

Homelessness 101

Module 1: Resource page for Homelessness 101 Workshop

St. Leo Homelessness Work-group

Compiled by Rosemary Powers (New Connections)

The resources listed below provide information about the causes of homelessness, and describe the efforts of individuals and groups working to change the conditions leading to homelessness and to assist those currently living homeless. You will find personal stories, statistics and other data, legal and social analysis, opportunities for advocacy, and more than you may have the time to read. Explore the websites and recommended documents and follow your interests. As we move through the other sessions in the volunteer online program, we encourage you to raise questions and share ideas that come to you as you read and think about your own experience in understanding the issues related to lack of shelter and affordable housing.

Pierce County Resources & Opportunities for Involvement

The Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://www.pchomeless.org>

The Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness is a loose network of individuals, non-profit agencies, government agencies, and community businesses working together to serve people experiencing homelessness. Our end goal is to help folks establish safe housing as quickly as possible and help them to retain that housing so their homeless episode is short and never repeated. We also work to address many of the factors that drive homelessness. (from website).

To receive current information from this group, learn about resources to assist people living homeless, and to access the open weekly online meetings on Friday mornings (9-11), sign up at the web address above. (At the top of the screen, click on the “**listserv**” option and you will find instructions for adding your name to the email distribution list. If you prefer to receive fewer email notifications, be sure to check the box for “daily digest summary format.” Notice that on this same page, you can also “unsubscribe” if you later decide you prefer not to be on the list.

The 2020 League of Women Voters Tacoma Pierce County Shelter Study:

http://www.tacomapiercelwv.org/files/shelter_study_for_web_2-20_reduced.pdf

This study examines the availability and affordability of shelter for low-income people living in Pierce County, Washington. It addresses these questions: What has led to reduced affordable housing options, increased homelessness, and escalating evictions in our county?

What efforts are being made to provide “Shelter for All?” Are there practices and innovations that hold promise for Pierce County?

Answers to these questions are presented in the following sections:

1. Key factors about shelter & homelessness in the US, in WA State, and in Pierce County
2. Interventions and outcomes-- current efforts of governmental, faith-based, and other community agencies to address the current crisis of homelessness
3. Innovative ideas and potential solutions --recent innovations and fresh ideas being considered throughout Pierce County
4. A closer look -- additional background and detail regarding sections 1-3 with special attention to historical and social factors (moving parts) related to shelter & homelessness

Pierce County Human Services Homeless Programs

<https://www.co.pierce.wa.us/4824/About-Homeless-Programs>

Pierce County Human Services Homeless Programs supports a crisis response system in which the experience of homelessness is rare, brief and non-recurring.

[Learn more about our homeless programs.](#) (brief info about different county housing options)

[Learn more about our funding sources.](#) (if you wonder about current funding for county residents experiencing homelessness, and for those who provide supportive services, look at this site).

Pierce County Human Services Homeless Programs supports a coordinated entry system for families and individuals experiencing homelessness. Click [here](#) for resources and contact information.

Coordinated Entry Contact Information--Monday – Friday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm, with 24-hour voicemail Phone: 2-1-1.

Youth Resources in Pierce County

- Arlington Drive Youth Campus (Tacoma Housing Authority): <https://www.tacomahousing.net>
Under construction, expect to start leasing in November 2020. For young adults, 18 to 24 years old, who are experiencing homelessness, transitioning from foster care or are on the threshold of homelessness.
- Beacon Center Young Adult Shelter (Comprehensive Life Resources)
<https://www.comprehensiveliferesources.org> Drop-in is open for folks from the ages of 12 to 24 who are either experiencing homelessness or are at-risk of experiencing homelessness. Shelter is open to folks between the ages of 18 and 24 who are homeless or just need a safe place to sleep.
- REACH Center: <https://www.reachtacoma.org> . A one-stop youth service center for young people 16-24 seeking to advance their educational, career, and life goals.
- Serra House (Coffee Oasis) <https://thecoffeeoasis.com/serrahouse/> Short-term emergency housing for youth experiencing homelessness, ages 13-17

Washington State Resources

Washington State Low Income Housing Alliance

<https://www.wliha.org/>

As the statewide champion for housing, the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance is a powerful coalition of diverse organizations and individuals working together to build and protect safe, healthy, affordable homes for everyone in Washington.

Seattle University Homeless Rights Advocacy Project

<https://law.seattleu.edu/centers-and-institutes/korematsu-center/initiatives/homeless-rights-advocacy-project>

The Homeless Rights Advocacy Project (HRAP) provides Seattle University law students with intensive, challenging education in the fundamentals of [policy research, analysis, and advocacy](#) in the context of homeless rights advocacy. Through research, analysis and advocacy, the project seeks to build partnerships that will help advance the rights of homeless people. Importantly, the project provides access to resources to support advocacy regarding homelessness and poverty, and offers short policy briefs on a wide variety of current topics. See the website for many useful resources.

Tenants Union of Washington State:

<https://tenantsunion.org>

The mission of the Tenants Union (TU) is to create housing justice through empowerment-based education, outreach, leadership development, organizing, and advocacy. Founded in 1977, the TU carries on a proud legacy of work to create concrete improvements in tenants' living conditions and challenge and transform unjust housing policies and practices. As a membership organization, the TU's work is grounded in the strong conviction that tenants must be the leaders of efforts to transform our housing conditions and communities. The TU embraces the values of equality, hope, tenant leadership, respect, direct action, civic courage, racial and economic justice, and self-determination in our work.

[Tenants Union of Washington Brochure](#)

National Resources

National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty

<https://nlchp.org>

Resources, webinars, legal action in service of people who are experiencing homelessness.

The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC)

<https://nlihc.org>

An excellent source of research, webinars, calls to action regarding public policy and affordable housing. Good national data about homelessness and the need for much better access to housing for persons with

low income. Publishes an annual report titled Out of Reach, that compares cost by state for housing and the “rental wage” (income needed to afford all types of housing). See <https://reports.nlihc.org/oor> . Includes the “Opportunity starts at home Campaign,” working to support federal policies that protect and expand affordable housing for low-income people <https://nlihc.org/explore-issues/projects-campaigns/opportunity-starts-home>

National Coalition for the Homeless: Building a Movement to end homelessness

<https://nationalhomeless.org>

“National network of people who are currently experiencing or who have experienced homelessness, activists, and advocates, community based and faith-based service providers, and others committed to a single mission: To end and prevent homelessness while ensuring the immediate needs of those experiencing homelessness are met and their civil rights are respected and protected” (website). Includes information on the causes of and issues related to homelessness, current campaigns related to unemployment, criminalization of homelessness, human right to shelter, health concerns, and violence.

Domestic Violence and Homelessness:

Housing, Homelessness, and Sexual Violence: Annotated Bibliography June, 2020

<https://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/publications/2020-06/HousingHomelessness%26SVFINAL508.pdf>