permanent supportive housing.

Objective	Measured by	Status	Barriers/Evidence	Draft Recommendations
3.1 Support potential capital projects for building evidence based PSH	**Number of PSH project in current contracts**	**Ongoing**	**No current contracts for the provision of new PSH related capital projects.**	• This should be included in the next funding round as a priority or removed from this goal • Identified as ongoing
3.2 Explore partnerships with landlords to increase and support participation in the homeless crisis response system	**Number of landlords who are members of YCHC**	**Ongoing**	**Vague**	• Not measurable unless the number of landlords is quantified. Currently landlord outreach is done by providers and not staff. • Objective is not connected to the goal • Current objective is not measurable • Identified as ongoing
3.3 Support affordable housing strategies to increase density	Undefined	**Ongoing**	Vague	• This objective needs to be measurable • Identified as ongoing

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[8] Human Services now manages HOME dollars – the outcomes for those funds need to be included in this plan

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Objective	Measured by	Status	Barriers/Evidence	Draft Recommendations
3.4 Research best practices surrounding the provision of affordable housing for Yakima County	Undefined	**Ongoing**	Vague	• This objective needs to be measurable • Identified as ongoing • Goal REFRAME: Advocate and support transitional housing efforts to increase housing inventory

Goal 4: Track and publish data regarding homelessness in Yakima County.

Proposed Reframe of Goal #4: Develop community awareness, education and fiscal transparency related to homelessness within Yakima County.

Activity	Measured by	Status	Barriers/Evidence	Draft Recommendations
4.1 Project the impact of the fully implemented local plan on the number of households housed and the number of households left unsheltered	Utilize Model EZv7 from Commerce	**Ongoing**		•
4.2 Continue to use and promote the shared enterprise of County-wide HMIS database by actively recruiting non-funded partners	Number of unfunded HMIS users	**Not Met**	Currently no non-funded partners utilizing HMIS	• *Need to work with Commerce who is reluctant to add new users that are not fully funded* • *Identified as ongoing* • *Since this a requirement per RCW of the funds, this objective should be removed*
4.3 Support accurate and consistent Point in Time data collection efforts	Revitalize Project Homeless Connect	**Not Met**	While data quality has improved, revitalization of PHC has been blocked by COVID	• *This objective needs to be measurable*

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Activity	Measured by	Status	Barriers/Evidence	Draft Recommendations
4.4 Increase accessibility and transparency of data	County Web site	**Ongoing**		• *This objective needs to be measurable* • *Identified as ongoing*
4.5 Monitor and track program performance in the homeless crisis response system to ensure performance targets are being met and make results known to all stakeholders	HMIS/clarity and Looker, ongoing staff engagement both at County and provider level	**Ongoing**	Data dashboards shared on the Department of Human Services Web site	• *This objective needs to be measurable* • *Need to schedule report outs to the community* • *Identified as ongoing*
4.6 Track available housing through the Housing Inventory Chart (HIC)	HIC	**Ongoing**	Done annually prior to PIT	• *While not identified as ongoing, this is a requirement of state funds and should be removed as an objective.*

Goal 5: Address disparities among people experiencing homelessness and create resources to meet the needs of priority populations.

Activity	Measured by	Status	Barriers/Evidence	Draft Recommendations
5.1 Assess and analyze racial disparities using a racial equity tool and data provided by Commerce, and seek additional data sources for assessing other disparities	Washington Equity Analysis Tool, HMIS, provider participation in HMIS	**Unknown**	Not familiar with the racial equity tool provided by commerce	• *Need a delivery date identified* • *This should be conducted by staff prior to annual review*
5.2 Engage with agencies including, but not limited to, School Homeless Liaisons, Rod's House, Henry Beauchamp Community Center, YNHS	Relationships with Youth and Young Adult (YYA) groups	**Ongoing**	Not sure how this objective is measured.	• *This objective needs to be measurable* • *Identified as ongoing*

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Activity	Measured by	Status	Barriers/Evidence	Draft Recommendations
LGBTQ Youth Resource Center (The Space), and Catholic Families Youth to identify youth and determine their specific needs				
5.3 Create a safe overnight facility for Youth and Young Adults (YYA) experiencing homelessness	Capital funds, program capacity (Rod's House)	**Not Met**	Original deadline is 2018	• *Unclear if this objective is to provide funding or to build the shelter.*
5.4 Create partnerships to advocate for youth homelessness issues and educate providers on legislatively acceptable strategies for addressing the needs of youth	Youth advocates, stipends for youth, training opportunities	**Ongoing**	Not aware of any current training activities to educate providers	• *This objective needs to be measurable* • *Identified as ongoing* • *Currently stipends are provided by AWHWA*
5.5 Increase opportunities for LGBTQ+ youth experiencing homelessness to access support, resources, housing, and family reunification when possible	Not identified	**Ongoing**	Unclear how this is being measured	• *This objective needs to be measurable* • *Identified as ongoing*

Significant Changes Made to the Plan

Goal 1

Quickly identify and engage people experiencing homelessness through outreach and coordination between every system that encounters people experiencing homelessness.

Objective	Measured by	Status	Significant Changes
1.1 Maintain and utilize an efficient and compliant Coordinated Entry (CE) System	Agency attendance to Coordinated Entry (CE)Meetings and Subcontractor performance and monitoring	**Ongoing**	**Development of an objective 1.5 that address the BNL system(s) across Yakima County.**
1.3 Implement prioritization policy in CE to prioritize housing for people with the greatest need.	Assign the Data Committee to adopt a new assessment tool that encourages inclusion and diversity.	**Not started**	**Prioritization policy has been adopted and aligned with ACI BNL, but VI-SPDAT is due to be replaced. Because Yakima County is a Balance of State CoC member, we are awaiting the finalization of BoS CE guideline updates before implementing anything new at the local level.**
1.4 Design and implement efficient and compliant BNL for veterans experiencing homelessness	HMIS access for the Veterans Administration	Ongoing	**Development of an objective 1.5 that address the BNL system(s) across Yakima County.**

Goal 2 – Refrain from significant changes until commerce guidance is published regrading data collection and performance measures.

Goal 3

Proposed Reframe of Goal #3: Increase the availability and accessibility of affordable and permanent supportive housing.

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Objective	Measured by	Status	Significant Changes
3.1 Create workgroups to evaluate and identify acceptable strategies to address specified gaps in services and propose solutions. (12/21 – 12/22)	1. YHC Committee output 2. Educational offerings 3. Various workgroup output	**Ongoing**	**Develop sustainability plans to increase permanent supportive housing.**
3.3 Increase retention of Permanent Supportive 3.4 Housing (PSH) programs annual by 5% until 80% rate is met	Retention Rate via the <u>CHG Performance Tracker</u>		**Advocate and support transitional housing efforts to increase housing inventory**

Goal 4

Track and publish programmatic and fiscal data regarding homelessness in Yakima County. Proposed Reframe for Goal #4

Develop community awareness, education and fiscal transparency related to homelessness within Yakima County.

Activity	Measured by	Status	Significant Changes
4.1 Provide at minimum three annual educational trainings (pre, mid and post event) to agencies for accurate and consistent Point in Time data collection efforts.	Completion of trainings and tasks	**Ongoing**	**Increase the number or annual trainings provided to subcontractors and partners related to PIT and data collection.**
4.2 Increase annual reporting of data to the community to quarterly. - Summary of project outcomes by project type (outreach, rental assistance, Etc.) - Expenditures by project type (Outreach, Rental Assistance, etc.) % Spent by contract	Completion of tasks	**Not Started**	**Regular and accurate reporting by subcontractors**

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