

# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



## OUR MISSION

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



# From the Chief Executive Officer

In 2026, we are grounded in a deeper understanding of what it takes to sustain both our mission and our people. The work of leading a countywide homeless

response system requires urgency, compassion, and resilience. It also requires something we have not always prioritized enough: rest, restoration, and care for those doing the work every day. Over the past year, we made a deliberate commitment to center these values, recognizing that strengthening our organization begins with honoring our staff.

## Rest & Restoration

This commitment is rooted in lived experience. In 2021, while serving as interim executive director of a small nonprofit in Minnesota, I found myself leading through an incredibly uncertain time. Like so many others, my home became my workplace, and the boundaries between leadership, family, and daily life disappeared. Long days of constant adaptation eventually led to a moment of exhaustion that made one thing clear: I didn't want escape — I just needed rest. That realization has stayed with me.

In 2025, as Council for the Homeless continued to lead through uncertainty, we chose to respond differently. We recognized that burnout cannot be the cost of commitment. We prioritized restorative practices across our organization and prepared to implement additional time for rest and renewal.

Our staff is our most valuable resource, and strengthening employee retention means creating a culture where people feel supported not only in their work, but in their well-being. We will continue to honor our team in all the ways we are able.

## Looking ahead

Throughout the year, we invested in the future of our organization. Through extensive community

engagement and research, we began the process of renaming and rebranding our long-standing agency to better reflect who we are today and our role in leading the homeless response system in Clark County. Our new name will be announced at *Gathering for Change* on Oct 15.

## Responding to Increasing Need

The need in our community continues to grow. Housing costs remain high, wages have not kept pace, and many of our neighbors are facing increasing instability. In response, we deepened partnerships across the region to ensure people could access help when they needed it most.

I am proud to share two examples of this collaborative work:

### Supporting families impacted by ICE

We provided rental assistance to families displaced following immigration enforcement actions through our partnership with the Southwest Washington League of United Latin American Citizens Council 47013 and Latino Leadership Northwest. These efforts helped families stay together and regain stability after sudden, traumatic disruption.

### Creating a roadmap for the future

Our team coordinated the development of the new Five-Year Local Homeless Housing Plan, establishing a roadmap for Clark County's homeless response system.

I remain hopeful because our community continues to show that collaboration, compassion, and persistence can move us forward. Together, we are building a stable future.

Peace and gratitude,

Sesany Fennie-Jones

## From Survival to Stability: A Veteran Family's Journey Home

When Kristin, a U.S. Air Force Veteran, returned to Vancouver with her fiancé Donnie, also a Veteran, and their daughter Melinda, she hoped it would be a fresh start. Instead, limited job opportunities and housing restrictions forced the family to leave a relative's home and move into a tent near Orchards Park. "We never wanted [Melinda] on the streets," Kristin shared. "But we didn't have another choice."

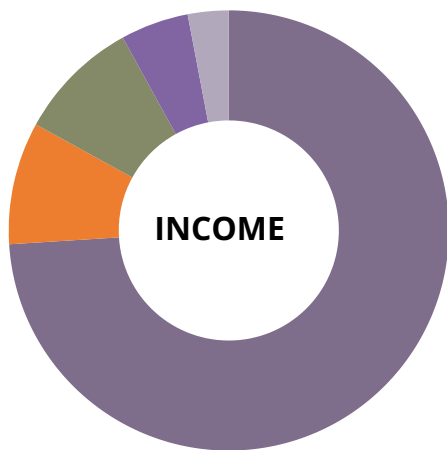
Life outside was uncertain and isolating, but everything changed when Kristin connected with Council for the Homeless. After completing a housing assessment, her family was added to the Veteran By-Name List, a coordinated effort

to match Veterans with housing resources and support. Through partnerships with local providers and the VA, the family was quickly connected to shelter and then permanent housing through a Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program.

Soon, they moved into their own apartment, just in time for Kristin's birthday and Christmas. Today, Kristin is pursuing baking school with dreams of opening her own bakery, while Donnie continues searching for steady work. Their goal is simple: a stable home where their daughter can grow up with comfort and tradition.

Kristin's journey is a powerful reminder that Veteran homelessness is not inevitable — it's solvable with the right support.

### 2025 FINANCIALS



#### INCOME BASED ON ACTUALS

74%	Public Grants	\$5,766,447
9%	Foundations	\$732,038
9%	Individuals	\$691,424
5%	Investment Income	\$363,638
3%	Other Income	\$243,767
0%	In kind	\$14,771
	<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$7,802,485</b>

#### EXPENSES BASED ON ACTUALS

63%	Client Assistance	\$5,318,855
33%	Facility & Administration	\$2,810,723
4%	Leadership, Equity, Advocacy	\$358,687
0%	Other Expenses	\$0
	<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$8,488,265</b>

These 2025 finance details are unaudited.

2025 was our first full year as owners of our newly-purchased building. Our financial information reflects a higher level of operations and maintenance expenses. We are growing our resources and monitoring expenses to manage the building and serve our community.

## Helping People

- 179 people living in tents, encampments, cars, trailers without running water were moved into stable housing.
- 144 households entered a Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program in 2025.
- Of the people entering a PSH program in 2024, 85% have remained successfully housed for one year.
- 195 households ended their homelessness and secured a new home through CFTH coaching and one-time financial assistance known as Diversion.
- CFTH provided 905 motel vouchers to help households in need of urgent protection from severe weather, assistance fleeing domestic violence, and help in critical situations.
- The Housing Hotline received over 50,000 calls in 2025 from people needing shelter, housing assistance, and resource navigation.



## Helping Providers

- Coordinated efforts among eight outreach teams to cover more geography and leverage resources.
- Onboarded five more agencies to enter homeless services data into HMIS, totaling 36 after a decline due to program loss via funding cuts.



- Facilitated 10 monthly workgroups with our partners to gather real-time data and collaborate to reduce Veteran, youth, and chronic homelessness, and improve system coordination.
- Led a shared response to severe winter and summer weather. 15 partner organizations provided winter daytime and overnight shelter to 611 people. Partners also offered four hot weather misting stations countywide, and collected and distributed emergency supplies to people exposed to the elements.

## Helping the Community



- CFTH was a subject matter expert in the media 93 times, speaking to topics including affordable affordable housing and stability, homeless outreach and supportive services, as well as shelter capacity, winter preparedness, severe weather alerts, and HMIS data.
- Organized 90 community members journeying to Olympia to advocate for rent stabilization as part of Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Day 2025.
- Released the 2024 Homeless System Numbers Report, delivering a full year of data on services, client demographics, and dashboards illustrating program effectiveness.
- Produced and published the 2025 Five-Year Homeless Housing Plan, adopted by the Clark County Board of Councilors on November 18.