

Agenda



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Meeting: Supportive Housing Services Oversight Committee Meeting 5
Date: Monday, April 26, 2021
Time: 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Place: Virtual meeting ([Zoom link](#))
Purpose: Review the Washington County Local Implementation Plan (LIP).
Outcome(s): Discuss LIP and identification of any key considerations, and potentially vote on approval of Washington County LIP.

9 a.m. Welcome and Committee Housekeeping

- Approval of meeting minutes (2/22)
- Approval of considerations for Multnomah County LIP

9:20 a.m. Conflict of Interest Declaration

9:25 a.m. Public Comment

9:35 a.m. Introduction: Patricia Rojas

9:40 a.m. Presentation: Washington County Local Implementation Plan

- Introduction from Chair Harrington, Maria Rubio and Rachael Duke

10:20 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. Discussion: Washington County LIP

11:25 a.m. Next Steps

11:30 a.m. Adjourn

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Meeting minutes

Meeting: Metro Supportive Housing Services Oversight Committee
Date/time: Monday, February 22, 9 AM – 11:30 AM
Place: Virtual meeting (Zoom)
Purpose: Discuss and vote on Multnomah County LIP

Member attendees

Gabby Bates, Co-chair Susan Emmons, Dan Fowler, Armando Jimenez, Ellen Johnson, Jenny Lee, Seth Lyon, Carter MacNichol, Felicita Montebianco, Jeremiah Rigsby, Roserria Roberts, Jahed Sukhun, Dr. Mandrill Taylor, Co-chair Kathy Wai

Members absent

Heather Brown

Elected delegates

Multnomah County Commissioner Susheela Jayapal, Washington County Chair Kathryn Harrington, City of Portland Commissioner Dan Ryan, Clackamas County Commissioner Sonya Fischer, Metro Councilor Christine Lewis

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Craig Beebe, Ash Elverfeld, Pilar Karlin

Facilitators

Allison Brown, JLA Public Involvement

Welcome and introduction

Co-chair Kathy Wai opened up the meeting and asked that people take care of themselves today after the inclement weather of the week.

Co-chair Susan Emmons recognized Black History Month with a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. She shared a story about a man in her neighborhood who was homeless and was recently housed with supportive housing services.

Meeting 3 summary approved with an edit: Roserria Roberts was present for the meeting.

Conflict of interest declaration

Jahed Sukhun stated that his son-in-law recently became a real estate agent.

Public comment

There were no public comments.

Presentation: Local Implementation Plan (LIP) process review

Craig Beebe, Metro, shared a PowerPoint presentation and reviewed the work that the committee has done so far. He briefly covered what an LIP is, what the required elements of the Regional SHS LIPs are, and highlighted the importance of regional outcome metrics in Metro's Supportive Housing Services work plan – particularly metrics concerning equitable outcomes. After the committee's recommendation of the LIP to Metro Council it will be incorporated into an intergovernmental agreement between Metro and the county, governing how the SHS program is implemented. There will also be ongoing committee engagement with County staff and ongoing

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recommendations from the committee to Metro and the Counties as part of the annual review process.

The questions for the oversight committee to answer for each LIP is:

- Does the draft county plan advance SHS program goals and guiding principles?
- Does the draft county plan meet the required elements described in the SHS work plan?
- Does the committee recommend the plan for approval by the Metro Council?

Break

Discussion

Susan, Co-chair, shared on behalf of Kathy and herself, that they believe the Multnomah County Local Implementation Plan is strong and the committee should approve the plan. She said that the committee has an evaluating role and there will be many opportunities to evaluate the plan during implementation. Susan and Kathy reviewed their memo included in the meeting packet, with three proposed considerations which they believe address concerns and questions raised by committee members at the previous meeting on January 25. These considerations, if approved by the committee, will be shared with County staff and the Metro Council as statements of issues for which the committee seeks further engagement and/or detail going forward.

As proposed in the meeting packet, these considerations included the following:

1. ***Provide an annual budget and summary of goals related to annual investments.*** The budget should summarize commitment to, and prioritization of, the planned investments described in the LIP. The budget should further clarify how any reserved funding is committed, as well as programmatic investments in long-term rent assistance. The budget should also describe numeric and annual outcome goals desired, in correlation to program investments described in the budget.
2. ***Provide a comprehensive and regionally coordinated plan for expanding and supporting culturally specific service capacity.*** The plan should include concrete steps to address pay equity goals for service providers, training and ongoing supports for service providers, and regional coordination for expanding the system of culturally specific service provision.
3. ***Provide a detailed outline for how the program will align with, invest in, and leverage the mental health system.*** The plan should describe approaches and a timeline for leveraging and improving Medicaid-funded mental health services. The plan should provide further data analysis of the racial disparities in mental health and dual diagnosis services. Finally, the plan should address needs for culturally specific mental healthcare and describe how the SHS system will augment the Medicaid system to provide these services.

The memo also highlights several racial equity outcomes from the SHS work plan that the committee will be watching closely. Susan and Kathy also noted that County staff had supplied written responses to questions raised in the Jan. 25 meeting, which were included in the packet for this meeting.

Susan and Kathy asked the committee: Do you feel comfortable with these considerations and whether they capture member concerns?

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Felicita Montebianco sees all her concerns responded to. The budget was not present in the LIP, but wasn't required either. Happy to see pay equity goals for service providers were added. Also liked the County's response to geographic equity in the packet.

Jeremiah Rigsby feels comfortable with the considerations. He also asked about what the committee role will be going forward. Who will be providing program accountability?

- Craig responded to say that the group will be continuing to review County metrics and outcomes and Metro staff will also be available to respond to committee concerns going forward. There will be opportunities in the future to provide recommendations to the counties.

Ellen Johnson commented on the recommendation of measurable goals because she's concerned about the truth data. If starting with the demographics known today from the point-in-time count, which may or may not be valid in terms of the entire population, how does the group decide if the outreach efforts and the benchmarks that the County provides at the end of the year are appropriate? Finally, in the plan it says that BIPOC individuals will be overrepresented on all decision making bodies, how will that be measured?

Roserria Roberts said that there are quite a few unknowns and we won't know those until we get into the process. She highlighted that the damage done has been generational and we're not going to get it perfect the first time. Additionally, the mental health component is extremely important, specifically around cultural specificity.

Jahed Suhkun, wants to know more about how Multnomah County is going to share the collected data. They're making 13 hires for the housing services program- what are they going to be responsible for? If they already know there's a low minimum wage, can they expedite their study on wages?

Seth Lyon has faith in the team executing the plan, wants to stay in dialogue and set bold expectations. He urged Multnomah County to be bolder with their goals for BIPOC communities.

Dr. Mandrill Taylor said that mental health needs are dynamic, and we don't need more boilerplate treatment of people's needs. Integrating healthcare services is a complex topic, and analysis and demonstrated understanding of that would breed confidence. He noted that mental health needs of the disenfranchised have been neglected, particularly in communities of color.

Dan Fowler said that Multnomah County should be bold with their goals.

Carter MacNichol echoed all of the prior statements and particularly appreciated the co-chairs and staff working through the questions of the members. He would like to talk about the metrics at a future meeting.

Gabby Bates thought the plan was a good starting point but it doesn't fully meet the LIP requirements. The recommendations addressed some of her concerns but no immediate action is asked of the County to address the recommendations. She also brought up a recent OPB story highlighting the relationship between Income Property Management and Home Forward, and wanted to know if Home Forward would continue their relationship with IPM. Craig said that he would get an answer in writing for Gabby.

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Jenny Lee talked about outcomes and wanted to be sure that we have some control of the narrative around them. She noted that dominant culture narratives and what's expected can sometimes be in conflict with what's equitable. The committee may need to challenge what some of the understanding of outcomes are because numbers may not be the whole story. Data collection practices have been historically used to harm BIPOC communities so how do we provide autonomy in a data and research justice setting? She cautioned that the committee could expect to be attacked on both fronts. Accountability narratives can spread to individuals, and culturally specific service providers can be under much higher scrutiny. She also asked if Metro could look at offering members to opt-in to all of the mailing lists that the county and others are sending out regarding Regional SHS.

Armando Jimenez was happy to vote on the plan and agrees that there needs to be some level of good faith.

Gabby is concerned about the procurement process being developed later and not now.

Dr. Taylor would like to see more of an analysis of the racial disparities within mental health services and dual diagnosis. Other members agreed. Roserria added that she'd like to go a step further and see an analysis that gets down to culturally specificities.

Dan wished there was more articulation around the 75/25 population split.

Motion and vote

Carter motioned to approve the plan for recommendation to the Metro Council with the second and third considerations amended to reflect points raised by Dr. Taylor, Roserria, Ellen, and Jahed.

Jeremiah seconded the motion.

Question: Does this oversight committee recommend the plan for the Metro Council with the amended considerations?

Gabby voted yes in the spirit of reaching a consensus. Although she felt that they didn't meet the requirements in the plan in several areas: B, E, H, I, J.

Ellen voted yes but wants to see an addition to the third consideration, specifically an analysis of all subgroups.

Felicita voted yes. Separately, she asked that a memo is sent out to the group describing processes, for example, how are counties held accountable and what role does the committee play in that?

The committee voted unanimously to approve the plan for recommendation to the Metro Council with considerations as amended; 14 yes votes.

Next steps

- Craig gave an update on next steps.
- Metro staff will work to amend the Multnomah County considerations to reflect points raised by the Committee in this meeting. The revised considerations will be sent to the committee along with meeting minutes. The committee will be asked to provide a final thumbs-up for the revised considerations language at its next meeting.

Meeting minutes



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- The Washington County and Clackamas County LIPs will be the next topics taken up by the committee, beginning in April. There will not be a March meeting.
- Per a poll of the committee during the meeting, the next two LIPs will be taken one at a time. An additional meeting will be added in early May in anticipation of both LIPs arriving at roughly the same time.
- Craig also highlighted that Patricia Rojas, Metro's new regional housing director, starts March 8. She brings extensive experience with housing services as well as invaluable community connections across the region.

Prior to conclusion, a brief conversation took place about a recent editorial in the Oregonian. Carter would like to discuss the Metro budget in a future meeting, including the question of tax collection costs. Jahed said that this may have been covered in the plan but asked if the counties would be keeping any administrative fees out of the taxes or if what they collect is what they're going to spend. Dan proposed Metro respond to these questions in a written memo. Metro staff committed to this.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ash Elverfeld, Housing Program Assistant.

Supportive Housing Services Oversight Committee

Considerations for Multnomah County Local Implementation Plan recommendation

Draft: March 4, 2021 -- Subject to final approval by Committee

On February 22, 2021, the SHS Oversight Committee unanimously recommended Multnomah County's Local Implementation Plan for approval by the Metro Council. The committee believes the Multnomah County LIP represents a strong starting place for implementation, and that throughout implementation more data and clarity will emerge to strengthen, clarify, and amend the plan.

The committee attaches the following considerations as points of clarity that the committee expects Multnomah County to prioritize in implementation and reporting to the committee.

*Proposed revisions to the considerations discussed during the Feb. 22 meeting are highlighted in red.
The committee will be asked to give final approval to these considerations at its next meeting.*

1. **Provide an annual budget and summary of goals related to annual investments.** The budget should summarize commitment to, and prioritization of, the planned investments described in the LIP. The budget should further clarify how any reserved funding is committed, as well as programmatic investments in long-term rent assistance. The budget should also describe numeric and annual outcome goals desired, in correlation to program investments described in the budget.
2. **Provide a comprehensive and regionally coordinated plan for expanding and supporting culturally specific service capacity.** The plan should include concrete steps to address pay equity goals for service providers, training and ongoing supports for service providers, and regional coordination for expanding the system of culturally specific service provision. *The county should expedite study of wage equity.*
3. **Provide a detailed outline for how the program will align with, invest in, and leverage the mental health system.** The plan should describe approaches and a timeline for leveraging and improving Medicaid-funded *behavioral* health services, *particularly for Population A*. The plan *should especially* provide further data analysis of the racial disparities *within* mental health and *co-occurring (dual diagnosis)* services *as well as the culturally and linguistically specific needs within communities of color, including analysis of disparities within subgroups*. Finally, the plan should address needs for culturally specific and *trauma informed* mental healthcare and describe how the SHS system will augment the Medicaid system to provide these services.

Measurable goals required in Metro's regional Supportive Housing Services work plan

In addition to the above considerations, the committee will be closely tracking counties' performance on the the racial equity goals and outcome metrics defined in the Metro SHS programmatic work plan, section 5.2.

Washington County Local Implementation Plan
Metro Staff Review Matrix | April 9, 2021

LIP Requirement	Metro staff evaluation of required elements	Oversight Committee Notes
Key: A checked box indicates element requirement has been met and page numbers included in staff review notes reference the Washington County LIP.		
A) Analysis of inequitable outcomes		
<i>An analysis of the racial disparities among people experiencing homelessness and the priority service population</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington County's analysis of data from the American Community Survey and HMIS demonstrates that BIPOC communities in Washington County experience disproportionate rates of poverty and homelessness. Charts 1 and 2 show the overrepresentation of BIPOC communities among people experiencing homelessness in SHS priority populations A and B compared to their representation in the county's overall population, disaggregated by race (p. 11-13). The plan describes the role of historic and continued social and systemic racism in driving these disproportionate rates of homelessness as well as creating greater barriers to ending homelessness among BIPOC communities (p. 14).	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>An analysis of the racial disparities in access to programs, and housing and services outcomes, for people experiencing homelessness and the priority service populations</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The plan asserts that BIPOC communities face significant barriers to accessing resources and have lower rates of success in homeless and housing programs than non-Hispanic white households (p. 7). The plan notes these disparities as part of its analysis of unmet need, while acknowledging the limitations of existing data and the need for additional analysis (p. 11). The plan also summarizes feedback from BIPOC service participants who report experiencing racism and discrimination from Washington County service providers and a shortage of culturally responsive services in the county (p. 13-14).	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>An articulation of barriers to program access that contribute to the disparities identified in the above analysis.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The plan notes that many current programs are implemented with requirements that impose barriers to accessing housing and supports. The plan also identifies barriers that make it more difficult for culturally specific organizations to meet federal and state program requirements (p. 11). The plan summarizes feedback from BIPOC service participants who identified barriers such as racism and discrimination, a shortage of culturally responsive services, a lack of housing options, difficulty navigating service systems, and the need for more person-centered services with Housing First approaches (p. 13-14).	<input type="checkbox"/>
B) Racial equity strategies		
<i>A description of mitigation strategies and how the key objectives of Metro's Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion have been incorporated...</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington County commits to advance racial equity through intentional strategies and investment priorities, and the creation of systems that prioritize the needs and experiences of people of color (p. 14-15). The County's strategies to advance racial equity in SHS program implementation are informed by Metro's Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and the Coalition of Communities of Color's 2018 racial justice report for Washington County. The strategies include meaningful engagement of communities of color, prioritizing culturally specific service provision, establishing a culturally responsive standard of care, developing procurement processes with racial equity at the core, and prioritizing a racially diverse workforce (p. 15-16).	<input type="checkbox"/>
C) Inclusive community engagement		
<i>An articulation of how perspectives and recommendations of BIPOC and people with lived experiences,</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington County designed a comprehensive and inclusive community engagement strategy that centered the perspectives of underrepresented voices. The community engagement plan focused on learning from BIPOC communities, people with current and previous experience of homelessness, and culturally specific voices. Multiple approaches were used to create inclusive anti-racist engagement	<input type="checkbox"/>

Washington County Local Implementation Plan
Metro Staff Review Matrix | April 9, 2021

<i>and culturally specific groups were considered...</i>	practices, with a focus on identifying and addressing barriers that prevent communities of color and people with lived experience from participating. Input was gathered through 75 interviews, focus groups with over 360 participants, and engagement of 75 individuals in LIP Advisory Committee planning (p. 6). Appendix C describes the community engagement process in more detail (p. 75-136). The County will continue to engage community stakeholders, focusing on communities of color, to inform investment priorities, program design, systems coordination and evaluation (p. 7, p. 30).	
<i>Advisory body membership that meets the criteria listed in Section 5.1</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The plan was developed with guidance from a LIP Advisory Committee that represents people with lived experience of homelessness, BIPOC communities, culturally specific and culturally responsive organizations, nonprofits providing housing and homeless services, government agencies that engage with people experiencing homelessness, the faith community, elected officials, businesses, and providers of wraparound services including health and behavioral health services (Acknowledgements).	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>A description of how the plan will remove barriers to participation for organizations and communities...</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington County commits to employ strategies to promote continued inclusion of community stakeholders, focusing on communities of color, to inform SHS implementation. These strategies include scheduling community engagement activities outside of normal business hours, providing incentives for participation including stipends, removing barriers to participation by providing supports such as childcare and interpretation, engaging culturally specific organizations, and leveraging existing advisory committees and workgroups to reduce scheduling burdens (p. 7).	<input type="checkbox"/>
D) Priority population investment distribution		
<i>A commitment that funding will be allocated as defined in Section 4.2</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The plan articulates Washington County's commitment to allocating funding to the priority populations as defined in the SHS Workplan (p. 16-17).	<input type="checkbox"/>
E) Current Investments		
<i>An analysis of the nature and extent of gaps in services to meet the needs of the priority population, broken down by service type, household types and demographic groups.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The plan provides data on current investments and system capacity for homeless services in Washington County (p. 7-8). The plan summarizes data from the county's homeless student count and Point in Time Count as well as PSU's regional estimate of households experiencing homelessness, noting that the county's current programs cannot meet the needs of the vast majority of households who face housing instability or homelessness (p. 8-9). In particular, current programs do not offer sufficient access to permanent rent assistance with supportive services, as demonstrated by the fact that the county's coordinated entry system is only able to help 28% of literally homeless households access permanent housing (p. 10). A system capacity gap analysis using a proportional modeling approach provides insights into the unmet need for individuals and families in population A and B, broken out by service categories. The analysis found that 806 households across populations A and B need supportive housing, 1,691 need long-term rent assistance, 967 need short-term rent assistance, 944 need eviction prevention, 1,379 need housing placement, 978 need emergency shelter, and 699 need transitional housing. The plan acknowledges the need for further data analysis, noting that the modeling relies on data that underrepresents underserved populations, who are disproportionately likely to be communities of color (p. 10-11). Qualitative data indicate that many of the county's current programs impose barriers to entry that disproportionately impact communities of color. This highlights the unmet need for culturally responsive and culturally specific programs (p. 11).	<input type="checkbox"/>

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<i>A commitment to maintain local funds currently provided...</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington County commits to maintain fiscal year 20/21 local general fund allocations to homeless and supportive housing programs and to continue to fully invest federal and state allocations for these programs. SHS program funds will not replace existing resources except in the case of a significant economic decline causing a loss of local general fund or federal resources (p. 8).	<input type="checkbox"/>
F) Distribution		
<i>A strategy for equitable geographic distribution of services...</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington County's stakeholder engagement and data analysis demonstrate that the county's current homeless and housing programs do not adequately serve all parts of the county. There are service deserts in parts of the county, and particularly in Forest Grove and Tualatin, where communities of color live. Data also demonstrate a relationship between poverty and racial discrimination in certain parts of the county. To address geographic inequities, Washington County commits to (a) increase outreach and engagement to underserved areas of the county, especially where immigrants, refugees and low-income communities of color reside; (b) increase services to areas that lack transportation; (c) co-locate services to expand geographic distribution of services efficiently; (d) address service deserts; and (e) partner with Clackamas and Multnomah counties to address geographic inequities across the region (p. 18). Washington County also commits to an investment plan that will serve people experiencing homelessness in the region proportionate to the county's share of the regional SHS funding (p. 19).	<input type="checkbox"/>
G) Access coordination		
<i>A plan for coordinating access to services with partnering jurisdictions and service providers across the region....</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington County commits to partnering with Clackamas and Multnomah counties to build a strategic regional response and coordinated service system. This includes improving Washington County's Coordinated Entry System (CES) to better serve BIPOC participants and building a regionally coordinated CES structure that works across county lines to improve services and outcomes (p. 19). The County also commits to increasing access to services by establishing low-barrier documentation requirements for program eligibility, including allowing individuals to self-report information such as income and assets (p. 17).	<input type="checkbox"/>
H) Procurement and partners		
<i>Transparent procurement processes. A commitment to partner with service providers who affirmatively ensure equitable pay... A description of how funding and technical assistance will be prioritized for providers who commit to serve BIPOC...</i>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington County commits to center equity, transparency and community engagement as core principles of its procurement and contracting practices. The County's procurement standards will include explicit strategies to ensure equitable wages including (a) establishing service contracts that accurately estimate and compensate the full scope of work, and (b) conducting pay equity analyses of all service providers to ensure front-line employees receive livable wages (p. 22).</p> <p>The County commits to recruit and support service providers that demonstrate a commitment to serving BIPOC participants with experience providing culturally specific and/or linguistically specific services. The County will provide supports to reduce contracting barriers for culturally specific and smaller organizations. This includes supporting capacity building work early in SHS implementation, especially for culturally specific and culturally responsive providers (p. 22, p. 28).</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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I) Planned investments		
<i>An articulation of programmatic investments planned, including: The types of housing services to be funded to address the gap analysis, including specifically: Supportive housing, Long-term rent assistance, Short-term rent assistance, Housing placement services, Eviction prevention, Shelter and transitional housing</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington County's SHS system of care will include coordinated and strategic investments in the following housing-related program areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shelter and transitional housing: Emergency winter and year-round shelter operations, including non-congregate and alternative shelter options. ▪ Housing barrier costs and short-term rent assistance: Financial and legal supports to help people overcome barriers to accessing or keeping housing, including rental application fees, security deposits, utility fees, flexible time-based rent support, etc. ▪ Regional long-term rent assistance: Permanent rent support for people with extremely low incomes that will be paired with ongoing services for people who need Supportive Housing. The monthly rent assistance program will be accompanied by additional programs such as landlord guarantees and building operation funds (p. 23). 	
<i>A description of the support services to be funded in tandem with these housing services;</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington County's SHS system of care will include the following support services to be funded in tandem with housing services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outreach and navigation services: Programs to help people access services and housing using person-centered, relationship building and Housing First approaches. This includes case workers to connect people to housing, health care and other opportunities. ▪ Behavioral health services: Strategies that bring flexible, client-centered behavioral health services to housing and homeless services programs, including peer recovery specialists, community-based behavioral health connectors, and culturally specific services. ▪ Supportive services: Ongoing supports to ensure housing stability including behavioral healthcare, recovery programs and peer support, and resident services. Programs that help people access opportunities beyond housing and build toward a better future may also be included, such as education and employment programs and IDA savings accounts (p. 20, 23). 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>A commitment to one regional model of long-term rent assistance;</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington County commits to use the regional long-term rent assistance policy framework developed in partnership with Clackamas and Multnomah counties to ensure a consistent program for service providers, landlords and tenants (p. 23).	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>A description of each type of service that defines expectations and best practices for service providers;</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The plan describes each of the program areas that will be included in the County's SHS system of care: (a) shelter and transitional housing, (b) outreach and navigation services, (c) housing barrier costs and short-term rent assistance, (d) regional long-term rent assistance, and (e) supportive services (p. 23). The plan articulates the County's commitment to incorporating Housing First practices, low-barrier approaches, and other best practices including trauma-informed care, motivational interviewing, and stages-of-change theory across all of its SHS programs. These approaches will be included in culturally responsive standards of care that will be developed to support and guide service provision across programs (p. 17). The plan also notes the need to develop programmatic models and best practices for all SHS programs and services. Developing these programmatic standards will require further community process and continued community evaluation over time (p. 29-30).	<input type="checkbox"/>

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<p><i>A description of how investments by service type will be phased to increase over the first three years...</i></p>	<p>☒ Washington County estimates that SHS funding will reach \$38 million in year one and scale to an estimated \$75 million by year three. In year one, funds will be allocated as follows: \$22.5 m - supportive housing to serve population A; \$7.5 m - housing stability to serve population B; \$5 m - building a shelter system for populations A and B; \$3 m - building an equitable system of care for populations A and B (p. 24-25). Investments will be phased over time based on continued evaluation of progress and adjustment of programmatic approaches to ensure the county-wide system of care is on track to deliver the plan's goals. Approaches to phasing investments over time will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supportive housing investments in year one will leverage market-based housing that has already been secured. Planning in year one will lead to investments in more project-based supportive housing investments in year two and beyond, with the goal of achieving 500 additional placements each year. ▪ In year one, the County will focus on maintaining winter shelter beds that lack sustained funding while growing year-round shelter capacity by leveraging existing site investments. This will allow time to identify sites to support continued expansion of year-round capacity in years two through three. ▪ The County will dedicate 5% of programmatic investments in years two and three to develop and support a full system of culturally specific service provision while building out a standard of culturally responsive care. ▪ Programs that fund long-term rent assistance and supportive services will scale up proportionately each year to continue serving households placed in previous years while increasing capacity to serve new households. Programs that fund housing placement services will remain stable after year one (p. 26-28). 	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><i>A description of programming alignment with, and plans to leverage, other investments and systems...</i></p>	<p>☒ Washington County's Department of Housing Services, which will lead the County's SHS implementation, is the county's federal Continuum of Care lead agency (p. 4). The County plans to strategically target SHS investments to leverage and fill gaps in existing CoC funding (p. 26-27). The County also plans to align with and leverage other systems of care. This includes partnering with the County's Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Community Corrections, Oregon Health Authority, Coordinated Care Organizations, behavioral health systems, community development and affordable housing, and workforce and education systems. The plan identifies specific opportunities to align SHS programs with other systems, such as funding community-based health workers to connect people experiencing homelessness with the behavioral health system, providing housing navigation in behavioral health and medical facilities, leveraging affordable housing capital investments through the affordable housing bond, using SHS funding to ensure permanent housing stability for participants in the Kaiser Metro 300 program, etc. (p. 20-21).</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>J) Outcomes, reporting and evaluation</p>		
<p><i>A description of annual outcomes anticipated. Goals will be updated annually as programming evolves and based on anticipated annual revenue forecasts.</i></p>	<p>☒ Washington County's overall SHS goals include (a) creating 1,665 supportive housing placements with permanent housing and supportive services; (b) creating a shelter system that provides 250 beds of year-round, full-service emergency and non-congregate shelters; (c) building a network of culturally specific services led by organizations of color that serve the county's diverse populations with quality and culturally specific care; and (d) demonstrating housing placement and stability outcomes that advance racial equity and functionally end chronic homelessness (p. 2, p. 26).</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>

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	<p>Annual outcomes for year one include (a) 500 supportive housing placements, (b) housing stability achieved for an additional 500 households, (c) 100 year-round and 150 winter shelter beds, and (d) a network of culturally specific service providers supported and in training as full partners in SHS program implementation (p. 24-25).</p> <p>After year one, the County plans to add an additional 500 supportive housing placements each year to reach the goal of 1,665 placements. It plans to build out shelter system capacity over time in order to reach the goal of 250 year-round beds. It plans on focused investments and an ongoing commitment to support the work of building a network of culturally specific services and culturally responsive programs (p. 26).</p>	
<p><i>An agreement to track and report on program outcomes as defined with regional metrics, a commitment to regional measurable goals to decrease racial disparities, a commitment to regional evaluation....</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington County commits to track and report on program outcomes as defined by the Metro SHS Work Plan using regionally established outcome metrics with regionally consistent data disaggregation practices for all program outcomes (p. 28). The County is also committed to tracking and reporting on the regionally defined measurable goals in the Metro SHS Work Plan to ensure that SHS programs advance racial equity (p. 29). The County is committed to developing evaluation standards and procedures through regional coordination, as well as developing programmatic standards that ensure a consistent and quality standard of care across the region (p. 29-30).</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>

Please [visit this link](#) to view the Washington County Supportive Housing Services local implementation plan.

The following page/s include written public comment received by Metro.

A Financial Boost for The Homeless

As you make plans for investing the \$250 million per year included in Measure 26-210, I am sure some of the funding will be allocated for affordable housing units, rental assistance, addiction and mental health services, and job development programs. A comprehensive approach is desperately needed. But, I worry about the potential of chasing the same old approaches with the same, agonizingly slow results. I want to upset the apple cart a bit and let the loose apples scatter as they may. I ask you to think about putting some immediate cash in the hands of those living on our streets. I urge you to consider providing direct income payments of \$500/month to each homeless person for the next two years.

Here is why. It is well known that most people living on the street or in vans have no resources other than what they might garner from bottle returns, handouts, or Street Roots sales. That means they have to rely on free meals and donations from shelters just to survive on a daily basis. Guaranteed monthly payments would be life-sustaining. They could be used, for example, to purchase a more reliable bike or a new wheel chair, deal with a long-avoided medical issue, purchase a laptop and enroll in a computer class, or simply satiate one's hunger. Even for those who eventually secure housing there are so many costs that could catapult them back on to the street: utilities, food, clothes, uncovered medical and dental bills, bus fare, or possibly the cost of a used car, to name a few.

Of course, I can hear the chorus of caution. "What...giving the homeless direct payments...how do we know they won't squander the money or use it to feed their habit?" It's a fair question, which could be addressed in a couple of ways. The monthly payments could be contingent upon a series of commitments - staying in contact with a case manager (acting as a coach), playing an active role in finding housing and a job, and dealing directly with addictions and mental health issues. The payments could start at a smaller amount and increase toward the \$500/month as an incentive for individuals making honest efforts to meet their commitments. The program would be experimental and be carefully studied over two years.

A fascinating demonstration effort in Canada provides some powerful evidence that a guaranteed income approach can produce real results. Called the "New Leaf Project", it was an initiative of the Foundations for Social Change in partnership with the University of British Columbia. In this experiment, 50 recently homeless people were given a lump sum of 7500 Canadian dollars (nearly \$5700).^{*} Their lives were followed over 12-18 months and their outcomes compared to a control group made up of homeless people who did not receive the payment. The preliminary findings are striking, showing that those receiving the payments:

- ● Move into stable housing faster (those in the control group lagged about 12 months behind in securing more permanent housing)
- ● Spend fewer days homeless
- ● Retain over \$1,000 in savings through 12 months
- ● Increase spending on food, clothing, and rent
- ● Achieve greater food security
- ● Make wise financial choices with a 39% reduction in spending on alcohol, cigarettes and drugs

- ● Reduce reliance on the shelter system of care, resulting in cost savings to society

According to Claire Williams, the CEO of Foundations for Social Change, the money provided by the program also had "trickle down impacts," with people investing more in their children's well-being and needs, as well as helping out family members." William's conclusion: "The homeless population continues to grow, and we keep applying the same old approaches...we really think it's important to start testing meaningful risk-taking in the name of social change." Perhaps it is time to upset the apple cart a bit. Most importantly, homeless individuals would be making their own choices for how to spend the income, knowing their needs and interests better than any one else.

What would the price tag be for the Metro area if it adopted the proposed monthly payment idea? It would be substantial, but not overwhelming. The number of people experiencing homelessness in the region ranges from 6000 to 12,000 (yes, unlike the Canadian experiment, this would include those experiencing prolonged homelessness, many with complex disabilities). That would mean a cost of between \$36 million to \$72 million/year, or between 14% and 29% of the annual allotment. It is also possible to start with one county in the first year and rigorously analyze the results to determine what would likely work for the full Metro region.

The absence of poverty is freedom - the ability to experiment, to carve out a new life, to be relieved of constant worry, to restore hope and dignity. Think about it. Think about using a modest amount of guaranteed income as one way to propel homeless people into a brighter future.

** It should be noted that the 115 participants in the randomized controlled trial were between the ages of 19 and 64, and they had been homeless for an average of 6 months. Participants were screened for a low risk of mental health challenges and substance abuse.*