



Lacey Community Workgroup on Homelessness

Updated December 21, 2020

So far, the Lacey Community Workgroup on Homelessness' has learned:

- There are more people who are unhoused in Lacey than previously thought.
- There are more services for unhoused people than realized.
- Median income and lower income levels in the area are not keeping pace with the cost of rent. This has been found to have a major relationship to the number of people who are unhoused.
- There is risk that the number of people who are unhoused will grow because of COVID-19 impacts.
- There is risk that the number of people who are unhoused will increase due to the percent of income people in the area spend on housing.
- While there are more services available than previously thought, the supply of key services needed to move from encampments toward stable housing is insufficient. This includes formal shelter, affordable housing, and mental health/chemical dependency recovery services.
- The community of people who are unhoused is diverse, and the strategies to help must also be as diverse. Some individuals want help accessing housing and related services. However, it can take time to build trust and feel connected with housed community, first. Currently, there is a significant divide between housed and unhoused community members.
- Lacey is a compassionate community that wants to find good, meaningful ways to help. However, they don't want to attract more people (who live outside the area) to the community just to access the services/help.
- Housed and business community members are also struggling with "secondary trauma" as they witness the community impacts of trash, fires, drug use, and erratic behaviors of people believed to be unhoused.