Homeless Housing Discussion

Homelessness: What funding is available to address this issue? June 8, 2021
Goals of workshop:

- Provide information on available funding for homeless housing programs in Grays Harbor County
  - What is the Consolidated Homeless Grant?
  - What are Local Document Recording Fees?
  - Who makes decisions about how funding is used in Grays Harbor County?
- Get BOCC input on values that will guide use of funds going forward
Legislation from 2011 combined all of the state’s homeless grant programs into a single grant opportunity, **The Consolidated Homeless Grant**, made available to County governments.

Each Biennium, Grays Harbor County receives a CHG allocation from the Department of Commerce, this allocation totaled **$3.9 Million over the 2021-23 Biennium**.

Upon receiving our allocation each biennium, the County then releases and RFP to **renew existing projects** and decide how to **allocate new funding**, if available.

Due to historic investments in this program from the Washington State Legislature, we expect to receive **significantly more funding in this biennium**.
## Homeless Housing Funds in Grays Harbor County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Type</th>
<th>Funding per Biennium</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eviction Rental Assistance Programs</td>
<td>$7,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Document Recording Fees</td>
<td>$2,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office of Homeless Youth</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Affordable Housing Pipeline</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Competitive HUD Grants</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consolidated Homeless Grant</td>
<td>$4,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHG Standard</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing and Essential Needs</td>
<td>$2,750,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Supportive Housing for Chronically Homeless Families</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
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The pie chart illustrates the distribution of funding, with the largest share allocated to Eviction Prevention Programs (26%), followed by Consolidated Homeless Grant (45%) and Document Recording Fees (18%). The smallest share is allocated to Permanent Supportive Housing for Chronically Homeless Families (3%).
What are requirements for funds?

- CHG funding → CHG Guidelines from Department of Commerce
- Local revenue and reserves → implement 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness
State
• Consolidate different sources of funding from state and federal level
• Disperse funding to counties
• Create program guidelines for state funding
• Monitor grantees for compliance with laws and guidelines

County
• Set Values around local funding
• Create local plan to address homelessness
• Identify and disperse funding to local non-profit providers
• Coordinate and monitor local housing crisis response system

Client
• Ask for help
• Set goals and create a housing stability plan
• Engage regularly with care coordination
Values

Efficient

Effective

Sustainable

Fund of Last Resort

Collaborative

Community Driven
State homelessness responsibilities and funding

Tedd Kelleher
HOUSING ASSISTANCE

6/8/2021
We strengthen communities

- Housing / Homelessness
- Infrastructure
- Business Assistance
- Energy
- Planning
- Community Facilities
- Crime Victims / Safety
- Community Service
State Homeless Housing Strategic Plan

- **Our Vision** – No person left living outside

- **Our Mission** - Support homeless crisis response systems that efficiently reduce the number of people living outside, and that when scaled appropriately can house all unsheltered people

- **Guiding Principles** –
  - All people deserve a safe place to live
  - Urgent and bold action is the appropriate response to people living outside
  - Interventions must be data-driven and evidence-based
Flow of federal and state housing funding*

*Non-capital funding. Some larger cities receive state and federal funding. Exceptions for some funding, and some counties have opted-out of managing state funding.

Federal
- Grants funds to counties
- Publicly reports performance outcomes
- Publicly reports on use of state/local/federal/private funds by county and project
- Provides technical assistance to help counties and projects meet performance targets

County Governments
- Determines specific priorities and strategies within allowable uses of funds
- Selects organizations to provide housing assistance
- Monitors contract compliance, including performance and fiscal transparency requirements

Local non-profit housing providers
- Provides housing and services
- Reports outcome data at client level into HMIS
Role of state

Specific state responsibilities:

- Publish on website info on use of state and local funds and performance, at county and project levels (RCW 43.185C.045)
- Develop state strategic plan to reduce the count of people experiencing homelessness (RCW 43.185C.045)
- Grant funds in alignment with state plan (RCW 43.185C.080)

Key tenets of current state plan:

- Require progress toward performance measures of effectiveness as condition of receiving state funds
- Require systems to use interventions that evidence show are capable of bringing everyone inside if scaled appropriately
Upcoming revisions of state performance measures and State Strategic Plan

New performance measures by December 2021
Likely significant update of State Strategic Plan in 2022

Stakeholders defined in just passed ESSHB HB 1277:

[P]ersons at risk of homelessness due to unpaid rent, representatives of communities of color, homeless service providers, landlord representatives, local governments that administer homelessness assistance, a statewide association representing cities, a statewide association representing counties, a representative of homeless youth and young adults, and affordable housing advocates.
Thank you!

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Current values of local homeless housing dollars – are any changes needed?

- **County seeks to support homeless crisis response systems that efficiently reduce the number of people living outside, and that when scaled appropriately can house all unsheltered people**
- **State-required performance metrics measure our ability to prioritize unsheltered clients, increase exits to permanent housing, and decrease returns to homelessness**
- Investments are sustainable – annual spending ≤ annual revenue
- Fund of last resort – use all other resources before tapping local funds
- Whenever possible leverage existing funding sources to increase likelihood of positive outcome
- Investments clearly align with community-driven Plan
- Investments are data driven with high return on investment
  - Look at long-term and big picture impact beyond immediate result – generational and community-wide impact are important factors