More Than a Roof Overhead:
Getting Real About Homelessness in East King County
Fact sheet produced by The Eastside Human Services Forum: June 6, 2013

Progress on the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness

The Plan has a goal of creating 9,500 units of housing. Efforts in the early years focused on housing for chronically homeless single individuals and as of December 31, 2012, a total of 2,224 units of the plan’s total goal of 2,500 for that population (89%) has been funded.

To date, 5,130 units of homeless housing have been brought online or are in the pipeline – more than the entire goal of most other ten year plans in the nation.

However, the progress on funding units for non-chronic homeless single adults is only at 23% of its goal.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>10YP Target Total</th>
<th>Operational plus Pipeline thru 2013</th>
<th>Percent Towards Goal</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chronically Homeless Single Adults</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>2,224</td>
<td>89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Chronic Single Adults</td>
<td>4,800</td>
<td>1,104</td>
<td>23%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homeless Families</td>
<td>1,900</td>
<td>1,551</td>
<td>82%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth &amp; Young Adults</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>84%</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL Number of units added to the system</td>
<td>9,500</td>
<td>5,130</td>
<td>48%</td>
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Single Adults

- The Emergency Shelter system for single adults in King County has approximately 1,700 single adult shelter beds, 90% of which are located in the City of Seattle. This expands by about 450-700 each winter with the addition of winter and severe weather shelter beds.
- As a result of the recommendations of the Single Adult Shelter Task Force, the Governing Board of the King County Committee to End Homelessness has added the expansion of single adult shelter outside the City of Seattle as a priority investment strategy.
● The 2013 One Night Count of unsheltered homeless found 197 individuals in selected areas of East King County. This is nearly a 30% increase in the number counted in 2012.

● There is only one provider of emergency shelter for homeless single men in East King County (Congregations for the Homeless) and only one shelter provider for single women (The Sophia Way).

● The capacity of the Eastside Winter Shelters is 15 per night for women & children and 40-50 per night for single men. Both winter shelters are used as a point of engagement to help homeless individuals move into year-round shelter programs and as a pathway to permanent housing.

● During the most recent winter, The Sophia Way served 106 women and 17 children in winter shelter. This compares to the nightly capacity in their year-round shelter of 10 women per night.

● During the most recent winter, Congregations for the Homeless served 210 men, compared to a nightly capacity of 30 in their year-round shelter.

● **The Challenge:** The Eastside Winter Shelters play important roles as safety/survival as well as connecting homeless to ongoing shelter services and a pathway to housing. However, finding suitable locations for these two winter shelters is a challenge each year. Churches which have hosted the Winter Shelters are often located in residential neighborhoods not close to services or bus routes. **At this point in 2013, sites for the Eastside Winter Shelter have not been identified.**

Resources & Information

-- CEH Single Adult Task Force Report:

-- All winter shelters in King County: http://www.cehkc.org/scope/shelters.aspx

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Domestic Violence Survivors

2012 Data Provided by Lifewire (formerly Eastside Domestic Violence Program)

● Served 4,580 victims of domestic violence
● Answered 11,291 calls to our 24-Hour Crisis Line
● Provided Community Advocacy Services to 545 individuals
● Provided safe confidential shelter and housing services to 389 individuals

**Emergency Shelter and Hotel/Motel Vouchers**

LifeWire’s Emergency Shelter is a scattered site model with space for 10 families.
124 individuals served through its emergency housing programs
10,119 bed nights of safe shelter provided

**Rental Assistance and Housing Stability**
211 individuals served in Rental Assistance and Housing Stability programs
12,885 bed nights of safe shelter in the Rental Assistance Program

**Transitional Housing**
LifeWire’s transitional housing serves women with children who are impacted by both domestic violence and chemical dependency. There is space for 10 families in this program. 53 individuals were served through the transitional housing program. 9,525 bed nights of safe shelter provided.
LifeWire turns away 35 households for every 1 they serve in Emergency Housing, however, many of those families are served by its Rental Assistance and Housing Stability programs thereby reducing the turn away rate to 13 to 1. This shows the importance of prevention and diversion programs with flexible funding available to program participants.

**Resources & Information**
Lifewire: [www.lifewire.org](http://www.lifewire.org)

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**Families**

The *Family Homelessness Initiative* (FHI) is a countywide endeavor to prevent and end homelessness among families with children. The Initiative is led by the King County Department of Community and Human Services Department, guided by the Committee to End Homelessness, and supported by Building Changes and The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
Some of the progress to date includes the following:

**Coordinated Assessment and Entry for Families**
In our current system families often end up in the program that simply has the first open bed. It’s important to make sure that families are assigned to the appropriate program through a uniform assessment process so that we can accurately compare the effectiveness of programs. In April 2012, Family Housing Connection (FHC) was launched - coordinated entry into housing and supportive services for families with children. Now it is possible for families to make one call to one agency and tell their story just one time to be enrolled into our homeless housing services.
While this is a milestone in improving the efficiency of access to services, it also documented for the first time the significant unmet need in housing resources for homeless families. **In its first year of operation, FHC assessed 3,788 families needing shelter.** Currently, there are 238 literally homeless families on the placement list who are prioritized to receive the next available shelter resource. This is in addition to **more than 3,000 families** who have been assessed and are residing in unstable housing, e.g. doubled up, etc. who are also waiting for permanent housing.

**Transformation towards a Rapid Rehousing Model**

The Initiative is now focused on retooling programs that provide crisis response services to homeless families (emergency shelters and transitional housing). The goal of the conversion process is to establish a system with shorter homeless episodes and more prevention, diversion and rapid re-housing services. Twenty-eight agencies (representing over 100 programs) are participating in the conversion process. The FHI is currently gathering stakeholder input through several committees to ensure a smooth and well-planned transition for our homelessness system. The stakeholder group entitled Cohort 1 is working with King County and Building Changes to develop a tool kit for agencies to utilize to guide their transition planning. Hopelink and the YWCA are Eastside agencies who are participating in Cohort 1. In addition, the is a System Transformation group that is providing input to King County on how the new system should be structured, what the program models will entail, and what the inventory targets should be for types of housing/interventions. Imagine Housing, Lifewire, Catholic Community Services and Hopelink are Eastside agencies participating in this effort. The work of both teams are intended to come together to guide the transition of the King County family homelessness system over the next 18 months to a more streamlined, effective model.

**Resources & Information (links to online information)**

- *King County Family Homelessness Initiative:* [http://www.kingcounty.gov/socialservices/Housing/ServicesAndPrograms/Programs/Homeless/HomelessFamilies.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/socialservices/Housing/ServicesAndPrograms/Programs/Homeless/HomelessFamilies.aspx)
- *National Alliance to End Homelessness:* [www.naeh.org](http://www.naeh.org)

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**Youth and Young Adults**

- The *Homeless Youth and Young Adult Initiative* is King County’s community-wide response to prevent and end homelessness among young people. The Initiative is led by the King County Committee to End Homelessness and the implementation plan has three primary goals:
1. Focus on prevention and early intervention;
2. Systematically assess needs of homeless young people and match them with effective services and housing interventions through coordinated engagement;
3. Coordinated data collection and reporting so that progress can be measured and changes made where needed.

- It is estimated that as many as 4,000 - 5,000 young people, some as young as 10 years old, experience homelessness in King County at some point each year. According to national research, “conflict at home” is a primary cause of youth and young adult homelessness, conflict that can include physical and sexual abuse and neglect.
- Most of these young people do not become homeless long-term; national studies suggest that 80% return home relatively quickly. However, being on the streets even for a short amount of time can have extremely dangerous consequences. In a recent study by Seattle Police Department, 76 percent of unaccompanied minors were approached by either a known gang member or pimp in less than 45 minutes.
- One quarter of all foster youth experience homelessness within four years of aging out of foster care.
- African American young people account for 35% of homeless youth and young adults, though they are only 8% of the general population.
- LGBT young people account for 20-40% of homeless youth and young adults, though they are only 4% to 10% of the general population.
- 776 youth and young adults were counted as homeless or unstably housed on January 24, 2013 during King County’s “Point-in-Time” Count. 120 of these were youth and young adults in East King County.
- In East King County, Friends of Youth is the primary provider of services to homeless youth and young adults. In FY2012, Friends of Youth served 2,527 in our homeless programs, including 82 in under-18 shelter and 227 in housing.
- Friends of Youth also operates The Landing shelter for young adults, ages 18-24, in Redmond. In 2012, 251 were served at the shelter and 522 were turned away for lack of capacity. During the winter months, the Eastside Winter Shelter helps serves as an overflow shelter for The Landing.

Resources & Information (links to online information)

- Count Us In – King County’s Point-In-Time Count of Homeless & Unstably Housed Young People - http://www.uwkc.org/assets/files/homelessness/count-us-in-2013.pdf
How Can You Make a Difference?

*Here are a few examples. Learn more at www.eastsideforum.org.*

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<th>Advocate.</th>
<th>Participate.</th>
<th>Donate.</th>
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<td><strong>Policy Makers</strong></td>
<td>Review zoning and land use policies which restrict siting of shelters.</td>
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<td><strong>Nonprofit Service Providers &amp; Faith Community</strong></td>
<td>Participate in advocacy efforts organized by the Alliance of Eastside Agencies and the Eastside Human Services Forum (i.e., speaking to City Councils, contributing data and stories for media outreach, etc.)</td>
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<td>Funders</td>
<td>Align funding with priorities of the Ten Year Plan and HEARTH Act requirements.</td>
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<td>Business Community</td>
<td>Assist in siting Eastside Winter Shelters, e.g. by leasing vacant space near services &amp; transportation routes.</td>
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<td>School Districts</td>
<td>Organize winter coat and school supply drives. Share trends and concerns regarding homeless families in your district with the Eastside Human Services Forum.</td>
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<td>Caring Individuals</td>
<td>Donate time and money to non-profit organizations serving homeless East King County residents. Donate the free bus tickets you get when you renew your car tabs.</td>
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Eastside Human Services Forum meetings are held the 2nd Tues. of each month from 9-11am at Bellevue City Hall. We welcome guests. Contact Debbie Lacy, EHSF Coordinator, at 425-587-3324 or info@eastsideforum.org.