

**Whatcom County 2006 HGAP Application
Response to Follow-up Questions**

1. Please quantify the annual demand for the prevention, housing and supportive services that you mention in part 5 of the narrative.

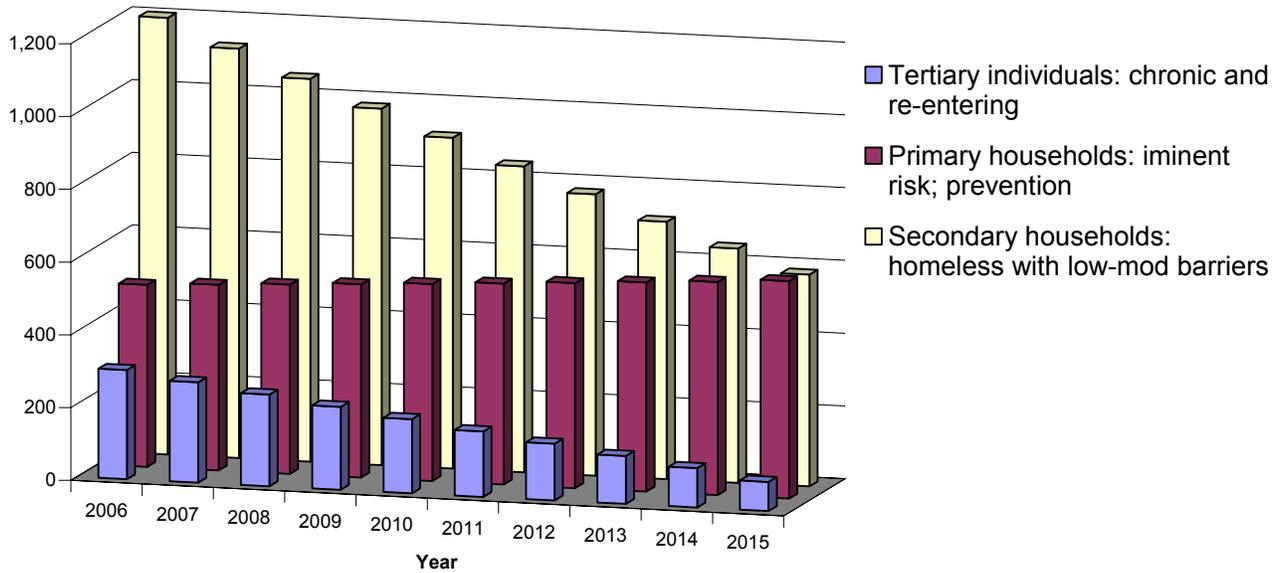
We estimated annual demand figures in three subpopulations. These categories are based on the degree of housing barriers. This planning scheme provides a realistic estimate of demand for services and basis for estimating program costs. Average *per household* homeless services costs are closely related to a household's housing barrier level. The demand estimates were derived as follows:

Primary households are at imminent risk of homelessness. To estimate the annual number of households at imminent risk we consulted County Court (eviction cases), two nonprofit law firms that handle evictions and two service providers who serve households facing eviction. Based on their data and expert opinion, we estimated there would be 500 households in the first year. Each following year, the number of imminent risk households will grow at the rate of our population (2% per year). We also assumed that the *Whatcom County Homeless Services Center* (WCHSC) will provide homeless prevention assistance to all *primary* households, succeeding in preventing homelessness for 85% of them. The 15% who are not successful enter homelessness and are added to the Secondary homeless population.

Secondary homeless households are homeless families and individuals with minimal to moderate housing barriers. We surveyed the emergency shelters and transitional housing operators for *unduplicated* counts of persons and households housed in 2005: 1,600 households. We then reduced this number by 25% to account for duplication that may have occurred across shelter and transitional housing operators resulting in an estimated 1,200 households. Our forecast estimates that 75% of the 200 households served annually from this category will be successful in permanent housing. The 25% unsuccessful households are added to next year's secondary household demand estimates.

Tertiary individuals are persons with severe housing barriers (e.g. sex offenders, persons re-entering the community from a psychiatric hospital). Our estimate of the demand for tertiary services (e.g. deep rent subsidies and intensive case management) is based on reviewing data from the recent feasibility study for our new Triage Center, the 2006 Point-in-Time count, county and state department of corrections records. Based on these figures, we believe that 300 tertiary individuals is a reasonable estimate for year 1 population. We plan to serve 60 tertiary individuals per year with deep rent subsidy and intensive case management. We will also serve an additional 15 ex-offenders with a history of violence using leased housing and case management.

The figure below is a graphical depiction of our outcomes forecast.



2. What constitutes the \$1.1 million in services?

This budget line item includes (A) case management services for half of the secondary households served at a per household cost of \$800/year, and (B) intensive and ongoing case management for all of the tertiary individuals served at a per unit cost of \$5,300/year. This results in annual services costs of \$477,500 (see table below). We multiplied that number by 2.5 years, assuming that we will only serve about half of the annual target in the first year of the project, but we will attain the target in both subsequent years ($2.5 \times \$477,500 = \$1,193,750$).

We are working closely with North Sound Mental Health (RSN) to coordinate high-intensity case management services as a condition for receiving housing support from the WCHSC.

	Households served	Annual Cost per household served	Annual cost
Case mgmt for half of the primary/secondary served	100	\$800	80,000
Case mgmt for all tertiary population served	75	\$5,300	397,500
Total per year	175		477,500
$2.5 \text{ years} \times \$477,500 = \$1,193,750$			

3. Where will the “boundary spanner” be located, both organizationally and physically?

The Boundary Spanner position, like Whatcom County’s new Triage Center, fill critical gaps in diversion and re-entry planning for discharges from correctional and psychiatric facilities. Though not funded by HGAP funds, the Boundary Spanner will work closely with the proposed Whatcom County Homeless Service Center and CORE team to coordinate housing and housing readiness services for these clients and to track client housing outcomes.

The Boundary Spanner position is a county contract funded by the North Sound Mental Health Administration (RSN) which also includes two offender case managers and a Peer Counselor position. The position will be stationed at the Whatcom County Jail, Triage Facility and Whatcom Counseling & Psychiatric Clinic. The Boundary Spanner will coordinate with other mental health jail staff to develop, Individual Release Plans (IRP). IRP’s will consider the need for assessments, mental health services, co-occurring services, housing, and other necessary community services as indicated for each individual. IRP’s will be coordinated with the CORE team which is functionally equivalent to the Community Transition Coordination Network recommended by the Joint Task Force on Offender Programs, Sentencing & Supervision.

The Boundary Spanner is employed by Whatcom Counseling & Psychiatric Clinic to provide a bridge between jails, courts and community behavioral health providers. The Boundary Spanner will:

- Work with Public Defender, Prosecutors and Judges to develop re-entry plans (conditional release and or deferred prosecution orders) based upon the IRP.
- Coordinate post-release mental health services consistent with state-approved standards of care for enrollable Medicaid consumers.
- Provide post-release mental health services to non-Medicaid enrollable mentally ill offenders.

The IRP will serve as the basis for jail alternatives and will be submitted to the court on the offender’s behalf. A key element will be the inclusion of a post release housing plan. The Boundary Spanner will complete the Whatcom County Housing Risk Assessment with the offender while in jail. The Boundary Spanner will also authorize admission to a five bed supervised facility (Sun Community Services) to be used for pre or post release residential support for low income/homeless mentally ill offenders. The Boundary Spanner will also coordinate with local Native American tribes to reduce the inappropriate incarceration of mentally ill tribal members consistent with DSHS Administrative Policy 7.01

We are currently working on policies and procedures to release offenders through the new triage center in coordination with the Whatcom County Homeless Services Center.