

List of Alternative Strategies & Responses

Strategies provided by Homeless Strategies Workgroup Meeting 1-5 summary notes. Document prepared by T. Sundin for use at May 10 HSW Meeting.

\$ = Less than 100k
 \$\$ = 100k – 300k
 \$\$\$ = 300k – 1m
 \$\$\$\$ = 1m +

◆ This strategy is already listed among the priority strategies in the City’s 2018-2022 Consolidated Plan and/or Assessment of Fair Housing.
 * Strategy suggested by Community Solutions Workgroup in Fall 2017.

Humane responses to address public health and safety impacts associated with homelessness crisis (pages 1-3)

Response	Description	Sanitation & hygiene	Personal safety/security	Public safety	Environmental health	Level of funding needed	Underway or Planned	Partner Agencies Working on Response Potential Partners	Lead agency?	Ranking?
Rest Stop	Create an Urban Rest Stop (mobile or fixed location) with showers, laundry, check-in medical screening Or, laundry facilities.	X	X	X	X	\$\$, \$\$\$?	Discussed during Whatcom County Public Health Crisis Oversight Committee in response to increase in parasitic infestations. Northwest Youth Services (NWYS) working with First Congregational on Day Center, which will serve 24 and younger. Opening by end of 2018.		
Barge	Operate a floating barge with beds and showers.	X	X							
Laundry Program	Laundry Love - former program is closed. The program may need multiple, small locations that do not rely on one facility or one set of benefactors.	X				\$ (if partnered with faith-based or agency with shared mission to allow use of facility)		NWYS working with First Congregational on Day Center, which will serve 24 and younger. Opening by end of 2018.		
Camping	Permitted camping area. Establish Safe Camps for under 15 people (smaller sizes) and distributed locations are better than one large site.		X	X	X	\$\$, \$\$\$		Requires on-site management, restrooms and facilities. Partners required.		

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Restrooms	Bathroom facilities with 24 hour access for those who work shifts. Explore multiple locations.	X	X		X	\$, \$\$, \$\$\$	X	<p>City of Bellingham (City) is completing 24 hour access restroom at MHP. Porta-potty's have been located in 3 additional areas.</p> <p>Whatcom County (County) considering Rest Stop, which could also help with this need. 24-hour access would be very expensive.</p> <p>NWYS working with First Congregational on Day Center, which will serve 24 and younger. Opening by end of 2018. Not 24-hours or it would be a shelter.</p>		
Showers	Shower facility with 24 hour access for those who work shifts.	X				\$\$, \$\$\$	X	<p>Lighthouse Mission (LMM) has purchased a shower trailer that will be available summer of 2018.</p> <p>LMM will include shower facilities in new permanent shelter facility.</p> <p>NWYS working with First Congregational on Day Center, which will serve 24 and younger. Opening by end of 2018.</p> <p>YMCA offers a limited number of shower passes – they are at capacity.</p> <p>24-hour access VERY challenging.</p>		
Lockers	Lockers for storage of valuables (24 hour access). Locked Storage - a location has been identified, additional locations are needed that can accommodate a 120 square foot unit that can placed on to site.		X			\$	X	<p>Safe Storage PNW Non-profit</p> <p>City of Bellingham has identified one location as a pilot on City property. Has also offered to assist with funding.</p> <p>Additional partners needed.</p>		

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Car/RV Parking	Establish Safe Parking designated for those who have "some level of shelter" with rules to mitigate impacts, amenities nearby with signage with parking time duration limits. Spread out parking across the community. Lighting and security are a concern, and if COB can help with these, some organizations and entities might be able to offer parking sites.		X	X		\$\$, \$\$\$		Requires on-site management, restrooms and facilities. Partners required.		
Camping	Use campgrounds in the off season, this community resource already exists.	X		X	X	\$\$, \$\$\$		Requires on-site management, restrooms and facilities. Partners required.		
Garbage Collection	Dumpsters for homeless community to discard their belongings when needed				X	\$	X	The City has provided dumpsters in several locations around the City for this purpose		

Strategies to End Homelessness – even IF temporary or temporary for the individual (pages 4-6)

Strategy	Description	Funding Level	Underway or Planned	Partner(s) Agency or Agencies Working on Strategy	Lead?	Ranking?
◆ Case Management	Identify available beds that could be available if sufficient case worker support were provided; then triage these available beds to match levels of service needs with case workers and/or funding for case workers	\$\$, \$\$\$	X Room for expansion	Opportunity Council’s Homeless Services Center / Landlord Liaison program. Lydia Place – City entered into an expanded case management program. NWYS, CCS, and above agencies could expand further.		
Triage Facility	Triage Facility for mental health stabilization and substance use detoxification will be ready by next fall.	\$\$\$\$	X	Whatcom County is Lead – Project is funded and underway.	Whatcom County	
Private Mental Health Facility	Private mental health and potential partner for site by hospital, which would be bigger than current triage facility.	\$\$\$\$		Would require a private partner.		
Purchase Hotel	Buy a hotel and house people temporarily until they move into housing.	\$\$\$\$		Would require a partner agency to manage hotel / provide case management.		
Satellite Shelters	Site county satellite shelters for severe weather (winter shelter closed Feb. 28, 2018).	\$\$ per year				
Additional Specialized Shelters	Specialized shelters with staff to support special populations (e.g., dual diagnosis of mental health and substance abuse; medical recovery).	\$\$\$		(Note: NWYS PAD program, Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Services (DVSAS), YWCA, Sun Community Services and Interfaith houses used to shelter homeless families, Family Promise added additional shelter beds)		
Additional Small Shelters	Smaller scale shelters, e.g., four bedroom duplexes, which are easier to find. And signing leases and supporting people in them, e.g., like the NWYS approach that uses a master lease.	\$\$\$, \$\$\$\$				
Drug Court housing	Speed up Drug Court housing.		X			

Strategy	Description	Funding Level	Underway or Planned	Partner(s) Agency or Agencies Working on Strategy	Lead?	Ranking?
Mental Health Court housing	Create Mental Health Court housing					
◆ Rental Assistance	Expand resources for rental assistance vouchers		X			
Landlord Liaison	Find willing landowners who can be matched with houseless person to offer appropriate shelter within zoning that currently exists.			(Note: Landlord Liaison program is operational, works with landlords who have existing units. Both the City and County are funding this position through the OC. BHA also has a similar position specific to their voucher programs.)		
* Landlord Incentives	Landlord incentives can help to get people into housing more quickly.		X	Opportunity Council (OC) will convene a small group of local experts to examine the feasibility of using existing programs for this recommendation		
◆ Supportive Shared Housing	Optimize current market rental with shared housing strategies (use HUD resources we already have.			This is similar to the “Additional Smaller Shelters” item above – a strategy in which nonprofits would operate small group-style homes with supports, and fewer rental assistance resources needed (with lower cost of shared housing).		
Tiny Homes	Per Whatcom County Council 2018 action					
Re-entry	Expansion of re-entry options (e.g., Dept. of Corrections half-way house, sober houses)					
Smaller shelters	Expand number of "family home shelters" for a smaller scale and less intense setting than a 200 bed shelter setting.					
<i>The Strategies listed below were not suggested by the HSW, but were prioritized by the City’s Community Solutions Workgroup.</i>						
* Community Liaison/Health Worker	Develop a community liaison or trained peer health worker program to help keep people in housing and integrate within the broader community		X	Chuckanut Health Foundation and PeaceHealth have funded the Whatcom Alliance for Health Advancement to explore and establish a Community Health Worker model		
* Social inclusion	Coordinate among services and programs to promote social inclusion and community building among formerly homeless population		X	LMM started Street Connect early intervention relationship program in Feb 2018. Starting mentorship aftercare program in fall 2018.		

Strategy	Description	Funding Level	Underway or Planned	Partner(s) Agency or Agencies Working on Strategy	Lead?	Ranking?
◆ Light-touch case management	Light-touch case management services available for those with lower vulnerability, more social/job skills to get them on their feet and housed quickly		X	Opportunity Council pursued and received a capacity building foundation grant to pay for 0.5 FTE of light touch services. The City is considering additional funding for light touch services (not necessarily with the OC).		
* Supported employment programs	Assess existing workforce development programs, cultivate relationships with employers and/or develop linkages among programs to better serve clients who are homeless and formerly homeless			Opportunity Council is in the process of two related initiatives: 1. Expanding employment services in a new dedicated space at 625 Cornwall Ave. 2. Exploring the feasibility of adding a new Supported Employment program as part of the WA State Health Care Authority's Medicaid Transformation initiative.		
* Insurance for landlords	Create an insurance or damage mitigation fund to minimize the risks to landlords renting to tenants with no/poor rental history			Opportunity Council is investigating the feasibility of establishing such a fund in Bellingham, and will draft a set of recommendations early this year. County already funds a small program.		