

## 2013 Clark County 10-Year Homeless Plan Report Card

On December 21, 2005, Clark County adopted the 10-Year Homeless Plan to reach the goal of decreasing the number of people who are homeless in the community by 50 percent. The plan was developed by the Council for the Homeless, in partnership with its founding partners Clark County, City of Vancouver and Vancouver Housing Authority. Since then, the homeless plan has been updated through an extensive community feedback process in 2006, 2007 and 2012.

The 10-year plan report cards were created to provide the community with an update on the progress related to the 10-Year Homeless Plan strategies. It provides a snapshot of the tracked outcomes and program developments throughout the calendar year.

In 2013, all identified strategies were moved forward. Much of the progress can be attributed to increased community partnerships and collaborations within the homeless system and beyond. The greatest direct result of these collaborations was the development of a local coordinated assessment program. This program serves as the front door to all housing assistance programs.

### Clark County's Coordinated Assessment Center

The Council for the Homeless Housing Solutions Center (HSC) opened in March 2013. This is the first time the community has had an opportunity to document the collective number of households who are living on the streets, in cars, and in places not meant for habitation in the Clark County area. Access to motel vouchers, emergency shelter, transitional housing, rapid re-housing, and permanent supportive housing programs were all streamlined through the Housing Solutions Center. Households needing assistance first call the HSC's Housing Hotline to be screened for their needs.

In 2013, there were:

- 13,429 calls for help to the Housing Hotline
  - Only includes calls for emergency shelter, housing, prevention, or motel vouchers
- 1,292 Housing Assessments Conducted
- 498 Households Placed into Housing Programs
- 7 Agencies with over 20 Programs Received Household Referrals from the HSC

The Housing Hotline phone number is: (360) 695-9677

## KEY SYSTEM OUTCOMES

The report card grading scale is based off a traditional academic grading scale.

Grade	Assessment Scale
A	Marked progression toward the identified outcome
B	Progress toward the identified outcome
C	Stagnant Progress toward identified outcome
D	Marked regression toward identified outcome

### POINT IN TIME (PIT) COUNT

(Number of unsheltered people who were counted on the last Thursday of January)

2013 PIT Count		2014 PIT Count	Grade
176	<b>INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILY MEMBERS WHO ARE HOMELESS AND UNSHELTERED (TOTAL)</b>	190	
<b><u>2013</u></b>	<b><u>SUBGROUPS</u></b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>	<div>C</div> <p>Seven percent increase in the number of people who were homeless. Reduction in three key subgroups.</p>
11	<i>Families</i>	37	
19	• <i>Children (under 18)</i>	61	
15	• <i>Adults (over 18)</i>	46	
13	<i>Youth (18-24)</i>	17	
154	<i>Single Adults</i>	107	
24	<i>Veterans</i>	14	
41	<i>People who are Chronically Homeless</i>	14	

### AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY IN EMERGENCY SHELTERS

2012		2013	Grade
56 days	<b>Average Length of Stay among all Shelters</b>	54 days	
<b><u>2012</u></b>	<b><u>SUBGROUPS</u></b>	<b><u>2013</u></b>	<div>B</div> <p>Overall reduction in length of stay. Significant reduction in Family &amp; Single Female Shelters.</p>
45 days	<b>Domestic Violence Survivors Shelter</b>	56 days	
74 days	<b>Family &amp; Single Female Shelters</b>	52 days	
50 days	<b>Single Men Shelter</b>	55 days	

## KEY SYSTEM OUTCOMES

### Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Data Completeness Rates

2012		2013	Grade
90.43%	HMIS System-wide Data Completeness Report	96.64%	<b>A</b> Marked increase in the Completeness Rate.

### SYSTEM RE-USER RATES

Measures the percentage of people who left any type of homeless housing program in one year and returned to different housing program the following year.

2011 clients returning in 2012		2012 clients returning in 2013	Grade
19.5%	System Return Rates	17.5% (26% more people in the System than in 2012)	<b>B</b> Two tenths of a percent decrease in re-user rates, even with a significant increase in the number of people utilizing in the system.

### TRANSITIONING FROM SYSTEMS OF CARE

(Mental health facilities; jail/prison; foster care; emergency rooms, inpatient alcohol and drug treatment)

2012		2013	Grade
287	Number of people moved from a System of Care into any Type of Homeless System Housing Program	323	<b>B</b> Eleven percent increase
107	Number of People Moved From a System of Care to a Permanent Destination within 90 Days	90	<b>C</b> Sixteen percent decrease

## COMMUNITY DATA

Based on data from the Housing Solutions Center,

- Approximately 300 households are waiting for entrance into a housing program, including 90 families with children.
- Of the 498 households placed into a housing program, only 56% identified landlords willing to rent to them. The remaining households became unengaged, continue to seek housing and/or are working on reducing housing barriers, such as arranging for monthly payment of landlord debt.
- The majority of households seeking assistance with the HSC have two or more barriers to obtaining housing, including poor credit, criminal history, past evictions, debt to landlords, or low income.

People with low incomes and barriers to housing are experiencing greater challenges to renting in the community due to continued low vacancy rates, increasing rents, and stagnant wages.

- In 2013, Clark County rental rates increased an average of \$30 per year. Newly constructed rental unit rates were up an average of \$75 per year.

<b>Economic Changes</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
Median Family Income for the Portland-Metro Area	\$71,200	\$69,400	- 2.5%
Fair Market Rent for One-Bedroom in Portland-Metro Area	\$726	\$766	+ 5.6%
Apartment Vacancy Rate, Clark County	3.1%	3.55%	+ 0.45%

Source: U.S. Housing and Urban Development; U.S. Census Bureau; WA Center for Real Estate Research.

# THE COMMUNITY'S INVESTMENT IN 2013



## **Enhanced Coordination and Access**

- Created the Housing Solutions Center as the entry point for people who are at-risk of homelessness or are homeless, to access publically funded housing programs.
- Expanded outreach and assessments to people in systems of care and in rural areas through the Housing Solutions Center.
- Improved 211 information outreach to agencies for the purpose of accurate and complete referrals to community resources.
- Increased the capacity of the Council for the Homeless to coordinate and seek additional funds for the system.
- Provided three SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) advocate trainings to social service professionals in the region.
- Facilitated 36 SOAR Applications through local community agencies. Thirteen applications were approved in the calendar year with \$60,429 in back benefits awarded.



## **Families**

- Provided evidence-based skill-building classes to families engaged in housing programs. These include Rent Well Tenant Education, Money Smart, and Financial Peace University.
- Increased capacity of Rapid Re-housing programs for families.
- Enhanced the system's capacity to assist families in their housing search.



## **Youth (ages 24 and younger)**

- Created a Roommate Matching program through Share. The program matches people in need of housing with homeowners needing additional income.
- Increased the amount of support available to help youth head of households find housing options.
- Used funding to create and leverage the YouthFirst employment program.
- Created the Big Brothers, Big Sisters Running Start mentorship program.



## **People who are Chronically Homeless**

- Expanded services for people who are chronically homeless by connecting the Community Services NW Clark Homeless Engagement Collaboration (CHEC) program with Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) outreach and SSI/SSDI outreach, access, and recovery (SOAR).
- Created Share Bridging the Gap program to serve people who are chronically homeless through a Housing First, scattered site model.
- Increased the capacity of Permanent Supportive Housing programs in the community.



## **Veterans**

- Provided additional VASH Vouchers to Veteran households in the community.
- Established a Supportive Services for Veterans and their Families (SSVF) program through Impact NW.



## **Re-entry from Systems of Care**

- Developed two respite beds for people exiting PeaceHealth SW Washington Medical Center.
- Created new Rapid Re-housing and Permanent Supportive Housing programs through Community Services NW for people exiting systems of care.
- Developed the TRANSFORM re-entry initiative in the Clark County Jail. This collaborative effort invites diverse service providers into the jail to provide resources, skill-building, and support to inmates. The focus of the initiative is to reduce recidivism among inmates, safety in the jail and safety throughout the community.



## **Data Quality**

- Improved the HMIS Data Completeness percentage from 89.76% in January 2013 to 96.64% in January 2014.
- Added two additional housing programs for people who are homeless to the HMIS system.