



# BARE-OP

**To:** EVERGREEN MPA PROGRAM  
**From:** Candis Hannah  
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**Subject:** Homeless crisis in Olympia

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Sincerely  
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Founder

## **Introduction:**

This memo is to discuss solutions on homelessness in Olympia, Wa and wrap around services. In 2003 the total number of individuals unsheltered counted by the census was 441, in 2023 the number has risen to 740. The importance of addressing this issue is to provide compassionate services that adequately support individuals transitioning from homelessness.

## **Problem Statement**

Many transitional housing developments in Olympia, Wa have an operating cost at over 1.2 million dollars per year to serve a range of 38-100 individuals. Metrics being used to indicate the success of the programs are broad enough that they do not account for the sustainability of the programs and community at large. Professional knowledge of direct services in Olympia has allowed me to have firsthand experience to the crime being committed, the revolving door use of services, poor outcome indicators, and the lack of vision towards a long-term outcome. These oversights create a financial burden on the community at large.

## **Policy Options**

**Option 1:** Increase supportive services for employment options.

Statistics have shown a positive correlation between individuals suffering from homelessness that have case management support, positive outcomes increase once clients are connected to employment supportive services. The benefits of this option would allow clients the opportunity for case management supportive services that would provide mediation, counseling, and support with employers. The challenges would include lack of interest in the program.

**Option 2:** Enhance and collaborate support services for individuals experiencing homelessness.

Collaboration between local nonprofit agencies can help reduce duplication of services to improve quality of wrap around support until an individual has reached stability. The benefits of this option would reduce the competitive culture and increase the level of equality within services. The challenges facing this option are the fragmentation between nonprofits, community, federal and local government. Another challenge is proper allocation of funds and specific metrics to ensure the funds are spent effectively.

## **Policy Recommendations**

Policy recommendations are to adopt a collaborative approach while enhancing services for individuals experiencing homelessness. This would require specific metrics to be applied to ensure that funds are spent appropriately with a long-term goal in mind.

## **Implementation Plan**

First steps include coordinating efforts of service providers that are overseen by local government. The next step would be implementing new standards for each program that would

align efforts to reach coordinated metrics across the community. Allocation of funds will be determined by individual served per program ensuring that any extra funds after operating costs are directed towards supportive services committed to each program.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, addressing homelessness in Olympia, Wa requires a comprehensive and collaborative approach. As stated above many efforts have led to financial strains on the community and duplicated efforts within the nonprofit sector. Implementing this policy recommendation will require strong communication channels, strategic planning, and resource allocation. It is critical to ensure all stakeholders come together to establish a framework that promotes long-term success within the programs that address metrics that look towards a sustainable future.

## Resources

Edwin Oscar Gutierrez, Jr. (2022, August 5). *Quince street village welcomes its first residents from Franklin Street Mitigation Site*. The JOLT News Organization, A 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization. <https://www.thejoltnews.com/stories/quince-street-village-welcomes-its-first-residents-from-franklin-street-mitigation-site,6764>

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Welcome to the City of Olympia. (n.d.). [https://www.olympiawa.gov/community/housing\\_\\_\\_homelessness/homeless\\_response.php](https://www.olympiawa.gov/community/housing___homelessness/homeless_response.php)