

## **Media Advisory – Sept. 1, 2009**

**Contact: Christopher Schwarzen**

Office: 425-388-3883

Email: Christopher.Schwarzen@snoco.org

### **County renews homeless voucher program**

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon has renewed a program that provides housing for homeless individuals and families.

Since the fall of 2008, 36 formerly homeless individuals and households have been provided with service-enriched, permanent housing through resources associated with the county's Office of Housing, Homelessness and Community Development.

A total of 40 homeless vouchers will continue to be funded by Snohomish County's 2009-2010 Ending Homelessness Program funds and administered by the Housing Authority of Snohomish County (HASCO). Funding for the vouchers comes from surcharges to document recording fees, which is collected by the Snohomish County Auditor's office and disbursed by the county's Human Services Department under the Executive Office.

"We understand that providing more affordable housing is one key to ending homelessness in Snohomish County," said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. "Renewal of this program maintains stability for 40 families who otherwise would not have had a home."

The priority populations for these vouchers are veterans and their families as well as non-veteran single adults with disabilities and their families.

"Snohomish County continues to take the lead in fighting homelessness," said Bob Davis, HASCO's executive director. "Every additional voucher is valuable when thousands of families are looking for help."

The Workforce Development Council of Snohomish County, Washington Home of Your Own and the Snohomish County Veterans' Assistance Program will provide supportive services for each household utilizing the rental subsidy.

Snohomish County is working to advance the goal of "Everyone at Home Now," Snohomish County's 10-year plan to end homelessness. During this year's Point In Time count, more than a 2,300 individuals in nearly 1,500 households were considered homeless.

Among the county's goals is the production of 2,500 permanent housing units for homeless persons. These 40 vouchers will work toward accomplishing that goal.

For more information on this program or others related to affordable housing, contact Dean Weitenhagen at 425-388-3267 or [dean.weitenhagen@snoco.org](mailto:dean.weitenhagen@snoco.org).

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