

Homelessness is up 23% from 2023



The Facts:

- **Extreme heat and cold weather events are increasing:** We need to help stabilize people who are in crisis now. The 2024 Point in Time Count demonstrates there are **2,661 people** homeless in Pierce County while only **1,726 shelter beds** are available.
- **Without MORE temporary shelter, people will die in the elements:** During an **18-month period** between 2022 - 2023, **158 homeless Pierce County residents died**. Temporary shelters save lives.
- **Both temporary housing AND permanently affordable housing are needed and we MUST do both:** Thanks to the passage of the 2023 Maureen Howard Affordable Housing Act, we now have ~\$20M/year for affordable housing. **While more units are built, we need temporary, crisis solutions.**
- **County Republicans are stoking fears of “tent cities:”** Sanctioned Temporary Housing Communities will be clean, orderly, and regulated and will include access to supportive services necessary to transition homeless folks to permanent housing. They will also require a County permit for construction. **These are NOT tent cities.**
- **This should be a bipartisan issue:** This Council made homelessness reduction a priority. It’s reflected in our 2024-2025 budget, which was unanimously approved by this Council, and signed by the Executive.
- **Managed Tiny Home Communities (THCs) reduce unsanctioned encampments:** We can move people from unsheltered living into temporary housing with supportive services to something more permanent quickly and more efficiently.

Managed Tiny Home Communities (THCs) are the Solution



This IS a THC



This is NOT a THC

BRUCE DAMMEIER SAYS PIERCE COUNTY ALREADY HAS ENOUGH SHELTER CAPACITY.

“...the county already has enough temporary housing and needs more permanent, supportive housing instead.”

-Bruce Dammeier, County Executive
TNT interview - 7.17.24

Is this true?



Bruce Dammeier, County Executive

- Based on estimates from his own Human Services Department and the 2024 Point in Time Count, **the County is currently short almost 1,000 shelter units** to meet the needs of those in crisis.
- **Here is the math: 2,661** individuals counted during the 2024 Point in Time Count - **1,726** current County shelter units = **935 people left vulnerable.**

SIMILAR REGULATIONS ARE ALREADY IN PLACE IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

Cities:

- Auburn
- Tacoma
- Sumner
- Pacific
- Bellingham
- Bremerton
- Shoreline
- Yakima

Counties:

- King County
- Kitsap County
- Thurston County
- Whatcom County
- Jefferson County



- In 2023, nearly **10,000 people** experiencing homelessness received services through Pierce County's homeless crisis response system, an all-time high. **To put that in perspective, it is close to the populations of Sumner or Fife.**

GET INVOLVED TODAY!

DO YOU WANT THE EXECUTIVE TO WORK WITH COUNCIL TO GET PEOPLE OFF THE STREET?

Contact **Bruce Dammeier** today by emailing
bruce.dammeier@piercecounitywa.gov

AND

Contact the **Pierce County Council** today by
emailing pccouncil@piercecounitywa.gov
in support of **02024-540** and **tiny home communities.**

ACTIVIST CHECK LIST:

- Email **Bruce Dammeier** **AND** the **Pierce County Council** in support of **02024-540** NOW!
- Attend the Pierce County Council public hearings on **8/5/24** and **8/20/24** to testify in support

COUNCIL ZOOM INFO:

8/5/24 @ 1:30PM

Committee Hearing

piercecounitywa.zoom.us/j/92843343887

8/20/24 @ 3PM, Full Council*

piercecounitywa.zoom.us/j/97661787423

***Final vote by council.**