

# CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## Sitting/Acting as (if applicable) Study Session Worksheet

**Presentation Date:** August 5, 2014 **Approx Start Time:** 10:30 **Approx Length:** 30 minutes

**Presentation Title:** 2014 Update to the Ten Year Plan and Policy to Address Homelessness

**Department:** Health, Housing and Human Services

**Presenters:** Cindy Becker, Brenda Durbin, Erika Silver

**Other Invitees:**

WHAT ACTION ARE YOU REQUESTING FROM THE BOARD? Approval to proceed with adoption of the Clackamas County 2014 Update to the Ten Year Plan and Policy to Address Homelessness. Approval to change the name of the Plan from The 10 Year Plan and Policy to *Address Homelessness* to The 10 year Plan and Policy to *End Homelessness*. If approved in Study Session, it is requested that the *Policy and Plan* move to a formal vote for adoption by the Board of County Commissioners

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides just under \$1.7 million in funding each year for 16 different Clackamas County projects providing permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, and related services for youth, domestic violence survivors, veterans, families and adults who are experiencing homelessness. HUD strongly encourages each community to have a Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness. In 2007 the Board of County Commissioners approved Clackamas County's original Plan. Similar plans have been adopted in 243 communities nationwide. Addressing homelessness benefits the entire community and reduces health care and law enforcement costs.

While homelessness is not as visible within Clackamas County as it may be in more urban counties, the 2013 Point in Time Count of Homeless Individuals identified 2,070 homeless persons within Clackamas County. Almost half (965) were children under 18, 26 were 65 or older, and 75 were veterans.

In 2008, the following *Policy Statement* was formally adopted by the Board of County Commissioners: "Clackamas County believes in the principle that every person should have decent, safe, sanitary and affordable housing and an opportunity to live in a community in peace and dignity. We understand that housing fulfills; physical needs by providing security and shelter, psychological needs by providing a sense of personal space and privacy, social needs by providing a gathering area and communal space for families, the basic unit of society, and societal needs by providing a supportive base from which children can gain access to education and all family members can best fulfill their individual potential, including employment and personal development."

The 2014 update to the Ten Year Plan emphasizes coordination between Clackamas County and all sectors of the community, including the faith community, business, education, law enforcement and non-profit organizations to ensure the effective and efficient mobilization of limited resources. Significant progress has been made since 2007, yet the urgency of addressing homelessness remains. Some of the HUD rules

have changed, and the local challenges as have as well. This update is timely as it strategically addresses these changes and challenges, applying evidence based models as appropriate which are adapted to Clackamas County's local needs.

Annual workplans with measurable goals and assigned responsible parties will accompany the Plan once approved to ensure accountability and continued progress toward addressing, and ultimately ending, homelessness in Clackamas County.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS** (current year and ongoing): The Plan assumes a continuation of existing County financial support for Bridges to Housing and Winter Warming Centers. The Plan does provide a framework for future County investments if the Board decides to dedication additional funding to find solutions for residents experiencing homelessness.

**LEGAL/POLICY REQUIREMENTS:** None

**PUBLIC/GOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION:** The update to the Ten Year Plan and Policy to Address Homelessness was created through a workgroup that met four times and included representatives from numerous community organizations, County Departments, school district representatives, and the State of Oregon Department of Human Services. Two BCC appointed groups: the Community Action Board and the Homeless Policy Council have had multiple opportunities to help shape the draft update. The Continuum of Care (the homeless service provider network) also helped to shape the update. Each group made meaningful suggestions that were incorporated into the document that has been presented to the Board of County Commissioners.

**OPTIONS:**

- 1) Move the plan to a BCC Business Meeting
- 2) Recommend changes and bring back to a future Study Session for final approval
- 3) Reject the Plan

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Health, Housing and Human Services recommends approval to proceed with adoption of the Clackamas County Ten Year Plan and Policy to Address Homelessness. Additionally, it is recommended that the title of the Plan be changed to read "Ten Year Plan and Policy to End Homelessness".

Reasons for this recommendation are:

- Homeless remains a persistent problem in most of Clackamas County, including urban, rural and suburban areas;
- Homelessness affects some of the most vulnerable county residents. Almost half of the identified homeless are children under the age of 18. Significant numbers of veterans, people with disabilities, women fleeing domestic violence and older adults are homeless in Clackamas County;
- Homeless individuals are frequent victims of crime and often experience health problems;
- Many homeless adults want to work but are not employable without a safe place to sleep at night;
- The updated Plan provides a framework for coordinating efforts to address homelessness and prioritizes specific activities. When federal or state funding

becomes available the County's priorities will be clearly identified which will expedite the proposal process; and

- Many communities nationwide have completed similar updates to their original plans in order to stay current and be strategic about how to keep moving forward on this difficult problem.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 : 2014 Update to the Ten Year Plan to Address Homelessness

Attachment 2: Clackamas County 2013 Point in Time County of Homeless Individuals

SUBMITTED BY:

Division Director/Head Approval \_\_\_\_\_  
Department Director/Head Approval \_\_\_\_\_  
County Administrator Approval \_\_\_\_\_

For information on this issue or copies of attachments, please contact \_\_\_\_\_ @ 503- \_\_\_\_\_

# Clackamas County

## 2013 Point-in-Time Count of Homeless Individuals



Every two years Clackamas County takes part in a nationwide effort to count homeless individuals who are sheltered within homeless assistance programs and those people who are unsheltered, living on the streets. This year's count took place on the night of January 30<sup>th</sup>.

Nationally homelessness is defined within two categories for the purpose of this count. The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines the homeless as:

- Those people who are sheltered within Emergency Shelters and Transitional Housing Programs
- Those people who are unsheltered, staying in places not meant for people to live, such as in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, and on the street

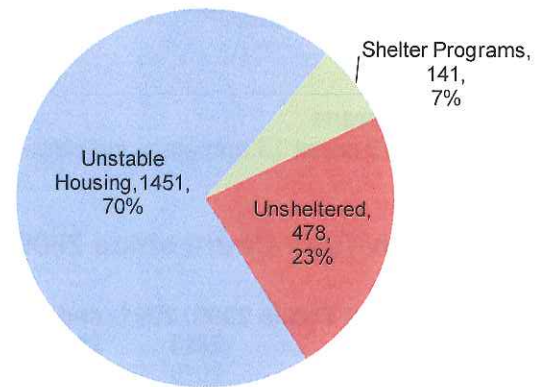
The State of Oregon uses a broader definition of homelessness, which includes those people who are in unstable living situations due to loss of housing and economic hardship.

In Clackamas County the count of homeless individuals is conducted by combined efforts of county staff and volunteers. 157 volunteers took part in the 2013 count in Clackamas. Homeless individuals were surveyed at 92 sites, including food pantries, faith based organizations, shelters, schools, and outdoor areas.

### 2070 homeless people were counted

- 141 people were counted within emergency shelter and transitional housing programs
- 478 people were counted among the unsheltered
- 1451 people were counted as living in doubled-up or unstable housing due to economic hardship
- 191 people counted this year were chronically homeless or in chronically homeless families\*

\*Chronically homeless refers to those who have a disabling condition and have been homeless for a year or more or 4 or more times in the past 3 years.

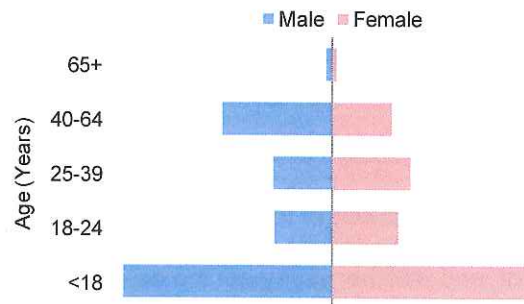


### Demographics of Individuals Surveyed during the Point-in-Time Count

#### Homeless Count by Age and Gender (2013)

Age	Total	Male	Female	Unknown*
All Ages	2070	1036	970	64
< 18	965	481	458	26
18 to 24	292	133	153	6
25 to 39	326	136	183	7
40 to 64	406	251	139	16
65+	26	13	12	1
Unknown*	55	22	25	8

\*Given the nature of the count, some homeless people may be unwilling or unable to provide certain information.





**Homeless Families**

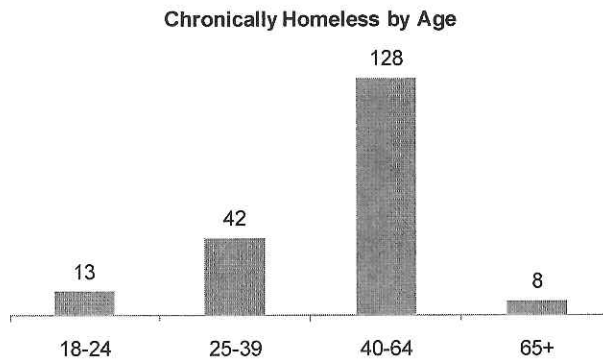
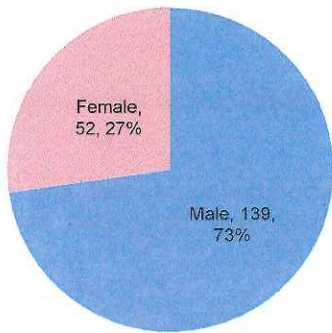
1160 individuals in households made up of adults with children were counted among the homeless in 2013. This includes 618 children counted by School District Homeless Student Liaisons who are known to be in families, but for whom the makeup of their household is not known.

- 201 individuals in households with more than one homeless adult but no children were counted
- 15 individuals in households of multiple children without an adult were counted
- 638 single person households were counted

**Chronically Homeless**

HUD defines a chronically homeless individual as a person over the age of 18, with a disabling condition, who has been homeless continually for a year or longer or has had 4 or more episodes of homelessness in the past 3 years. A chronically homeless family is a household with at least one adult meeting the above criteria.

191 Chronically Homeless individuals were counted. The chronically homeless in Clackamas County are predominantly male, and between 40 and 64 years old.



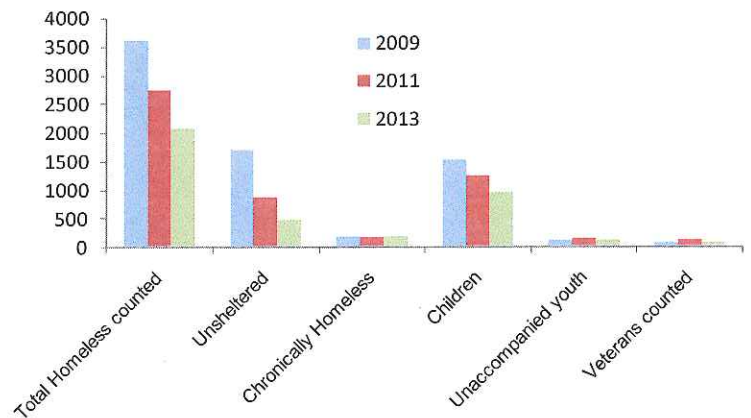
**Homeless Veterans**

During the 2013 count 75 homeless individuals reported that they had served in the US Armed Forces.

**The Point-in-Time Count since 2009**

**Homeless Count Totals 2009, 2011, and 2013**

	2013	2011	2009
Total Homeless counted	2070	2747	3614
Unsheltered	478	869	1699
Chronically Homeless	191	157	196
Children	965	1236	1530
Unaccompanied youth	113	147	132
Veterans counted	75	120	74



The total number of homeless counted in 2013 is 25% lower than the 2011 count total. Counts are also lower in number of unsheltered individuals (↓45%); homeless children (↓22%); and homeless veterans (↓38%).

The number of chronically homeless individuals counted increased 22% from 2011 to 2013.

**Caution should be taken in identifying trends in the number of homeless counted across years.**

Many factors affect the results of the Point-in-Time Count. Count methodology, volunteer availability, agency staff involvement, and weather all impact the count.

Clackamas County Social Services and Community Development Divisions have focused extensively on preventing homelessness, and re-housing individuals who become homeless over the past several years. However it is unlikely this fully explains the drop in the number of homeless individuals counted.

## Causes of Homelessness

Individuals surveyed for the count were asked what factors contributed to them becoming homeless. They answered yes or no to a list of possible causes, and could answer yes to as many reasons as they felt applied to them.

Contributing factor	Count	Contributing factor	Count
Couldn't Afford Rent	675	Drugs or Alcohol in the Home	138
Unemployment	674	Drug or Alcohol Abuse	131
Domestic Violence	312	Pregnancy	49
Kicked Out by Family / Friends	270	Child Abuse	46
Credit	259	Homeless by Choice	41
Eviction	256	Foreclosure	39
Medical Problems	227	Gambling	27
Poor Rental History	188	Property Sold	21
Mental/Emotional Disorder	184	Ran Away	18
Criminal History	172	Manufactured Home Park Closure	2

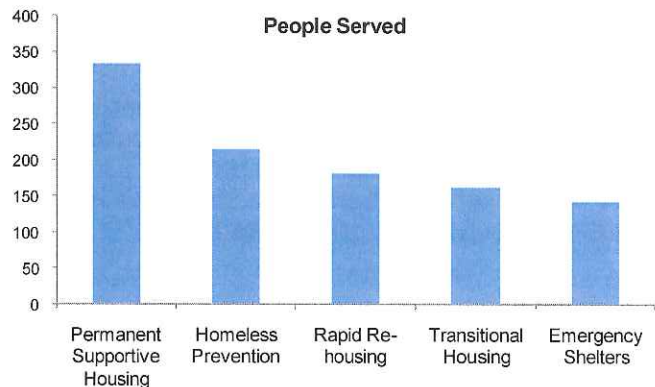
- 236 homeless individuals reported substance abuse
- 201 reported having a mental health disorder
- 7 reported having HIV / AIDS

## Clackamas County Services to Homeless Individuals

In Clackamas County there are 5 types of programs which address the housing needs of those experiencing homelessness: Homeless Prevention, Emergency Shelter, Rapid Re-housing, Transitional Housing, and Permanent Supportive Housing.

Between October 1, 2011 and September 30, 2012:

- 215 people were served in Homeless Prevention Programs
- 143 people were served in Emergency Shelters
- 181 were served through Rapid Re-housing Programs
- 161 were housed in Transitional Housing
- 334 were housed in Permanent Supportive Housing



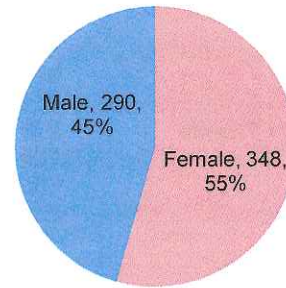
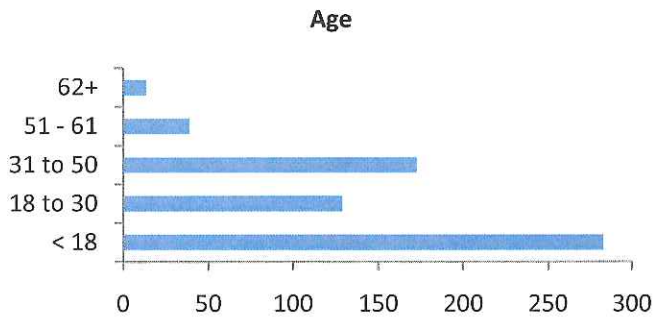
Clackamas County produces an Annual Homeless Assessment Report or AHAR, which looks at a year's worth of Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data on services provided by our Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, and Permanent Supportive Housing programs\*. The report serves as a tool for identifying the characteristics of persons experiencing homelessness who are served in our County and, when paired with Point-in-Time data, can be used to identify potential gaps in services. It is Point-in-Time and AHAR data that HUD uses to inform Congress of the state of homelessness in the US.

\*the AHAR does not include data on those served through Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Programs.



## Demographics of Individuals Served in Clackamas County Homelessness Programs\*

\*Those programs included in the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR)



### Homeless Families

189 adults and 283 children in households containing both adults and children were counted among the homeless in the AHAR.

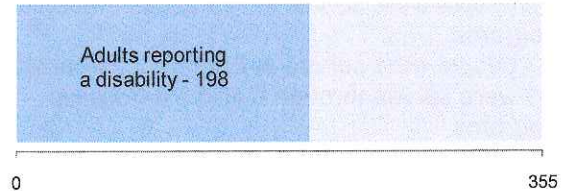
- 18 adults were in households with more than one homeless adult but no children
- 1 child only household was counted
- 148 single person households were counted

### Homeless Veterans

During the AHAR reporting period, 38 homeless individuals reported that they had served in the US Armed Forces.

### Disabled Adults

**56% of adults** served in Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, and Permanent Supportive Housing programs **reported being disabled**. The highest concentrations of these adults were served in Permanent Supportive Housing Programs, representing 79% of all adults served.



### Living Situations Prior to Entering Homeless Programs

The AHAR looks at the housing situations of individuals just prior to coming into homeless programs. Adults entering the programs are asked, at intake, where they were staying the night before they sought assistance.

Prior living situation	Count	Prior living situation	Count
Place not meant for habitation	71	Substance abuse treatment / detox	5
Emergency shelter	69	Psychiatric facility	5
Staying with family	66	Owned by client (no subsidy)	3
Transitional housing	44	Rental by client (other subsidy)	2
Staying with friends	44	Hospital	1
Hotel or motel (no voucher)	10	Other	2
Rental by client (VASH subsidy)	9	Missing	5

The [full text](#) of the Clackamas County Annual Homeless Assessment Report is available on the Clackamas County website.

For additional information contact Clackamas County Health, Housing, and Human Services: 503-650-5697