

Homeless Response Systems Mapping Report for Yakima County, Washington

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Background

Systems mapping workshops were developed by Policy Research Associates, Inc. (PRA), known internationally for its work regarding individuals with behavioral health needs, homelessness, criminal justice, and Veterans and their families. Homeless Response Systems Mappings are tailored to the specific community and provide an opportunity to bring together key stakeholders to identify and develop community-based responses to homelessness. Homeless Response Systems Mappings plan around critical intersections to reach essential goals including:

- Stabilizing housing for those at risk of homelessness
- Connecting individuals and families experiencing homelessness with services
- Helping people move from using homeless services to living in appropriate and safe permanent housing

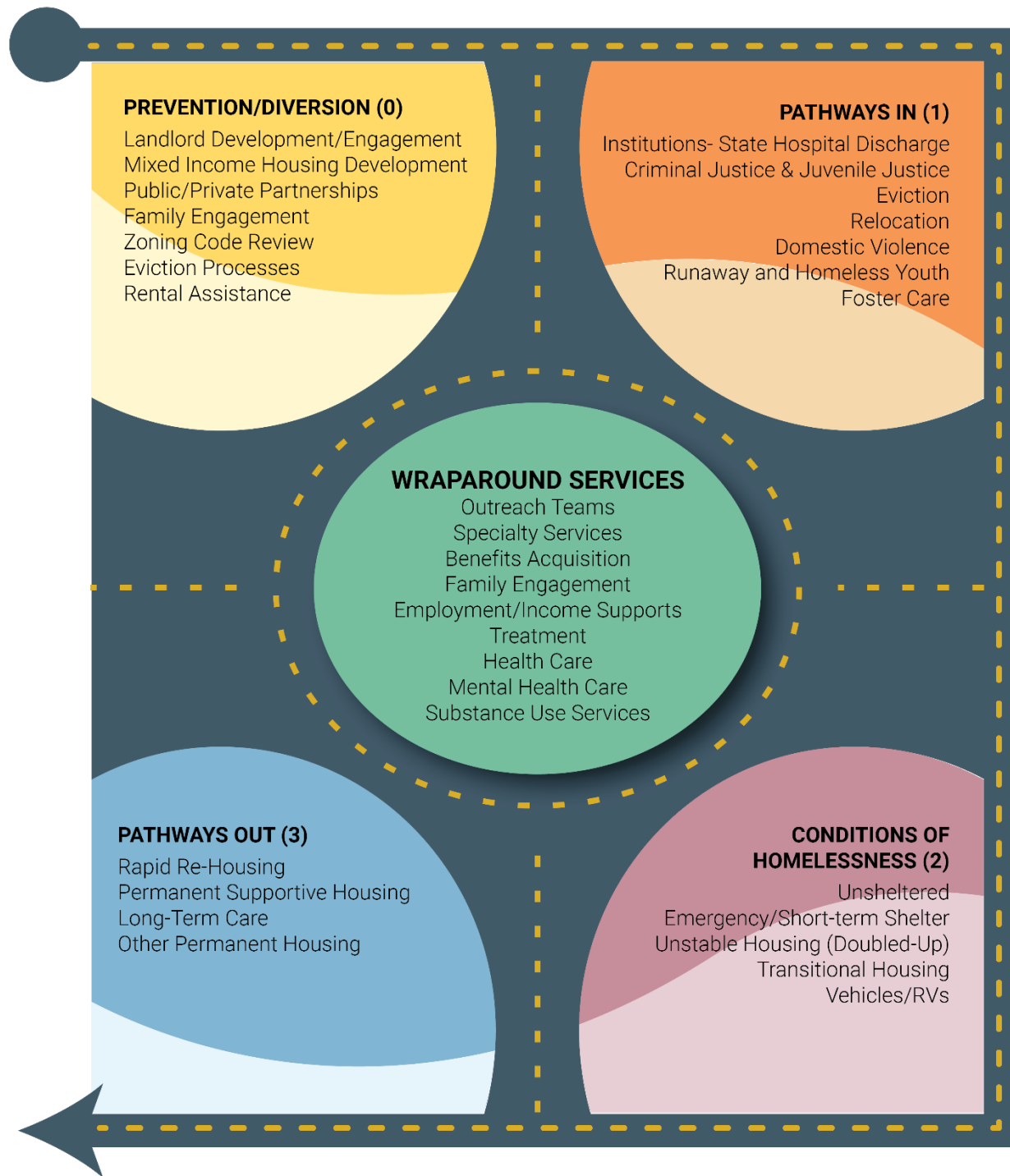
The mapping brings together key stakeholders to tap into the specific local expertise necessary to develop a local map, informed by the Sequential Intercept Model,¹ but specific to homelessness and housing services. During the Homeless Response Systems Mapping, points of intersection are identified that prevent homelessness or intervene when homelessness occurs. The Homeless Response Systems Mapping also helps to identify gaps in services, duplication of services, and existing resources and opportunities.

The Homeless Response Systems Mapping workshop has three primary objectives:

1. Development of a visual depiction of the ways in which individuals interact with homeless services and highlights paths to safe, permanent housing in five key areas: (0) Prevention/Diversion, (1) Pathways In, (2) Conditions of Homelessness, (3) Pathways Out, and (4) Wraparound Services.
2. Identification of gaps, resources, and opportunities across the homeless response system.
3. Development of priorities for activities designed to improve system and service level responses for individuals and families who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

¹ Munetz, M., & Griffin, P. (2006). A systemic approach to the de-criminalization of people with serious mental illness: The Sequential Intercept Model. *Psychiatric Services*, 57, 544-549.

Homeless Response System



Introduction

In November 2021, PRA met with a cross-system group of Yakima County housing, homeless services, and behavioral health system stakeholders.

PRA staff delivered a presentation on the Homeless Response Systems Mapping process then facilitated discussions focused on identifying resources available to respond to the needs of people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and gaps in services and opportunities for cross-system collaboration and partnerships. PRA coordinated a voting process to prioritize the identified gaps in services and facilitated the development of draft strategic action plans to outline the next steps to address the top priority areas.

AGENDA (PART I)

November 2, 2021

- 9:00 a.m. **Registration and Networking**
 Welcome and Opening Remarks
- 9:30 a.m. **Introductions**
 Homeless Response Systems: Pathways In and Pathways Out Presentation
- 10:30 a.m. **Break**
- 10:45 a.m. **Intersection Mapping (0-1) Discussion**
 - Prevention/Diversion and Pathways In
- 12:30 p.m. **Lunch**
- 1:30 p.m. **Intersection Mapping (2-3 and Wraparound) Discussion**
 - Conditions of Homelessness, Pathways Out, and Wraparound Services
- 2:45 p.m. **Break**
- 3:00 p.m. **Facilitated Discussion of Resources, Gaps, and Opportunities**
- 3:30 p.m. **Priority Voting**
- 3:55 p.m. **Closing and Next Steps**

AGENDA (PART II)

November 3, 2021

- 9:00 a.m. **Registration and Networking**

 Welcome and Reflections from Day One
- 9:30 a.m. **Review/Discuss Priorities for Change**

 Explain Strategic Planning Process
- 9:50 a.m. **Strategic Planning Priority 1**
- 10:50 a.m. **Break**
- 11:00 a.m. **Strategic Planning Priority 2**
- 12:00 p.m. **Strategic Planning Priority 3**
- 1:00 p.m. **Closing and Next Steps**



Resources & Gaps

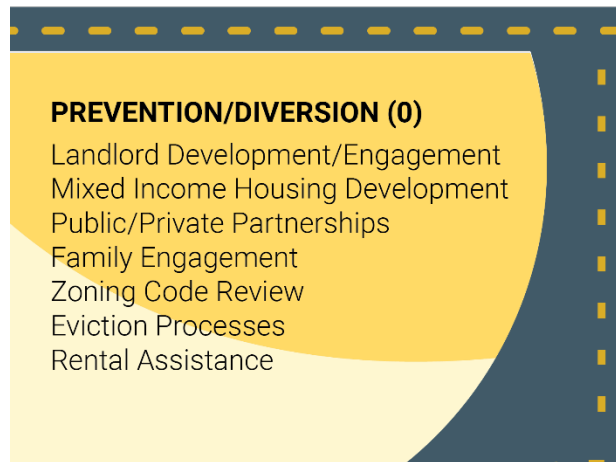
The centerpiece of the workshop is the development of a Homeless Response Systems map. As part of the mapping activity, the facilitators work with the workshop participants to identify resources and gaps at each intersection. This process is important since housing and homelessness services are ever-changing, and the resources and gaps provide contextual information for understanding the local map. Moreover, county planners can use this catalog to establish greater opportunities for improving paths to safe, permanent housing for people with mental and substance use disorders by addressing the gaps and building on existing resources.

The Homeless Response Systems Map model highlights four points of intersection. They are prevention/diversion, pathways in, conditions of homelessness, and pathways out. In addition, a variety of wraparound services intersect with each point.

- **Prevention/Diversion:** Prevention and diversion programs aim to stop homelessness before it happens. They identify people and families before they start using homeless services and provide help. Programs at this intersection also offer alternatives to mainstream homeless services. Overall, they work to prevent individuals and families from losing housing.
- **Pathways In:** Individuals and families enter the homeless service system due to a wide range of circumstances. Common reasons include job loss, unexpected medical bills, and a mental health crisis. Other common reasons are family separation and exiting the foster-care system.
- **Conditions of Homelessness:** There is no one way to define homelessness. Definitions vary among federal agencies, funding sources, and age groups. Whether or not people

and families qualify for services often depends on whether they fit the provider's definition. This makes it very important to know which definition service providers use. When you know who qualifies, it helps provide a smoother transition of care between agencies and services.

- **Pathways Out:** The pathways out of homelessness are as diverse as the pathways into homelessness. To understand how this works in your area, it is key to collect information about outcomes. Specific metrics help show how local homeless service networks are doing. One metric many communities track is the length of time people spend experiencing homelessness. Others are the number of exits to permanent housing and return to homelessness.
- **Wraparound Services:** Services are key to ongoing housing stability for many individuals and families. Wraparound services provide help at every stage, from the earliest prevention work to pathways out of homelessness.



PREVENTION AND DIVERSION: RESOURCES

Washington Landlord Mitigation Fund

Washington has a [Landlord Mitigation Program](#) that can potentially provide funds to landlords for eligible move-in upgrades, rent loss, and damages.

- Washington state's Landlord Mitigation Law ([RCW 43.31.605](#)) became effective on June 7th of 2018 to provide landlords with an incentive and added security to work with tenants receiving rental assistance. The program offers up to \$1,000 to the landlord in reimbursement for some potentially required move-in upgrades, up to fourteen days' rent loss and up to \$5,000 in qualifying damages caused by a tenant during tenancy.
- Any landlord that has screened, approved, and offered rental housing to any applicant that will be using any form of housing subsidy program is eligible, except properties operated by housing authorities.

Northwest Justice Project

The [Northwest Justice Project \(NJP\)](#) is a statewide not for profit law firm that provides legal assistance to prevent evictions and to help resolve disputes with housing authorities and other landlords.

- NJP generally handles civil legal problems facing low-income people due to lack of income. These problems often occur in situations involving domestic violence, eviction or other loss of housing, job conditions or lost wages, educational barriers, lack of access to or loss of government benefits or health care, debt collection, transportation needs, language or cultural barriers to accessing social services or justice systems, etc.
- NJP operates [CLEAR \(Coordinated Legal Education, Advice and Referral\)](#), a legal hotline for low-income people. The hotline is available to residents outside of King County by calling [1-888-201-1014](#) weekdays between 9:15 am-12:15 pm PT.
- NJP also maintains a free legal resource website – [WashingtonLawHelp.org](#) – with "know your rights" information, videos, self-help packets and do-it-yourself forms covering many common civil legal issues.

Diversion Services and Assistance

[Yakima Neighborhood Health Services \(YNHS\)](#) provides homelessness diversion assistance through private foundation grants. Staff trained in diversion techniques can help work with families to divert them from entering homeless systems by offering creative solutions such as renting a space, sharing expenses in housing, staying with another family, help with employment (purchasing work clothing), or help with groceries or utility bills.

Special Populations

The [Washington State Department of Commerce Office of Homeless Youth](#) has a diversion program. [Rod's House](#) provides services to youth who are experiencing homelessness, including diversion through host homes. [The Salvation Army](#) provides family homelessness prevention services and the [Family Self Sufficiency Program](#) is offered for Section 8 participants through the Yakima Housing Authority (YHA). For Veterans, the [Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs](#) has a website for prevention and diversion resources.

Other

Other resources include a potential Landlord Liaison position at YHA and collaborations with the Landlord Association. In addition, connecting individuals with hoarding disorder to assistance programs that are tailored to meet their needs can help them remain stably housed and avoid entering the homeless system.

PREVENTION AND DIVERSION: GAPS

Eligibility for Services

One identified gap is that some diversion services, such as eviction prevention legal assistance, require that households be currently experiencing homelessness. Households with a 14-day notice to vacate order from the landlord are not qualified for assistance until a formal eviction order is filed. This can prevent households from accessing diversion assistance and exacerbate barriers to future housing.

Rental Assistance

Participants noted that they are seeing rents being increased at a high rate, potentially increasing the need for homelessness prevention. Seniors and vulnerable populations are rent burdened and severely rent burdened and lack affordable housing.

Funding

Participants expressed that there is a statewide focus on rapid re-housing and emergency responses to homelessness, and not enough focus on funding for homelessness prevention. There is a need to increase prevention resources for those with mental health, substance use disorders, or who are dually diagnosed.

Landlords and Housing Developers

There is a need to build collaborations with small landlords and provide them with information and resources and support, particularly in with working with families. Relationship building with landlords and a listening session to hear their concerns was cited as a need. There are concerns from landlords about losing rent or damages to units, as well as reluctance to accept HUD emergency housing vouchers (EHVs) as the landlord incentives from HUD do not cover potential losses or market rate rent. Some landlords have requested payment up front or threatened eviction due to arrears; however, obtaining resources to compensate landlords for arrears takes time. Finally, there were no housing developers present at the mapping and this may be a stakeholder group for future engagement.

Other

There is a need for assistance programs for those with hoarding disorders to help them maintain housing.



PATHWAYS IN: RESOURCES

Connections to Resources

2-1-1 has a [database of resources](#) for people experiencing homelessness and local service providers can update their information in this database to ensure it is current. 2-1-1 is operated by [People for People](#) and they conduct a needs assessment with callers and provide referrals to services and access points for coordinated entry. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Yakima Chapter also produces a local [resource manual](#). Yakima Valley Community College has a [resource manual](#) for students experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Youth

There are a number of programs serving youth who are entering the homelessness system:

- There are [Centralized Diversion Funds](#) available from the Department of Commerce and A Way Home Washington for youth and young adults aged 18+. These funds provide flexible payments made to prevent young people from experiencing homelessness or divert young people from homelessness within 30 days and help with creative solutions to housing.
- YHA partners with the [Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families \(DCYF\)](#) to administer housing vouchers for qualified youth. There are vouchers available, as they have not received too many referrals.
- [Rod's House](#) has begun submitting referrals for housing assistance under the HUD Foster Youth to Independence program and have had people in foster care reach out to them for housing. They have an emergency shelter in Sunnyside and have a case management team that works with young adults to age 24 to help with navigation and enrollment. They also have a drop-in center. Information is organized and communicated through outreach teams and they coordinate with schools and other youth-serving organizations. Rod's House manages a Host Homes program and currently have 2 matches (last year they had 4 matches) and they subcontract with YNHS to cover costs of that program.

- The [Homeless Student Stability Program](#) works with school districts to provide services to students and their families who are experiencing homelessness. They have 13-15 McKinney Vento Homeless Liaisons that work with schools in Yakima County.
- [The Space LGBTQ Youth Center](#), operated by YNHS, is a safe gathering place for LGBTQ+ youth who may be experiencing homelessness. The Space is staffed by YNHS staff and trained volunteers, and youth can make behavioral health and medical appointments.

Domestic Violence and Families

[The Lighthouse Advocacy, Prevention, and Education Center](#) provides services for survivors of violence and domestic assault and they have a small, short term shelter. They are able to provide limited, flexible financial assistance that can be used for move-in costs (e.g., background screening, first/last month's rent). They may also be able to provide a bus ticket for someone to relocate. The YWCA has a [24-hour emergency shelter](#) for survivors of domestic violence. They also partner with YHA and have [16 transitional housing apartments](#) on site that they rent out to families. They provide case management to help develop a service plan and liaise with landlords to help families gain permanent housing.

Exiting Hospitals or Institutions

Strong relationships between providers support warm handoffs for housing, particularly for those leaving the jail, which has helped fill gaps in medication delivery. Years ago, there was a committee that focused on reentry and had some good systems and relationships in place and there is a potential opportunity to bring that group back together. Finally, there is a medical respite program for people exiting hospitals that is operated by YNHS.

Other

Another resource identified by the group is the work being done to shift from the VI-SPDAT tool to a case conferencing model for entering the homelessness system.

PATHWAYS IN: GAPS

Exiting Hospitals or Institutions

The need for more medical respite beds and long-term care was cited as a gap by a number of participants. Not all hospital discharge programs have a system for identifying housing needs and patients are being dropped off at shelters after leaving the hospital. Some patients exiting hospitals are refusing to go into nursing facilities, but there are not enough medical respite beds available for them. Participants reported that hospitals discharging people before long-term care is available has worsened during the pandemic. There is a need for stronger discharge planning partnerships with hospitals, even for those who do not qualify for medical respite.

Coordinated Entry

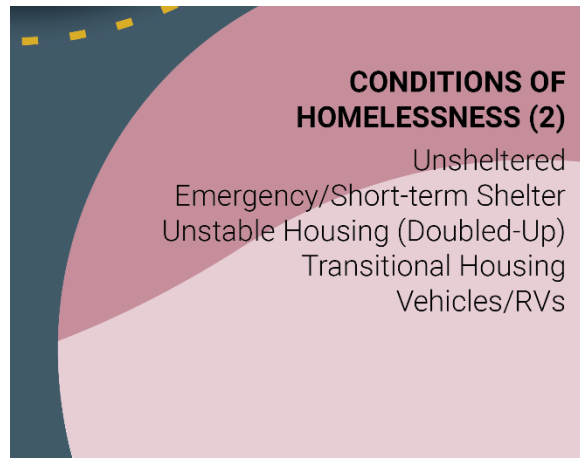
The coordinated entry system is in a period of transition as there will be updates to the Balance of State (BOS) system. There is work underway to move the prioritization process away from the VI-SPDAT, but the new model is not yet in place. Participants expressed a need for more standardization for referral processes rather than relying on informal partnerships and individual relationship networks.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

Not all users are part of HMIS, which presents a barrier to coordinated entry. For example, Union Gospel Shelter is large provider and is not currently in HMIS. It is difficult to incentivize organizations to utilize a system they do not get a benefit from and more work to incentivize programs to use HMIS could be explored.

Other

Participants also reported that employment and housing placements for undocumented individuals and families are frequently a challenge. There are also barriers to housing caused by criminal histories, debts owed to prior landlords, inability to get a driver's license and employment because of past due fines owed to the court, and discrimination by landlords.



CONDITIONS OF HOMELESSNESS: RESOURCES

Housing and Shelter Providers

- [Noah's Ark](#), a project of Generating Hope, provides a low barrier shelter and day drop-in center to the Lower Yakima Valley and Yakama Indian Reservation.
- [Yakima Union Gospel Mission](#). Emergency shelter for single adults and families in the City of Yakima.
- [Village of Hope](#). Family shelter in Toppenish, operated by the Yakama Nation.
- [Grace City Outreach](#). Provides transitional housing in the City of Yakima.
 - [Camp Hope](#). A program of Grace City Outreach is a low-barrier emergency homeless shelter for men, women, and families experiencing homelessness in Yakima County.
- [Justice Housing Yakima](#) (JHY) is creating Cottage Hill Village, an affordable housing development with 25-30 small homes for permanent supportive housing. JHY's mission is to expand this type of housing countywide one project at a time. They will have their land purchase paid off by the end of the year and will begin predevelopment in early 2022.
- The [YWCA Yakima](#) operates a 24-hour emergency domestic violence shelter and provides advocacy for families and children in need of support.

Training

YNHS offered to collaborate with others to provide trauma-informed care and motivational interviewing training for community providers. The state is also developing trainings and may be able to expand those opportunities. The Joint CE Provider Group has been set up as a place to offer trainings, though it is restricted to HMIS users.

Other

There are under and un-utilized emergency housing resources in the community (e.g., vacant motels and homes). Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) funding from the Treasury Department can help with utility assistance and works with those living in overcrowded households.

CONDITIONS OF HOMELESSNESS: GAPS

Housing and Shelter

A number of participants cited the need for transitional housing to move out of shelter, with supports and services to help households obtain permanent housing. More transitional housing in the Lower Valley and for Veterans were cited as specific needs. There was previously a transitional housing option for Veterans, but it closed. More Housing First and low-barrier shelter options were cited as a need, along with options to enter shelter with pets. There is an urgent need for a couple of day shelters to provide an option for folks who need basic services. There is a need for more affordable housing options throughout the area, particularly in the Lower Valley. There was also a concern about people living on properties with no water or no electricity in the Lower Valley. Finally, for those living in RVs, there is a need for safe parking.

Engagement

There is a need for more consistent outreach and engagement. Village of Hope visits both encampments in Toppenish, but they are a small team. A larger outreach team that could visit on specific days to build trust and accountability during outreach is needed. Engagement is particularly important to rebuild trust for those who have had traumatic experiences with shelters or providers previously, such as being sanctioned, having to give up their possessions, or being separated from their partner. Many young people are avoiding shelters due to past trauma in shelters. A rise in unsheltered homelessness in the past year could also be connected to anxieties about congregate living situations during COVID-19. Community partners need more trainings around trauma-informed care and motivational interviewing to assist with engagement efforts. The ALPHA Team used to be very successful at engaging people experiencing homelessness because they were volunteers with lived experience or were still experiencing homeless.

Behavioral Health and Crisis Supports

Participants cited a need for specialty outreach teams to serve those in crisis who are unsheltered and for agile mental health solutions for those who are a danger to themselves or others.

Stigma and Community Relationships

Participants cited concerns from business owners about costs to their business for both unsheltered homelessness and being located near low-barrier shelters. There is a need to build greater trust with community members. Business owners and community members need coaching and direction about who to call in lieu of law enforcement if they have concerns about someone experiencing homelessness.



PATHWAYS OUT: RESOURCES

Housing Providers

- [Village of Hope](#), operated by the Yakama Nation, provides tiny homes.
- [Next Step Housing](#) has multiple housing complexes for singles and families.
- [Triumph Treatment Services](#) offers permanent housing options.
- [Yakima Housing Authority](#) offers a range of permanent housing options for individuals and families and administers Housing Choice Vouchers, HUD-VASH Vouchers, and Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHVs).
- [Justice Housing Yakima](#) (JHY) is creating Cottage Hill Village, an affordable housing development with 25-30 small homes for permanent supportive housing and will charge around \$300 per unit. JHY's mission is to expand this type of housing countywide one project at a time. They will have their land purchase paid off by the end of the year and will begin predevelopment in early 2022.

Future Housing Opportunities

- A vacant hotel in Toppenish was bought by the Yakama Nation with COVID-19 funds for isolation and quarantine. Community members are exploring the possibility of using it as transitional housing.
- Yakama Nation has HUD funding to build 9 units but needs land. There is opportunity to also partner with the Child Care Grant for a new childcare facility within the Tiny House Village.
- The City of Toppenish is looking at accessory dwelling units (ADUs) that have less restrictions around utilities, etc. to build wealth and create additional housing density. The City of Yakima has done a great job of this around ADUs. The City of Yakima's recent Housing Action Plan was to develop ADU architectural models that can be made available for free to prospective builders, which meet all code requirements within the city. That can reduce some of the barriers and costs for people considering building this new model of

housing. The plans from the architect would be available for free to builders, but they still need to go through the planning process and pay the appropriate permit fees to the City.

PATHWAYS OUT: GAPS

Limited Affordable Housing Stock

There is a significant lack of local, safe, and affordable permanent housing stock throughout the area, particularly single room occupancy and studios for individuals and couples. There is a need for more housing on the Yakama Indian Reservation, a Native American reservation of the federally recognized tribe known as the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, as many households are not willing to leave the Reservation. There is funding available for vouchers, such as EHV's, but there are no available affordable properties. Waiting lists for available units are long. There is a need for set asides for affordable housing units and many small housing owners are selling their rental units due to the eviction moratorium. Most existing housing subsidies are to develop housing for families, but there is a gap in housing for individuals/couples.

Almost a third of all renters and homeowners are not in affordable housing and a large portion of the local population is at risk of homelessness, especially now that rents are increasing in response to the eviction moratorium. Requests for mortgage assistance has increased by 50%. Finally, participants noted that the majority of the affordable housing is for low-income families and there are not enough resources for individuals or families who work full-time but may still be at risk of homelessness.

Services

There is a lack of supportive services for housing in the Lower Valley and a need to increase permanent supportive housing for those with serious mental illness, substance use disorders, or who are dually diagnosed.

Other

Other identified gaps include the difficulty in locating housing for individuals convicted of sex offenses and philosophical differences across the community regarding who deserves housing and who doesn't. A need to develop a new prioritization model for permanent housing was also noted.



WRAPAROUND SERVICES: RESOURCES

Meeting Basic Needs

[The Salvation Army](#) provides food bank services and the [Yakima Union Gospel Mission](#) provides daily meals. [Noah's Ark](#) has a clothing bank for anyone with need and the Salvation Army provides clothing vouchers. [Yakima Neighborhood Health Services \(YNHS\)](#) provides integrated health and housing services, including medical, dental, behavioral health, pharmacy, and social services supports, and medication assisted treatment (MAT). Yakima Union Gospel Mission provides wrap-around services including on-site medical, dental, and mental health care and a 1-year recovery program. For income, YNHS provides supported employment services, [People for People](#) provides employment and training programs, [Amerigroup Foundational Community Supports](#) include supported employment, and Yakima Union Gospel Mission has a job readiness program and offers vocational education. For hygiene services, YNHS is in the process of purchasing one mobile hygiene facility.

Outreach

[Washington 2-1-1](#) provides live community resource information and referrals, as well as navigation services. The city utilizes a [Designated Crisis Responder \(DCR\)](#) program to address the needs of residents with immediate crisis needs. The Clean City Program funds community clean-up, graffiti removal, street outreach, and code enforcement. Additionally, [Rod's House](#) provides outreach services.

Special Populations

The [Yakima County Veterans Program](#) provides outreach and case management services to Veterans experiencing homelessness and their families. [Entrust Community Services](#) provides employment services and housing assistance to people with disabilities. [The Lighthouse Advocacy, Prevention, and Education Center](#) provides domestic violence and sexual assault

supports in Lower Yakima County. The [YWCA](#) can provide women with five outfits for employment.

WRAPAROUND SERVICES: GAPS

Meeting Basic Needs

Participants expressed a need for public restrooms and additional public hygiene facilities, clothing for work, and shampoo/hygiene products. There is also a need for a day shelter, where people can go during the day to charge their phones and to stay warm. Low income was also cited as a barrier to meeting basic needs.

Service Coordination and Workforce Retention

Participants cited a need for more robust coordination of local homeless response resources and efforts, including outreach and placement in services. A consistent approach from area jurisdictions to address persons experiencing homelessness is also needed to have a more equitable delivery of homeless and housing services to all in need. In addition to service coordination, awareness of available programs and services was noted as a gap.

Nursing shortages and mental health staffing is a challenge. Staff turnover is a significant issue and recruiting supervisory staff and direct service providers to Yakima is a challenge. Turnover is leading to gaps in services, which could be aided through formal memoranda of understanding or agreements between service providers.

Other

Other gaps in wraparound services include a need for respite care for the medically or mentally at-risk person, the need to address domestic violence and root causes of some homelessness situations, and a need to support families to promote a stable home life with wraparound services to prevent homelessness.

Priorities for Change

Workshop participants identified a set of priorities for change, followed by a vote where each participant had three votes to designate their top three priorities.

Priority	Count
Explore increasing the affordable housing stock broadly (may include increasing stock overall at all levels, addressing small housing owners selling rental units due to moratorium, affordable housing for special populations and people who don't meet the low-income limits, etc.).	11
Build collaborations with landlords, who may be resistant to housing "high-risk" individuals: explore incentives/resources, build relationships and outreach, advocating for both the tenants/potential tenants and the landlords.	7
Increase available housing and services in the Lower Valley in particular.	7
Increase prevention strategies and housing options for those with mental health, substance use disorders, or who are dually diagnosed, in particular.	5
Robust coordination of local homeless response resources and efforts.	5
Increase strategies and transitional housing options around exits from emergency shelter.	4
Expand crisis housing for those who do not meet Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) requirements, but still have significant challenges to permanent and transitional housing.	4
Expand medical/psychiatric respite bed availability.	4
Explore the Housing First model and recovery-oriented strategies for engagement/outreach such as Motivational Interviewing and trauma-informed trainings.	3
Address workforce shortages, including recruitment and turnover, within psychiatric nursing and supervisory staff, including licensed master's level mental health professionals.	3
Increase funding for affordable housing - explore the affordable housing sales tax.	3
Incentivize new housing development.	2
Reduce barriers to housing caused by criminal histories, debts owed to prior landlords, inability to get a driver's license and employment because of past due fines owed to the court, and discrimination by landlords etc.	1
Explore HMIS access as a barrier to partners joining in Coordinated Entry.	1
Increase low-barrier shelter options.	1
Explore bridge housing (60–90-day length of stay).	1
Increase housing strategies and partnerships with the Yakama Nation around this population (Village of Hope Tiny House Village, etc.).	1
Reach across philosophical differences within the community regarding who deserves housing and who doesn't, barriers to access, etc.	1
Address underlying causes of some homeless situations, especially domestic violence.	1
Create additional public hygiene facilities, restrooms, etc.	1
Shift the focus from rapid re-housing to more preventative services and strategies.	0
Develop assistance programs for those with hoarding disorders to help them maintain housing.	0
Prevent hospital discharge to homelessness including identification of housing needs and long-term care availability.	0
Create/enhance engagement to day shelters (places for people to go during the day, charging stations, warming places, etc.)	0
Address the issue of low income as a barrier to housing.	0

STRATEGIC ACTION PLANS

Priority Area 1: Explore increasing affordable housing broadly, including but not limited to: increasing stock, incentivizing new housing development, addressing small housing owners selling rental units, increasing affordable housing for special populations and people who don't meet the low-income limits, and strengthening collaborations with landlords.

Objective		Action Step	Who	When
1.	Coordinate with existing work/plans (City Housing Action Plan, County/City HOME Consolidated Plans, County's Comprehensive Plan Housing Element, YC 5-Year Plan to Address Homelessness, 2 CSBG CAP agencies' Community Needs Assessment and plan)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Catalog/inventory existing efforts and partners <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lee has existing matrix Present this information ahead of Comprehensive Plan updates: County and Cities in the County will be required to address homeless housing during their next comprehensive plan update Update 5-Year Plan to Address Homelessness Maintain this coordination on an ongoing basis Communicate with the public about these objectives 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Joan Davenport (City of Yakima), Lee Murdock (Homeless Network Public Policy Committee), Esther Magasis/Melissa Holm (Yakima County Department of Human Services), other involved partners Mike Shuttleworth (City of Sunnyside) All Mitch Nickolds, City of Toppenish 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> February 2022 County and City Comprehensive plan updates on or before June 30, 2026 Current 5-Year Plan to Address Homelessness ends 2024 Ongoing
2.	Inventory the existing affordable/subsidized housing (focus on more than housing designated for people exiting homelessness)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Expand the inventory developed by the City of Yakima to include County-level data <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Commerce will do some of this research for local jurisdictions in the future Leverage Affordable Housing Report from several years ago (did not contain an inventory) Gather baselines from individual partners from Housing Inventory County (HIC) Bring this task to the joint Data Subcommittee to build off items identified in Action Step #1 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Joan Davenport (City of Yakima), Lee Murdock, Mike Shuttleworth, Vicky Baker, Esther Magasis/Melissa Holm (County Human Services), (Noelle Madera/Lisa Freund) County Planning Dept., Housing Authority, include Yakama Nation Lee Murdock/Lance Larsen as Data Subcommittee contacts 	

		3. Track the length of time units will remain in the affordable range		
3.	Inventory the tax incentives, zoning policies, comprehensive plans, and other local ordinances that impact housing development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordinate with all jurisdictions to create the inventory 2. Invite Central Washington Homebuilders and Habitat for Humanity to join the conversation once data is collected 3. Review funding for other infrastructure that relates to housing (roads, utilities) to create a more development friendly environment 	1. Esther/County could take the lead on coordinating; include City, Public Works, Auditor's Office	
4.	Using objectives above, identify the affordable housing needs	1. Calculate the housing needs in Yakima County to present to potential funders or policy makers	1.	
5.	Identify funding opportunities to fill affordable housing needs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explore the 0.10% Affordable Housing Sales Tax <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Follow up to Commissioner's meeting b. Provide documentation/support of the tax as the solution needed before adding to agenda (a request can be made to Esther to place on agenda at that point) 2. Review current funding allocations from CDBG, HOME, private foundations, USDA, ARPA 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Existing Public Policy Committee (of Homeless Network) 2. Engage ORFH, Catholic Charities, Yakama Nation/Yakima County (all can coordinate with Mark@rodshouse.org, PPC chair) 	
6.	Cultivate relationships with landlords to help them be successful with tenant challenges and needs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase outreach/communication and engagement with landlords <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Host a listening session with Landlords b. Bring feedback to the workgroup for sharing strategies that can be adopted (feedback would inform the outreach) c. Train providers on legal landscape (Meredith- NWJP/Melissa Holm) 	1. Mitch Nickolds, Esther Magasis, providers (Master Leasing Program- Annette), Ron Gengler, Shea, Leticia Garcia, Joan Sauders (?)	1. Presentation for providers the second week in December 2021?

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. Offer an optional responsible tenant training course (resource for tenants to maintain housing) 2. Explore incentives/resources (including the Landlord Mitigation Program) 3. Share strategies/lessons learned from local programs (including NW Justice Project, The Lighthouse, YNHS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Look at Pasco rental registration and inspection program (Mitch) b. Look at NAMI presentations and classes: In Our Own Voice is a presentation by people experiencing mental health conditions. Family and Friends is a Seminar that provides information about mental health. (Mary Stephenson). Share with Landlord Association (Esther to facilitate) 4. Find and possibly recreate the 2009 ORFH feasibility study of shelter needs to speak to landlord/business owner incentives 		
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Priority Area 2: Increase available housing and services in the Lower Valley/South Valley

Objective		Action Step	Who	When
1.	Explore need of services/providers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify existing partners in the Lower Valley/South Valley 2. Determine which additional services are needed/service gaps <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. e.g., additional case managers, consistent provider availability, shelter, day support (billable services/location issues) 3. Coordinate with Yakama Nation, in addition to YNHA 4. Offer education re: homelessness/needs for business owners, community organizations 	1. NHS has strong partnerships in LV; Esther/YC Human Services to coordinate conversation	
2.	Expansion of housing stock, transitional housing specifically mentioned (discussed within Priority #1)			
3.	Expand countywide transportation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tie into the Areas Transportation Plan managed by YVCOG 2. Explore developing additional Lyft drivers in needed areas in the County, with Ride United (211) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joan, Mike, County Public Works 2. Tim Sullivan 	
4.	Explore Housing First program	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Follow up on potential resources from Dept of Commerce for development 	Comprehensive Healthcare, Mitch Nickolds	
5.	Expand availability of Drop-In-Centers to additional locations (e.g., Sunnyside)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Facilitate discussions with interested partners regarding the drop in center 2. Include service linkage component, YHNS and Comprehensive (peer component) would be involved, Union Gospel Mission interested in assisting 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Melissa/Yakima County Human Services coordinate conversation 2. YC Veterans Center Resource Center is a similar model (David); also Chuck Austin Place? 3. Esther is in communication w/Sunnyside Housing Authority 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Rod's House is interested if funding is available to establish at Sunnyside (Housing Authority has an empty house) 4. Yakama Nation may have empty housing available for use 5. Look at possible locations in Toppenish 6. Explore funding opportunity for Dept of Commerce Drop-In Center (prioritizing # of beds) 	<p>5. Mitch Nickolds; Esther shared informal study of properties in Toppenish last year with Lance and Councilmember Duval</p>	
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Priority Area 3: Increase prevention and diversion strategies for those with mental health, substance use disorders, or who are dually diagnosed, in particular. (Prevention for young adults and seniors as well?)

Objective		Action Step	Who	When
1.	Identify additional/increased prevention funding sources	1. Explore changing prioritization of CHG to increase the prevention allocation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Check if RRH/HEN grantees are using their funding for prevention (the 40% that they could) b. If it is, request that Commerce change the allocation for prevention (60% of their CHG funds must be used for unsheltered) 	Esther	
2.	Identify and increase support services for people with intensive needs	1. YNHS provides supportive housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What other providers are available? ▪ How can they be tailored better? 2. Utilize Medicaid and Amerigroup Foundational Community Supports for these services 3. Peer counselors for supportive services 4. Identify specific services for people with hoarding disorders 5. Explore income support services – supportive employment and benefits acquisition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Follow up on SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) training through the SOAR Online Course 		
3.	Ensure that individuals are able to access prevention services/resources	1. Look at using 211 for prevention connection		
4.	Identify opportunities to increase access to prevention services in	1. Partner with existing systems so that there is a warm hand-off, build a concrete network		

	reentry settings (CJ, hospital, foster care)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Build off what is in place for juvenile justice system with ACI 2. For hospitals, look at utilization management and Medicare/Medicaid for additional avenues out (respite?) 3. Look at Catholic Charities, Casey Family, Foster First, and Nak Nu We Sha for programs for youth aging out of foster care. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Foster Care Initiative vouchers 	2. Melissa	
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Recommendations

Yakima County has a number of exemplary programs that help to meet the needs of people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. Still, the mapping exercise identified areas where programs may need expansion or where new resources and programming must be developed.

1. Increase income supports using the SOAR model for individuals with serious mental illness or co-occurring disorders who are unable to work at a substantial gainful level.
 - o Use the leverage gained from increased income support to strengthen engagement and broaden collaborations with landlords and housing partners.
2. Explore various funding streams such as ESG-CV and new federal funds for prevention and to develop new permanent housing options.
 - o More information on ESG-CV can be found on HUD's website:
https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/homeless_esg_covid-19
3. Follow action plan items for the development of more affordable housing units.
 - o Identify funding opportunities to fill affordable housing needs.
 - o Cultivate relationships with landlords to help them be successful with tenant challenges and needs.
 - i. Resources for improving landlord-tenant relationships:
 1. HUD Resource: [A Guide to Tenant Education](#)
 2. Renters Pass: [Tenant Course](#)
4. Decide on logistics for regularly scheduled meetings to ensure that action steps are completed and that the plan moves forward.
 - o Identify one or more individuals who may serve as “champions” to gain stakeholder buy-in and help move this work forward. Ideally, the champion

should be mission-driven/goal-oriented; qualified to manage people and processes; skilled at communication; experienced at building relationships; respected by others; and committed to homeless response system efforts in your community.



Resources

The Yakima County Department of Human Services leads the efforts in the county to meet the needs of people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. The county and city governments work in coordination with local non-profits to stabilize housing for those at-risk, coordinate access to services for individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness, and help people exit the homeless response system to appropriate and safe permanent housing. Funding sources and programs are always changing and evolving. This is not meant to be an exhaustive list, but rather a representative snapshot in time of county-wide programs and national resources.

Housing

- Alliance for Health Reform. [*The Connection Between Health and Housing: The Evidence and Policy Landscape.*](#)
- Economic Roundtable. [*Getting Home: Outcomes from Housing High-Cost Homeless Hospital Patients.*](#)
- 100,000 Homes. [*Housing First Self-Assessment.*](#)
- Urban Institute. [*Supportive Housing for Returning Prisoners: Outcomes and Impacts of the Returning Home-Ohio Pilot Project.*](#)
- Corporation for Supportive Housing. [*NYC FUSE – Evaluation Findings.*](#)
- Corporation for Supportive Housing. [*Housing is the Best Medicine: Supportive Housing and the Social Determinants of Health.*](#)
- Corporation for Supportive Housing. [*Guide to the FUSE Model.*](#)

Mental Health First Aid

- [*Mental Health First Aid.*](#)
- Illinois General Assembly. *Public Act 098-0195: [*Illinois Mental Health First Aid Training Act.*](#)*

Peer Support Services

- SAMHSA's GAINS Center. [*Involving Peers in Criminal Justice and Problem-Solving Collaboratives.*](#)

- [Doors to Wellbeing: State Specific Peer Specialist Certification Database](#)
- SOARWorks: [Peer Support Workers and Peer-Run Organizations: A Beneficial Resource for Implementing SOAR](#)
- SAMHSA Peer Recovery Center of Excellence: <http://www.PeerRecoveryNow.org>
- [National Association of Peer Supporters \(N.A.P.S.\)](#)
- [Mental Health America – Center for Peer Support](#)

Families

- [Family Run Executive Director Leadership Association \(FREDLA\)](#): FREDLA provides support and advocacy for family-run organizations through training and technical assistance. They encourage collaboration and peer-to-peer sharing among family-run organizations.
- [National Family Support Technical Assistance Center \(NFSTAC\)](#): NFSTAC is a SAMHSA funded Center of Excellence that supports families and caregivers of children with serious mental illness and/or substance use challenges. They work to build partnerships between families and providers.
- [National Family Peer Specialist Certification](#): The National Federation of Families provides a National Certification for Family Peer Specialists (CFPS).

SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, And Recovery (SOAR)

- [SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery \(SOAR\)](#) is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and is a national program designed to increase access to the disability income benefit programs administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA) for eligible adults and children who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a serious mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder.
- [SOAR for justice-involved persons](#)
- [SOAR Online Courses](#)

Transition Age Youth

- [Youth MOVE National](#): Youth MOVE National is a chapter-based organization that works to amplify and encourage the voices of youth with lived experience in mental health, juvenile justice, education and child welfare systems.
- [Youth MOVE Peer Center](#): The Youth MOVE Peer Center is a SAMHSA funded Consumer Run and Consumer Supporter Technical Assistance Center funded to provide direct technical assistance, learning communities, product development, and training to increase the capacity of the mental health field to implement and integrate youth peer services.
- [National Network for Youth](#): Information and resources for ending youth homelessness.
- [Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program](#): HUD funding for the development and implementation of a coordinated community approach to preventing and ending youth homelessness.

Trauma-Informed Care

- SAMHSA, SAMHSA's National Center on Trauma-Informed Care, and SAMHSA's GAINS Center. [*Essential Components of Trauma Informed Judicial Practice*](#).
- SAMHSA's GAINS Center. [*Trauma Specific Interventions for Justice-Involved Individuals*](#).
- SAMHSA. [*SAMHSA's Concept of Trauma and Guidance for a Trauma-Informed Approach*](#).
- National Resource Center on Justice-Involved Women. [*Jail Tip Sheets on Justice-Involved Women*](#).

Veterans

- [SAMHSA's GAINS Center](#).
- Justice for Vets. [*Ten Key Components of Veterans Treatment Courts*](#).
- National Call Center for Homeless Veterans: 24/7 confidential support and connect with VA services. 1-877-4AID-VET (424-3838)
- Social Security Administration (SSA): [Services for Veterans](#)
- Veterans Affairs (VA): [Homeless Programs](#)
- [Veterans Benefit Administration](#): Benefits for Veterans available from the VA
- VA SSVF Grant Program: [Supportive Services for Veteran Families](#)
- [Veterans Affairs \(VA\) peer specialists](#): VA peer specialists and peer support apprentices help fellow Veterans navigate the VA system.

Washington-Specific Information and Resources

- [PRA's Washington Homeless Systems Map \(statewide\)](#). 2020.
- Yakima County Department of Human Services. [Homeless Housing and Assistance Program Request for Proposal](#).
- [Yakima County's 5-Year Plan to Address Homelessness](#), 2019-2024.
- [2019 Golden Report](#) of funding for housing (2021 version in progress)
- Washington State Department of Commerce. [Homeless Assistance](#)

General Resources and Reference

- The Council of State Governments Justice Center. (2021). [Reducing Homelessness for People with Behavioral Health Needs Leaving Prisons and Jails: Recommendations to California's Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health](#).
- Alliance for Health Reform. (2015). [The Connection Between Health and Housing: The Evidence and Policy Landscape](#).
- Economic Roundtable. (2013). [Getting Home: Outcomes from Housing High Cost Homeless Hospital Patients](#).
- 100,000 Homes. [Housing First Self-Assessment](#).
- Community Solutions. [Built for Zero](#).
- Corporation for Supportive Housing. [Guide to the Frequent Users Systems Engagement \(FUSE\) Model](#).
- Corporation for Supportive Housing. [NYC Frequent User Services Enhancement – Evaluation Findings](#).

- Corporation for Supportive Housing. [Housing is the Best Medicine: Supportive Housing and the Social Determinants of Health](#).
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2015). [TIP 55: Behavioral Health Services for People Who Are Homeless](#).
- National Homelessness Law Center. (2019). [Housing Not Handcuffs 2019: Ending the Criminalization of Homelessness in U.S. Cities](#).
- Tiny Home Example in Oregon: [Square One Villages](#)
- Countywide [transportation](#)
- Commerce Grant: [Capital Facilities](#)
- Commerce Grant: [Rapid Capital Housing Acquisitions](#)
- Landlord Relationships:
 - HUD Resource: [A Guide to Tenant Education](#)
 - Renters Pass: [Tenant Course](#)

Appendix

HOMELESS RESPONSE SYSTEMS MAPPING WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT LIST

Name	Organization
Whitney Carlson	Catholic Charities
Mike Shuttleworth	City of Sunnyside
Mitch Nickolds	City of Toppenish
Joan Davenport	City of Yakima
Sara Watkins	City of Yakima
Ron Gengler	Comprehensive Healthcare
Raul Patton	Department of Veteran Affairs
Tom Gaulke	Entrust Community Services
Mike Kay	Grace City Outreach / Camp Hope
Verlynn K. Best	Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce
Lee Murdock	Homeless Network of Yakima County
Mary Stephenson	NAMI Yakima
Hope Lange	Next Step Housing
Shealynn Reuther	Noah's Ark / Generating Hope
Meredith Bruch	Northwest Justice Project
Isidra Sanchez	OIC of Washington
Gabriel Muñoz	People for People
Mark James	Rod's House
Leticia Garcia	The Lighthouse - Advocacy, Prevention, and Education Center
Marc Garcia	Triumph Treatment Services
Nolan Wentz	Wapato Police Department
Tim Sullivan	Washington 211/People For People
Tyler Leslie	Yakama Nation Housing Authority
Jenece M. Howe	Yakama Nation Village of Hope
Esther Magasis	Yakima County Human Services
LaDon Linde	Yakima County Human Services
David Brown	Yakima County Human Services
Melissa Holm	Yakima County Human Services
Kellie Connaughton	Yakima Greenway Foundation
Amanda Delp	Yakima Housing Authority
Alicia Bell	Yakima Neighborhood Health Services
Annette Rodriguez	Yakima Neighborhood Health Services
Rhonda Hauff	Yakima Neighborhood Health Services
Ritch Fowler	Yakima Police Department

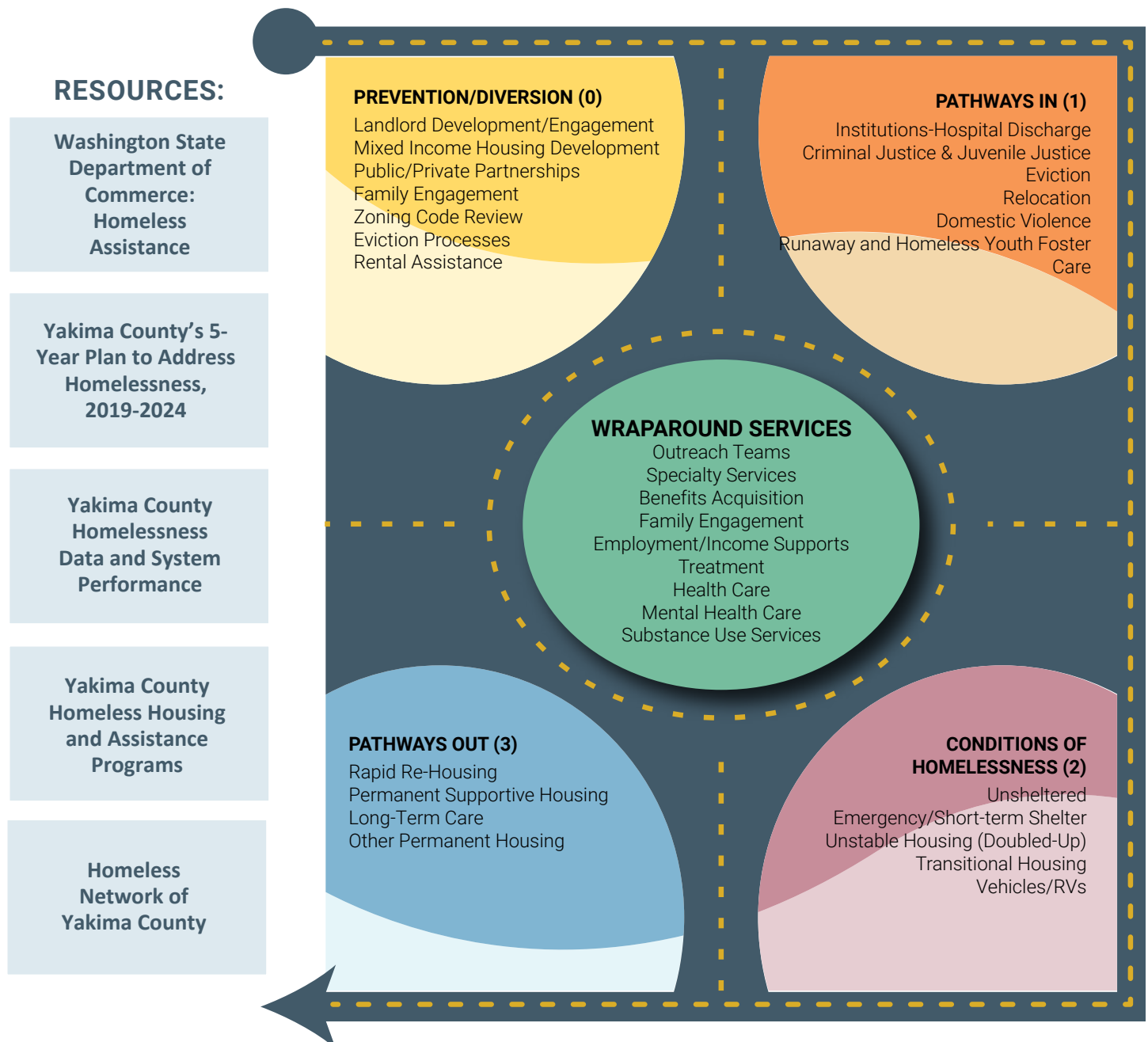
Scott Thielen	Yakima Union Gospel Mission
Ben Beck-Coon	Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic
Noemi Ortiz	Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic DBA Northwest Community Action Center
Daisy Gutierrez	YWCA Yakima



YAKIMA HOMELESS RESPONSE SYSTEMS MAPPING

PATHWAYS IN AND PATHWAYS OUT

The Yakima County Department of Human Services leads the efforts in the county to meet the needs of people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. The county and city governments work in coordination with local non-profits to stabilize housing for those at-risk, coordinate access to services for individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness, and help people exit the homeless response system to appropriate and safe permanent housing. Funding sources and programs are always changing and evolving. This is not meant to be an exhaustive list, but rather a representative snapshot in time of county-wide programs.





0: DIVERSION/PREVENTION

Programs are available to identify and support individuals and families prior to entering the homeless service system to divert them from mainstream homeless services and prevent them from losing their housing.

LANDLORD DEVELOPMENT/ENGAGEMENT

Landlord Mitigation Program: Washington State's Landlord Mitigation Law provides funds for landlord reimbursement for required move-in upgrades, rent loss, and qualifying damages.

MIXED INCOME HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

The Washington Low Income Housing Alliance: Coalition of organizations that advocates for safe affordable housing.

Office of Rural and Farmworker Housing

Catholic Charities of Central Washington Affordable Housing Services

PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Washington Youth and Families Fund: Operated by Building Changes, the fund is a combination of government and philanthropic funds granted to local agencies to reduce homelessness for youth and families. Yakima County, Yakima Neighborhood Health Services, and Northwest Justice Project are grantees.

EVICTIION PROCESSES/PREVENTION

Northwest Justice Project, Yakima Office: Local legal aid organization providing civil legal assistance to low-income individuals including services to prevent evictions and maintain stable housing for renters.

Dispute Resolution Center of Yakima and Kittias Counties

RENTAL ASSISTANCE

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Economic Services Administration, Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) Referral Program: HEN program funds can be used for rent and utility assistance, move-in costs, health and hygiene items, cleaning supplies, and transportation assistance. HEN program funds are accessed through a network of homeless prevention service providers. Yakima Neighborhood Health Services and the Northwest Community Action Center are access points in Yakima.

HUD HOME Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA): The TBRA program uses federal funds to provide deposits, utility payments, and ongoing rental assistance. Eligible households are referred to TBRA through local Coordinated Entry access points.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Yakima Neighborhood Health Service: Provides diversion trainings to help families to divert from entering the homeless services system by offering creative solutions. Funded through private foundation grants.

Family Self Sufficiency Program: Offered by the Yakima Housing Authority. A program to help individuals receiving a Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) to increase skills, education, and employment.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation: Grants are distributed to support efforts to reduce family homelessness in Washington.

ZONING CODE REVIEW

The Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC): Provides information to local governments in Washington State including information on housing.

City of Yakima Housing Action Plan: Adopted in June 2021 to encourage housing development, increase housing choice, and address the needs of those experiencing homelessness.

Consolidated Homeless Grant (CHG): Washington State uses funds collected from document recording fees to provide resources for homeless crisis response systems through local governments and nonprofits.

Yakima CHG-funded Programs



1: PATHWAYS IN

► Individuals and families enter the homeless service system due to a wide range of circumstances including, but not limited to the loss of a job, unexpected medical bills, a mental health crisis, family separation, and exiting the foster-care system.

PATHWAYS IN

COORDINATED ENTRY (CE)

Coordinated Entry (CE): CE provides access points for individuals needing assistance and helps communities prioritize services based on individual needs and available resources.

Yakima County CE Access Points

Drivers of Homelessness in Washington

State: Commerce's Housing Assistance Unit Managing Director, Tedd Kelleher, explains what's driving the increase of homelessness in Washington state

Point in Time Count: Annual count and calculation of people experiencing homelessness in Washington State.

Yakima County Point in Time Community Report for 2020

HOSPITAL DISCHARGE

Eastern and Western State Hospitals: The Washington State Department of Social And Health Services operates two hospitals (Eastern and Western) that provide inpatient evaluations, competency restoration, and treatment for individuals with serious mental illness.

Community Inpatient Mental Health Facilities: Psychiatric inpatient treatment is also available in community hospitals or certified evaluation and treatment facilities.

Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital has an adult inpatient evaluation and treatment facility.

Comprehensive Healthcare offers behavioral health services and inpatient services.

LEGAL SYSTEMS

Trueblood et al v. Washington State DSHS Settlement: A class action lawsuit settlement that endorses a person's constitutional right to timely competence evaluation and restoration services. Part of the Trueblood Settlement is used to fund staff within the jail that perform reentry/discharge planning for individuals returning to the community.

The legislatively mandated and state-funded **Offender Reentry Community Safety (ORCS) Program** provides case management and community treatment planning, including assistance with housing, for up to five years after release. This program was previously called Dangerously Mentally Ill Offenders (DMIO). Comprehensive Healthcare is a funded agency in Yakima County.

The **Yakima County Veteran's Incarcerated Program (VIP)** works with incarcerated Veterans with various offenses in the Yakima County Department of Corrections as well as other municipal jails to successfully reintegrate Veterans back into the community.

Merit Resource Services: Collaboration with Yakima County Drug Court and other local treatment courts. Yakima County.

Yakima County Superior Court: Operates Therapeutic Courts including Drug Court and Mental Health Court



1: PATHWAYS IN

► Individuals and families enter the homeless service system due to a wide range of circumstances including, but not limited to the loss of a job, unexpected medical bills, a mental health crisis, family separation, and exiting the foster-care system.

YOUTH

FOSTER CARE

Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) Contracted Independent Living Skills (ILS) assists youth emancipating from foster care in obtaining housing. Catholic Charities of Yakima offers the Independent Living Skills Program for former foster youth.

Rod's House provides services to youth exiting foster care and administers vouchers for the Foster Youth Initiative program.

RUNAWAY/HOMELESS YOUTH

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Basic Center Program (BCP) helps reunite runaway and homeless youth with their families or other appropriate placements. There is not currently a grantee in Yakima.

Rod's House: Provides drop-in-center services and emergency shelter to youth and young adults

EVICTION

Foreclosure Fairness Program: Washington State program offers foreclosure counseling and mediation between homeowners and lenders to identify alternatives to foreclosure.

Tenancy Preservation: In court-approved cases, the Washington Department of Commerce will issue a temporary loan to landlords to preserve tenancy for low-income tenants facing eviction for non-payment of rent.

Treasury Rental Assistance Program (T-RAP): Federal and Washington state funding to prevent evictions in response to COVID-19 by covering past-due, current, and future rent payments. Providers in Yakima County include: Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic Northwest Community Action Center, Yakima Neighborhood Health Services, Catholic Charities, Northwest Communities Education Center/Radio KDNA, and OIC of Washington.

Yakima County T-RAP Resources

RELOCATION

Manufactured/Mobile Home Relocation Assistance Program: Financial assistance for relocation of manufactured or mobile homes in communities that are closing.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Office of Crime Victims Advocacy Resource Guide: The Washington Department of Commerce maintains a guide of non-emergency victim service providers.

Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence: and legal assistance to survivors of domestic violence. In Yakima County, organizations include Nuestra Casa, The Lighthouse, Yakima Indian Nation Behavioral Health Services and YWCA Yakima.

Department of Justice (DOJ) Transitional Housing Assistance Program: Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating funding for 6-24 months of transitional housing with support services for survivors.

Family Violence Prevention Grant: The Washington Violence Prevention formula grant to offer financial assistance to survivors of domestic violence.

The Lighthouse: Advocacy, Prevention and Education Center: Support groups and outreach for individuals experiencing domestic violence or sexual assault in Yakima County.

YWCA Yakima: The YWCA operates a 24-hour emergency domestic violence shelter and provides advocacy for families and children in need of support.



2: CONDITIONS OF HOMELESSNESS

DEFINITIONS OF HOMELESSNESS

The definitions of homelessness vary among federal agencies, funding sources, and age groups.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

*U.S. Department of Education
(for homeless children and youth)*

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act

UNSHELTERED

Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH): PATH is a federal formula grant intended to provide outreach, case management, and housing services to individuals with serious mental illness and/or co-occurring substance use disorders. Catholic Charities of Central Washington and Comprehensive Healthcare receive PATH funding from The Washington Healthcare Authority's Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR).

The Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC): Provides information to local governments in Washington State including a general municipal code for temporary homeless camp sites.

UNSTABLE HOUSING (DOUBLED-UP)

Homeless Student Stability Program (HSSP): State grants to support students experiencing homelessness through in-school supports and housing stability. Yakima Neighborhood Health Services administers the program locally.

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

HUD CoC Transitional Housing Programs: Interim stability and support with the goal of moving to and maintaining permanent housing. Housing and supportive services can be provided for up to 24 months.

Grace City Outreach: Provides transitional housing in the City of Yakima.

In addition, Yakima Union Gospel Mission, Yakama Nation, YWCA, and Rod's House also have transitional housing beds.

EMERGENCY/SHORT-TERM SHELTER

HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) Program: Yakima county is part of the Washington Balance of State (BoS CoC). The Washington Department of Commerce is the Collaborative Applicant for BoS CoC funding. In FY2020, Yakima Neighborhood Health Services and Next Step Housing received funding from the CoC program.

HUD Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG): Federal funds for outreach, emergency shelter, rental assistance, and supportive services. Program focus is on homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing. Yakima County receives funding for shelter outreach, and prevention and distributes them to local providers through an RFP process.

Noah's Ark: A project of Generating Hope, Noah's Ark provides a low barrier shelter and day drop-in center to the Lower Yakima Valley and Yakama Indian Reservation.

Yakima Union Gospel Mission: An emergency shelter for single adults and families in the City of Yakima.

Village of Hope: A family shelter in Toppenish, operated by the Yakama Nation.

Camp Hope: A program of Grace City Outreach is a low-barrier emergency homeless shelter for men, women, and families experiencing homelessness in Yakima County.

In addition, Grace City Outreach, Northwest Community Action Center, Rod's House, Triumph Treatment Services, Yakima Neighborhood Health Services, and the YWCA operate shelter beds or offer hotel/motel vouchers.



3: PATHWAYS OUT

The Pathways Out of homelessness are as diverse as the Pathways In. The Department of Commerce specifically tracks system performance based on length of time homeless, exits to permanent housing, and returns to homelessness.

Washington Balance of State (BoS) CoC Housing Inventory Count: Yakima County is part of the Washington BoS CoC.

Homeless Housing and Assistance Act: Grants document recording fees to local county governments or local non-profits.

RAPID RE-HOUSING

HUD CoC Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) Programs offer short- and medium-term rental assistance, housing search, and relocation assistance. **WA CoC Grants**

HUD Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG): Federal funds for outreach, emergency shelter, rental assistance, and supportive services. Program focus is on homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing.

RRH programs in Yakima County include Blue Mountain Community Action, Catholic Charities, Northwest Community Action Center, Yakima County, and Yakima Neighborhood Health Services

OTHER PERMANENT HOUSING

Washington State Association of Oxford Houses:

Self-run and self-supported recovery houses offering shared sober living spaces. A search for available spaces is available by County and Zip Code. There are over a dozen houses in Yakima County.

Washington Alliance for Quality Recovery Residences: Directory of recovery residences that are certified for quality and ethical standards.

Yakama Nation Village of Hope provides tiny homes for those who are experiencing homelessness from the Yakama Nation.

LONG-TERM CARE

Aging and Long-Term Support Administration: Long-term care residential options include nursing homes, adult family homes, and assistance living facilities. A locator search is available to identify facilities in Yakima.

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Department of Commerce, Office of Supportive Housing: Coordinates with state agencies, including HCA and DSHS, to help increase the availability of supportive housing for individuals with mental health conditions or substance use disorders.

HUD Section 811 Project Rental Assistance: Federal grants to provide project-based rental assistance to low-income individuals with disabilities.

HUD CoC Permanent Supportive Housing Programs: Community-based housing for persons with disabilities. Supportive services are provided so individuals can live as independently as possible. In FY2020, Yakima Neighborhood Health Services and Next Step Housing received funding from the CoC program.

Consolidated Homeless Grant: Washington state uses funds collected from document recording fees to provide resources to fund homeless crisis response systems through local governments and nonprofits. **Yakima CHG-funded programs.**

Community Behavioral Health Rental Assistance (CBRA) and Housing and Recovery Through Peer Services Long-Term Subsidies (HARPS LTS): Permanent rental subsidies for individuals with behavioral health conditions that are highly-vulnerable.

Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH): Formula grant administered by SAMHSA to provide outreach, case management, and housing services for individuals with serious mental illness, substance use, or co-occurring disorders. Catholic Charities of Central Washington and Comprehensive Healthcare receive PATH funding.

SAMHSA Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals (GBHI): Federal grant funding for supportive services for individuals with SMI/SUD. Services may include outreach, case management, and housing supports.

Yakima Housing Authority: Affordable housing opportunities through programs such as Section 8 Tenant Based Rental Assistance and Section 8 Family Self Sufficiency.

Yakama Nation Housing Authority: Low-income rental housing assistance, maintenance, elder services, home-buying assistance, and weatherization services.

Justice Housing Yakima: The organization is creating Cottage Hill Village, an affordable housing development with 25-30 small homes for permanent supportive housing.

In addition, Next Step Housing, Yakima Neighborhood Health Services, Triumph Treatment Services, and Comprehensive Healthcare provide PSH in Yakima County.



WRAPAROUND SERVICES

For many individuals and families, services are key to ongoing housing stability. These wraparound services help at all points in the system from prevention to the pathways out.

OUTREACH TEAMS

Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH): PATH is a federal formula grant intended to provide outreach, case management, and housing services to individuals with serious mental illness and/or co-occurring substance use disorders. Catholic Charities of Central Washington and Comprehensive Healthcare receive PATH funding from The Washington Healthcare Authority's Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR).

SPECIALTY SERVICES

Washington 2-1-1: Callers can get connected to health and human services from a comprehensive database of community resources across the State of Washington, including Yakima County.

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF): Grants from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide eligible Veteran families with outreach, case management, services, and rental assistance to promote housing stability. Blue Mountain Action Council is a grantee in Southeast Washington.

Salvation Army Yakima Corps

Yakima County Veterans Program

Northwest Justice Project: Assists individuals, including Veterans, with barriers to employment and housing, with services including license reinstatement, debt defense, vacating criminal convictions, benefit denials and overpayments, and domestic violence support.

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES

Washington State Directory of Certified Mental Health, Substance Use Disorder Services: Service finder. Providers in Yakima include: Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Yakima, Comprehensive Healthcare, Apple Valley Counseling Service, Balance Social Services, Barth Clinic, Believe in Recovery, Center for Addictions Recovery and Educations (CARE), Innovation Resource Center, institute for Family Development, Integrity Support Services, Merit Resource Services, Triumph Treatment Services, Veterans Administration, Yakima Nation Tiinawit Program, Yakima Valley Farmworkers Clinic, and Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital.

NAMI Yakima Resource Manual: Resource guide available to individuals with mental illness and their families

Triumph Treatment Services: Services for outpatient and residential substance use disorder and mental health treatment in the Yakima Valley

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Yakima provides information, advocacy, and support to individuals with mental illness and their families.

Homeless Student Stability Program: Washington State funded program to improve educational outcomes of students experiencing homelessness through in-school supports and housing stability. Yakima Neighborhood Health Services administers the program locally.

Family services are also provided by the YWCA, Dispute Resolution Center, and Catholic Charities.

HEALTH CARE

Washington State Health Care Authority, Apple Health (Medicaid) Coverage: Free or low-cost health insurance.

Health Resources and Services Administration, Health Center Program: Primary and preventative care available to individuals regardless of ability to pay. Yakima Neighborhood Health Services, Davis Health Clinic, Yakima Pediatrics, and others are local Yakima providers.

Health Care for the Homeless Grantees: Federally funded programs that provide health care services to people experiencing homelessness. Yakima Neighborhood Health Services is a grantee in Yakima County.

Yakima Neighborhood Health Services (YNHS): YNHS provides integrated health and housing services - inclusive of medical, dental, behavioral health, pharmacy, and social services supports (including MAT, supportive housing, and supported employment).



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BENEFITS ACQUISITION

Community-based training for Washington Healthplanfinder and Apple Health (Medicaid) coverage: Training available for stakeholders to learn more about eligibility for Apple Health coverage and how to navigate the Healthplanfinder application web portal.

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Economic Services Administration: The Answer Phone provides information, benefit status, and payment information regarding DSHS benefits.

SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR): SOAR is a SAMHSA-funded program designed to increase access to the disability income benefit programs administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA) for eligible adults and children who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a serious mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Veterans Benefits Administration: Benefits available to Veterans including disability income, education and training, employment, home loans, life insurance, and more.

Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs): Accredited representatives are available to assist with benefits claims. Representatives are available in Yakima County via the search.

Washington Connection: Service linkage and applications for services including income, food, childcare, long-term care, and medical assistance.

EMPLOYMENT/INCOME SUPPORTS

Washington State Health Care Authority, Foundational Community Supports: Supportive housing and supported employment services are available to vulnerable Medicaid recipients.

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Economic Services Administration, Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) Referral Program: HEN program funds can be used for rent and utility assistance, move-in costs, health and hygiene items, cleaning supplies, and transportation assistance. HEN program funds are accessed through a network of homeless prevention service providers.

Entrust Community Services: Provides employment and education services to individuals with disabilities and youth in transition.

People For People: Employment and training programs, meal delivery, and transportation services in Yakima County.

Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) of Washington: Education and career services, health and nutrition services, and energy and rental assistance.