



Homeless Program Update

City of Tacoma | Neighborhood and Community

Services

Council Study Session

November 30, 2021





Overview



- Rental Assistance Program Performance
- Council Ordinance – Camping and Use of Public Property
- Services to Address Garbage and Debris
- Shelter Availability in Tacoma
- Tacoma Five-Year Homeless Strategy



Tacoma Rental Assistance Program

- 683 Households served with rental assistance
 - 62% of households headed by a person of color
- 1,450 households served with utility assistance
- \$6,370,508 in funds distributed
- <https://www.piercecountywa.gov/7142/Rental-Assistance>.

Council Ordinance – Camping and Use of Public Property



- Council request to explore options to address unlawful camping (Ordinance 28756 – Use of Public Property))
- 10/28/21 Community Vitality and Safety Committee
- 12/6/21 Virtual Community Meeting
- 12/9/21 Community Vitality and Safety Committee
- 12/14/21 Study Session

Addressing Garbage and Debris



- Two contractors addressing litter and debris removal from encampments
- Over 315 tons of trash removed to date
- Each Council District receives service at least 1x/week
- ARPA investment of \$300,000
- HIRE program
- ARPA investment of \$240,000 to extend through 2022

Tacoma's Neighborhood Cleanup Programs

The City of Tacoma offers a variety of programs and services to keep our homes, neighborhoods and environment clean and healthy.

Adopt-a-Spot & Neighborhood Litter Patrol (253) 591-5000 cityoftacoma.org/litter	Help reduce litter and keep our public spaces clean by volunteering with the Adopt-a-Spot or Neighborhood Litter Patrol programs. Volunteers receive free safety and litter pickup supplies.
Call-2-Haul (253) 502-2100, Option 3 cityofacoma.org/call2haul	Schedule a pickup of large bulky items. Up to 3 large items and 15 boxes or bags of small items of garbage can be collected with Call-2-Haul. Visit the website for a list of acceptable items.
Encampment Debris Removal (253) 591-5000 or 3-1-1 cityofacoma.org/TacomaFR14311	Report an encampment location that may benefit from debris or litter removal. The City contracts with several companies to remove debris and litter from active and abandoned encampments in public rights-of-way. Most cleanup locations are identified by the Homeless Outreach Team and many locations are cleaned on a regular basis.
Green Events Program cityofacoma.org/greenevents sustainability@cityofacoma.org	Make your next event a green event. The Green Events Program recognizes events that have a sustainable impact, like encouraging sustainable transportation, donating food, and using recycled materials. Not-for-profit events may be eligible for Environmental Services Event Support, which may include free or discounted in-hand services such as garbage and recycling services, food waste bins, and/or portable toilets.
HIRE (Helping Individuals Experiencing Homelessness) (253) 301-2134 valueofaction.org	HIRE is a low-barrier work program that offers no-cost beautification and litter abatement services to businesses. Tacoma businesses interested in using this service and those seeking employment through the program can contact Valero Vacation at (253) 301-2134.
Neighborhood Dog Waste Station (253) 591-5000 or 3-1-1 cityofacoma.org/petwastestation	Sponsor a dog waste station and receive free bags and fun signage to remind dog walkers in your neighborhood to scoop it, bag it, and throw it in the trash. Apply online!

cityofacoma.org/cleanup | 253-591-5000



Shelter Status

SHELTER TYPE	SHELTER	NUMBER OF BEDS/UNITS
Temporary	Bethlehem Baptist Church	40
Temporary	Althiemer Memorial Church	32
Temporary	Shiloh Baptist Church	40
Emergency	Stability Site	100/58
Emergency	Tacoma Emergency Micro-Shelter Site #3 (TEMS)	60/40
Emergency	Tacoma Emergency Micro-Shelter Site #4 (TEMS)	85/66
Permanent	Nativity House	167
Permanent	The Rescue Mission Adams Street Family Shelter	100
Permanent	The Rescue Mission Adults Shelters	179
Permanent	The Salvation Army	76
Permanent	Beacon Young Adult Shelter	40
Permanent	Youth Crisis Residential Center	12
Permanent	YWCA Domestic Violence Shelter	56
Permanent	Korean Women's Association Domestic Violence Shelter	18
Total		1,005



Increasing Shelter

82nd and Pacific

- Contract negotiations underway
- Site capacity = **25 beds**
- Site operational early December

Comfort Inn

- Site capacity = **120 beds**
- Property sale closed 10/29/21
- Virtual community meeting 11/22/21
- Site operational by the end of 2021

RISE Center

- Contract negotiations underway
- Site capacity = **35 beds**
- Site operational late November

Total new beds by end of 2021 = 180

Work continues to locate additional sites



Homeless Strategy



Draft Development is Progressing

- Outreach and Engagement
- Alignment with AHAS and Resolution 40622
- Vision, Mission and Goals



Homeless Strategy



Vision: Sustain an equitable, dignified, and culturally responsive homeless and housing response system that quickly and effectively addresses everyone’s homeless crisis while supporting the needs of local residents and businesses.

Mission: Collaborate with citywide initiatives and strategies, and regional partners and stakeholders to support long term permanent housing and provide supportive services to people experiencing homelessness in Tacoma. We provide real solutions to creating a thriving community by immediately responding to the needs of encampments for residents, the surrounding neighborhoods and local businesses and by providing immediate access to emergency shelter, health and wellness services and permanent, safe and stable housing to everyone experiencing homelessness in this city.



Homeless Strategy



Values:

- Lead with anti-racism
- Center lived expertise
- Focus on trauma-informed care
- Make decisions using data
- Build capacity and collaborate with partners



Homeless Strategy

Goals:

- 1) Ensure affordable housing is available and accessible to Tacoma residents.
- 2) Everyone experiencing homelessness in Tacoma, or impacted by homelessness, can access services and support.
- 3) The shelter system in Tacoma offers all people a safe and dignified experience that is easy to access.
- 4) Tacoma's homeless service system provides individuals and families with access to a continuum of tailored supports to prevent and end homelessness.
- 5) Tacoma's homeless service system provides Individuals and families with access to permanent, stable housing in order to end the cycle of homelessness.



Aligning Resources with Priorities

- Homeless Strategy, Systems, and Services Manager
- Homeless Engagement and Alternatives Liaison Manager
- Homeless Outreach Team Staff
- Homeless Systems Analyst
- Contract and Program Auditor



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