



Snohomish County
Office of the Executive
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County Receives Funding for Homelessness Prevention

The State Department of Community, Trade & Economic Development (CTED) has awarded Snohomish County \$1,184,007 in new funds for a pilot project focused on ending homelessness. Snohomish County was one of nine agencies selected to receive funding out of nineteen submissions.

“Project Ladder” will serve youth aging out of foster care, and families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Families experiencing domestic violence will receive priority.

“Domestic Violence is a leading cause of homelessness among women and children, and the vast majority of homeless single mothers are survivors of domestic violence” said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. “This innovative program will enable the survivors of domestic violence to regain control over their lives. It provides both housing stability, and assistance in developing the skills needed not just to survive, but to thrive.”

Project Ladder takes a two-pronged approach to combating homelessness. First, the program will provide housing vouchers, enabling the project participants to be rapidly re-housed. Second, the program provides each client with tailored case management services focused on long term self-sufficiency, including vocational, employment, and financial literacy training.

The County will subcontract for services with local agencies with proven track records. Catholic Community Services will provide support services to families, while Cocoon House will provide services to youth aging out of foster care.

State funding for the program comes from the State Homeless Grant Assistance Program (HGAP). HGAP was first launched in 2006 to provide grants to counties for innovative projects that reduce homelessness and demonstrate systems change by integrating criminal justice, social service, health, and other state and local systems. In addition, the County will contribute \$590,219 in funding for the project from the County’s Ending Homelessness Fund.

In 2006, Executive Reardon unveiled “Everyone At Home NOW,” the County’s 10-year plan to end homelessness. “We cannot accept, nor afford the social and financial cost of homelessness in Snohomish County,” said Executive Reardon. “More than just housing, Everyone At Home NOW and programs like Project Ladder offer people hope and opportunity to achieve beyond what would have been possible if still homeless.”

For more information, contact Deanna Dawson, Executive Director, Snohomish County Executive Office at (425) 388-3297.