



# Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://pchomeless.org/> - [info@pchomeless.org](mailto:info@pchomeless.org)

Request presented at the December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 Safe Shelter Summit:

1. We request every jurisdiction across Pierce County commits to following the Centers for Disease Control Guidelines for People Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness. Either permanent or portable hygiene centers with showers, toilets, hand washing stations, laundry, trash pickup are set up in high use encampment areas across the County.
2. We request each hospital commits to no discharges to the streets or to shelters. Every discharge must be to an identifiable safe address and must include transportation and verification that the person is inside the housing unit.
3. We request same day access to treatment for all who request it with hotel vouchers for a bed until entry into treatment is available.
4. We request charging and wi-fi stations available to every unsheltered and sheltered person in encampments and shelters across the County.
5. We request at least two people in each encampment be trained as “street medics” and provided with naloxone to prevent overdoses.
6. We request people experiencing homelessness be considered high risk for the coronavirus and receive the vaccine along with those with underlying conditions.
7. We request front-line homelessness program staff be considered essential workers and receive the vaccine along with others in that category.
8. We request people experiencing homelessness and front-line providers have 24/7 access to a mental health “COVID CLIFF Hotline.”
9. We request JBLM commits to design of encampments using military materials and knowledge and provides required military surplus materials free; allocates advisors to us.
10. We request metro Parks commits to getting each of their Parks Department peers - to mirror the use of the Eastside Community Center to add additional shelter capacity.
11. We request Mayor Woodards commits to establishing a Safe Encampment Program – just as she did on Affordable Housing. County Executive Dammeier joins her as co-chair and brings on the mayors of all jurisdictions with shared policies and programs.
12. We request The Puyallup Tribe commits to training providers about the sacredness of their land and identifying any land that could be used for Safe Encampments.
13. We request Pierce County Council, as allowed by House Bill 1590, authorize the local option sales tax of 1/10 of one percent for housing and related services.
14. We request Pierce County Government develop a proposal for acquisition of surplus public property, and a set of capital and other funding requests for a Pierce County budget package to the State Legislature.
15. We request The Tacoma Pierce County Chamber of Commerce establishes “safe parking businesses” with identification stickers for businesses that will allow vehicle parking through the Safe Parking Network.
16. We request hotel and motels with the Washington Hospitality Association throughout Pierce County commit to flat nightly, weekly, and monthly rates for hotel vouchers coming through a set list of providers, self-help groups, and law enforcement, and allow clients in these programs with or without ID’s.
17. We request all non-profits, including hospital systems, with empty buildings and/or parking lots commit to offering them for use as housing either free or at a rate to cover actual costs.
18. We request The Rental Housing Association of Washington and the Washington Multi-Family Housing Association commit to providing a list of empty apartments weekly, to accepting the universal application, and to accepting a rental repayment plan that includes a modest rental subsidy provided by either public or private sources.



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19. We request The Low-Income Housing Institute (LIHI) builds at least 100 additional tiny homes across Pierce County. Local jurisdictions allow small (10-40) managed outdoor encampments set up in low-impact areas throughout the County.
20. We request nonprofit organizations and local governments purchase one or more hotels for immediate use as emergency shelter and eventual use as permanent housing.
21. We request existing shelters and public buildings with CDC compliant infrastructure and operations re-open day shelter options.
22. We request we have real time information in several formats showing the number of beds and the number of people needing shelter from the beginning of Tacoma's declaration of emergency to date with complete funding information of all shelters.
23. We request Pierce County and local municipalities think and act regionally to address issues related to homelessness in a systemic and coordinated manner, working with the Coalition and others to frame the information in a way that builds compassion, understanding, and collaboration toward solutions.
24. We request all of law enforcement and all first responders, the Sheriff's Department local Police agencies, and local Fire departments commit to training every full and part time, paid and volunteer staff member in basic Crisis Intervention, Trauma Reduction, carrying and use of naloxone, waiving out of date vehicle tab tickets for anyone in Safe Parking, notifying a designated County Human Services person of each encampment.
25. We request Pierce County Human Services commits to dramatic expansion of Coordinated Entry Diversion and Rapid Rehousing programs - money and allowable use so that every person in an encampment moves out of the encampment into safe shelter within five days.
26. We request the City of Tacoma makes the "purple trash bags" available at every encampment within the city limits and offers them to every encampment in the county and on tribal land.
27. We request United Way commits to a 24/7 Safe Encampment Hotline that can be used by people looking for safe places, as well as law enforcement and community partners.
28. We request every local jurisdiction enacts and enforces a "No Sweeps" policy for the duration of the pandemic.
29. We request Honey Bucket commits to a reduced rate to service every Honey Bucket every day.
30. We request Tacoma ProBono commits to meet with every person in any kind of encampment to review their rental history, clear what they can, and help set-up repayment plans.
31. We request the philanthropic community commits to investing in a Safe Encampment Fund managed by the Coalition - to cover the variety of costs associated with expanding safe shelter opportunities.
32. We request banks and credit unions agree to create a fund to ensure no subsidized units are lost through expiration of contracts, no naturally occurring low-income housing units are lost through market conditions, and establish a fund allowing the purchase of RV's at reduced interest rates.
33. We request the laundry industry develops models to address the need for laundry services at encampments and for individuals experiencing homelessness and supports the development of local nonprofit laundry services.
34. We request local jurisdictions implement a coordinated approach, including facilitated conversations with nearby housed individuals, to ensure that residents of encampments are safe from acts of violence, and that during severe weather events there are a sufficient number of warm bed spaces available.