



East King County Plan To End Homelessness

Eastside Human Services Forum
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Participating Organizations:

A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH)	Friends of Youth
Bellevue School District	Health Care for the Homeless Network
Catholic Community Services/Archdiocesan Housing Authority	Hopelink
Child Care Resources	Housing at the Crossroads
Church Council of Greater Seattle	Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness/King County
City of Bellevue	Issaquah School District
City of Issaquah	King County
City of Kirkland	King County Housing Authority
City of Mercer Island	Kirkland Interfaith Transitions in Housing (KITH)
City of Redmond	Lake Washington School District
Committee to End Homelessness of King County (CEH)	St. Andrew's Housing Group
Congregations for the Homeless	Snoqualmie Valley School District
Downtown Action to Save Housing (DASH)	United Way of King County
Eastside Cares	Vets Edge
Eastside Domestic Violence Program (EDVP)	Woodinville Unitarian Universalist Church
Evergreen Health Care	YWCA of Seattle-King County-Snohomish County
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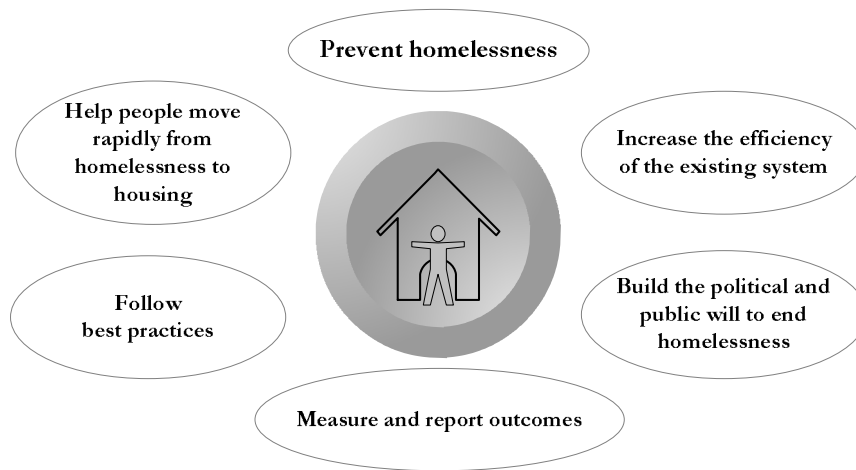
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Background

In 2005, government officials, funders, homeless people, advocates, and housing and service providers initiated a plan to end homelessness in King County in 10 years. The *10 Year Plan to End Homelessness* has galvanized efforts to improve housing and services for homeless people throughout King County. Key to these efforts is preventing homelessness and the *housing first* strategy of connecting people to permanent housing immediately and providing supportive services to help maintain their stability.

Key Strategies from the 10 Year Plan



Purpose

King County is geographically broad and holds diverse local communities, and while the *10 Year Plan* provides a broad framework to guide approaches to homelessness, it does not delve into sub-regional issues. The Eastside Human Services Forum and Eastside Homelessness Advisory Committee (EHAC) have created the following document to define what the county's *10 Year Plan*

means for East King County. This document is intended to serve as a companion piece to King County's *10 Year Plan*, describing needs and solutions to homelessness in East King County, and connecting the *10 Year Plan's* vision to the Eastside. Specifically, this plan will do the following.

- Connect cities and agencies throughout East King County to provide a comprehensive and coordinated set of housing and services to meet the varied needs of homeless and at risk individuals and families
- Guide and support government officials, policymakers and funders as they make decisions about the direction, funding, and capacity of housing and services for homeless and at-risk individuals and families in East King County over the next 10 years
- Help organizations make effective decisions about the housing and services they will provide
- Help public and private agencies, funders, and community members understand current and future homeless housing needs in East King County
- Identify gaps in housing and services for homeless and at risk individuals and families
- Raise public awareness about homelessness

Importance to East King County

Why is it important to end homelessness in East King County? There are many reasons, but following are a few that stand out as most important on the Eastside.

- Housing people saves lives and improves health.
According to Public Health's Healthcare for the Homeless program statistics, common health problems among homeless adults, families, youth and children in East King County include upper respiratory infections, skin disorders, heart problems, diabetes, asthma, and depression. Ending homelessness will decrease chronic and communicable diseases and improve mental health and substance use issues that disproportionately impact homeless people and decrease the number of deaths.
- Housing is essential for education and opportunities for homeless children and youth, improving long-term life and employment prospects.
Sound Families data shows a strong negative link between homelessness and school stability, with 59 percent of homeless children in East King County attending two or more schools in the year before entering housing.

- Homelessness is expensive.

It is not cost effective to fund emergency services at emergency rooms and jails, rather than providing supportive housing and rental assistance to help homeless individuals and families achieve stable housing and employment.

- Early intervention prevents more difficult problems.

If East King County acts to intervene now, it can keep chronic homelessness from becoming a more significant issue locally. Early intervention can also prevent individuals and families from spiraling down to need more services (e.g. chemical or alcohol dependency).

- Existing homeless housing in East King County is limited.

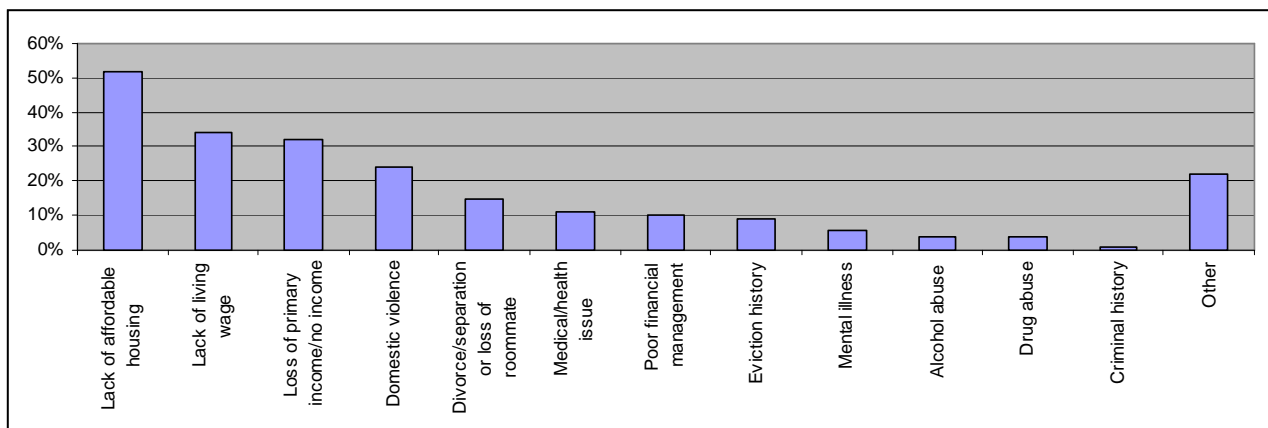
East King County’s existing housing capacity is overburdened and the situation will likely become worse if no action is taken.

- Ending homelessness is the right thing to do.

With significant resources to draw on and recent survey results indicating a communitywide commitment to ending homelessness, East King County should act now to ensure that community members at all income levels can retain their housing.

Homeless Populations and Needs in East King County

Individuals and families in East King County become homeless for a number of reasons. Data from the Gates Foundation Sound Families programs indicates that the primary cause of homelessness for most families on the Eastside (52 percent) is lack of affordable housing. This is



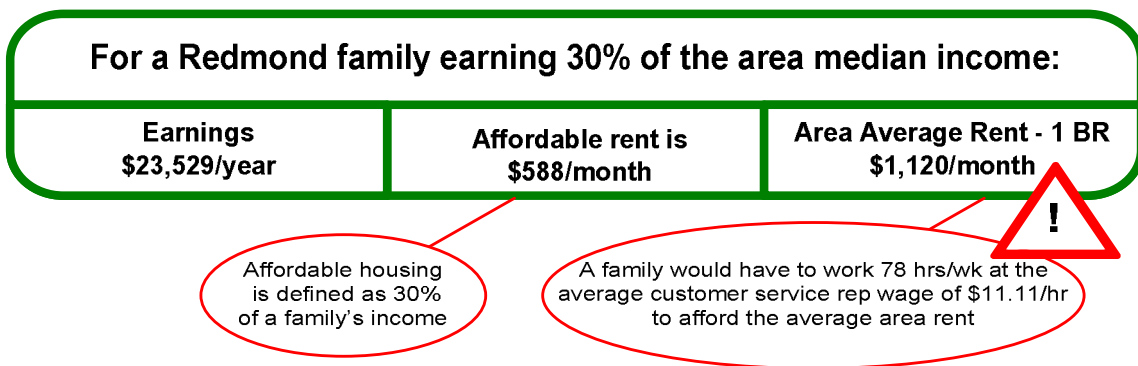
Percent of Eastside families by primary cause of homelessness

(As identified by case managers at Sound Families intake. Families could list more than one primary cause of homelessness.)

higher than average for King County, as is the percentage of families who become homeless due to a medical or health issue (11 percent). The second most common cause of homelessness for Eastside families is lack of a living wage (34 percent), indicating a significant gap between housing prices and wages for many families.

There is a real need for both affordable housing and living wage jobs in East King County. According to King County’s Benchmark Report, East King County has the smallest stock of affordable rental housing in the county for people at 50 percent of the area median income. None of the cities in East King County have sufficient affordable housing for families at 30 to 80 percent of the area median income. Benchmarks show that only 2 percent of rental units in Redmond are affordable to low-income households earning 50 percent or less of the area median income and 0 percent of rental units in Sammamish. Supply of less expensive housing is threatened by countywide trends such as rent increases and condo conversions.

For example:



Prevention of Homelessness

The most effective strategy to end homelessness is to help at-risk families and individuals *before* they become homeless. Countywide, the Committee to End Homelessness (CEH) has identified more than 46,000 extremely low-income families who are at risk of homelessness and need services and assistance to maintain their housing. Rental assistance and subsidies for utility bills help families and individuals maintain their market rate housing. Job training and educational opportunities help them secure living wage jobs that allow them to pay rents long term. Assistance

with child care can also help low-income families stay housed, as many are forced to make choices between paying for child care and rent.

Strategies such as rental assistance are particularly important in East King County, where the most common causes of homelessness are lack of affordable housing and lack of jobs that pay a living wage. Data from the Housing Stability Program, a major homelessness prevention services provider, shows how effective homelessness prevention can be. The program found that 94 percent of households served continued to live in their permanent housing six months later. The program served 105 households in the North/East King County region in 2006, at an average expense of \$954 in direct assistance per household. The most common reason that households needed assistance was a lost job, followed by cuts in work hours and illnesses or injuries. At the same time, it is important to be aware that there are families on the Eastside that do not meet the Housing Stability Program's criteria and may require potentially higher assistance costs to avoid homelessness. Additionally, while many households can stabilize with short-term assistance, households dependent on low-wage jobs will require longer-term subsidies or affordable housing.

Preventing homelessness also requires building connections between systems and providers to improve discharge planning. When people have an exit plan that includes a place to live, they are less likely to exit foster care, prisons, mental health or chemical dependency treatment, or medical respite into homelessness.

Homelessness prevention services for youth and young adults, while in some cases similar to adult services, also include family preservation and reconciliation services, crisis services, and collaboration with foster care, mental health, juvenile detention, jail, and chemical dependency systems to ensure that a housing plan is in place for each youth and young adult.

For example:

Hopelink's Family Development program helps prevent homelessness by providing support to families who are at risk in one or more areas of their lives. **Rent subsidies** and **eviction prevention funds** help families in crisis maintain their **housing** rather than falling into homelessness. **Family development specialists** work with each family to help them set **goals**, gain **self-sufficiency**, and ultimately remain **stable** and keep their **housing**.

Preventing homelessness for immigrant families in East King County must include culturally relevant services to help navigate the system. This may include assistance with housing search and housing support programs, and legal, educational, and job services, as well as ESL classes and interpreter services.

Estimating future need for homelessness prevention services and assistance on the Eastside is difficult. The factors that push individuals and families toward homelessness are wide-ranging and can be affected by unforeseen forces, such as changes in the economy and the housing market. While it is known that current resources are not sufficient, the optimum level of resources needed on the Eastside cannot be accurately determined at this time. The Committee to End Homelessness has convened a workgroup to study the issue of homelessness prevention in King County. The final product of that group will be evaluated and drawn on to help set a target for prevention resources needed in East King County.

Supportive Services to Maintain Housing Stability

While many individuals and families on the Eastside are simply priced out of the market and have low service needs, a substantial number need supportive services to maintain stability. For example, of the 2,307 mentally ill people served by the Regional Support Network in East King County, an estimated 270 adults were homeless for at least part of the year. In addition, Sound Families data, while limited to participating families in funded programs, indicates that at intake to housing, 12 percent of heads of household had a mental illness, nine percent had a physical disability, and two percent had a developmental disability. Alcohol and drug use also impacted families' stability, with four percent of families identifying alcohol or drug abuse as the primary cause of their homelessness.

Supportive services are essential in helping many people with mental health and chemical dependency issues maintain housing, and include case management, mental health and chemical dependency services, life and job skills training, and legal advocacy. Additionally, people with complex life situations, including mental illness, chemical dependency, histories of trauma, disabilities or health issues, criminal justice and bad credit history, and immigration status face

major obstacles in obtaining housing that can be mitigated with services such as credit repair, deposit assistance, and money management.

Best practices in ending homelessness encompass a range of housing and service strategies that have proven effective. However, key elements in any best practice approach are providing a range of affordable, independent housing options, and flexible supportive services that can increase and decrease in intensity depending on individual needs.

Supportive services can be located on-site or off-site, consist of mobile teams, or be easily accessed through public transit. However, in a *housing first* model, supportive services must be flexible – with capacity to increase and decrease in order to meet clients’ changing needs. In addition, they must be culturally competent.

What supportive services to maintain stability are needed in East King County?

- ✦ **Case management** services to help families set and attain goals that will promote self-sufficiency
- ✦ **Quality child care** and access to child care subsidies
- ✦ **Employment services**
- ✦ **Financial assistance** during times of crisis
- ✦ **Adult education**, including literacy and ESL classes
- ✦ **Access to health care and mental health care** and assistance with referrals
- ✦ **Credit, money management, and other financial literacy services**
- ✦ **Alcohol and chemical dependency services**
- ✦ **Transportation**

Homeless Housing Needs in East King County by Population

Single Adults

Within East King County’s homeless single adult population are substantial numbers of homeless veterans living outdoors in Eastside woods and unsheltered homeless people living in their cars. The proportion of homeless women appears to be greater than originally thought, based on the level of response at the drop-in center that opened in Bellevue in 2007. Data from the Crisis Clinic

indicates that among housing requests from Eastside residents, 80 percent of calls were from women.

One way to estimate the unmet need for homeless housing is to look at currently known homeless single adults on the Eastside. Annually, Congregations for the Homeless (CFH) serves approximately 120 men from Eastside communities. An additional estimated 150 persons annually live in Tent City communities. Eastside housing and service providers estimate that at least 50 people live outside in East King County, and 50 or more individuals from East King County are being served at Seattle facilities. To house this total population, assuming an average stay of 2.5 years, would require approximately 700 units for homeless single adults. In addition, 25 percent of King County's homeless population are originally not from King County or have no known last



address. Assuming that at least one tenth of that group are former residents of the Eastside or connected to Eastside community members would require an additional 120 units. Therefore, the estimated total need for single homeless adults on the Eastside is approximately 820 units with a mix of low, moderate, and high service levels.

This estimate is consistent with countywide projections. King County's *10 Year Plan* defines a need for 4,800 additional units for single adults in King County. Eastside providers, government officials, and CEH representatives estimate that 12 percent of homeless single adults in King County are from the Eastside. Adding a share of the homeless population not originally from King County or with no known last address yields a total share of 17 percent, or just under 820 additional units for homeless single adults on the Eastside.

East King County's housing units will need to serve single adults with needs of different intensities. Eastside housing and service providers estimate that approximately 20 percent of the units for homeless single adults will need to have high-intensity supportive services, with the remaining 80 percent serving low and moderate need levels. High-intensity services on the Eastside are needed for both episodically and chronically homeless adults, although East King County has a smaller relative proportion of homeless adults who are considered chronically homeless. The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines chronic homelessness as an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either

been continuously homeless for at least one year, or who has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.

Housing units for single adults, while primarily permanent, should also include *interim housing* for a small number of single adults who cannot be immediately placed in permanent housing due to particularly complex needs. King County's Shelter Task Force has defined interim housing as short-term units for three groups: (1) individuals whose mental/emotional/behavioral status is unclear and who require additional assessment prior to housing placement; (2) individuals who have complex issues with criminal justice, mental health, chemical dependency, HIV/AIDS issues and/or acute healthcare that prevent them from moving directly to appropriate permanent supportive housing; and (3) individuals facing a crisis that endangers their safety, including women fleeing domestic violence. Eastside housing and service providers estimate that 50 interim housing units will be needed for single adults within the 820 total units for single adults.

What kinds of housing might work well for homeless single adults in East King County?

Homeless single adults need a **mix of housing models**. Effective models include **single family houses** that can provide separate bedrooms with community living and dining areas, and on-site project managers. **Self-managed housing**, such as Oxford House, works well for low and moderate need single adults. Housing should provide privacy, security, living options outside of the central corridor, and access to supportive services as needed.

Eastside housing and service providers also see a need for approximately 100 **Single Room Occupancy** (SRO) style units, similar to those developed by Plymouth Housing Group in Seattle, which could provide interim and permanent housing with no restrictions on length of stay. While units can be small, each unit should include a shower and kitchenette, furnishings, and access to a common area with a larger kitchen, as well as 24/7 management on-site, offices for referral staff and easy access to transit. Connections should be made with **local social service providers** to support residents. Rents must be **affordable**, at approximately \$150 to \$175, and Section 8 can be used to help increase affordability.

While the *10 Year Plan* contemplates cutting back shelter capacity and converting shelter beds to interim housing for single adults, East King County needs to build its **interim housing capacity**. Currently, the CFH church shelter provides the only existing homeless housing of any duration for single adults in East King County and can provide shelter to only 30 adult men.

Families

East King County families become homeless for many reasons and may need easily accessible supportive services in addition to housing units to address these issues. Many families cannot pay high rents on the Eastside with low-wage jobs and need help obtaining a living wage job. Many female heads of household have experienced domestic violence and need legal help and security. Undocumented families find that it is hard to rent subsidized affordable housing, but their incomes are often too low to rent in the private sector. Families also lose their housing after drug and alcohol use; methamphetamines, particularly, have found their way to the Eastside.

King County's *10 Year Plan* estimates a need for 1,900 housing units for families, most with limited and moderate service level needs. This figure may be an underestimate. Given the Eastside's severe lack of affordable housing and the disproportionate representation of families among its homeless population, Eastside housing and service providers project that East King County will need 930 family units.



The need for 930 family units in East King County is based on the current estimate of five homeless families turned away for each homeless family housed. (While not all providers track turn-aways, one large Eastside provider estimates a ratio of eight families turned away for each family placed in emergency shelter beds, and 12 turn-aways for each family obtaining transitional housing. The rates are averaged and halved to roughly account for duplication as families who are turned away seek housing from other Eastside providers.)

Eastside providers have already begun to take advantage of funding for housing first projects, supporting approximately 33 families with Homeless Housing and Services (2163) funding

A snapshot of homeless families in East King County: Data from Sound Families-funded programs

Single head of household: 86%

Average caregiver age: 29

Average child age: 6

Most common caregiver race/ethnicity--
White: 45%,
African American: 24%
Latino: 8%

Most common caregiver education level--
High school diploma: 34%
Some college: 24%
Some high school: 19%

awarded to EDVP, Hopelink, CFH, and Friends of Youth; and providing rent subsidies, with Regional Affordable Housing Program (2060) funding, through Downtown Action to Save Housing (DASH). These partnerships between housing and service providers offer an excellent model to replicate but will require additional funding if the programs are to continue and grow.

Not all of the units needed by families, or other homeless individuals, need to be new construction. Units can also be found within the existing private sector – for example, through rent subsidies, and with education, incentives, and safeguards to encourage landlords to rent to families with credit or criminal histories. Homelessness prevention efforts that keep families in their homes will also decrease demand for additional units. However, some new construction will be necessary, particularly given current low vacancy rates.

What kinds of housing might work well for homeless families in East King County?

Most homeless families may be best served by **individual apartments**. Some families will also need facilities with **communal spaces** and **supportive services**. Housing for larger families will be more difficult to secure and warrants continued attention.

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence and homelessness are linked for many individuals and families. Sound Families data indicates that domestic violence is the primary cause of homelessness for nearly one quarter (24 percent) of homeless families in East King County. Units for families and individuals dealing with domestic violence must be safe and have access to culturally competent services. Many will also need assistance with child care, employment and legal services, and counseling. Eastside housing and service providers estimate that among East King County's single adult and family housing development there is a need for 45 permanent, 15 transitional, and 15 interim units for domestic violence survivors. These estimates are based on the current turn-away rate of 15 to 1 for emergency units and projecting that nearly all domestic violence-related residents of interim and transitional housing will ultimately need permanent housing. Use of existing housing for domestic violence suggests that approximately 80 percent of need is for families and 20 percent for single women.

What kinds of housing might work well for domestic violence survivors on the Eastside?

Individuals and families dealing with domestic violence need a range of housing options. While some will be best served by **set-aside units** scattered throughout East King County, Eastside housing and service providers also see a need for a **dedicated facility** on a bus line. A multi-story building would allow for co-location of interim and permanent housing and outreach services, with the ground level dedicated to **outreach services** for clients not in housing, as well as **common areas** and offices for **advocates and counseling**. Upper stories could be dedicated to interim housing and units for longer stays for individuals and families dealing with drug and alcohol abuse, as well as domestic violence.

Youth and Young Adults

Youth and young adults become homeless for many reasons, including abuse, neglect, and aging out of the foster care system. Youth and young adults, 11-17 and 18-25 respectively, face different issues and serious barriers to obtaining housing in the private market, as well as legislation complicating the services and housing that nonprofit agencies can provide to youth under 18 without immediate parental notification. They also need time and support to develop independent living skills and employment assistance and education that will help them obtain a living wage job. Many also need counseling to recover from past family trauma.

Existing permanent housing units are typically full for youth and young adults. While the proportion of pregnant young mothers is decreasing among homeless youth and young adults, the overall need for additional housing dedicated to youth and young adults remains high. Eastside



housing and service providers estimate that 96 additional units of permanent housing are needed for youth and young adults in East King County. Most of the 96 units should be permanent housing, excluding 12 units that are transitional/transition in place.

Estimates for long term needs for homeless youth and young adults in East King County are derived from current service numbers. Friends of Youth estimates that it serves an unduplicated 200 young adults per year in overnight shelter, in addition to 25 to 30 individuals at any given time through street outreach and 32 individuals through transitional housing units. Understanding that not all youth and young adults are in a situation where they need permanent housing, Friends of Youth estimates that an additional 12 units of transitional and 84 units of permanent housing for

homeless youth and young adults are needed in East King County. The 12 units of transitional housing should be evenly divided between young single adults and youth under 18.

Homeless youth and young adults also need a full-time drop in center with shelter capacity, which can serve as a key point of contact for youth and young adults, and particularly undocumented youth and young adults, who often must establish rapport and trust in staff before they will commit to entering a program. Drop in centers have been effective nationally and should have capacity for mental health and substance abuse treatment, health care, education, and employment training. The center should also be available consistently each night. Currently, The Landing can only operate 5 nights per week and is not available during the day, which means that youth are forced to go to Seattle for shelter, couch surf, or find other places to sleep.

What kinds of housing might work well for youth and young adults in East King County?

Eastside homeless youth and young adults with low and moderate service needs would be well served by **smaller complexes** with good access to bus service, where individuals would have their own **private units** with kitchens and **common areas** for meetings, and access to **supportive services**. While most units should be studios and one bedroom units, two bedroom units will also be needed for **single parents**. Some youth and young adults with low service needs would adapt well to a **self-managed community**. Youth with mental illness will likely need on-site managers and/or service providers.

In addition to permanent units, Eastside housing and service providers see a need for **transitional or transition in place units** with intensive case management. The transitional/transition in place units would likely be best placed in a small apartment building with 6 small units, an on-site resident manager, and office space.

Eastside Homeless Housing Goals

While this report maps the levels of need for youth, young adults, families, and single adults on the Eastside, it will take time to add housing units and services. The table on the following page shows overall need and sets short-term and long-term goals for adding housing capacity; this represents a snapshot of current needs and should be updated regularly.

The short-term goals are considerably smaller than long-term goals because existing housing and service providers and developers are not currently set up to secure and maintain this level of housing stock. Capacity building, as well as securing funding sources and land for development, are critical and will take time.

Population	Estimated Need	Developed/ In Development 2005-2007	Short-Term Goals (2005-2010)	Long-Term Goals (2010-2015)
Single Adults	<i>815 units</i>	<i>20 units</i>	<i>245, including 50 interim units</i>	<i>570 units</i>
Families	<i>930 units</i>	<i>35 units</i>	<i>300 units</i>	<i>630 units</i>
Domestic Violence	<i>75 units</i>	<i>10 units</i>	<i>25 units*</i>	<i>50 units*</i>
Youth and Young Adults	<i>96 units</i>	<i>12 units</i>	<i>30 units (6 transitional and 24 permanent)</i>	<i>66 units (6 transitional and 60 permanent)</i>
Total	<i>1,845 units*</i>	<i>77 units</i>	<i>575 units*</i>	<i>1,270 units*</i>

*Domestic violence units are listed separately, but are included within the total needed units for single adults and families.

Existing Inventory of Units, as of 2005:

Single Adults: 6 units

Families: 122 units

Domestic Violence: 30 units

Youth and Youth Adults: 21 units

Total: 179 units

Inventory figures include transitional and permanent housing. They are based on available data and may not be complete. As system-wide data becomes more available, these numbers should be revisited.

Principles and Strategies to Address Homelessness in East King County

Eastside housing and service providers have identified the following as *key principles* to guide efforts to end homelessness in East King County.

- Prevent homelessness among individuals and families at risk
- Develop long-term sustainable solutions to homelessness
- Provide short-term safety for homeless adults, families, youth and young adults, and domestic violence survivors
- Act now while it is most cost effective -- failing to be proactive will create a bigger problem and require more intensive service levels to address mental illness and drug use
- Create solutions that allow homeless Eastside residents to stay in their communities, rather than being forced into Seattle shelters due to lack of capacity in East King County
- Build commitment to address homelessness from all community members, including providers, funders, government agencies, and homeless individuals and families

Eastside housing and service providers have also formulated the following *key strategies* to effectively address homelessness in East King County.

- Preserve existing affordable housing
- Increase the number of housing units created by private developers
- Require private builders to include affordable housing within new housing
- Maximize the capacity of existing Eastside agencies to acquire, develop, own, and operate homeless housing, including needed services
- Encourage partnerships with organizations outside of East King County, especially as existing Eastside agencies reach their capacity
- Increase the ability of nonprofit developers to find and secure developable land sites in East King County, particularly those close to transit services
- Continue to increase coordinated funding opportunities that will provide full funding for affordable housing projects
- Develop an Eastside strategy to increase local public awareness of homelessness in Eastside communities
- Relieve the burden on transitional housing in East King County with increased permanent housing supply
- Provide critical assistance before people become homeless

- Provide supportive services to allow individuals and families who need them to remain stable in housing
- Create housing that can serve more than one population group, e.g., Hope House serves multiple populations in one housing facility
- Provide coordinated entry into housing and services to help individuals and families access the housing and services they need as efficiently as possible
- Decrease domestic violence turn-aways with increased housing and service capacity
- Assist homeless youth and young adults with life and job skills
- Create interim housing for specific populations, including domestic violence survivors, youth, and young adults
- Capture, analyze and utilize more complete data/statistics to document the number and types of services needed to end homelessness on the Eastside

The key strategies for success in King County's *10 Year Plan* to End Homelessness hold true in East King County.

1. Prevent homelessness

It is more cost-effective (and compassionate) to “close the front door” on homelessness through rent and utility assistance, job training, employment, education, health care, mental health counseling, foster care, and chemical dependency treatment. We must also ensure that people are not discharged from jail, mental health programs, and foster care into homelessness.

2. Help people move rapidly from homelessness to housing

Shelters are not a place where people can stabilize their lives. We must enable people to move quickly into permanent housing and stabilize with integrated supportive services.

3. Increase the efficiency of the existing system

As we seek to make housing and services available, we need to restructure the system so that existing resources are used most efficiently. Programs are working together to coordinate services according to their areas of expertise and funders are streamlining rules and regulations that get in the way of efficiency.

4. Build the political and public will to end homelessness

Our community wants to end homelessness. We need to build on that commitment by educating the public, reporting on our successes, and establishing steady funding.

5. Measure and report outcomes

The CEH is tracking funds coming into the homelessness provider system and how that money is being used. Each project sets outcome goals in order to receive funding and regularly reports on whether it is achieving its goals. This information is reported annually to the community and guides planning and future actions.

Legislative Goals and Initiatives

The Committee to End Homelessness has prioritized a set of countywide goals and initiatives. Several address issues that are particularly important to the Eastside. East King County should work with CEH to actively participate in shaping, supporting, and advocating for these initiatives.

The following CEH legislative goals are of key interest in East King County.

- Increase the Housing Trust Fund for affordable housing production
- Improve discharge from state systems into stable housing with supportive services, particularly correctional facilities and youth aging out of foster care
- Fund mental health and substance abuse services
- Advocate for changes to state legislation and the administrative code to increase access to homeless services for youth under 18, particularly addressing restrictions from the Becca Bill that limit services to youth under 18 without notification of police and parents within eight hours
- Expand Transitional Housing, Operating and Rent Program (THOR) for homeless single adults, youth, and people at risk of homelessness

East King County housing and service providers and policymakers should actively engage with CEH initiatives that address Eastside issues, particularly by participating in IAC oversight and workgroups. Following are some of the *key issues* that will need to be addressed in this work.

- Improving links to private sector housing to increase affordable housing capacity and to recruit and retain landlords that will rent to households with previous credit, criminal, and other barriers in their backgrounds
- Coordinating entry into housing to connect homeless and at risk individuals and families with the housing and services they need
- Improving discharge planning to connect people leaving jails and other institutions with housing and services before they become homeless
- Developing strategies to mitigate systematic barriers to housing production
- Identifying new resources and funding supports for increasing housing capacity
- Creating pathways to living wage jobs for homeless and formerly homeless people
- Enhancing services and assistance to prevent households from becoming homeless

Next Steps

Following the Eastside Human Services Forum's adoption of this plan, local advocates will present the plan's findings and recommendations to Eastside elected officials, the Interagency Council of King County's CEH, and housing and supportive services funders. EHAC will continue to work to link local and countywide efforts to end homelessness and to bring providers together to work collaboratively to meet the goals outlined in this plan.