

# Whatcom County Homeless Coalition



## ***Steering Committee Notes***

February 23, 2009, 10:30-11:45 am

BWC Housing Authority Conference Room  
208 Unity Street, Bellingham

Present: Greg Winter, Debbie Paton, Gail de Hoog, Gary Williams, Thad Allen, Shannon Webb, John Harmon, Peter Theisen, Kirsten Hammer, Riannon Bardsley.

### **1. Review January 26 Steering Committee Meeting Notes**

No comments.

### **2. HGAP II update**

Master leasing still in the works. Bringing plans to neighborhood association where leased units may be located.

### **3. Phase 4 Planning update**

First meeting of expanded group is this week.

There was a discussion of the need to include the development of a “funders’ roundtable” in the next 10-Year Plan. The idea of the roundtable is to align the allocation of many different and new funding sources toward our community’s shared vision and common goals as expressed in the plan, and to use funds more strategically. This should be a data driven process. As much as possible, we should use evidence-based practices to hang on to funding and obtain positive outcomes. Look at what Clallum and Clark counties are doing.

### **4. ESAP and ESG funding outlook for 2009-2010**

ESG: as in past it can be used for shelter services, shelter, operating and maintenance.

The new ESG funding in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, has been renamed: Homelessness Prevention Fund. It is focused on homeless prevention and re-housing homeless households. Eligible activities are short-term or medium-term rental assistance and housing relocation and stabilization services, including such activities as

mediation, credit counseling, security or utility deposits, utility payments, moving cost assistance, and case management.

ESAP – sheltering expenses to for up to 90 days per client and homeless prevention services including up to 90 days worth of rent or mortgage subsidy, deposits, and case management.

THOR – transitional housing operations and case management.

**5. ESAP, ESG, THOR, and Homelessness Prevention Fund funding allocation criteria**

Steering committee should develop these criteria and present to WCCH. Have more dialogue about how funds allocated. Also need to decide on lead agency based on allocation criteria. Opportunity Council has been lead agency in the past due to administrative capacity and there is not a lot of administration dollars available. Other agencies are welcome to express interest and coalition members are welcome to recommend agencies that meet the allocation criteria.

We should also summarize how these funds have been used in past biennia at the Coalition meeting in March.

***See below for first draft of Allocation Criteria based on Steering Committee work session.***

**6. ESAP and ESG public process timeline**

We need to begin the process now, and we need to have a community stakeholder’s meeting (suggested for early April soon after the April Coalition meeting). This meeting will be advertised in the paper.

**7. Other**

Whatcom Homeless Service Center, in Partnership with Serenity house in Callum County, was awarded a \$650,000 three-year grant to fund the Northwest Rapid Re-housing Partnership, a housing-first program for homeless families with dependent children. This was a national competition and our program was the only one of 23 communities funded

Homeless PIT Count results – 1,390 persons (after 197 duplicates removed), this is about a 5% increase over last year (1,326 persons). Considering the deep recession we are in, this seems like a fairly modest increase.

Pulling together stakeholder’s group for employment training services for Paul Allen grant.

Next Steering Committee meeting: Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m.- 11:45 a.m.

**\*\*\*\*\*DRAFT Recommendation\*\*\*\***  
**Whatcom County Homeless Coalition**



***Steering Committee***

**Funding Allocation Criteria for grant programs:**

- **Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG)**
- **Emergency Shelter and Assistance (ESAP)**
- **Transitional Housing, Operating and Rent (THOR)**
- **Homeless Prevention Fund (new HUD program authorized by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009)**

**\*\*\*\*\*NOTE: Please see the attached program guidelines for eligible uses of funds. The locally proposed ADDITIONAL funding allocation criteria do not preclude using the funds for any eligible use listed in the program guidelines; however, funding decisions may be based also on these additional local criteria below.**

**Category A: General guiding criteria**

- Consistent with 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness and with additional, identified emerging needs and gaps in the continuum of care
- Coordinates continuum of care components to prevent future episodes of homelessness
- Anticipates emerging needs due to prolonged recession and related circumstances
- Funding allocations individually or in aggregate serve all homeless subpopulations
- Maximizes return on community investment by emphasizing homeless prevention and early intervention

### **Category B: Emerging unmet needs and gaps in the continuum of care**

- Interim sheltering assistance (e.g. between intervention and permanent housing placement; for medically fragile individuals; during severe weather)
- Outreach to connect homeless households with services and to reduce barriers to service access
- Homeless prevention services (e.g. eviction prevention, short- and medium-term rent assistance, deposits, moving costs, case management)
- Income strategy services (e.g. credit counseling, budgeting and financial counseling and education)

### **Category C: Funded agency criteria**

- Capacity to meet the identified needs (i.e. % staff FTE compared to service numbers, agency board involvement, agency financial health)
- Capacity to successfully deliver eligible services (based on overall agency performance, spending history, data, contract compliance if CTED contractor)
- Capacity to provide appropriate case management (staff training and experience)
- For previous providers, a review of biennium spending
- For previous providers, a review of outputs and outcomes (e.g. projected to serve and actual served data)

### **Category D: Lead agency criteria**

- Be a public agency or private nonprofit organization with an IRS 501(c)(3) status;
- Possess management capability to administer subcontracts;
- Have established internal control and fund accounting procedures to assure the proper disbursement of, and accounting for, all funds provided and submit one copy of an independent audit to the CTED;
- Be the only applicant for the county for which it is applying;
- Have been a provider of emergency shelter services for one year prior to June 30, 2006, or serve an area or population of demonstrated unmet need determined by a consortium of service providers in a county.