

SUPPLEMENT A:

Additional background on local response to homelessness

Bellevue Human Services Needs Update Data

One of the best tools the city has to evaluate the need for human services in Bellevue is the biennial Human Services Needs Update. This report includes data collected directly from Bellevue residents through a survey as well as data from public and non-profit human service providers active in the community. Relevant data from 2015-16 Needs Update are provided here for reference. Since many in the community have asked how the needs of single men who experience homelessness compare to other sub-populations of individuals and families experiencing homeless, data on all sub-populations are included below.

Bellevue Resident Survey Results

- This was the ninth consecutive phone/online survey in which lack of affordable housing (as a community problem) received the greatest percentage of major and combined major/moderate ratings, at 68%, considerably higher than the 51% reported in 2013. The percentage of respondents rating homelessness as a major or moderate problem changed from 28% in 2013 to 30% in 2015.
- In the phone/online survey, results confirm that meeting basic needs continues to be a concern for Bellevue residents, not too different in the surveys two and four years ago. Forty percent (40%) of respondents rated the issue of people having jobs that do not pay enough for the basics of food, shelter, and clothing as a major or moderate community problem. This is 5% higher than the 2013 survey and the same percentage as the 2011 survey.
- In the 24 Community Conversations conducted, many participants mentioned issues related to housing, both in terms of affordable housing and housing for homeless. The increase in the number of homeless, particularly in the Crossroads area, was noted with the need for more hygiene services since the Day Centers for homeless do not operate on weekends and the bathrooms in the park are locked at night.
- Lack of affordable housing was also a major theme in key informant interviews, along with the difficulty in finding housing using Section 8 vouchers. Accommodating the cultural needs of shelter residents was also noted, as well as the need for storage lockers for homeless.
- In key informant interviews and surveys from faith communities, the need for housing, food, help with utility bills, and transportation was also reported. A place to park cars for overnight sleeping was also mentioned by several faith communities.

Emergency Shelter & Housing for Single Adults in East King County

- Ninety-two percent (92%) of the year-round emergency shelter beds are located in Seattle and 71 beds (4%) are located in East King County. The year-round inventory does not include temporary beds (winter shelters and severe weather shelters), hotel/motel voucher programs, or tent city/encampment communities and safe-parking programs.

YEAR-ROUND FACILITY BASED SHELTER BEDS	City of Seattle	South King County	East King County	North King County	Total
Men	860	50	30	---	940
Women	334	9	21	---	364
Individual Adults (Men/Women)	500	---	---	---	500
Young Adults	65	12	20	---	97
Grand Total	1,759	71	71	0	1,901
	92%	4%	4%	0%	

Source: King County Inventory of Homeless Units and Beds, Spring 2015

- Congregations for the Homeless (CFH) operates a year-round emergency shelter program with comprehensive case management for single homeless men. This is the only Eastside shelter for single adult men, serving approximately 30 men each month. The shelter rotates each month between different congregations, with 10 of the 12 host congregations located in Bellevue. CFH also provides subsidized housing for a total of 80 men. Nine leased housing with trained house managers provide 57 men with stable congregate housing. The remaining men living in scattered site apartments.
- The Sophia Way operates a shelter program for 21 single women per night, offering case management to help clients overcome barriers to independence, and providing transitional and non-time limited housing opportunities for women who experience chronic homelessness. Their goal is to help women move from temporary shelter to transitional and permanent housing as quickly as possible. Two housing programs are offered – Sophia’s Home, providing rental assistance in apartments, and Holly House, a community residence. Other services include the Pathways Program (employment support) and the Companion Program.
- Hopelink operates Kenmore Place, the only family shelter in North King County. It recently reopened in August 2015 after extensive renovations which increased the number of units from 9 to 11.

- There are two Eastside shelters for runaway and homeless youth and young adults and youth in crisis, both operated by Friends of Youth. Youth Haven in Kirkland is licensed staffed residential home for up to 12 youth, ages 11-17. In addition, The Landing is an overnight shelter for young adults age 18-24 in Redmond open seven nights a week, the only emergency shelter for young adults on the Eastside. The young people who access The Landing are too old for traditional youth services, yet too young for adult shelters. Case managers and shelter staff help the young adult residents find resources including transitional living programs, food and clothing, pregnancy support, employment, medical care, education, and counseling.
- Tent City 4 consists of homeless adults who form temporary encampments to live together as a self-managed community. Tent City 4 sets up on land owned by faith communities for several months before moving to another location. Since first arriving on the Eastside in Spring 2004, the camp has maintained a consistent presence on the Eastside, locating in Bellevue, Bothell, Issaquah, Kirkland, Mercer Island, Redmond, Woodinville, and unincorporated King County. The resident population of Tent City 4 fluctuates based upon the time of year and the location; however, they consistently have 60-70 individuals. In November 2012, Camp Unity Eastside was established as a new nonprofit temporary encampment organization. Its residents were previously affiliated with Tent City 4. To offset the cost of operating and handling the responsibilities that come from offering a place to reside, shower, eat, and safety, each Camp Unity resident pays a maintenance fee of \$30.
- There is currently one safe parking program for homeless on the Eastside and a pilot program that opened in the summer of 2015. A vehicle camp for families is located at Lake Washington United Methodist Church in Kirkland and, as of July 2015, they were serving 21 families per night (26 adults and 10 children). The families include single women, single women with children, and couples with children. There are 4 families with children. A second safe parking six-month pilot program began in the summer of 2015 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Issaquah. Six parking spots are designated for families who must live in their cars while searching for employment and longer term housing. The spaces are reserved only for families or single women. No single men will be accommodated.
- There are currently two Eastside Winter Shelters, one for men and the other for women with children and families, with a capacity of 100 per night for men and 50 for women/women with children/families. This exceeds the year-round shelter capacity of 35 men and 21 women per night. During the winter of 2014-2015, a total of 449 were housed in the men's shelter and 194 adults and 106 children were housed in the women/families shelter.

Regional homeless service system

With the need for the shelter and additional affordable housing stock in Bellevue established, the next step to delivering a project based upon best practices is to understand the regional context into which the new project will fit. This is complex as the approach to providing housing and services to individuals experiencing homelessness is going through a significant system change at a local and national level.

To better understand how these changes are being implemented in this region, United Way of King County, the City of Seattle, King County and All Home commissioned a nationally-recognized consulting and evaluation firm to “assess the performance of the existing homeless system and the community’s efforts to reduce homelessness, with a particular focus on the single adult homeless population.” The evaluation included “analyzing data to assess the performance of individual programs, program types, and the system as a whole,” comparing the results to national best practices. The final report, entitled *Seattle/King County: Homeless System Performance Assessment and Recommendations with Particular Emphasis on Single Adults (SWAP Report)* was published in September 2016. It provides the most current and comprehensive data available at this time. The full report is available at this link: <http://allhomekc.org/news/2016/09/swap-report/>.

The report compliments the King County region on the high level of collaboration that is present between homeless services providers, local government agencies and local funders and philanthropies (such as United Way and Gates Foundation). It recommends continuing a sustained push to provide shelter services in a more geographically dispersed manner, including adding more shelter capacity in East King County. It recommends that all shelter (existing and new) provide support services that are aimed at rapidly re-housing individuals. It also recommends creation of new housing units and use of existing housing units in the market, also attached with services, to move people out of homelessness as quickly as possible. With housing provided at the beginning of the process, individuals gain the stability they need in their lives to successfully address and resolve the root cause of their homelessness.

The SWAP Report is helpful to understand the national shift that is taking place in providing shelter, housing and services to individuals experiencing homelessness.