



Snohomish County
Office of the Executive
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Media Advisory – February 15, 2008

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Federal funds offered for housing, homeless projects

Snohomish County will receive and share more than \$1.1 million in federal funding this year for homelessness projects and more than \$5.2 million in federal grants to provide housing opportunities.

Both sets of funds come from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and are to be used to reduce the number of homeless living in Snohomish County as well as to provide new affordable housing and community development opportunities.

“Utilizing this mix of federal funds and local resources allows us to achieve our goals of providing more housing to low- and middle-income families and to ending homelessness in Snohomish County,” said County Executive Aaron Reardon. “The amount of funding we’re receiving speaks to the efforts that our human services department and coordinating agencies are making to tackle these issues.”

The county successfully applied for funding from HUD’s McKinney-Vento homeless assistance program and was awarded \$1,102,317. The county will use the money to provide leasing and operating costs and supportive services for homeless households participating in 11 different projects and programs.

Snohomish County’s Department of Human Services will distribute these funds among a number of nonprofits that make up the Snohomish County Continuum of Care program.

The Snohomish County Continuum of Care is a collection of public, private and nonprofit social-service agencies working together to end homelessness in Snohomish County.

Funding will be used to support a number of transitional and permanent housing options including the Cocoon Complex, the Monte Cristo Permanent Supportive Housing Program, VOA transitional housing for families and domestic violence transitional housing.

“Ongoing collaboration with our service providers has resulted in this win of competitive funds,” said Cindy Hart, acting Human Services Director. “We look forward to continued creativity from and cooperation with the public, private and nonprofit agencies to accomplish our goals.”

The \$5,245,220 in additional HUD funding comes in the form of annual Community Development Block Grants, HOME Investment Partnerships, the American Dream Downpayment Initiative and Emergency Shelter Grants.

As part of the county's plan to provide affordable housing to Snohomish County, funding will be used to continue education and assistance programs throughout the region, in addition to creating new opportunities for families looking to purchase a new home.

During the past three years, Snohomish County has increased its affordable housing units by more than 1,000. But county officials acknowledge more must be done to provide housing for all residents living in Snohomish County.

In addition, recent numbers show more than 1,800 homeless living in Snohomish County. The new numbers were part of the 2008 Point in Time count, a federal and state requirement for receiving such funding.

Snohomish County has pledged to end homelessness by 2016, and HUD is determined to end chronic homelessness nationwide during that time.

HUD also is urging local programs to focus some funding on veterans and their families, especially wounded soldiers returning from service in Iraq and Afghanistan. Snohomish County will continue to review and improve services offered to veterans residing here.

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