

## Washington County unveils 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness

*Result of collective effort aims to end homelessness in Washington County*

The Washington County Board of Commissioners has approved the county's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness. Washington County, in partnership with the cities of Beaverton, Hillsboro, Tigard and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, engaged in a community planning process to identify local trends leading to an increase of homeless persons in recent years and identify strategies that reduce barriers to housing and services, thus representing a critical and collective effort to end homelessness in Washington County.

"The collective capacity of our compassion and commitment is greater than the depth of this challenge. We believe a reduction of homelessness is an achievable goal in Washington County through this 10-Year Plan" said Tom Brian, Chairman of the Washington County Board of Commissioners.

"Homelessness is a community concern with no jurisdictional boundaries and can best be addressed through collaborative partnerships to care for this vulnerable population" said Susan Wilson, Director, Washington County Department of Housing Services.

Community leaders, housing and service providers, local and state government agencies, and formerly homeless consumers engaged in a planning process to re-align and direct efforts toward preventing homelessness and reducing the amount of time persons live on the streets. The Plan was developed under the direction of Technical Assistance Collaborative, Inc., a nationally recognized firm providing technical assistance and consultation with proven solutions to housing and supportive service needs of homeless people.

The culmination of this planning process is outlined in [A Road Home: 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness](#) and includes data analysis, research, and innovative national best practices from across the country with proven success in ending homelessness. The Plan outlines a vision to end homelessness through goals and strategies that prevent homelessness, provide rapid re-housing through the Housing-First model, wrap-around services linked to housing, and income support. These fundamental elements work together in a systematic effort to move homeless families and individuals towards self-sufficiency. The value of the Plan's strategies over ten years is estimated at \$79 million, with \$35 million in funding resources identified. The Plan is results-oriented and takes seriously the need to collect data and evaluate program outcomes.

Implementation of the 10-Year Plan will commence on July 1, 2008, with period reports made available. Immediate results of this planning process have been realized to include increased awareness of community resources, coordination by government and providers working together to reduce duplicate efforts and create efficiencies in the system, specialized training to reduce barriers for eligible clients accessing SSI/SSDI benefits, and outlining a future online Resource and Referral Directory.

To view A Road Home: 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness, visit [www.co.washington.or.us/housing](http://www.co.washington.or.us/housing)

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