

# Yakima County Department of Human Services Annual Report

## Current Condition of Homelessness in Yakima County:

The following table shows the number of households and individuals counted during PIT 2024:

| Category               | Individuals<br>Surveyed | Households<br>Surveyed |
|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Currently Homeless     | 532                     | 453                    |
| Not Currently Homeless | 24                      | 23                     |
| <b>TOTAL</b>           | <b>556</b>              | <b>476</b>             |

### Not Currently Homeless

Of the 476 Households surveyed, 23 were not experiencing homelessness on that day. The largest portion, 14 Households, were couch surfing on the nights of the count. 14 of the households not experiencing homelessness, or 60.9%, had been served at some point by a homeless service provider. No additional analysis was conducted on this population group.

## Year 5 of 5 current five-year plan

The tables below share the feedback that was received from the various internal and external stakeholders in our current local five-year plan at the end of 2021 and includes 2021 – 2024 data points and recommendations from public committees and Yakima County HSD Staff.

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  | Recommendations   |
|--|---|-----------------------|--|---|
| 1.1 Design, implement, an efficient and compliant Coordinated Entry (CE) System    | CE Policy & Procedure Subgroup – Complete CE Policy Team update local guidelines approval anticipated | Complete <sup>1</sup> | Evidence: updating/alignment in BoS guidelines with local plans.<br>Local restructure to increase and measure system effectiveness | <i>2023: Continue with Coordinated Entry work and ensuring that updated policies and procedures are being followed by the subcontractors. Provide TA as needed.</i><br><i>2024 – Continue CE work and wait guidance from Commerce/HUD in future policy/procedure updates.</i> |
| 1.2 Maintain, and utilize an efficient and compliant Coordinated Entry (CE) System |   | Ongoing               | Increase in youth and young adult housing placements month over month through ACI  | 2024- Weekly BNL case conferencing to start for YYA January 2025  |

<sup>1</sup> Was identified as complete in the 2019 Update  
Local 5 Year Homeless Housing Plan Annual Update 2024

| Objective  | Measured by  | Status               | Barriers/Evidence  | Recommendations   |
|--|--|----------------------|--|---|
|  |  |                      | Abrupt dissolving of Away Home Washington resulted in depended TA/County staff have now absorbed most of the TA for local YYA providers.   |   |
| 1.2 Improve outreach to identify individuals experiencing homelessness and encourage participation in services through CE or BNL                   | Undefined  | Ongoing <sup>2</sup> | Improvements in community coordination efforts –<br>Inclusion of public service and businesses feedback/needs to outreach teams<br>Starting street outreach meetings during PIT and continue after | 2024 – continue to work with outreach teams and increase response efficiencies                  |
| 1.3 Implement prioritization policy in CE to prioritize housing for people with the greatest need, synchronize CE prioritization tool with ACI BNL | CE Policy & Procedure Subgroup (current work)<br><br>CE Policy Team local guidelines approval (tentative approval January 1, 2023) | Complete             | County wide access point prioritization tool starting 1/2023   | 2024 – Continue CE work and wait guidance from Commerce/HUD in future policy/procedure updates. |
| 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   | Ongoing              |  | 2024- Weekly BNL case conferencing to start for YYA January 2025                                |

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

| Objective <sup>3</sup>  | Measured by   | Status  | Barriers/Evidence   |
|---|---|---------|---|
| 2.1 Increase exits to permanent housing from Emergency Shelter (ES) Increase exits to Permanent Housing from ES by 5% from the previous year until 50% rate is met “to 26% by June 30, 2020 | Exits to Perm Housing via the <a href="#">CHG Performance Tracker</a><br>Commerce stopped supporting the update to the CHG Performance tracker in 2023, Updated/Measurements are now From the <a href="#">Housing Outcomes</a> and may not have the same alignment to the original objective. | Not met | 2024 rate is 5%<br>2023 rate is 9%<br>2022 rate is 13%<br>2021 rate is 11%<br>2020 rate is 19%<br>2019 rate 10% |

<sup>2</sup> There is an overarching recommendation that ongoing activities be pulled out of the plan and displayed separately.

<sup>3</sup> Dates in objectives need to be addressed and made consistent.

| Objective <sup>3</sup>   | Measured by   | Status     | Barriers/Evidence   |
|--|---|------------|---|
| 2.2 Increase exits to permanent housing from Rapid-Rehousing (RRH) <i>by 5% from the previous year until 80% rate is met</i> | Exits to Perm Housing via the <a href="#">CHG Performance Tracker</a><br>Commerce stopped supporting the update to the CHG Performance tracker in 2023, Updated/Measurements are now From the <a href="#">Housing Outcomes</a> and may not have the same alignment to the original objective. | Not Met    | 2024 rate is 58 %<br>2023 rate is 43%<br>2022 rate is 19%<br>2021 rate is 63%<br>2020 rate is 65%<br>2019 rate of 61%                         |
| 2.3 Increase retention of permanent housing from Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) programs to 92% by June 30, 2020         | Retention Rate via the <a href="#">CHG Performance Tracker</a><br>Commerce stopped supporting the update to the CHG Performance tracker in 2023, Updated/Measurements are now From the <a href="#">Housing Outcomes</a> and may not have the same alignment to the original objective.        | Complete   | 2024 rate is 92%<br>2023 rate is 82%<br>2022 rate is 84%<br>2021 rate is 98%<br>2020 Rate is 97%<br>2019 rate of 97%                          |
| 2.4 Increase percent unsheltered served by homeless response system to 49% by June 30, 2020                                  | System Prioritization via the <a href="#">CHG Performance Tracker</a><br>Commerce stopped supporting the update to the CHG Performance tracker in 2023, Updated/Measurements are now From the <a href="#">Housing Outcomes</a> and may not have the same alignment to the original objective  | Complete – | 2024 – Not available<br>2023 rate is 68%<br>2022 rate is 58%<br>2021 rate is 57%<br>2020 rate is 59%<br>2019 rate of 53%                      |
| 2.5 Reduce returns to homelessness after exit to permanent housing <i>by 5% from the previous year until 10% rate is met</i> | Returns to homelessness via the <a href="#">County Report Cards</a> Commerce stopped updating this report card in 2023.   | Not Met    | 2024 Rate unavailable<br>2023 rate unavailable<br>2022 rate is 20%<br>2019 rate is 17%<br>2018 rate is 13%                                    |
| 2.6 Reduce average length of time homeless of those served to less than 90 days by 2025                                      | Average Length of time via the <a href="#">County Report Cards</a><br><br><a href="#">Commerce stopped updating this report card in 2023.</a>   | Not Met    | 2024 rate is unavailable<br>2023 rate is unavailable<br>2022 rate is 104 days<br>2019 rate was 104 days<br>2018 rate was 84 days <sup>4</sup> |

| Objective <sup>3</sup>   | Measured by           | Status  | Barriers/Evidence   |
|--|-----------------------|---------|---|
| 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 | Determine the need for this in the next 5 year plan.  |
| 2.8 Increase system-wide percentage of exits to permanent housing to >59% by 2025  | Exits to Perm Housing | Not Met | 2024 rate is still unavailable<br>2023 rate was unavailable<br>2022 rate was: ES 12%, TH 43%, RRH 47%<br>2019 rate was 30%<br>2018 rate was 33% |

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

| Objective  | Measured by                                 | Status  | Barriers/Evidence  | Recommendations  |
|--|---|---------|--|--|
| 3.1 Support potential capital projects for building evidence based PSH   | Number of PSH project in current contracts  | Ongoing |  | Recommendation to address this during the next five-year plan.                 |
| 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 | Initial community building conference has positive outcomes but, totals were not captured. | Continue with relationship building between landlords and community providers. |
| 3.3 Support affordable housing strategies to increase density  | Undefined                                   | Ongoing |  | Recommendation to address this during the next five-year plan.                 |
| 3.4 Advocate and support transitional housing efforts to increase housing inventory                                  | Undefined                                   | Ongoing |  | Recommendation to address this during the next five-year plan.                 |

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 | 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 |                   | Recommendation to address this during the next five-year plan. |

| Activity  | Measured by   | Status           | Barriers/Evidence  | Recommendations  |
|---|---|------------------|--|--|
| 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   | Ongoing          | Increasing access has barriers with BoS status. However, county was able to fund another large shelter this year.                      | Recommendation to address this during the next five-year plan.   |
| 4.3 Support accurate and consistent Point in Time data collection efforts   |   | Complete         | Capacity for the project still remains an issue related to county size and the need for consistent methodology for the outreach count. | 2025 PIT Research Project with University of Washington to develop consistent methodology for shelter and outreach counts focused on the needs of rural communities. |
| 4.4 Increase accessibility and transparency of data   | County Web site   | Complete         |  |  |
| 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 | Complete/Ongoing |  |  |
| 4.6 Track available housing through the Housing Inventory Chart (HIC)   | HIC   | Complete/Ongoing |  |  |

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

| Activity  | Measured by   | Status  | Barriers/Evidence | 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 | Ongoing |                   |                 |
| 5.2 Engage with agencies including, but not limited to, School Homeless Liaisons, Rod's House, Henry Beauchamp Community Center, YNHS LGBTQ Youth Resource Center (The Space), and Catholic Families Youth to identify youth and determine their specific needs | Relationships with Youth and Young Adult (YYA) groups                 | Ongoing |                   |                 |

| Activity   | Measured by   | Status  | Barriers/Evidence | Recommendations        |
|--|---|---------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 5.3 Create a safe overnight facility for Youth and Young Adults (YYA) experiencing homelessness  | Capital funds, program capacity (Rod's House)               | MET     |                   | Shelter opened 11/2024 |
| 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 |                   |                        |
| 5.5 Increase opportunities for LGBTQ+ youth experiencing homelessness to access support, resources, housing, and family reunification when possible              |   | Ongoing |                   |                        |

## Significant Changes Made to the Plan

This year, Yakima County Human Services maintained the integrity of its existing plan without significant alterations.