

# SKAGIT COUNTY 5-YEAR HOMELESS HOUSING PLAN



2025-2030



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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to the many individuals, organizations, and groups who contributed to the creation of this plan. Their expertise and input provided essential insight into the needs of Skagit County. ***We must also acknowledge the individuals and families who generously shared their experiences with housing instability in Skagit County, which helped shape this plan.***

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*Quotes included in this plan are from people with lived experience and staff and leadership of local programs providing housing and homeless services.*

# INTRODUCTION

Washington State law ([RCW 43.185C.050](#)) requires jurisdictions to develop five-year homeless housing plans, guided by a local homeless housing task force and adopted by the local government authority. These plans must support a shared vision that everyone experiencing homelessness or housing instability can quickly and equitably access stable housing that meets their needs.

## WORK PLAN

Skagit County Public Health is the designated lead agency for this report. The information presented is a collective summary, shaped by more than a year of engagement with stakeholders from across the county. Beginning in 2024, Public Health staff partnered with North Star, the North Star Housing Task Force, and other community partners to launch a broad, cross-county effort to develop this plan. Staff met with city and county leaders, local governments, service providers, community groups, and individuals with lived experience of homelessness.

Skagit County Public Health published a Notice of Plan Development on its webpage ([www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/HumanServices/HousingMain.htm](http://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/HumanServices/HousingMain.htm)), encouraging ongoing community engagement. The draft plan was available for public comment during October, posted on the County’s website, shared with local homeless service providers and their clients, published in the newspaper, and posted on social media to gather further input. A public hearing to receive comments and questions was held on November 4, 2025. The plan is scheduled for adoption by the Skagit County Board of Commissioners by the end of December 2025.

The 2025 work plan timeline is as follows:



The goals and priorities in this report reflect the input of community members gathered through a year of diverse engagement strategies. For a complete list of housing task force members and meetings, see Appendix I ([p. 21](#)). A detailed summary of public engagement is provided in Appendix II ([p. 22](#)).



## PURPOSE

The purpose of Skagit County’s 5-Year Homeless Housing Plan is to clearly outline the actions the homeless crisis response system will take over the next five years. This plan details the current system, planned changes through 2030, effective strategies for achieving objectives, and key areas for improvement. It also identifies the additional resources and conditions needed to ensure that everyone experiencing homelessness is housed. This plan provides a framework for urgent action, fosters empathy within the community, and increases understanding of this complex and worsening crisis. The plan's priorities will guide funding decisions and strategic initiatives over the next five years.

This 5-Year Homeless Housing Plan is designed to complement other local housing initiatives, including those of the county, cities and towns, North Star, and plans such as Skagit County’s Strategic Plan and Comprehensive Plan, the Skagit Council of Governments, and the Skagit County HOME Consortium.

## 2019-2024 OBJECTIVES AND PROGRESS

OBJECTIVES	PROGRESS
<b>Objective 1</b>  Quickly identify and engage all people experiencing homelessness and all unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness through outreach and coordination between every system that encounters people experiencing homelessness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improved Coordinated Entry.</li><li>• Selected new Coordinated Entry provider with increased capability for access.</li><li>• Increased funding for Coordinated Entry.</li><li>• Increased number of access points.</li><li>• Increased street outreach programs.</li><li>• Established youth Coordinated Entry.</li><li>• Increased funding and collaboration with youth-serving agencies.</li><li>• Year-round 90-day emergency shelter opened.</li><li>• Year-round day shelter opened.</li><li>• Increased outreach in East County.</li></ul>





# 2019-2024 OBJECTIVES AND PROGRESS, CONT.

OBJECTIVES	PROGRESS
<p><b>Objective 2</b></p> <p>Prioritize people with the greatest need.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Developed and implemented a new assessment tool that prioritizes the most vulnerable.</li><li>• Shared confidentiality agreement and care coordination between outreach teams every other week.</li><li>• Case conferencing with permanent supportive housing and Coordinated Entry leads every other week.</li><li>• Implemented Julota, care coordination software for people on the front lines, to coordinate care and improve outcomes for people in crisis.</li><li>• Improved transportation and connections with people experiencing homelessness in East County.</li></ul>
<p><b>Objective 3</b></p> <p>Operate an effective and efficient homeless crisis response system that swiftly moves people into stable, permanent housing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Martha’s Place, a new 72-unit permanent supportive housing development, opened in 2023, providing housing for chronically homeless individuals with a disabling condition.</li><li>• Increased winter shelter programs.</li><li>• Severe weather shelter in East County provided shelter beds during severe weather events.</li></ul>
<p><b>Objective 4</b></p> <p>Project the impact of the fully implemented local plan using the modeling tool developed by the Dept. of Commerce.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The County continues to utilize new modeling and data analysis tools made available by the Washington State Department of Commerce.</li></ul>
<p><b>Objective 5</b></p> <p>Address racial disparities among people experiencing homelessness.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased funding to support immigrant and farmworker communities.</li><li>• Expanded outreach teams to include greater cultural diversity, bilingual language skills, and staff with lived experience.</li></ul>

# CURRENT SCOPE OF HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING NEEDS IN SKAGIT COUNTY

Like many other communities across the nation, Skagit County continues to see rising housing instability and homelessness. Although primarily rural, we face increasingly complex urban challenges. Despite expanded outreach and resources, the number of rent-burdened and homeless households have continued to grow. As of 2020, more than 6,000 households in Skagit County were spending more than half of their income on their housing costs. Housing costs continue to increase, far outpacing the rate of pay.<sup>2</sup>

**52%** of households pay more than they can afford for housing in Skagit County.<sup>1</sup>

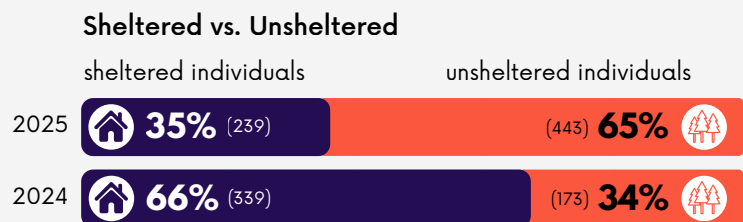
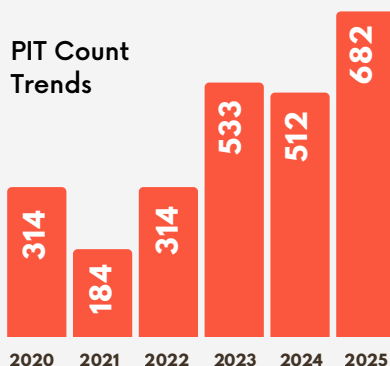
## Point in Time Count

According to the 2025 Point in Time Count, at least 682 individuals were experiencing homelessness in Skagit County—239 in shelter programs and 443 living outdoors. The number of people unsheltered more than doubled from 2024 to 2025. More than 68% of unsheltered respondents reported their last permanent address was in Skagit County.

We recognize that the Point in Time Count is an undercount and does not represent the true scale of the homeless crisis. Many people in Skagit County live in places not meant for habitation—often deep in the woods or in remote rural areas—making them difficult to locate and count. As a result, the actual number of people experiencing homelessness is likely much higher.

## Measuring Homelessness in Skagit County

**682** people experiencing homelessness were surveyed on our streets and in our shelters during the annual Point in Time (PIT) Count on January 30, 2025



\*unsheltered does not include those temporarily staying with friends or family, individuals currently in the hospital or a behavioral health facility, or those who are incarcerated.

<sup>1</sup> American Community Survey data for 2023 (B25070) accessed at [www.skagitcountytrends.org](http://www.skagitcountytrends.org)

<sup>2</sup> [www.skagitcounty.net/PlanningAndPermit/Documents/020625/SkagitCounty\\_HousingNeedsAssessment\\_FINAL0911.pdf](http://www.skagitcounty.net/PlanningAndPermit/Documents/020625/SkagitCounty_HousingNeedsAssessment_FINAL0911.pdf)



## Coordinated Entry

The chart above shows the people who were documented as homeless or imminently at risk of homelessness and eligible to receive services through Coordinated Entry. There are very likely more people in our community who simply do not know about or are not seeking the limited available services.

## Skagit County Comprehensive Plan

The Housing Element of the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan provides insight into existing trends in the community, including building permits, location of growth, and demographics. In addition, it highlights existing housing needs in Skagit County—such as rural densities, senior housing, farmworker housing, affordable housing, and others—and anticipates how conditions and needs will change in the next 20 years.<sup>3</sup>

Skagit County’s population is projected to reach 160,830 by 2045, with an average annual growth rate of 0.9% over the next two decades. About 80% of this growth is expected in incorporated cities and their UGAs. The average household size is 2.42. Housing is needed to fit each stage of life in terms of size, design, and affordability.

<sup>3</sup> [www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/PlanningAndPermit/2025CPA.htm](http://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/PlanningAndPermit/2025CPA.htm)

The county is also becoming more diverse. Between 2017 and 2022, the percentage identifying as White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, decreased from 75% to 72%. Most of the population in Skagit County speak English only, but there has been an increase in those speaking Spanish since the year 2000 and a general decrease in the English only percentage.<sup>4</sup> In the future, housing needs and associated supportive amenities and services may differ for different cultural groups and communities.

The senior population is also expected to grow significantly, from 29,373 residents aged 65 and older in 2020 (23% of the population) to 45,022 by 2045 (28%).<sup>4</sup> The growing number of elderly households highlights the need for housing policies supporting diverse options, such as accessory dwelling units for caregivers or family members and smaller housing units near services for those downsizing.

### **Increased Rates of Homelessness**

The circumstances that lead people to become homeless are varied and frequently involve multiple, compounding factors. There are also significant external pressures that drive homelessness. Skagit County lacks diverse housing options, especially affordable housing for low- to moderate-income families, and has experienced extremely low vacancy rates over the most recent decade. Living wages are not keeping up with the increased costs of housing.

According to associate professor in the Runstad Department of Real Estate in the College of Built Environments at the University of Washington and housing researcher Gregg Colburn, the greatest influences on increasing homelessness is a lack of vacancies (available housing) and the price of housing. The problem is rooted in larger systemic factors rather than the individual who is suffering from poverty, substance use disorder, or disease.<sup>5</sup>

Statewide, Skagit consistently has one of the tightest rental markets; vacancies are currently 3%, higher than they have been in years, but still well below the state average of 5%. Despite new development in recent years, the housing stock is still insufficient to meet the need. According to the Runstad Department of Real Estate's Apartment Market Reports, the average monthly rent for all units has increased by 38% since 2019, and monthly rents for 2-bedroom apartments have increased by 45% during that same time period.<sup>6</sup> Working households simply cannot afford housing, leading to housing instability. This, in turn, leads to a domino effect of negative ramifications impacting the vital conditions that allow people to thrive, including stress, health and relationship issues, substance use, struggles with school and employment, evictions, and other issues.

<sup>4</sup> [www.skagitcounty.net/PlanningCommission/Documents/PCdocs/02112025/SkagitCounty\\_HousingNeedsAssessment\\_FINAL0911.pdf](https://www.skagitcounty.net/PlanningCommission/Documents/PCdocs/02112025/SkagitCounty_HousingNeedsAssessment_FINAL0911.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <https://homelessnesshousingproblem.com>

<sup>6</sup> <https://wcrer.be.uw.edu/housing-market-data-toolkit/apartment-market-reports/>

# ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HOMELESS CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM

## North Star Initiative

North Star is a collaborative approach to address countywide housing, homelessness, and behavioral health challenges. North Star is a public-private partnership utilizing governments, housing, health providers, non-profits, and first responders to provide effective care and housing for neighbors experiencing chronic homelessness in Skagit County. Through North Star, Skagit County leaders continue to work together collaboratively to provide guidance and ensure policies, programs, and funding are integrated and coordinated.

North Star is focused on building a pipeline of affordable housing through these key initiatives<sup>7</sup>:

- Align timing of city and county funding processes serving target populations, setting up projects for success with other competitive funding processes.
- Identify publicly owned parcels suitable for affordable housing; make recommendations to respective planning commissions and councils.
- Secure funding for technical real estate and due diligence consultants to expedite planning and property dispositions.
- Work with developers, advocates, and others to develop a pipeline of affordable housing projects and position them to compete for state resources.

## Homeless Crisis Response Services Committee

An appointed group of community stakeholders makes recommendations to the Skagit Board of County Commissioners to allocate homeless services funding and assures oversight over the community's homeless crisis response system.

## Skagit County Public Health

Skagit County Public Health provides the staff capacity to contract and coordinate with homeless services grantees and community stakeholders, as well as plan new projects. The staff at Public Health issue Notices of Funding Availability when homeless service funds are allocated, conduct contract monitoring, complete federal, state and county reporting, and fulfill other program requirements.

<sup>7</sup> <https://northstarskagit.org>

## **Cities and Towns**

The cities and towns of Skagit County frequently deploy public services to address homelessness, but they have historically received very limited homeless service funding. HB 1406, enacted in 2019, allows local governments to retain a portion of sales tax within their jurisdictions to apply toward homelessness prevention, and each city also enacted HB 1590, which provides additional local sales tax for homeless services. Anacortes and Mount Vernon also have access to Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for housing and homeless services.

## **Homeless Service Providers**

Homeless service providers in Skagit County provide emergency shelter, case management, temporary housing assistance, transitional living, outreach, permanent supportive housing assistance, or a combination of services. Many of these agencies apply for funds through Skagit County annually, but most also use a variety of other funding streams, such as grants, individual donations, and other contracts. Several agencies do not regularly apply for or receive funds from Skagit County but nevertheless deliver vital services to people experiencing homelessness. These agencies are not included in the Coordinated Entry system but are included as potential resources.

## **Coordinated Entry (CE)**

Skagit County Public Health provides staff capacity to contract and coordinate with homeless services grantees and community stakeholders, as well as to plan new projects. The staff at Public Health issues Notices of Funding Availability when homeless service funds are allocated, conducts contract monitoring, completes federal, state, and county reporting, and fulfills other program requirements.

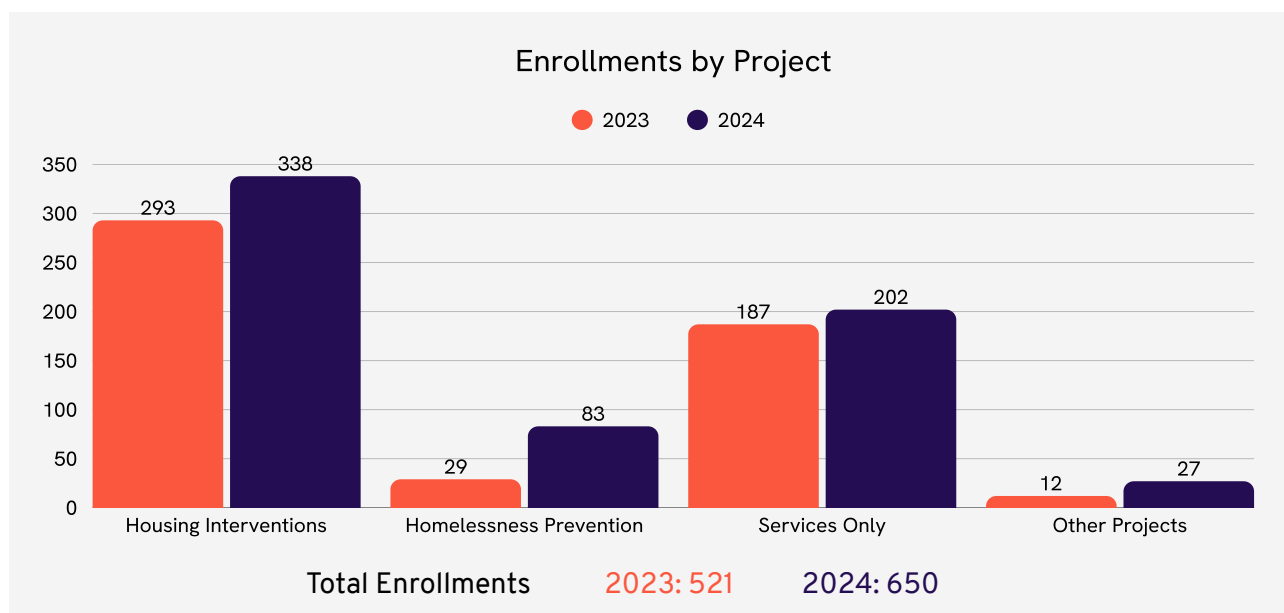
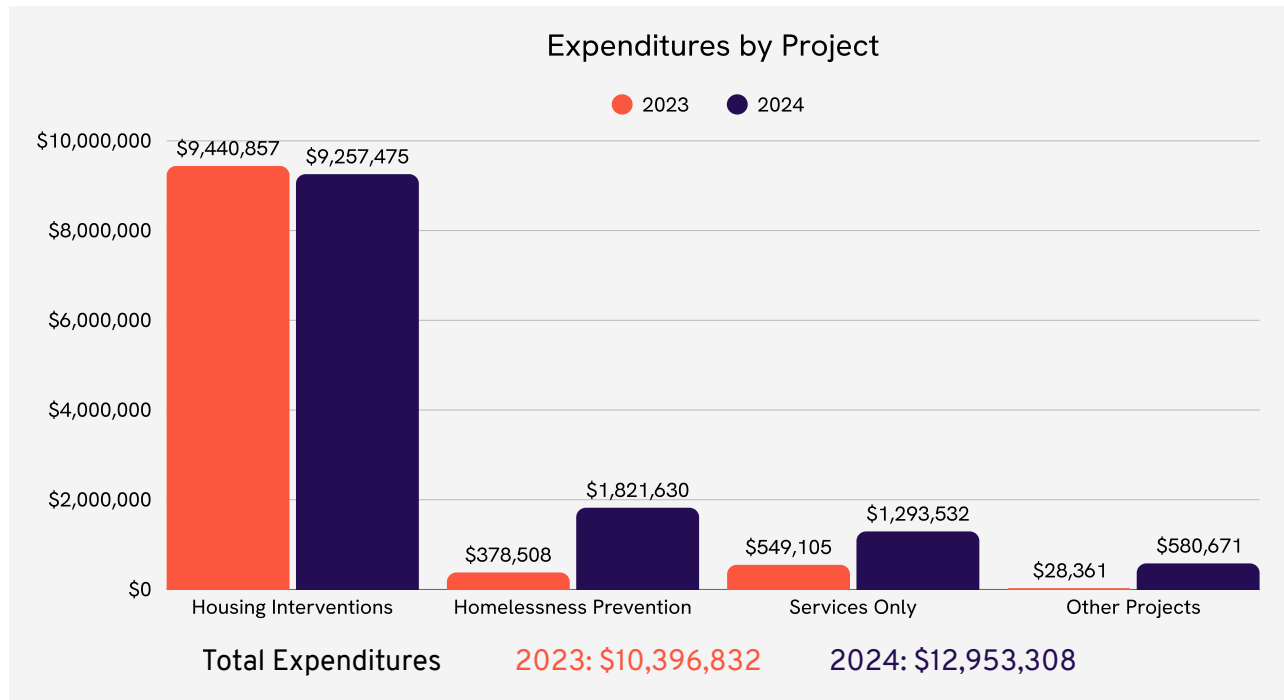
CE uses a prioritization assessment tool to identify the most vulnerable individuals and households. Over two years, a team of representatives from local social services agencies did a deep analysis of the tool and its impact on the CE system and individual lives, resulting in a redesigned prioritization tool. During the plan years (2025-2030), the new tool will be implemented and assessed, and a review process will be established.

Over the plan years, we aim to continuously improve the CE system by decreasing barriers, increasing accessibility, and improving community understanding of the CE Housing Interest Pool. In 2025, our new CE provider, Volunteers of America Western Washington (VOAWW), built a case conferencing model for permanent supportive housing. VOAWW plans to bring in more partners and expand case conferencing to include other demographics and service models in the coming years. The goal of case conferencing is to identify the most vulnerable people on the housing interest list and connect them with the most appropriate resources.



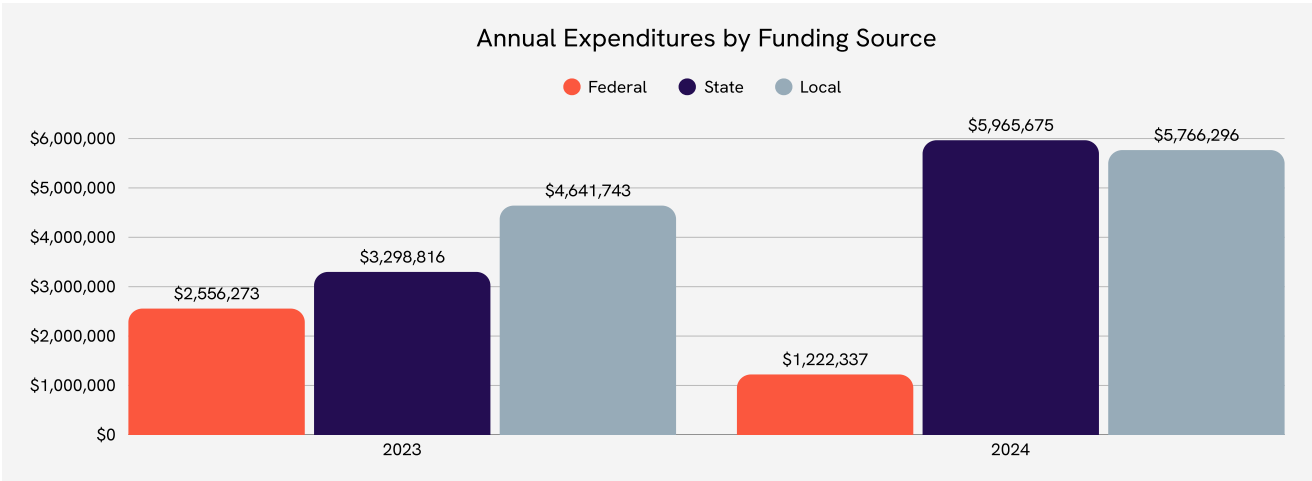
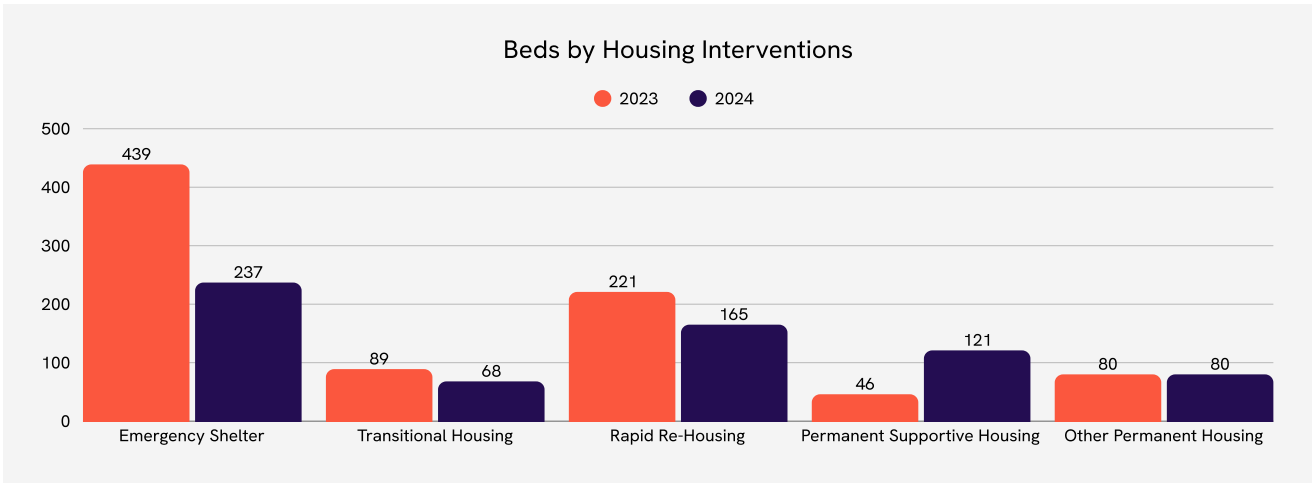
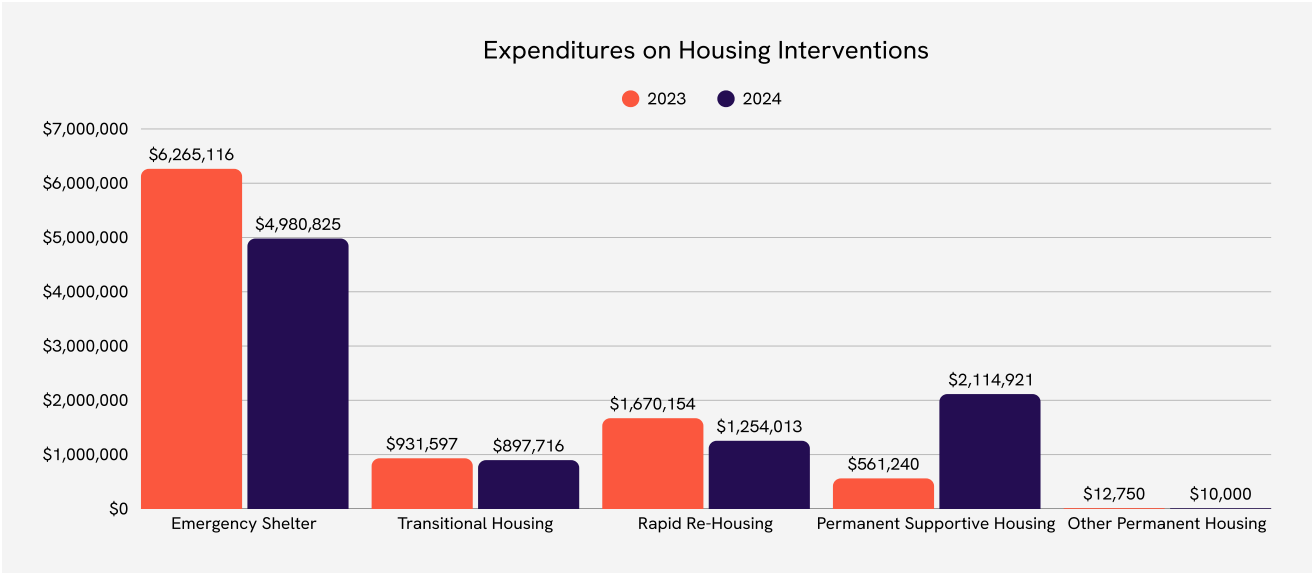
# ESTIMATED SERVICE LEVELS

Review of the data below, from the Washington State Department of Commerce Estimates of Service Levels Data Tool<sup>8</sup>, illuminates trends Skagit County has recently experienced and helps to project future needs. Overall, the data shows that the numbers of homelessness and services needed continue to rise. Skagit County should prioritize increasing affordable housing for households between 0-50% AMI. Specifically, the county needs an estimated 4,474 more housing units for households between 0-30% AMI.



<sup>8</sup> <https://deptofcommerce.app.box.com/s/ybf5p8potq3rgx2peytguwqas1k7ckws/file/1815027817619>

The data reflect programs that used pandemic-era funding that is no longer available, such as the increased use of motels during COVID-19. We also notice the impact of the new Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) project, Martha’s Place, that opened in 2023 in Skagit County, and we expect those PSH numbers to remain static in the coming years.



## Housing for All Planning Tool

The lack of affordable units combined with the lack of adequate funding to provide appropriate services is a significant barrier to preventing and ending homelessness. While more capacity and funding is needed in every aspect of the housing homelessness system, there are a few key resources that would greatly increase the system's impact on housing more adults and youth in our community.

Skagit Council of Governments (SCOG) conducted an analysis to forecast countywide population and housing needs in the year 2045. This work is documented in the Skagit County Population, Housing and Employment Growth Allocations Methodology (2023) and adopted in SCOG Resolution 2023-01. It reports that the County, inclusive of all jurisdictions, must add 17,450 net housing units between 2020 and 2045 to address housing needs, as shown in the chart below. During the five years of this plan, this breaks down to at least 3,490 more total units needed. Of that, Skagit County needs at least 898 more units to meet the needs of households earning 0-30% AMI over the next five years.

### Net New Housing Needed (2020-2045)

Urban Growth Areas (UGAs)	0-30% AMI	31-50% AMI	51-80% AMI	81-100% AMI	101-120% AMI	Above 120% AMI	Total
Anacortes	943	604	422	226	201	546	2,942
Burlington	911	584	408	218	194	528	2,843
Mount Vernon	1,659	1,064	743	398	353	963	5,180
Sedro-Woolley	848	544	380	203	180	491	2,646
Concrete	35	22	15	8	7	20	107
Hamilton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
La Conner	40	26	18	10	8	22	124
Lyman	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bayview Ridge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Swinomish	38	24	17	9	8	22	118
<b>UGA Subtotal</b>	<b>4,474</b>	<b>2,868</b>	<b>2,003</b>	<b>1,072</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>2,592</b>	<b>13,960</b>
Rural (outside of UGAs)	0	0	501	268	238	2,483	3,490
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4,474</b>	<b>2,868</b>	<b>2,504</b>	<b>1,340</b>	<b>1,189</b>	<b>5,075</b>	<b>17,450</b>

The HAPT tool shows us that most new housing units will be needed in the City of Mount Vernon, followed by the rural areas of Skagit County. The cities of Mount Vernon, Anacortes, Sedro-Woolley, and Burlington must all develop a substantial amount of new housing units that serve 0-30% AMI households. Overall, about 42% of new housing units through 2045 should be built to meet the needs of homeless and extremely low-income households earning between 0%-50% AMI.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup> <https://deptofcommerce.app.box.com/s/ybf5p8potq3rgx2peytguwqas1k7ckws/file/1815027817619>

# SURVEY OF FUND SOURCES

Skagit County has a number of funding sources that support the homeless crisis response system.

Fund Name	Source	Allowable Uses	Received SFY24	Received SFY25
Document Recording Fees	Local	Emergency shelter, permanent supportive housing (PSH), rental assistance, case management, outreach, system admin, internal costs	\$566,770	\$424,450
Consolidated Homeless Grant (CHG)	State	Emergency shelter, PSH, rental assistance, case management, outreach, prevention, system admin, internal costs	\$3,308,117	\$3,929,991
Housing and Essential Needs (HEN)	State	Temporary housing and essential needs services for disabled households referred through the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)	\$587,674	\$700,478
Housing and Related Services Sales and Use Tax (1590)	Local	Up to 40% may be used for housing-related services, the remainder must be used for construction of affordable housing or behavioral health facilities	\$1,222,231	\$1,269,336
Affordable and Supportive Housing Sales and Use Tax (1406)	Local	Rental assistance, affordable housing maintenance/development, affordable housing operations (for new units)	\$277,060	\$277,060
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	Federal	Public services	\$60,411	\$61,087
1/10 <sup>th</sup> of 1% Behavioral Health Treatment Sales Tax	Local	Must serve persons with behavioral health disorders	\$500,000	\$500,000
Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) HOME Investment Partnership Program	Federal	Development of affordable housing	\$520,830	\$1,437,450
Accountable Communities of Health	Private	Diversion and rental assistance	\$100,000	\$0
Totals			<b>\$7,143,093</b>	<b>\$8,599,852</b>

# 2025-2030 OBJECTIVES

This five-year plan includes six objectives developed by the Washington State Department of Commerce and the Skagit County Homeless Housing Task Force. Strategies and performance measures were shaped by Task Force discussions, community feedback, and emerging local trends.

## Objective 1: Promote an equitable, accountable, and transparent homeless crisis response system

The Coordinated Entry (CE) system, hosted through the state Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), connects clients to services based on their vulnerability score and availability of program beds. Most homeless services in Skagit County operate through Coordinated Entry, with some additional shelter beds provided by Friendship House and Family Promise, and limited motel vouchers offered intermittently.

Community feedback revealed that 44% of survey respondents with lived experience did not know how to request shelter or housing assistance. Access to information about CE is particularly limited among East County residents and Latino farmworkers, many of whom experience housing insecurity but may not meet HUD’s definition of homelessness. East County residents also expressed a preference to remain in their rural area, despite the lack of local shelter or housing options, underscoring the need for expanded resources in that region.

Objective 1 Promote an equitable, accountable, and transparent homeless crisis response system		
Goal 1: Strengthen Coordinated Entry (CE) Housing Interest Pool.		
Strategy	Timeline	Measure
Provide CE orientation to all systems that encounter people experiencing homelessness	Ongoing (through 2030)	At least 30 CE intakes will be completed by partner agencies annually
Develop multiple entry pathways to access CE (in-person, phone, online, outreach workers)		
Expand client coordination of care meetings established between outreach agencies		

<sup>8</sup> <https://deptofcommerce.app.box.com/s/ybf5p8potq3rgx2peytwuqaslk7ckws/file/1815027817619>

Goal 2: Effectively utilize community shelter resources.		
Strategy	Timeline	Measure
Monitor and track shelter vacancies and capacity; identify issues that may require attention and/or improvement.	Ongoing (through 2030)	Occupancy rate of shelter beds averages at least 90%
Goal 3: Improve data collection and use in homeless crisis response system.		
Strategy	Timeline	Measure
Improve training for staff on data entry standards	Ongoing (through 2030)	Overall data completeness of County-funded programs is 95% or higher or has improved over the last state fiscal year
		Overall data timeliness of County-funded programs is within three days of program exit/entry or has improved over the last state fiscal year
Goal 4: Expand outreach and engagement.		
Strategy	Timeline	Measure
Conduct outreach to connect youth and adults to homeless and housing services	2028	Increase youth enrollments in CE and supportive services by at least 50%
Develop outreach plans for rural, youth, and Latino populations	2027	Increase CE enrollments for rural, youth, and Latino populations

## Objective 2: Strengthen the homeless services provider workforce

Skagit County Public Health engaged the homeless services provider workforce during the plan development process in a variety of ways. There was a survey for direct service workers and a separate survey for individuals in management and leadership roles. We also engaged with service providers in planning discussions and at task force meetings.

29 homeless service providers submitted responses.

- Staff overwhelmingly agree they would like higher wages and better health insurance.
- 48% of workers feel their workload is manageable.
- The biggest concerns identified by workers were not enough shelter beds, lack of affordable housing, not enough money/resources, and funding cuts.

*"I might leave my job because of stress, lack of support, the disconnect between what is needed for people and what is possible in terms of resources to help support them."*

*-Service Provider Staff*



- 24 leadership positions submitted survey responses.
- 58% report difficulty retaining staff.
  - 87% believe they could retain more staff if they offered higher wages.
  - 70% feel their pay and benefits aren't competitive.

*"The majority of our frontline staff are not more than a paycheck away from instability themselves."*  
*-Service Provider Leadership*

## Objective 2 Strengthen the homeless services provider workforce

### Goal 1: Strengthen workforce recruitment and retention in homeless services.

Strategy	Timeline	Measure
Make retention bonuses an explicitly allowable use in contracts	July 2026	Retention bonus language adopted in contracts by 2026
	May 2026	At least 20% of contracted providers include retention bonuses in program budgets
Support statewide reinstatement of Service Worker Stipend program	Ongoing (through 2030)	Homeless Service provider stipends available across the state

### Goal 2: Improve contracting and funding stability.

Strategy	Timeline	Measure
Extend contract cycles	January 2027	Recommendation on two-year contract cycle developed and adopted

### Goal 3: Strengthen training and professional development opportunities.

Strategy	Timeline	Measure
Create a countywide training calendar for homeless service providers	July 2026	Percentage of providers reporting increased knowledge, skills, or confidence after technical assistance (via surveys)
Provide localized ongoing technical assistance to service providers	Ongoing (through 2030)	

## Objective 3: Prevent episodes of homelessness whenever possible

Households at risk of losing housing may qualify for prevention or diversion funding through CE. Skagit County has a variety of prevention and diversion resources serving various target populations. These programs typically offer short-term assistance, such as eviction prevention or move-in cost assistance. Diversion programs are more flexible and can be used to support households obtain or maintain different kinds of housing stability.

## Objective 3 Prevent episodes of homelessness whenever possible

### Goal 1: Enhance prevention and diversion system navigation and case management.

Strategy	Timeline	Measure
CHG Eviction Prevention Program	Ongoing (through 2030)	At least 95% of households have retained housing six months after receiving assistance
County-funded diversion programs		At least 60% of contracted funds will be utilized to provide direct financial support to individuals
Assess whether increased coordination of diversion referrals is needed	2026	Diversion program assessment completed

### Goal 2: Strengthen a community-based system of care.

Strategy	Timeline	Measure
Prioritize funding for programs that deliver comprehensive, integrated assistance in alignment with the North Star guiding principals	Ongoing (through 2030)	At least 80% of County-funded programs are highly integrated

### Goal 3: Expand language access.

Strategy	Timeline	Measure
Include language access requirements in the 2026 Homeless Housing Crisis Response System NOFA	January 2026	All county-funded programs have clearly defined language access plans

## Objective 4: Prioritize assistance based on the greatest barriers to housing stability and the greatest risk of harm

The stakeholder groups selected the top three highest-need populations: families with children, youth and young adults, and seniors and disabled individuals. Service providers made it clear through multiple comments that there is high concern for youth homelessness as well as a growing population of seniors and people with disabilities experiencing homelessness.

*“Disabled or injured should have first priority. Disabled people need people to take care of them. We should never leave elders or disabled people alone on the streets.”*

*-Person with Lived Experience*

## Objective 4

### Prioritize assistance based on the greatest barriers to housing stability and the greatest risk of harm

#### Goal 1: Improve use of assessment tools to inform care.

Strategy	Timeline	Measure
Conduct annual assessment of Skagit Housing Interest Pool Assessment (SHIPA) tool	Annually	SHIPA assessments completed annually; recommendations/changes implemented within three months of assessment
Monitor and track average vulnerability score of placements from the Housing Interest Pool	Ongoing (through 2030)	At least 90% or more of households in the top range of vulnerability receive program placement

#### Goal 2: Ensure racial and demographic equity within homeless service system program access.

Strategy	Timeline	Measure
Increase housing support to priority populations: youth, young adults, seniors	2026	Number of exits from coordinated entry to housing
Monitor and track Commerce equity dashboard	Ongoing (through 2030)	Housing outcomes of exited households are consistent across racial and ethnic demographics

#### Goal 3: Strengthen data and coordination infrastructure.

Strategy	Timeline	Measure
Expand use of shared community-based platform to improve coordination, alignment, and case management between homeless housing and medical/behavioral health systems	Ongoing (through 2030)	At least 10% annual increase in community programs utilizing the integrated system

## Objective 5: Seek to house everyone in a stable setting that meets their needs

Skagit County understands the need for diverse housing options as well as low-barrier shelter beds, a continuum of housing that meets the needs of everyone, regardless of their vulnerability or barriers. The County is committed to establishing creative partnerships and exploring alternative housing solutions and affordable housing development projects.

*“We need high density housing that is not means tested. Tiny homes would be really cool, similar to Seattle and HomesNow! Marblemount and East County have a lot of people—so many people live in unsanitary housing, people in the woods—we need housing development in East County. It would greatly improve the quality of life. East of Concrete, it is even more economically devastated. I think anywhere west of the Cascades has the most economic devastation. People are hurting the most here. I-5 corridor communities have some wafts of economic stimulus but not east out here.”*

*-Person with Lived Experience*

Consistent with other County plans, Skagit will focus on creating more bridge housing and more permanent affordable housing options over the next few years.

Bridge housing can include transitional housing options that are made available to people exiting other systems such as jail, behavioral health treatment, and hospitals. Tackling the root causes of someone’s homelessness will hopefully lead to sustainable change in their lives, reducing the likelihood of future homelessness.

*“If we want to ensure people are focused on housing solutions, we need to have an infrastructure that builds towards that.”*  
*-Service Provider Leadership*

## Objective 5 Seek to house everyone in a stable setting that meets their needs

### Goal 1: Expand year-round emergency shelter options

Strategy	Timeline	Measure
Conduct feasibility study and identify partner agency	2026-2029	Year-round emergency shelter project identified
Secure site and funding for year-round shelter		Funding identified and secured
Identify and establish year-round emergency shelter with drop-in beds	2030	Increase in number of night-by-night beds available annually

### Goal 2: Enhance connections between shelters and mental health services

Strategy	Timeline	Measure
Expand program capacity to safely house people experiencing unmet behavioral health needs	2030	At least 12 additional beds of crisis stabilization, supportive housing, shelter, or other programs that support behavioral health recovery

### Goal 3: Preserve a range of housing services to ensure that all subpopulations have a path to housing stability

Strategy	Timeline	Measure
Rapid rehousing	Ongoing (through 2030)	At least 80% of exiting households exit into permanent housing
Transitional housing		At least 80% of exiting households exit into permanent housing
Permanent supportive housing		At least 90% of people in PSH remain in PSH or exiting households exit into permanent housing
Emergency shelter		At least 50% of exiting households exit into permanent housing

#### Goal 4: Support community housing partnerships

Strategy	Timeline	Measure
Support innovative partnerships between faith-based, non-profit, and other community-based efforts to add shelter and housing, including tiny homes, cottages, etc.	Ongoing (through 2030)	Number of cottages, pallet shelters, and other units developed
		Number of households served annually through faith-based/community project

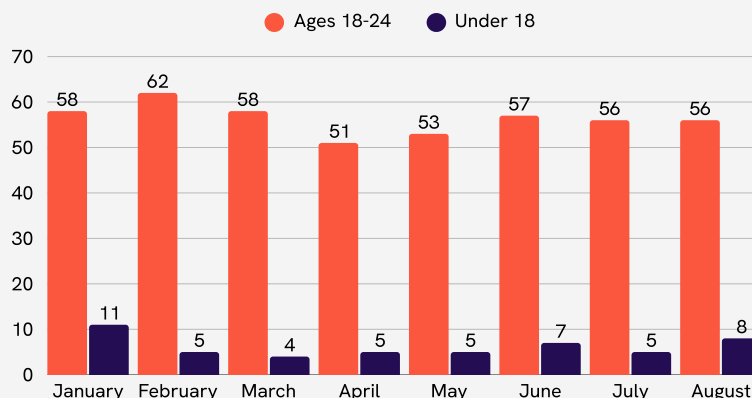
#### Goal 5: Build a pipeline of affordable housing

Strategy	Timeline	Measure
Implement the North Start Housing Call to Action in Skagit County	Ongoing (through 2030)	Policy changes adopted
		Increase in number of affordable housing units permitted annual
		Increase in affordable units built in transit-served corridors
<b>North Star Call to Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow mixed-use development outright in commercially zoned, transit-served corridors.</li> <li>Relax or eliminate density limits in such areas.</li> <li>Adopt by-right permitting in residential zones.</li> <li>Reduce parking requirements for affordable housing projects.</li> <li>Reduce fees for affordable housing projects.</li> </ul>	

### Objective 6: Eliminate unaccompanied youth and young adult homelessness

Skagit County consistently has more than 50 youth or young adults (YYA) on the YYA By-Name list. Our County offers youth younger than 18 shelter at YMCA Oasis. For young adults aged 18-24, Northwest Youth Services offers shelter and housing programs. During recent years, the YMCA has expanded a new youth drop-in recreation center in Sedro-Woolley, offering safe spaces and opportunities to connect with other youth and staff, building healthy relationships.

Youth Identified as Homeless and on the By-Name List, 2025



*“18-24-year-olds. This is a crucial time for them to find housing before they become street dependent. They are at a high risk of being trafficked, and with that comes substance use, arrests, gang affiliation, etc. Youth shelters exit on their 18th birthday. Some still in high school. They have to quit to survive. They do not have credit or income to get an apartment.”*

*-Service Provider Leadership*

## Objective 6 Eliminate unaccompanied youth and young adult homelessness

### Goal 1: Increase affordable housing for youth and young adults (YYA)

Strategy	Timeline	Measure
Support the launch of Host Homes program	Ongoing (through 2030)	At least 10 youth served in Host Homes annually
Increase utilization rates at NWYS and YMCA Oasis housing programs		Occupancy rate of shelter beds and transitional units averages at least 90%
Expand mobile and peer-led outreach strategies targeting YYA experiencing homelessness		Increase in the number of YYA engaged through outreach annually

### Goal 2: Achieve functional zero for youth and young adult homelessness for ages 12–24

Strategy	Timeline	Measure
Support the development and maintenance of a monthly By-Name List for homeless youth ages 12–24	Ongoing (through 2030)	Stable housing secured for YYA in 30 days or less
Develop and deliver training for all providers on best practices for engaging YYA		100% of service providers receive training annually
Establish YYA-specific case conference meetings across agencies		At least two YYA case conferences held monthly

## CONCLUSION

Skagit County and its cities achieved many components of our previous five-year thanks to the commitment of our leadership and homeless services providers to increase services to our most vulnerable communities. Individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness have access to more services, more shelter, and more housing units. However, as with many regions across the nation, Skagit County continues to experience a rising cost of living, increased housing costs, and incomes that are not keeping up pace. Despite our progress, homelessness continues to increase, and housing continues to be out of reach for many in our community.

During the development of this plan, we engaged with and listened to our community, and we heard over and over that Skagit County residents want more affordable housing now. We must dedicate the coming years to exploring alternative housing solutions—including both long-term and short-term options—and prioritizing the development of affordable housing to reduce instances of homelessness and housing instability in the future.



# APPENDIX I: HOUSING TASK FORCE PARTICIPANTS AND MEETINGS

Agency Representation	Task Force Requirement
Anacortes Family Center (AFC)	emergency shelter operator non-profit organization with experience in low-income housing
Catholic Community Services (CCS)	permanent supportive housing operator
Catholic Housing Services (CHS)	permanent supportive housing provider
City of Anacortes	second-largest city
City of Burlington	small city
City of Mount Vernon	largest city
City of Sedro-Woolley	small city
Community Action of Skagit County (CASC)	non-profit organization with experience in low-income housing emergency shelter operator street outreach rental subsidy administrators
didg <sup>w</sup> alič Community Wellness Center	tribal health and behavioral health provider (not required)
Mount Baker Presbyterian Church (MBPC)	formerly homeless person rural homeless outreach
North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (NS BH-ASO)	behavioral health administrative services organization
Skagit Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services (SDVSAS)	domestic violence and sexual assault services emergency shelter operator
Skagit Friendship House	emergency shelter operator
Skagit Valley YMCA	youth shelter operator youth outreach
Volunteers of America Western Washington (VOAWW)	coordinated entry formerly homeless person
Welcome Home Skagit (WHS)	by and for organization emergency shelter operator formerly homeless person

Date	Attended	Invited, did not attend
April 21, 2025	Ariell Wright (CCS)	José Ortiz (CCS)
	Genevieve Ward (MBPC)	Kaylynne Nyberg (VOAWW)
	Mary Meyers (MBPC)	Melanie Corey (Housing Authority of Skagit County [HASC])
	Leon John (didg <sup>w</sup> alič)	Brad Johnson (Burlington)
	Heidi Roy (SDVSAS)	
	Jonathan Kline (Friendship House)	
	Dustin Johnson (AFC)	
	Beatriz De La Rosa Perez (AFC)	
	Kat Lohman (YMCA)	
	Sandi Phinney (CASC)	
	Sarah Vogt (WHS)	
	John Coleman (Anacortes)	
	Steve Sexton (Mount Vernon)	
	Charlie Bush (Sedro-Woolley)	
	Margaret Rojas (NS BH-ASO)	
	Madeleine Anthony (Public Health)	
	Megan Starr (Public Health)	
	Shelley Kjos (Public Health)	
	George Kosovich (Public Health)	
August 27, 2025	Ariell Wright (CCS)	Genevieve Ward (MBPC)
	Heidi Roy (SDVSAS)	Leon John (didg <sup>w</sup> alič)
	Jonathan Kline (Friendship House)	Dustin Johnson (AFC)
	Kat Lohman (YMCA)	Beatriz De La Rosa Perez (AFC)
	Sandi Phinney (CASC)	Mary Meyers (MBPC)
	Sarah Vogt (WHS)	Melanie Corey (HASC)
	José Ortiz (CCS)	
	Kaylynne Nyberg (VOAWW)	
	John Coleman (Anacortes)	
	Brad Johnson (Burlington)	
	Steve Sexton (Mount Vernon)	
	Charlie Bush (Sedro-Woolley)	
	Linda Crothers (NS BH-ASO)	

Date	Attended	Invited, did not attend
August 27, 2025	Madeleine Anthony (Public Health)	
	Megan Starr (Public Health)	
	Shelley Kjos (Public Health)	
	George Kosovich (Public Health)	
Date	Attended	Invited, did not attend
October 27, 2025	Leon John (didg <sup>w</sup> alič)	Ariell Wright (CCS)
	Heidi Roy (SDVSAS)	Genevieve Ward (MBPC)
	Jonathan Kline (Friendship House)	Mary Meyers (MBPC)
	Sandi Phinney (CASC)	Dustin Johnson (AFC)
	Sarah Vogt (WHS)	Beatriz De La Rosa Perez (AFC)
	José Ortiz (CCS)	Kat Lohman (YMCA)
	Kaylynne Nyberg (VOAWW)	Melanie Corey (HASC)
	Chuck Messinger (VOAWW)	Charlie Bush (Sedro-Woolley)
	John Coleman (Anacortes)	
	Brad Johnson (Burlington)	
	Steve Sexton (Mount Vernon)	
	Linda Crothers (NS BH-ASO)	
	Madeleine Anthony (Public Health)	
	Megan Starr (Public Health)	
	Shelley Kjos (Public Health)	
	George Kosovich (Public Health)	

## APPENDIX II: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Skagit County Public Health collected community feedback through multiple channels, including surveys of service providers and individuals with lived experience. The draft plan was made available for public comment in October, posted on the County website, and widely shared with homeless service providers and their clients, the local newspaper, and on social media to encourage additional input. A public hearing to gather comments and questions took place on November 4, 2025. Results are summarized below.

### People with Lived Experience Survey Results

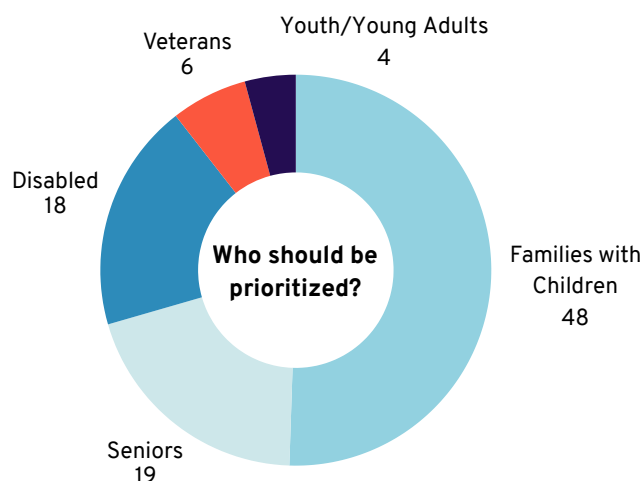
Staff conducted targeted outreach to obtain input from people with lived experience of homelessness or housing instability, ultimately collecting 100 surveys. Following the Washington State Department of Commerce compensation recommendations, participants were paid \$25 to complete surveys after confirming their lived experience and low-income status. Surveys were available in multiple languages and offered with the option to complete independently on paper or computer or verbally with Public Health staff. Outreach was conducted throughout the county with attempts to engage various household types.

Outreach spanned various regions of the county and sought to engage diverse household types. Staff went to Anacortes Family Center, First Step Center in Burlington (operated by Friendship House), Welcome Home Skagit's day shelter for adults in Mount Vernon, Sedro Woolley Food Bank, Farmworker Center in Mount Vernon (operated by Catholic Community Services), Concrete Community Center free lunch (provided by Community Action of Skagit County), Marblemount rural pop up event/foodbank, and the resident advisory board at Martha's Place Permanent Supportive Housing project in Mount Vernon (operated by Catholic Community Services).

The data analysis and trends are interwoven throughout the objectives and strategies and were examined by the Skagit Homeless Housing Task Force in the development of this plan's priorities in the coming years. A summary of survey results follows.

People with Lived Experience – 100 responses	
Language	Age Category
18 Spanish	77 Adults (25–61 years)
1 French	11 Seniors (62+ years)
81 English	12 Young adults (18–24 years)

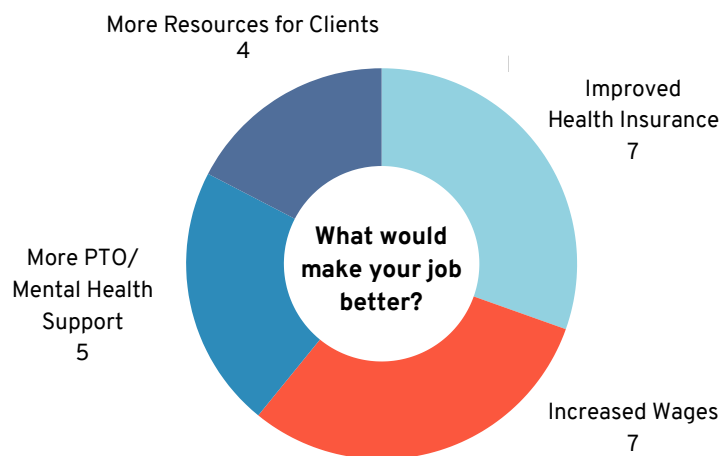
- 44% of respondents did not know who to contact or where to go when needed housing resources.
- There were 27 comments related to the general lack of resources and larger systemic problems, not enough shelter beds, not enough affordable housing.
- There were 15 comments related to the positive engagement with support staff at various programs.
- More affordable housing, more shelter beds, and more tiny home/creative housing solutions are needed.



*"I feel ashamed and unworthy."  
- Person with Lived Experience*

### Homeless Service Provider Survey Results - 29 responses

- 48% have worked in homeless services for 1-3 years and 28% for 4-6 years.
- 44% of staff have experienced their own housing instability with 28% having experienced literal homelessness.
- The primary reason people would leave their job is if funding was reduced or they find a higher paying job in the same field.
- 26 respondents (89.7%) rated their job satisfaction as 4 or 5 (highly satisfied).
- All respondents but one stated their workload is manageable "always" or "sometimes," the remaining respondent stated it was "rarely" manageable.
- The greatest challenges identified were not having enough resources, funding, or shelter beds. The second greatest challenge were funding cuts and low wages.
- With insufficient resources for everyone in need, service providers families with children, youth and young adults, and seniors and disabled people should be prioritized for services.
- The greatest need in our community is more affordable housing.



*"Whenever we discuss system challenges, the answer(s) seemingly always comes down to funding, lack of funding, or inadequate funding."  
-Service Provider*

## Homeless Service Provider Leadership Survey - 24 responses

- 58% stated management has had trouble keeping frontline staff over the last year, and 50% stated the main cause as burnout or stress. Retention bonuses, increasing pay, flexible schedules, self-care, and retreats have helped keep staff.
- 87% of leadership felt that they could keep staff if they were able to offer higher wages.
- 70% of leadership responses thought their pay and benefits were uncompetitive or somewhat uncompetitive.
- 58% stated management has had trouble keeping frontline staff over the last year, and 50% stated the main cause as burnout or stress. Retention bonuses, increasing pay, flexible schedules, self-care, and retreats have helped keep staff.
- 87% of leadership felt that they could keep staff if they were able to offer higher wages.
- 70% of leadership responses thought their pay and benefits were uncompetitive or somewhat uncompetitive.
- Leadership would like to have more money, time, and training, though only 4% of leadership thought that staff do not receive the training they need.
- Affordable rental housing was identified as the most-needed service in our community.
- Leadership identified families with children and youth and young adults as the populations that should be prioritized for services.

*“No one should have to be homeless. ALL homelessness or potential loss of housing stability should be prioritized with the utmost urgency!”*

*-Service Provider Leadership*

## Summary of Public Comments

*The following are summaries of public comments received since July 2025, including during the 30-day public comment period. Comments are listed in alphabetical order by last name, not in the order in which they were received.*

Austin Bennet commented that tiny homes used for shelter that also have communal bathrooms feels inhumane. He also suggested putting less focus on building more housing and more on preventing circumstances that cause loss of housing, such as eviction and foreclosure, to help people stay in their homes in the first place.

Trinity Chapman urged the County to establish a dedicated place for LGBTQ people to find shelter. Community members have experienced sexual abuse, harassment, targeting, misgendering, and misogynistic abuse in Skagit County shelters. Program staff need training. She also recommends micro-housing rather than shared housing.



Liam Diephuis commented in support of Skagit County Drug Court and also asked about the expected decrease in state and federal funding for homeless housing programs.

Talia Hill commented on how the time limits at First Step shelter were a barrier and it felt like the time period to return to shelter was applied unevenly. She also suggested investigating green building options.

Mary Kirkwood is the parent of a homeless person who is unable to access any shelters in Skagit due to their barriers. Mary commented that we need shelter resources for individuals with higher barriers or there will be more individuals with higher needs and challenges on the streets.

Chuck Messinger suggested that there should be increased engagement with stakeholders in the market that are not receiving state or federal funding to develop creative affordable solutions.

Lucy Mueller commented about the lack of drop-in, night-by-night shelter in Skagit County. She works helping people who have barriers to employment enter the workforce. She has many clients who have nowhere to sleep at night and are unable to find shelter. Often when people are released from jail, they must stay in the county but they want to go to Oak Harbor, Everett, or Bellingham where there are night-by-night shelter beds.

Crystal Ritch commented on ways to prevent homelessness by aligning housing policies with income supports, wage advocacy, and renter protections. Her ideas included:

- Integrating income supports with housing programs—Connect housing initiatives to living wage campaigns, job training, and employment support so people can afford rent without permanent reliance on charitable resources.
- Advocating for living wages—Ensure local wages reflect the true cost of housing and basic necessities.
- Supporting small businesses—Paying living wages can be difficult for local employers due to taxes, fees, and Labor & Industries costs. Policies that reduce certain fees or offer incentives for small businesses can make living wages more feasible.
- Implementing renter protections—Consider rent caps or stabilization measures to prevent sudden or excessive rent increases that displace families.
- Taking a systemic approach—Emergency shelters and transitional housing are essential but not sufficient. A holistic solution should address both housing supply and income stability.

Mike Shaw volunteers for several programs and suggested partnerships with Job Corps and suggested that we do more to encourage networking with church and volunteer groups.

Hannah Smith commented that LGBTQIA+ community members often face discrimination in shelters and transitional housing in Skagit. She suggested in-house trainings and more one-on-one support. She also shared information about a monthly support group along with activities for community members.

Crystle Stidham commented that the plan should include more emphasis on public transportation as the second-highest expense for households.

Brad Tinges suggested that counties and cities stop raising taxes each year. He stated that if we can stabilize taxes and limit levy increases, we can help families prevent homelessness and keep rental prices down.

## Evidence of Public Engagement



### Notice of Public Hearing and Comment Period Skagit HOME Consortium

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Skagit County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing to receive comment on the 2025-2030 Skagit County 5-Year Homeless Housing Plan Draft. The public hearing is scheduled to take place on November 4, 2025 at 11:00 am or as soon thereafter as possible in the Skagit County Commissioners Hearing Room located at 1800 Continental Place in Mount Vernon. You may attend the Public Hearing in person or remotely through Zoom from your computer, tablet, or smartphone with this link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87180001980?pwd=eEVGUkx-Z3NkQkYhYSnhB-MEo2RTQrdz09> or by phone: 1 (253)215-8782 Meeting ID: 871 8000 1980 Passcode: 143573.

The Skagit County 5-Year Homeless Housing Plan Draft has been guided by Public Health, Homeless Housing Task Force, and engagement with public stakeholders, and people with lived experience. The plan guides our County objectives over 2025-2030 and must be adopted by the Board of Skagit County Commissioners.

**Public Comment:** The public comment period for the 5-Year Homeless Housing Plan opens at 8:30 a.m. on October 1, 2025 and closes at 4:30 p.m. on November 5th, 2025. The 5-year Homeless Housing Plan Draft will be available for public review during regular business hours at the Skagit County Public Health Office, 301 Valley Mall Way Ste.110, Mount Vernon, or the documents may be downloaded from the department's website at <https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/Human-Services/HousingMain.htm>.

Written comments may also be submitted to Madeleine Anthony, Skagit County Public Health, 301 Valley Mall Way Ste. 110, Mount Vernon, WA 98273, or [manthony@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:manthony@co.skagit.wa.us).

The Commissioner's Hearing Room of the County Administration Building is handicap accessible. Additional arrangements to reasonably accommodate special needs, including handicap accessibility or an interpreter, will be made upon receiving three-day advance notice. Contact Linda Hammons at (360) 416-1300, or for Spanish language contact, contact Maria Vivanco at (360) 416-1532.

### Aviso de audiencia pública y período de comentarios

**POR LA PRESENTE SE NOTIFICA que la Junta de Comisionados del Condado de Skagit** llevará a cabo una audiencia pública para recibir comentarios sobre el Borrador del Plan de Vivienda para Personas sin Hogar de 5 años del Condado de Skagit 2025-2030. La audiencia pública está programada para el 4 de Noviembre del 2025 a las 11:00 a. m. o lo más pronto posible en la Sala de Audiencias de los Comisionados del Condado de Skagit ubicada en 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, Washington. Puede asistir a la Audiencia Pública en persona o de forma remota a través de Zoom desde su computadora, tableta o teléfono inteligente con este enlace: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87180001980?pwd=eEVGUkx-Z3NkQkYhYSnhB-MEo2RTQrdz09>

o por teléfono: 1 (253)215-8782 ID de reunión: 871 8000 1980 Código de acceso: 143573.

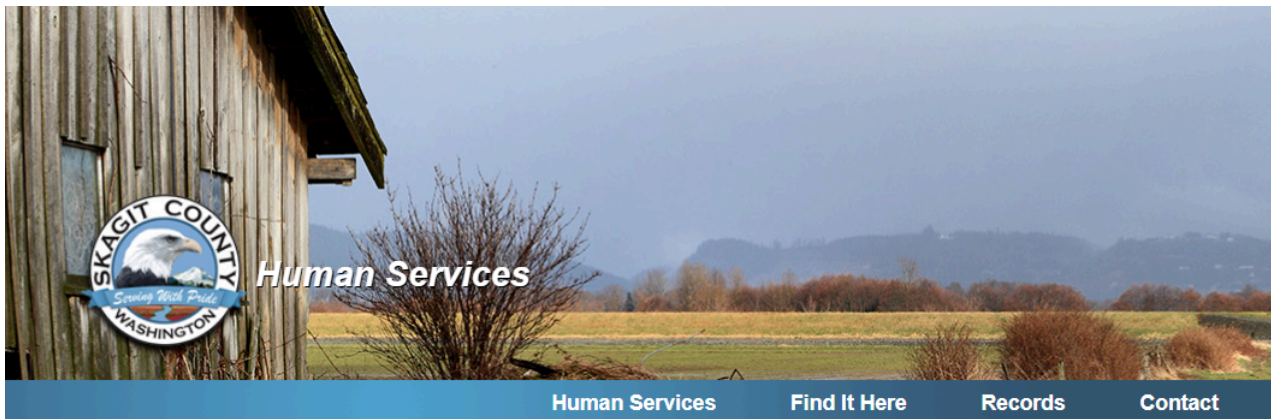
**Comentario público:** El período de comentarios públicos para el Plan de Vivienda para Personas sin Hogar de 5 años se abre a las 8:30 a.m. El 1 de Octubre del 2025 y cierra a las 4:30 p.m. El 5 de Noviembre del 2025. El Borrador del Plan de Vivienda para Personas sin Hogar de 5 años estará disponible para revisión pública durante el horario comercial habitual en la Oficina de Salud Pública del Condado de Skagit, 301 Valley Mall Way Ste.110, Mount Vernon, o los documentos se pueden descargar del sitio web del departamento en <https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/Human-Services/HousingMain.htm>.

Los comentarios por escrito también pueden enviarse a Madeleine Anthony, Skagit County Public Health, 301 Valley Mall Way Ste 110, Mount Vernon, WA 98273 o [manthony@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:manthony@co.skagit.wa.us).

La Sala de Audiencias del Comisionado del Edificio de Administración del Condado es accesible para discapacitados. Se harán arreglos adicionales para acomodar razonablemente las necesidades especiales, incluida la accesibilidad para discapacitados o un intérprete, al recibir un aviso con tres días de anticipación. Comuníquese con Linda Hammons al (360) 416-1300, o para contacto en español, comuníquese con Maria Vivanco al (360) 416-1532.

**Published  
October 23, 2025  
SVH-685087**

Public comment information was posted on the website on October 3, 2025 at [www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/HumanServices/HousingMain.htm](http://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/HumanServices/HousingMain.htm)



## HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

### 2025-2030 Homeless Housing Plan: Notice of Plan Development

The [5-year Homeless Housing Plan](#) provides Skagit County with a guide to strategic plans to reduce homelessness in Skagit County over the next 5 years. The plan supports priorities and actionable goals that will shape the funding decisions and strategies for our homeless crisis response system. The development of this plan is staffed by Skagit County Public Health, and an [advisory committee](#) has been established to guide this planning process. Task Force members include members of the [NorthStar Advisory Group](#) and other community stakeholders.

More information on the requirements and framework of this planning process are provided by the [Washington State Department of Commerce](#).

#### 2025 Strategic Plan Timeline

- September-October 2025: A draft of the 5-year plan will be posted for 30 days to receive public comments.
- November 2025: A Public Hearing will be held on November 4th to receive public comments.
- December 2025: The Final Plan is submitted to County Commissioners for approval and adoption.
- December 2025: The plan is submitted to the Washington State Department of Commerce.

#### Public Engagement

Future public engagement opportunities will be posted on this page. To receive updates on homelessness and housing topics, you may also sign up for the County's [listserv](#).

Skagit County Board of Commissioners is soliciting public comment on the draft Skagit County 5-Year Homeless Housing Plan. Public comments are invited by attendance, email, mail, or hand delivery.

[View the draft plan here.](#)

#### How to Comment

1. Written comments may be submitted:
  - By email to [manthony@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:manthony@co.skagit.wa.us) or [mstarr@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:mstarr@co.skagit.wa.us)
  - In person or by mail to Skagit County Public Health, 301 Valley Mall Way, Suite 110, Mount Vernon, WA 98273. Please identify the comments with the subject: "5-Year Homeless Housing Plan". **All written comments must be received prior to 4:30 p.m. on November 5, 2025, to be considered.**
2. Public comments on the draft plan may be made during the public hearing.
  - The public hearing will be held on **November 4, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.**, or as soon thereafter as possible, in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, Skagit County Administration Building, 1800 Continental Place in Mount Vernon.

#### Task Force Materials

First Meeting: 4/21/25  
Second Meeting: 8/27/25

Questions or Comments can be directed to:  
Madeleine Anthony, [manthony@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:manthony@co.skagit.wa.us) 360-416-2014  
Megan Starr, [mstarr@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:mstarr@co.skagit.wa.us) 360-416-1506



# We want to hear from you!

You're invited to provide  
comment on Skagit County's  
draft Homeless Housing Plan

November 4th | 11:00 am

Commissioners' Hearing Room  
Skagit County Administration Building  
1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon

join the meeting in person  
or virtually →

or send your comments to Madeleine  
Anthony: [manthony@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:manthony@co.skagit.wa.us)

