

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



OUR MISSION

Council for the Homeless is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide community leadership, compelling advocacy, and practical solutions to **prevent and end homelessness** in Clark County, Washington.

From the Executive Director

When I moved to Clark County from Minnesota in the fall of 2022 to accept the position of Executive Director at Council for the Homeless, I knew I made the right decision. I was initially attracted to the mission to “prevent and end homelessness in Clark County.” CFTH is an organization that stands by the possibility that a community *can* end homelessness. This does not mean no one in our community will ever experience homelessness. It means that our homelessness response system is such that an individual or family experiencing homelessness is assisted quickly with their housing and other needs met to avoid cycling back into housing instability or homelessness. Homelessness as rare, brief, and one time is our potential.

The road to achieve this vision may be long, but it is a road we can and must take together. I am grateful to have partners, donors, educators, public agencies, healthcare organizations, elected officials, faith communities, businesses and more on this road with us.

With the support of a strong board of directors and staff I believe is worth their weight in gold, CFTH continued to advance its 2022-2024 Strategic Plan in 2022. Notably, we made progress in four key areas:

- Serving as the central hub for rent assistance to Clark County households behind in their rent;
- Hiring staff with lived experience of homelessness, particularly in our Outreach program;



- Continuing to operationalize our DEI commitment through policies, procedures, and training;
- Stepping into our leadership role to support best-practices to end homelessness including the need for housing that is affordable to all income levels.

Now, we are charting a course for 2023 and beyond. CFTH was founded in 1989 in the spirit of collaboration and the belief that disparate entities and people could find common ground to advance long term solutions to

homelessness. Much in the world has changed since then, however, the core principles of ending homelessness remain the same. Listen to what people say they need. Collaborate cross-sector to support comprehensive solutions. Follow the data to solve gaps in the system and design interventions or initiatives.

I am proud to lead Council for the Homeless as we move forward. The pieces to achieve the vision are within reach. Our role is to convene the disparate entities and aim high together. Collaboration is essential to ensure the homeless response system works for everyone and that each person and family has a safe, affordable place to call home.

Thank you for your dedication and collaboration,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Sesany". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the letter 'y'.

Sesany Fennie-Jones

LEADERSHIP



The Council **coordinated** efforts of Outreach teams across **seven agencies**, increasing collaboration and improving response effectiveness.

106 people who were living in tents, encampments, cars, and trailers without running water **found new homes** and the support they need to thrive by CFTH's team. Another **157 people** were assisted by partner teams.

Served as subject matter expert **providing accurate, timely information** during **40** interviews by print, digital, and TV media.

Six additional agencies began entering their homeless services data into the Homeless Management Information System, bringing the total to **38** agencies.

ADVOCACY



137 people engaged in multiple calls, letters, emails, and meetings with elected officials to advocate for policies that **increase affordable housing and end homelessness**.

Unprecedented **investments** to address our state's affordable housing and homelessness crisis. The state allocated over **\$440 million new dollars** for **housing justice priorities** including:

- **\$114 million** for the **Housing Trust Fund**
- **\$240 million** for **Rapid Housing Acquisition**
- **\$60 million** for the new **Apple Health and Homes** program
- **\$15 million** for **homeless youth** facilities

The Operating Budget included:

- **\$2 million** for **pre-eviction legal aid**
- **\$55 million** for frontline **homelessness service providers**
- **\$68.5 million** for **rental assistance**
- **\$4.5 million** for **foreclosure prevention**
- **\$45 million** for services to **help transition people** experiencing unsheltered homelessness **into affordable housing**.

Among important bills that passed:

Senate Bill 5749, requires landlords to provide rental payment options beyond just an online portal.

House Bill 1905, prevents discharges into homelessness among young people exiting publicly funded systems such as foster care.

SOLUTIONS



Built and opened The Meridian apartment complex where **46 individuals** with complex needs **ended their homelessness**. Tenants now have a safe place to call home, community, and access to supportive services.

134 households ended their homelessness and secured a new home through CFTH coaching and one-time financial assistance known as Diversion.

2,399 motel vouchers were provided to people for urgent protection from severe weather, assistance fleeing domestic violence, and safety.

CFTH provided **1,260 households** with \$10,106,759 in rent assistance totaling **7,843 months of rent** to prevent homelessness. In addition, CFTH facilitated **rent assistance** distribution through partner agencies totaling \$16,082,345 to pay for **13,558 months of rent** for **1,956 Clark County households**.

Supported housing transformed Linda's life

Linda lost her home and lived in her car with her small dog, Baby, for several years. Then she contacted Council for the Homeless (CFTH). She was assessed for her housing and service needs and, with CFTH's help, she moved into Permanent Supportive Housing at The Elwood apartments. In 2022, she received a hip replacement and needed a more accessible apartment. Another CFTH supported housing development, The Meridian, had a ground-floor unit available. Residents of the Elwood and the Meridian receive support from the nonprofit SeaMar-Community Services Northwest and from Vancouver Housing Authority in partnership with CFTH.

At the Meridian, Linda got to know her neighbors and built a sense of community. She was able to manage her substance use recovery. She became a volunteer with a resource center for people addressing substance use challenges. Then, because of having the important foundation of home, Linda was also able to attend classes at Clark Community College to receive her Washington State High School Diploma.

Council for the Homeless follows a Housing First approach in which Permanent Supportive Housing combines permanent housing and rental assistance with voluntary support services. When people engage on their own terms, services such as independent living, tenancy skills, and engagement with community-based healthcare treatment and employment services are more successful. **Since The Elwood opened in 2021, it has had a 93% success rate of keeping tenants permanently housed: 53 of the 57 original tenants still reside at The Elwood or have transferred to other permanent living situations.**



Linda advocates wholeheartedly for the Housing First approach. "Housing is a foundation. You need it to move forward. Without that, where are you going to get cleaned up for a job? Where are you going to wash your clothes, shower, or eat? When you're living on the streets, that's very hard...People hear and see many negative things but don't get the full story of how Housing First works."

Moving into supported housing transformed Linda. "Thanks to these supportive housing units, Baby and I were able to find a home together. Everything worked out for me, and I'm ready to continue to grow." Linda has applied for a housing choice voucher and is looking to move out of supportive housing and into the community, living in conventional housing wherever she'd like. Linda's story shows how housing and programming combine to give people the support they need.

“Housing is a foundation.
You need it to move forward.”

— Linda

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Executive Director

Sunny Wonder
Deputy Director

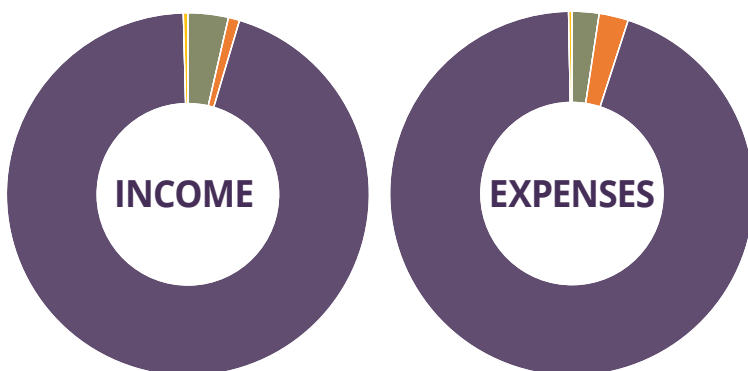
Charlene Welch
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Clara Johnson
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Dale Whitley
HMIS Administrator

Siobhana McEwen
Equity and Advocacy Director

2022 FINANCIALS



These 2022 finance details are unaudited.

INCOME BASED ON ACTUALS

| | | |
|------|-------------------|--------------|
| 3.6% | Individuals | \$630,101 |
| 1.0% | Foundation Grants | \$163,330 |
| 95% | Public Grants | \$16,672,950 |
| 0.4% | Other Income | \$72,817 |

EXPENSES BASED ON ACTUALS

| | | |
|-------|------------------------------|--------------|
| 2.4% | Leadership, Equity, Advocacy | \$427,370 |
| 2.6% | Administration | \$458,910 |
| 94.7% | Client Assistance | \$16,797,105 |
| 0.3% | Other Expenses | \$47,744 |