

List of Alternative Strategies & Responses

Updated for 11/15/19 HSW Meeting

NOTE: UNDERLINED ITEMS ARE RECENT ADDITIONS OR EDITS TO THIS DOCUMENT.

\$ = Less than 100k

\$\$ = 100k – 300k

\$\$\$ = 300k – 1m

\$\$\$\$ = 1m +

◆ This strategy is already listed among the priority strategies in the City's 2018-2022 Consolidated Plan and/or Assessment of Fair Housing.

* Strategy suggested by Community Solutions Workgroup in fall 2017.

Humane responses to address public health and safety impacts associated with homelessness crisis

Response	Description	Sanitation & hygiene	Personal safety/security	Public safety	Environmental health	Level of funding needed	Underway or Planned	Partner Agencies Working on Response Potential Partners	Lead agency?	Status	Ranking?
Rest Stop	Create an Urban Rest Stop (mobile or fixed location) with showers, laundry, check-in medical screening (proposed by Whatcom County Public Health Crisis Oversight Committee). Or, laundry facilities.	X	X	X	X	\$\$, \$\$\$	X	Proposed by Whatcom County Public Health Crisis Oversight Committee. NWYS operates a Day Center from 10-2 at First Congregational Church, Serves 24 and younger. Respite Care (Peace Health) Rest Stop (Unity Care)	Peace Health, Unity Care, NWYS	<u>Unity Care did not get grant. They're working with Peace Health and OC on 1 larger project : rest stop with medical services, case management and respite care.</u> <u>Note: Previous effort was a mobile shower, laundry, restroom facility with BH and med services. \$400k/yr unfunded portion.</u>	
Barge	Operate a floating barge with beds and showers.	X	X					HSW agree this is a challenge to implement.			

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Laundry Program	Laundry Love - former program is closed. The program may need multiple, small locations that do not rely on one facility or one set of benefactors.	X				\$ (if partnered with faith-based or agency with shared mission to allow use of facility)	X	NWYS working with First Congregational on Day Center, which will serve 24 and younger. Open from 10am-2pm. Provides laundry service Light House mission does linen laundry daily, not enough capacity for personal laundry. Interested in a laundry trailer service City of Bellingham considering a laundry voucher service		Ferndale has a new community laundromat in Pioneer Marketplace – Ferndale will offer 1,000 vouchers.	
Camping	Permitted camping area. Establish Safe Camps for under 15 people (smaller sizes) and distributed locations are better than one large site.		X	X	X	\$\$, \$\$\$	X	Requires on-site management, restrooms and facilities. Partners required. City of Bellingham has a camping area behind the 911 center on James St. HomesNow creating Unity Village (Post Point location) – Construction begins Aug 1 2019. City of Bellingham will assist with Unity Village Operations for 9 months	HomesNow, City of Bellingham		High
Restrooms	Bathroom facilities with 24 hour access for those who work shifts. Explore multiple locations.	X	X		X	\$, \$\$, \$\$\$	X	City of Bellingham is completing 24 hour access restroom at MHP. Porta-potties have been located in 3	City of Bellingham, City of Ferndale,		High

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								<p>additional areas.</p> <p>Whatcom County considering Rest Stop, which could also help with this need. 24-hour access would be very expensive.</p> <p>NWYS working with First Congregational on Day Center, which serves ages 24 and younger from 10am-2pm.</p> <p>Lighthouse Mission has 3 outhouses at drop in center</p> <p>City of Ferndale has a 24-hr bathroom at Star Park.</p>	Lighthouse Mission		
Showers	Shower facility with 24 hour access for those who work shifts.	X				\$\$, \$\$\$	X	<p>Lighthouse Mission has a shower trailer - serves 16-18 showers per setting. Moves to 4 locations a week and recently served their 1,000th shower</p> <p>LMM will include shower facilities in new permanent shelter facility.</p> <p>NWYS working with First Congregational on Day Center, serves 24 and younger.</p> <p>YMCA offers a limited number of shower passes – they are at capacity.</p> <p>HomesNow has a shower truck for</p>	Lighthouse Mission, HomesNow		

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								tiny home residents. Once a month takes shower trailer to Maritime Heritage Park for a summit. Offers 1,500 showers per year. 24-hour access VERY challenging.			
<u>Incarcerated parents</u>	<u>Track whether homeless people have a parent who is currently or was previously incarcerated.</u>							<u>Work with case managers from all organizations handling intake</u>			
Communications	HSW formed a subcommittee dedicated to establishing communications to homeless populations and the general public, including information on shelters and services and public information on funding sources and uses, programs, and a better understanding by the public of the root causes of homelessness.								HSW Comm. Subcommittee, COB, WC	<u>Preparing information online for winter weather.</u> <u>Will evaluate continuing online information after winter if successful.</u> <u>CM Buchanan, Mayor Linville, and Riley Sweeney will write an op-ed to the Bellingham Herald regarding homelessness.</u> <u>County posted HOT Team number online.</u>	

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Lockers	Lockers for storage of valuables (24 hour access). Locked Storage - a location has been identified, additional locations are needed that can accommodate a 120 square foot unit that can placed on to site.		X			\$	X	Basics PNW (Safe Storage PNW) Non-profit to lead effort with support from COB and other agencies City of Bellingham identified a location near the police station and poured a concrete pad. City agreed to purchase lockers. Operational models need to be in place. Whatcom County has been working with Safe Storage PNW to identify location for lockers on County property. County has budgeted \$20,000 to assist in this effort. Additional partners needed.	City of Bellingham Basics PNW. Whatcom County	BasicsPNW ran a locker truck every Saturday into May at MHP. On pause now to focus on the permanent lockers <u>Basics PNW is working on an lease agreement with COB to install lockers on city property.</u> Basics PNW can set up the system but is not interested in running the program long term. <u>Whatcom County Council Office submitted a supplemental budget request to transfer the \$20,000 from 2019 budget year to 2020.</u>	
Car/RV Parking	Establish Safe Parking designated for those who have "some level of shelter" with rules to mitigate impacts, amenities nearby with		X	X		\$\$, \$\$\$		Requires on-site management, restrooms and facilities. Partners required.	City of Bellingham, City of	COB is looking for a space for safe parking. Meanwhile COB Police is not	

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	signage with parking time duration limits. Spread out parking across the community. Lighting and security are a concern, and if COB can help with these, some organizations and entities might be able to offer parking sites.							City of Bellingham allows for 8hour parking on-street, unless otherwise marked. City of Ferndale acknowledged many park overnight in parking lots at parks.	Ferndale	bothering people parked on the street – unless there is a specific complaint. Karen Burke reaching out to First Baptist <u>Rick Sepler, City of Bellingham, presented an approach to safe parking at the 11/1/19 HSW meeting</u>	
Camping	Use campgrounds in the off season, this community resource already exists.	X		X	X	\$\$, \$\$\$		Requires on-site management, restrooms and facilities. Partners required.			
Garbage Collection	Dumpsters for homeless community to discard their belongings when needed				X	\$	X	The City has provided dumpsters in several locations around the City for this purpose			

Strategies to End Homelessness – even IF temporary or temporary for the individual

Strategy	Description	Funding Level	Underway or Planned	Partner(s) Agency or Agencies Working on Strategy	Lead?	Status	Ranking?
◆ Case Management	Identify available beds that could be available if sufficient case worker support were provided; then triage these available beds to match levels of service needs with case workers and/or funding for case workers	\$\$, \$\$\$	X Room for expansion	Opportunity Council’s Homeless Services Center / Landlord Liaison program. Lydia Place – City entered into an expanded case management program. NWYS, CCS, and above agencies could expand further.		<u>HSW members identified a need to increase salaries for caseworkers so there is better retention and tenure.</u>	
Triage Facility	Triage Facility for mental health will be ready by next fall.	\$\$\$\$	X	Whatcom County is Lead – Project is funded and underway.	WC	Whatcom County Council (8/7/2019 Meeting) supports the Executive’s decision to award the bid for the construction of the Crisis Stabilization Facility, with the understanding that the Council intent will be supportive of the concept of a future budget supplemental of \$1 million to be transferred to the project based budget to provide the needed contingency funds for the project. <u>Broke ground October 2019 on the Crisis Stabilization Center</u>	
Private Mental Health Facility	Private mental health and potential partner for site by hospital, which would be bigger than current triage facility.	\$\$\$\$		Would require a private partner.			

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Purchase Hotel	Buy a hotel and house people temporarily until they move into housing.	\$\$\$\$		Would require a partner agency to manage hotel / provide case management.			
Temporary Winter (cold weather) Shelter	temporary shelter during cold weather, typically open for 3 months	\$\$		Opportunity Council	OC, WC	<p>OC is working on a shelter, but needs assistance with volunteer staff - See Volunteer Training strategy below</p> <p>WC identifying budget needs and potential general funds for Council budget approval (Tyler S, Ann Beck)</p> <p>City of Bellingham is hosting a 35-40 person women's shelter at Civic Field. Check in will be at Mission, transport to site and back. Hours are 7am-7pm. <u>Dec 1, 2019 –Feb 29, 2020.</u></p> <p><u>Lighthouse Mission has space for 150 people year round</u></p> <p><u>Northwest Youth Services will operate at First Congregational Church to shelter 35 youths ages 13-24 Dec 2019 – Feb 2020.</u></p> <p><u>Family Promise shelters 2-4 families a year at rotating locations</u></p>	

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Severe Weather (Emergency) Shelter Satellite Shelters	<p>Site county satellite shelters for severe weather (winter shelter closed Feb. 28, 2018).</p> <p>Temporary shelter during extreme cold weather events, typically open for days or weeks</p>	\$\$ per year		<p>WC, COB, COF</p> <p>Suggestion to coordination with East Whatcom Regional Resource Center as potential shelter site</p> <p>Could WTA be a partner – offer a warming station (e.g. downtown bus station) – need staff for it.</p>	CO, WC, OC,	<p>WC identifying budget for winter shelter, possible general funds available for Council budget approval.</p> <p>Fountain Community Church will host 60 people with no restrictions. They will provide space, materials, and staff/volunteers</p> <p><u>Seventh Day Adventist will offer shelter to 30 people (men, women, families)</u></p> <p><u>Christ the King Church will shelter 60 people (men and people with special health needs)</u></p> <p><u>Garden Street Methodist Church will shelter 15 people (families)</u></p> <p><u>Daily shelter updates available at 360-788-7983</u></p>	
Additional Specialized Shelters	Specialized shelters with staff to support special populations (e.g., dual diagnosis of mental health and substance abuse; medical recovery).	\$\$\$		(Note: NWYS PAD program, DVSAS, YWCA, Sun Community Services and Interfaith/Family Promise operate shelter beds today)			
Additional Small Shelters	Smaller scale shelters, e.g., four bedroom duplexes, which are easier to find. And signing leases and supporting people in them, e.g., like the NWYS approach that uses a master lease.	\$\$\$, \$\$\$\$					

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Shelter for elderly and medically fragile							
Additional year-round shelter space	Specific interest from Lighthouse Mission for added shelter space Others?				Lighthouse Mission		
Drug Court housing	Speed up Drug Court housing.		X				
◆ Rental Assistance	Expand resources for rental assistance vouchers		X				
Landlord Liaison	Find willing landowners who can be matched with houseless person to offer appropriate shelter within zoning that currently exists.			(Note: Landlord Liaison program is operational, works with landlords who have existing units. Both the City and County are funding this position through the OC. BHA also has a similar position specific to their voucher programs.)		<u>OC indicated that landlords are stepping up to accept tenants with rental assistance</u>	
* Landlord Incentives	Landlord incentives can help to get people into housing more quickly.		X	OC will convene a small group of local experts to examine the feasibility of using existing programs for this recommendation			
◆ Supportive Shared Housing	Optimize current market rental with shared housing strategies (use HUD resources we already have.			This is similar to the “Additional Smaller Shelters” item above – a strategy in which nonprofits would operate small group-style homes with supports, and fewer rental assistance resources needed (with lower cost of shared housing).	<u>Northwest Youth Services, Opportunity Council,</u>		
Tiny Homes	Per Whatcom County Council 2018 action			HomesNow is creating tiny home	HomesNow,	<u>HomesNow completed Unity</u>	

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	Identify additional tiny home village locations			communities. Identify volunteer agencies that can help build tiny homes	<u>COB</u> , <u>WC</u>	<u>Village at Post Point</u> <u>Vacancies on hold until further direction from City after investigation.</u> HomesNow is looking for more potential future sites	
Re-entry	Expansion of re-entry options (e.g., Dept. of Corrections half-way house, sober houses)						
Smaller shelters	Expand number of "family home shelters" for a smaller scale and less intense setting than a 200 bed shelter setting.				<u>Lummi Stepping Stones</u>		
Volunteer training	Prepare a group of volunteers to be available for temporary shelters and severe weather shelters		X		WC	County is working on a program to train volunteers to mobilize when needed at temporary and emergency shelters	
Centralized communications system	Create a centralized resource for available shelters and services that is updated daily. Offer information on bed counts available and locations			Communications to people in need (connect them to services) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Lighthouse mission can help distribute info- they talk with 400 people a day) GRACE team can also distribute info to clients. Communications to the general public (issues and what's being done) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications to Bellingham Communications to Small Cities 	WC, COB, Lighthouse mission	<u>Whatcom County has a webpage with information on shelters and check in locations. A main phone number will have daily shelter updates (360-788-7983)</u> <u>If this system is deemed successful, it can be a model continued year-round.</u>	
Coordinate with Small Cities	Attend small cities meeting to discuss models and activities with potential in other			Identify organizations and services to offer at St. Peters Church in Deming		<u>Councilmember Buchanan has attended the Small Cities</u>	

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Partnership (POB)	communities (Buchanan, Sweeney)			(Lighthouse Mission, others?) in coordination with their weekly food services		<u>Partnership meetings to provide HSW updates.</u>	
Affordable Housing	Support affordable housing projects, access to housing					<u>Whatcom County and the cities coordinated to apply for the county to receive sales tax revenues for affordable housing, in accordance with SHB1406. The required documents were accepted and DOR will begin the process of imposing this tax effective 12/1 at the rate of .0146%.</u>	
Homeless Services Tool Kit	Develop an asset map, resources list, and models for sheltering the homeless	\$		Opportunity Council, Whatcom County, Bellingham, Ferndale and other small cities	WC		
Reunification	Offering transportation to final destination, if a client is stuck here on their way somewhere else. Reunify the client with a family member or friend that can care for them.			WC EMS – (Mike Hilley) worked on 5-6 cases – extremely time consuming.			
<i>The Strategies listed below were not suggested by the HSW, but were prioritized by the City's Community Solutions Workgroup.</i>							
* Community Liaison/Health Worker	Develop a community liaison or trained peer health worker program to help keep people in housing and integrate within the broader community		X	Chuckanut Health Foundation and PeaceHealth have funded the Whatcom Alliance for Health Advancement to explore and establish a Community Health Worker model			
* Social inclusion	Coordinate among services and programs to promote social inclusion and community		X	Lighthouse Mission Ministries started Street Connect early intervention			

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	building among formerly homeless population			relationship program in Feb 2018. Starting mentorship aftercare program in fall 2018.			
◆ Light-touch case management	Light-touch case management services available for those with lower vulnerability, more social/job skills to get them on their feet and housed quickly		X	Opportunity Council pursued and received a capacity building foundation grant to pay for 0.5 FTE of light touch services. The City is considering additional funding for light touch services.			
* Supported employment programs	Assess existing workforce development programs, cultivate relationships with employers and/or develop linkages among programs to better serve clients who are homeless and formerly homeless			Opportunity Council is in the process of two related initiatives: 1. Expanding employment services in a new dedicated space at 625 Cornwall Ave. 2. Exploring the feasibility of adding a new Supported Employment program as part of the WA State Healthcare Authority's Medicaid Transformation initiative.			
* Insurance for landlords	Create an insurance or damage mitigation fund to minimize the risks to landlords renting to tenants with no/poor rental history			Opportunity Council is investigating the feasibility of establishing such a fund in Bellingham, and will draft a set of recommendations early this year.			