



Snohomish County
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“Point in Time” count measures homelessness in Snohomish County

Snohomish County- On Thursday, January 25 the annual Point in Time homelessness count was conducted. County officials spearheaded the coordinated effort across Snohomish County which included hundreds of volunteers and spanned multiple organizations. The count is used to determine the size and scope of the homeless population in the county and is required by both the State and Federal government.

Preliminary results find that there are 2,734 homeless persons in Snohomish County. Information surveyed during the count found that 225 persons have no shelter, 129 live in emergency shelters, 400 live in transitional housing, 277 live with family or friends, 43 live in a hotel/motel and some survey respondents did not indicate their shelter situation. The Snohomish County Department of Human Services is expected to release a comprehensive report of the data by the end of March.

Initial comparisons with 2006 data find that 13% of homeless persons live in emergency shelters (19% in 2006), 39% live in transitional housing (39% in 2006), 22% are unsheltered (27% in 2006), and 27% live with family or friends (15% in 2006).

“This is an important snapshot of homelessness in Snohomish County.,” says Executive Reardon. “This count highlights the continued need to promote safe, affordable housing in Snohomish County.”

In June of 2006, Executive Aaron Reardon joined with U.S. Senator Patty Murray and Philip F. Mangano, Executive Director of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness to kick off “Everyone at Home Now,” a strategy for ending homelessness. The plan calls for the creation of 2500 new units of affordable housing; increased permanent housing coupled with the support services necessary to prevent homelessness. The plan recognizes that preventing homelessness is both financially and socially the best solution, but in the instances where prevention is not possible, the proper resources and

opportunities need to be accessible to allow individuals to minimize the amount of time spent in transition.

More information about the “Everyone at Home Now” plan to end homelessness can be accessed at

http://www.co.snohomish.wa.us/documents/Departments/Human_Services/EveryoneatHomeNow06.pdf.

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