



Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://pchomeless.org/> - info@pchomeless.org

1. Who We Are

Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness - all volunteer network, no actual organizational structure, weekly two hour Friday meetings of 50-90 via Zoom directed to front-line workers include policy and advocacy, an “open table.” Pierce County - 900K+

2. What We Did - Saved Lives During “Mass casualty heat event”

- **Got water - 38 pallets of water - all of it free**
- **Organized - 24/7 water staging and distribution site**
- **Reached out - Port of Tacoma, WA State Parks, Metro Parks, City of Tacoma, Pierce County, listserv of 700+ for an estimated 1350 people living in known encampments**
- **Invited and Coordinated - volunteers, activists, government funded homeless outreach workers to pick up and distribute the water to approximately 60 known encampments- from 100+ people in the 705 camp to volunteers who drove around their neighborhoods checking on car campers to the Wauna Curve to the RVs under the 11th street bridge**
- **Created and staffed - communications hub**



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3. What We Learned About Local Governments' Response

- **Departments of Emergency Management have control of response and resources**
- **Four Local Jurisdictions have Departments of Emergency Management**
- **No Declaration of Emergency**
- **No Known Emergency Plan including People Living Unsheltered and**
- **No “Sub-declaration” - life or death if you are living unsheltered**
- **No Known List of Active Encampments**
- **No Recognition that people living unsheltered could not go TO a cooling center**
- **No Requirement that funded providers have an emergency response**

4. What We Plan to Do Next

Requested formal After Action Report - TPC Health Department and/or Pierce County

Incorporation of Response to People Living Unsheltered in all Emergency and “sub-emergency” plans. Include bringing cooling centers TO encampments

Adapt WA State Declaration for People Working Outside to include people living unsheltered.

Develop a Coalition Emergency Plan