



HOMELESS STRATEGIES WORKGROUP

February 19, 2020

Executive Satpal Sidhu
Whatcom County
311 Grand Avenue, Suite 108
Bellingham, WA 98225

Regina Delahunt, Director
Whatcom County Health Department
509 Girard Street
Bellingham, WA 98225

Dear Executive Sidhu and Director Delahunt,

As you may know, Governor Inslee is proposing to the Washington State Legislature that \$7,600,000 of the state's general fund be appropriated in fiscal year 2020 and \$41,000,000 in fiscal year 2021 for the purpose of increasing local temporary shelter capacity – see attached email from Joe Timmons, Office of Governor Jay Inslee. The appropriation includes conditions such as the submittal of a sheltering proposal that aligns with its local homeless housing plan under RCW 43.185C.050, a maximum reimbursement per day for additional persons sheltered, a cap on reimbursement per shelter bed prior to occupancy, and other criteria.

At the February 14, 2020 meeting of the Homeless Strategies Workgroup (HSW), members discussed the need to be prepared with project ideas to submit if the proposed allocation is approved by the legislature and funding is made available. HSW members approved a motion to request that the Whatcom County Health Department and the City of Bellingham prepare and coordinate on potential project ideas so that our community is ready to seize this funding opportunity. As Chair of the Homeless Strategies Workgroup and on behalf of HSW members, I am writing to ask that you and your staff prepare ideas in anticipation of this funding request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barry A. Buchanan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Barry Buchanan
Chair, Homeless Strategies Workgroup

c: Correspondence file
Encl.: Email from Joe Timmons, Office of Governor Jay Inslee
BB/ch

From: "Timmons, Joe (GOV)" <Joe.Timmons@gov.wa.gov>
Subject: RE: Governor Inslee's homelessness priorities
Date: February 12, 2020 at 11:15:01 AM PST
To: "milliquist@cob.org" <milliquist@cob.org>
Cc: "Baumgart, Jim (GOV)" <jim.baumgart@gov.wa.gov>

Hello Councilmember,

As a follow up, I also wanted to include the sheltering budget proviso the Governor is asking the Legislature to consider.

\$7,600,000 of the general fund – state appropriation for fiscal year 2020 and \$41,000,000 of the general fund – state appropriation in fiscal year 2021 are provided for increasing local temporary shelter capacity. The appropriation in this section is subject to the following conditions and limitations:

- (1) *A city or county applying for grant funding shall submit a sheltering proposal aligns with its local homeless housing plan under RCW 43.185C.050. This proposal must include at a minimum:*
 - a. *A strategy for outreach to bring currently unsheltered individuals into shelter;*
 - b. *Strategies for connecting sheltered individuals to services including but not limited to: behavioral health, chemical dependency, education or workforce training, and employment services;*
 - c. *An estimate on average length of stay;*
 - d. *An estimate of the percentage of persons sheltered who will exit to permanent housing destinations and an estimate of those that are expected to return to homelessness;*
 - e. *An assessment of existing shelter capacity in the jurisdiction, and the net increase in shelter capacity that will be funded with the state grant;*
 - f. *Other appropriate measures as determined by the department.*
- (2) *The Department shall not reimburse more than \$56 per day per net additional person sheltered above the baseline of shelter occupancy prior to award of the funding. Eligible uses of funds include shelter operations, shelter maintenance, shelter rent, loan repayment, case management, navigation to other services, efforts to address potential impacts of shelters on surrounding neighborhoods, and outreach directly related to bringing unsheltered people into shelter. The Department shall coordinate with local governments to encourage cost-sharing through local matching funds.*
- (3) *The Department shall not reimburse more than \$10,000 per shelter bed prior to occupancy, for costs associated with creating additional shelter capacity or improving existing shelters to improve occupancy rates and successful outcomes. Eligible costs prior to occupancy include acquisition, construction, equipment, staff costs, and other costs directly related to creating additional shelter capacity.*
- (4) *For the purposes of this proviso shelter shall mean: Any facility, the primary purpose of which is to provide space for homeless in general or for specific populations of homeless. The shelter must be: structurally sound to protect occupants from the elements and not pose any threat to health or safety, must have means of natural or mechanical ventilation, must be accessible to persons with disabilities, and the site must have hygiene facilities, which must be accessible but do not need to be in the structure.*

Thanks,
Joe

Joe Timmons (He/Him/His)

Northwest Washington Regional Representative | Office of Governor Jay Inslee
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