



ESD 112 Lunch & Learn


March 20, 2024

Laura Ellsworth, Public Policy and
Engagement Manager

About Council for the Homeless

- A nonprofit organization founded in 1989
- Located in Vancouver and serve all of Clark County





We are the hub of
the Homeless
Response System in
Clark County based
on a Coordinated
Entry Model

Homeless Response System Partners 2023

211info
Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church
Bridgeview Resource Center
Cascade Aids Project
Catholic Community Services of Western
Washington
City of Vancouver
Clark County Veterans Assistance Center
Clark County Volunteer Lawyers
Clark Public Utilities
Columbia River Mental Health Services
Sea Mar – CSNW
Community Voices Are Born
Faith Partners for Housing
Family Promise of Clark County
Immanuel Lutheran Church
Impact NW
Janus Youth
Lifeline Connections
Living Hope Church
New Life Friend's Church
Open House Ministries
Outsiders Inn
Partners In Careers
REACH Community Development
Restored and Revived
River City Church
Second Step Housing
Share
St. Andrew Lutheran Church
St. Paul Lutheran Church
The Cowlitz Tribe
The Giving Closet
The Lord's Gym
The Salvation Army
Vancouver Housing Authority
XChange Ministries
YWCA of Clark County

CFTH Housing Solutions Center

- CFTH Housing Hotline: **360-695-9677**
- Coordinated Entry
- Coordinated Outreach
- Coordinated Assessments
- Diversion



Hotline Hours: 9am – 8pm M-F; 11am-5pm Weekends and Holidays

What is Coordinated Entry?



COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

Leadership • Advocacy • Solutions

Clark County Coordinated Entry

What are the Access Points?

No wrong door approach – many ways to access services

- Housing Hotline (360-695-9677)
- Street Outreach
- Community Partners (jails, schools, health care sectors)



COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS

Leadership • Advocacy • Solutions

Homelessness Range of Need

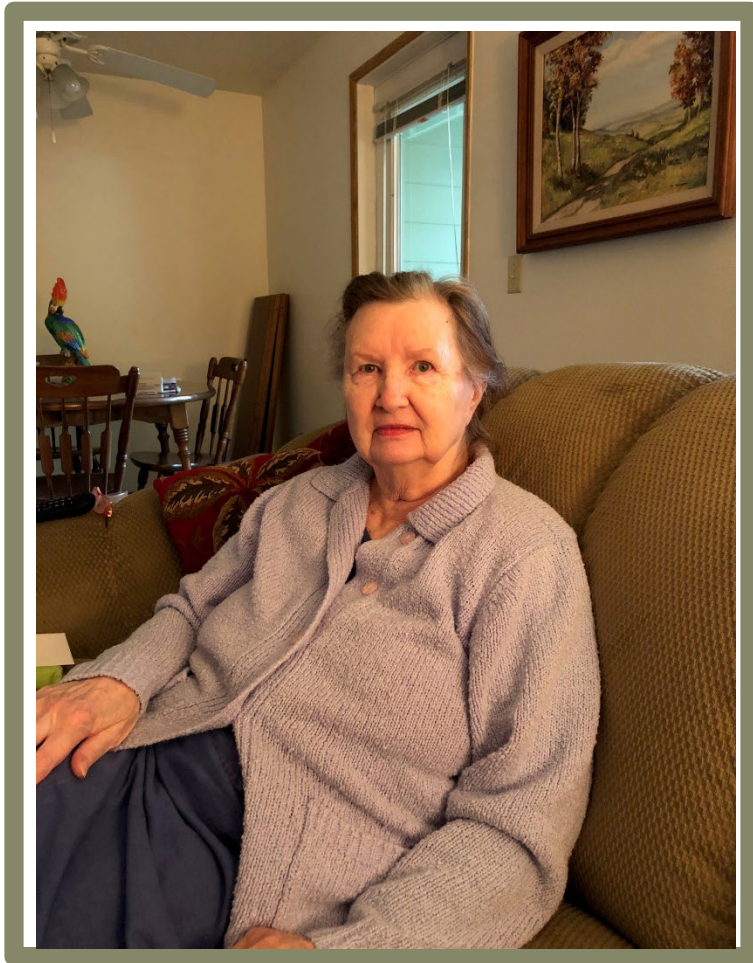
Lowest Need,
Least Vulnerable

Highest Need,
Most Vulnerable

**Assistance is designed to help
people at whatever point they find
themselves.**

**Our focus is always
Housing Plus Services**





Patricia

What is the #1 cause of homelessness?

- A. Drug/alcohol abuse**
- B. Mental illness**
- C. Cost and supply of housing**
- D. Breakdown of the family unit**

IT'S THE RENT! (Clark County data: 2023 Out of Reach Report)

Fair Market Rent

ZERO-BEDROOM	\$1,487
ONE-BEDROOM	\$1,577
TWO-BEDROOM	\$1,889
THREE-BEDROOM	\$2,583
FOUR-BEDROOM	\$3,020

Annual Income Needed to Afford

ZERO-BEDROOM	\$59,495
ONE-BEDROOM	\$63,091
TWO-BEDROOM	\$75,556
THREE-BEDROOM	\$103,324
FOUR-BEDROOM	\$120,781

Why don't people want to go into shelter?



Myth: People who are homeless are dangerous, violent, and/or criminals

A person who is homeless is no more likely to be a criminal than a person who is housed, with one legal exception: Camping Ordinances.

With camping bans, people who are homeless end up breaking the law by merely being unhoused. The reality is that most people spend their time and resources trying to survive and improve their situation.

Myth: Housing should come with conditions like being clean or sober

Housing makes services work; Services make housing work

Housing First asks, “What do you need right now to end your homelessness, and how can we work together to get you what you need and find a place for you to live?”



Who is homeless in Clark County?

Homeless System Numbers | 2022 2022 DEMOGRAPHICS SUMMARY



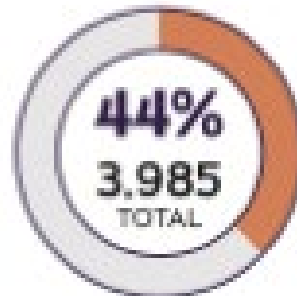
9,032 people from **5,352** households were homeless in Clark County at any given time during 2022. Of those 9,032:

IDENTIFIED AS CHILDREN UNDER 18



2021: 27%
1,708 TOTAL

IDENTIFIED AS BIPOC



2021: 40%
2,519 TOTAL

IDENTIFIED AS NEWLY HOMELESS



2021: 61%
3,800 TOTAL

AGES



How You Can Help



Donate items after checking with the agency about their needs at the time.



Sign up for our agency E-news and Advocacy Email lists



Join our Housing Advocacy Movement!



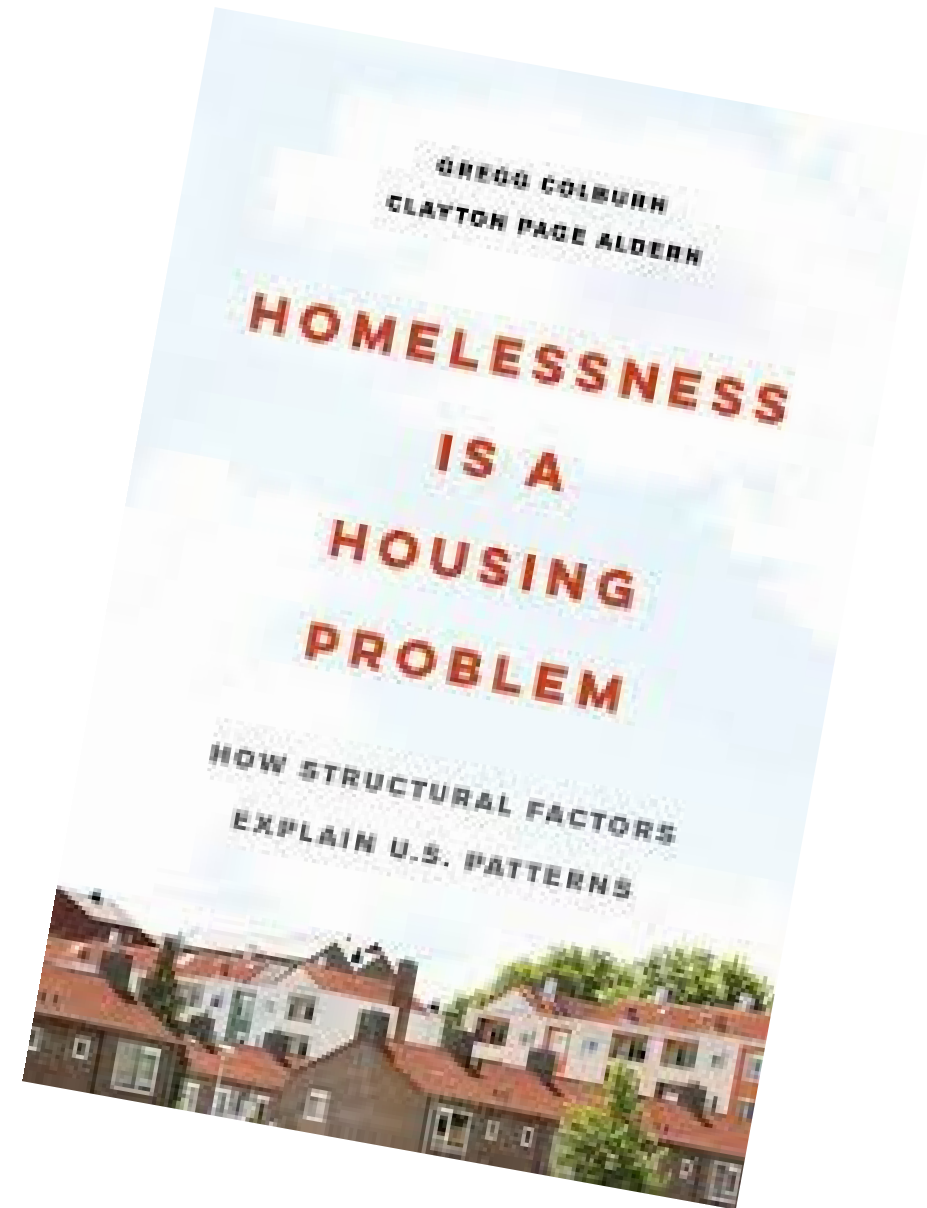
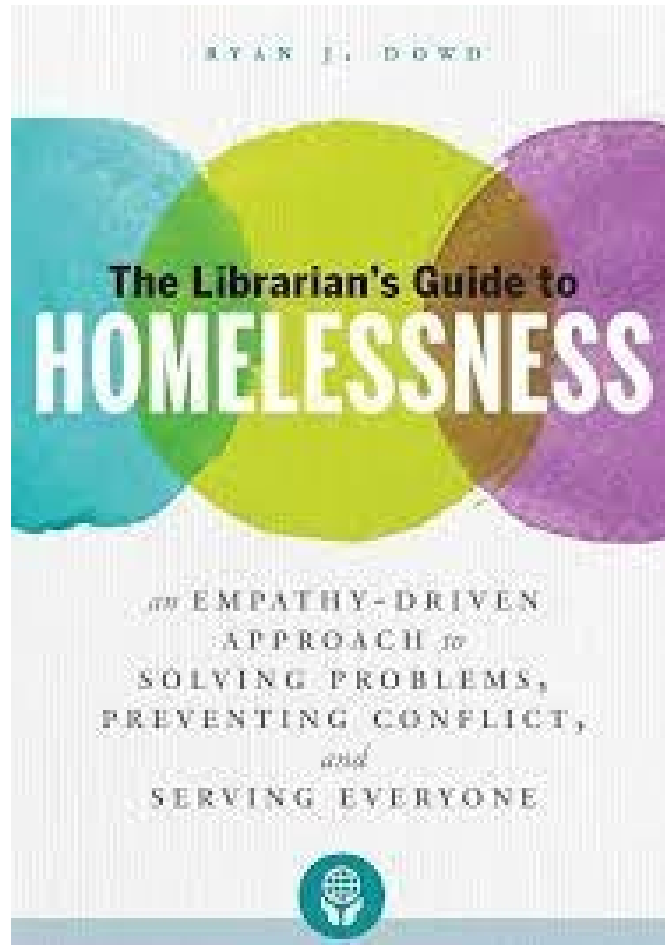
Speak up on behalf of vulnerable people who are subject to stereotypes and judgement.



Be Kind. We do not know another person's story.



Interesting Reading



Thank You



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