

Online Public Engagement - Ongoing

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- Meeting summaries available at EngageOlympia.com



Public Workshops Scheduled as of 03.15.2019

- Workshop*: Sat., April 20, Olympia High School, 9:30-11:30 am
- Workshop*: Sat., May 4, Capital High School, 9:30-11:30 am

* Same format each session - offered twice to allow for more participation



City Council Updates

- March 26, 7:00 pm, City Council Chambers
- Future dates TBD



Partner Engagement as of 03.15.2019

Listening sessions and focus groups for partners engaged in "on the ground" work (e.g. providing housing, mental health, criminal justice and social services); the Downtown community; homeless individuals; business and property owners.

More to come...

Thurston County

2018 Homeless Point-in-Time Count

Every two years, in January, communities across the country conduct comprehensive counts of the local homeless populations in order to measure the prevalence of homelessness. The 2018 Thurston County Point-In-Time Count Homeless Census was a community-wide effort was conducted on January 25, 2018.

2018 Unsheltered/Sheltered



38% Unsheltered

62% Sheltered

Residency

Resident of Thurston County prior to experiencing homelessness



Current Location

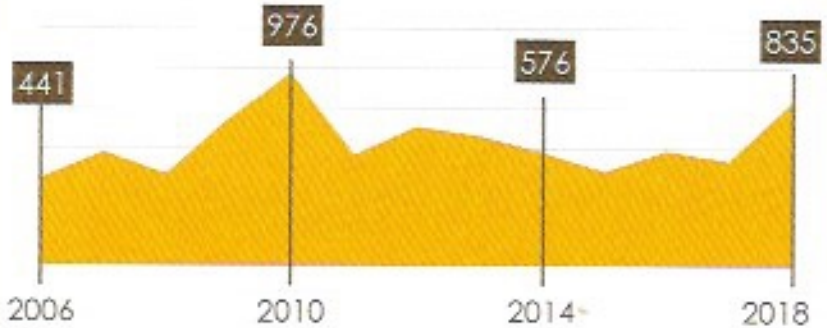


Unsheltered Only	
Olympia	80%
Lacey	9%
Tumwater	2%
Yelm	6%
Rochester	2%
Other	1%

Length of Homelessness



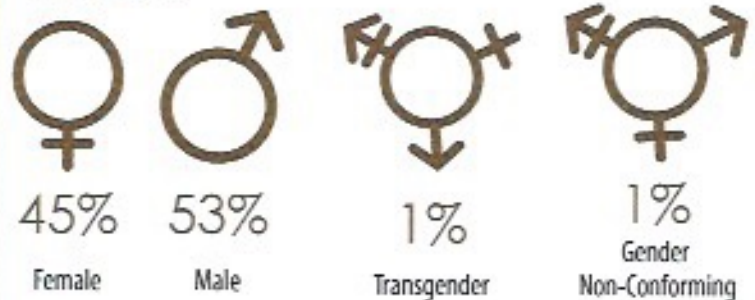
Homeless Census Population



Age



Gender



Disabilities



Homelessness Response



Thurston County

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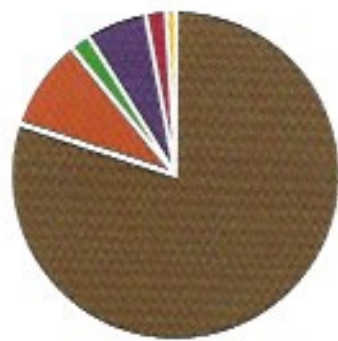
62% Sheltered

Residency

Resident of Thurston County prior to experiencing homelessness



Current Location



Unsheltered Only

Olympia 80%

Lacey 9%

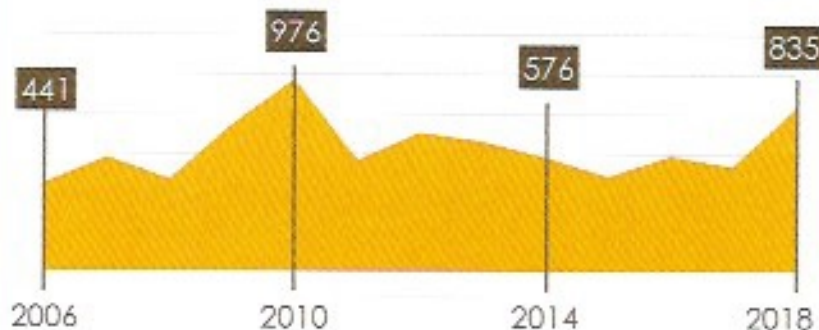
Tumwater 2%

Yelm 6%

Rochester 2%

Other 1%

Homeless Census Population



Age



26%



24%



44%



6%

Gender



45%



53%



1%



1%

Disabilities

19%

Substance Abuse



24%

Physical Disability

10%

Developmental Disability

28%

Chronic Health Condition

19%

Mental Health Issue



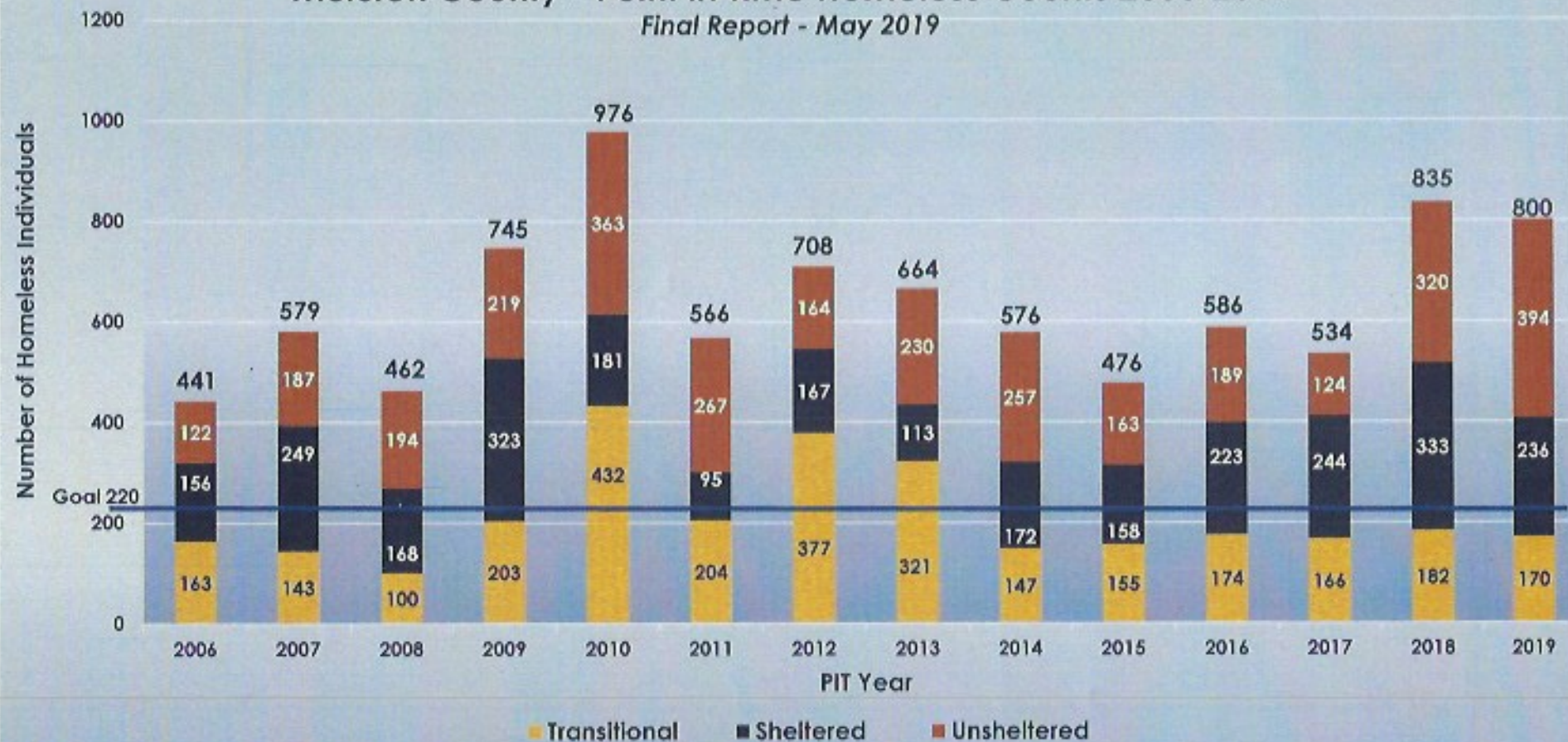
Homelessness Response



Olympia

Thurston County - Point in Time Homeless Counts 2006-2019

Final Report - May 2019



Thurston County PIT Progress Chart – Explanatory Notes by Year

2006: 1st year base line of 441 – Reduction goal = 222

2008: Decrease due to large inventory of new housing

2010: Increase correlates with Recession high point

2011: Transitional Housing Stock converted to Permanent
Another did not report occupancy, unsheltered count

2015: Homelessness drops with Recession recovery

2017: Decrease due to limited staff capacity

2018: Homeless increase correlates with rent increase

2019: One shelter lost 40 beds, another didn't report
Many unsheltered people declined to participate

2018 Homelessness Snapshot

Thurston County funds an annual "Point-in-Time-Census" to capture how many individuals are homeless and when possible, how they came to be in that situation.



The January 2018 census identified 835 homeless persons, including 320 individuals, families, and unaccompanied youth without access to shelter of any kind. 2019 data will be available in late May/early June.



In November 2018, the City counted approximately 310 individuals sleeping outdoors or in tents Downtown.

The annual Point-in-Time Census provides critical information to help identify response strategies, apply for funding, prioritize work efforts, and measure the impact of our community's response to homelessness.



Stay Informed: Sign up for our e-newsletter at olympiawa.gov/subscribe



Engage: Ask questions and share ideas at engageolympia.com



Contact Us: homelessness@ci.olympia.wa.us



Learn More: Visit our webpage at olympiawa.gov/homelessness



CS-08.25.2019



Homelessness Response



Olympia



Increasing homelessness in Olympia and throughout Thurston County is an issue of significant public concern. Like many cities across the country, and particularly on the west coast, the City of Olympia is challenged to respond. In 2018, the City developed a new line of programs to address homeless related issues and their impacts, and hired its first Homeless Response Coordinator.

Regional and community partnerships are critical to developing an effective response to this crisis.

Home Fund

In 2018, voters approved a sales tax increase to fund building permanent, supportive housing for the most vulnerable members of our community. It will be several years before we see completed projects, so in the interim the City is partnering with others to take more immediate action.

Immediate Actions

Supporting the Move to a 24/7 Shelter System

The City is providing funding to move two existing shelters to a 24/7 operation. In addition to providing overnight shelter, Community Youth Services (CYS) Rosie's Place will open its doors to youth during the day. The Salvation Army will expand their overnight shelter beds by upgrading their building to provide a safe, comfortable place during daytime hours.

Supporting a Vibrant Downtown

The City of Olympia is committed to our community's vision for a vibrant Downtown, which includes effective and compassionate ways to address the impact of homelessness.

Clean Team

Responsible for general upkeep, repair, painting, trash pickup and cleaning in public spaces in Downtown.

Crisis Response

A partnership initiated by the Police Department to provide free, confidential, voluntary crisis response assistance.

DT Ambassadors

A vital front line delivery system to help promote and ensure Downtown is a vibrant and attractive urban destination.

Familiar Faces

Two peer navigators who assist individuals with complex health and behavioral problems.

Secure Storage

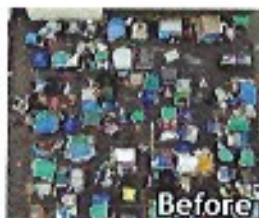
A partnership to create storage facilities to keep personal belongings safe and dry, while minimizing sidewalk debris.

Walking Patrol

A highly visible and accessible 7-member team dedicated to serving, connecting with our Downtown community.

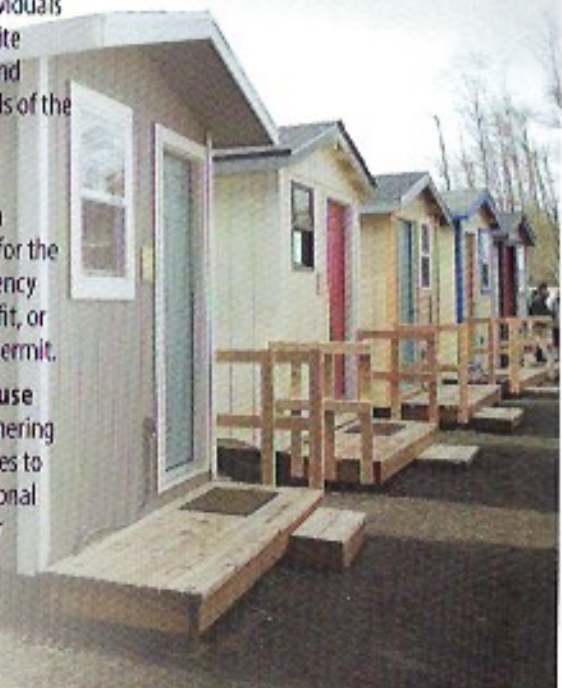
The Mitigation Site

- **As a first step** to manage the growing, unsustainable and immediate situation of Downtown encampments, a temporary sanctioned campsite was set up on a City-owned parking lot at Olympia and Franklin. This site will include basic hygiene services, orderly setup, safety protocols, a code of conduct and on-site host(s).
- **This is not a permanent end state.** This step will facilitate safety, public health, dignity, along with improved enforcement of camping and behaviors in the Downtown core and other areas. The City is currently looking to establish a second mitigation site outside of Downtown for temporary and safe camping.



Fostering Emergency Housing Partnerships

- **Plum Street Village.** A new tiny home village has 40+ individuals on-site. The units are secure and private for individuals and couples without children. The site is equipped with a hygiene trailer and services tailored to the specific needs of the residents.
- **Emergency Housing Ordinance.** In 2018, the City Council adopted an emergency ordinance that allowed for the establishment of temporary emergency shelter site on faith-based, non-profit, or government property, subject to a permit.
- **Faith Community & City Tiny House Pilot Partnership.** The City is partnering with several faith-based communities to support the establishment of additional emergency housing villages on their properties.



Developing Strategies and a Plan

Beginning in March of 2019, the City will host a process to determine how we, as a community, will respond to long-term impacts of homelessness. This process will engage citizens, non-profits, private sector, and government agencies from throughout the region in a dialogue to identify together the most effective, impactful, and sustainable solutions to addressing homelessness and its impacts.

How to Get Involved

Sign up for our homelessness e-newsletter to get the most up-to-date information on what is happening related to homelessness, including how you can get involved in developing a long-term strategy. Go to olympiawa.gov/subscribe to sign up.



Homelessness
Response

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