

# Addressing Instability through Innovation: Our Approach to Homelessness in Snohomish County

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Puget Sound Regional Council

Toolbox Series

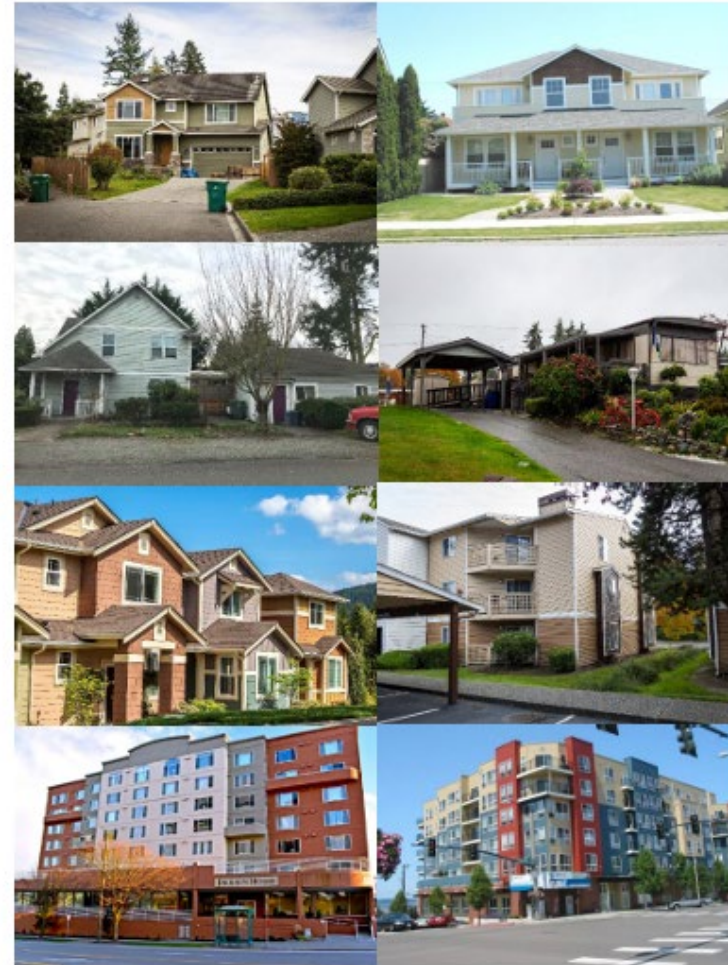
June 26, 2026



Snohomish County

What is the  
Scope of the  
Need for  
Housing in  
Snohomish  
County?

## Housing Characteristics and Needs in Snohomish County



# Projected Housing Needs 2020-2044

**Table 2: Projected Countywide Housing Needs Based on User Inputs  
Snohomish County**

Population Target = 1,136,309

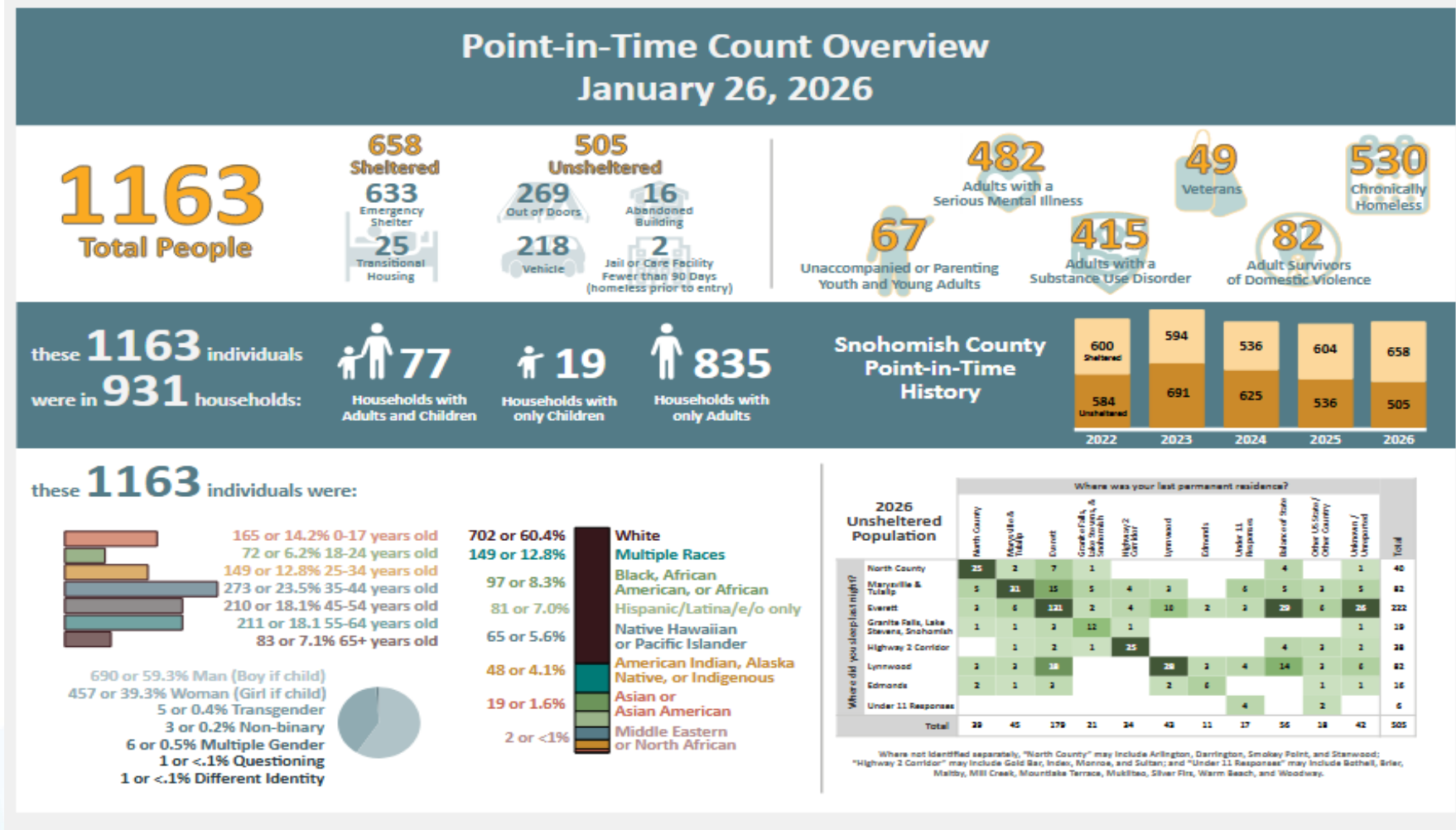
	Affordability Level (% of Area Median Income)								Emergency Housing/Shelter Beds
	Total	0-30%		30-50%	50-80%	80-100%	100-120%	120%+	
		Non-PSH	PSH						
Total Future Housing Needed (2044)	484,791	38,246	16,887	66,435	84,311	76,532	66,172	136,208	11,127
Estimated Housing Supply (2020)*	317,348	9,249	1,749	42,985	67,180	62,562	49,788	83,835	777
Net New Housing Needed (2020-2044)	167,443	28,997	15,138	23,450	17,131	13,970	16,384	52,373	10,350

\* Note: Supply of PSH in 2020 is beds. However, projections of Net New Housing Needed (2020-2044) are in housing units. See Overview tab for details.

Total Future Housing (2044)	100%	8%	3%	14%	17%	16%	14%	28%
Baseline Housing Supply (2020)	100%	3%	1%	14%	21%	20%	16%	26%
Net New Housing Needed (2020-2044)	100%	17%	9%	14%	10%	8%	10%	31%



# Who is Experiencing Homelessness in Snohomish County?



these **1163** individuals were in **931** households:

**77**  
Households with Adults and Children

**19**  
Households with only Children

**835**  
Households with only Adults

### Snohomish County Point-in-Time History

600 Sheltered	594	536	604	658
584 Unsheltered	691	625	536	505
2022	2023	2024	2025	2026

these **1163** individuals were:

- 165 or 14.2% 0-17 years old
- 72 or 6.2% 18-24 years old
- 149 or 12.8% 25-34 years old
- 273 or 23.5% 35-44 years old
- 210 or 18.1% 45-54 years old
- 211 or 18.1% 55-64 years old
- 83 or 7.1% 65+ years old

- 690 or 59.3% Man (Boy if child)
- 457 or 39.3% Woman (Girl if child)
- 5 or 0.4% Transgender
- 3 or 0.2% Non-binary
- 6 or 0.5% Multiple Gender
- 1 or <.1% Questioning
- 1 or <.1% Different Identity

Where did you sleep last night?

	Where was your last permanent residence?											Total
	North County	Marysville/Tulalip	Everett	Granite Falls, Lake Stevens, Snohomish	Highway 2 Corridor	Lynnwood	Edmonds	Under 11 Responses	Balance of State	Other US State/Other Country	Unknown/Unreported	
North County	25	2	7	1					4		1	40
Marysville & Tulalip	5	21	15	5	4	2		5	5	3	5	82
Everett	1	5	121	2	4	10	2	2	29	6	26	222
Granite Falls, Lake Stevens, Snohomish	1	1	2	12	1						1	19
Highway 2 Corridor			1	2	1	25			4	2	1	28
Lynnwood	2	2	28			28	2	4	14	2	6	82
Edmonds	2	1	2			2	6			1	1	16
Under 11 Responses								4		2		6
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>505</b>

Where not identified separately, "North County" may include Arlington, Darrington, Smokey Point, and Stanwood; "Highway 2 Corridor" may include Gold Bar, Index, Monroe, and Sultan; and "Under 11 Responses" may include Bothell, Brierley, Malibu, Mill Creek, Mountlake Terrace, Mukilteo, Silver Fir, Warm Beach, and Woodway.



# History of County/City Collaboration

# HART

Report and Five-Year Action Plan

Published January 2020



## HART'S MISSION

*Collaboratively develop a five-year action plan that identifies priorities for county and city governments to accelerate our collective ability to meet the housing affordability needs of all Snohomish County residents and set a foundation for continued success through 2050*

## 8 Key Early Action Items

1. *Encourage cities to enter into cooperation agreements with the Housing Authority of Snohomish County (HASCO) and Everett Housing Authority.*
2. *Implement the state sales tax shift to local governments for up to 20 years to fund low-income housing authorized by HB 1406, and adopted by Legislature in 2019.*
3. *Lobby for changes in state and federal law that will enable more consolidated and streamlined funding to support low-income housing.*
4. *Review and consider recommendations from existing toolkits to engage communities around the issue of housing affordability.*
5. *Foster community conversations about density.*
6. *Engage private sector stakeholders – large employers, others – in helping to find solutions to our housing affordability challenge.*
7. *Confirm and support an ongoing structure for regional collaboration around production of housing affordable across the income spectrum.*
8. *Track progress on the Action Plan.*



# Transition to Snohomish County Tomorrow



Snohomish County Tomorrow (SCT) is a cooperative and collaborative public inter-jurisdictional forum consisting of representatives from the county and nineteen of the cities as well as the Tulalip Tribes. SCT's goal for Snohomish County, the cities and tribes in Snohomish County is to partner and work together for the betterment of all citizens in Snohomish County and the region. SCT's primary function is to oversee the [Countywide Planning Policies](#) (CPP) which are written policies used solely for the purpose of establishing a countywide framework from which the county and cities' comprehensive plans are developed.



**SNOHOMISH COUNTY**  
**2024 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

RESILIENT • VIBRANT • INCLUSIVE



# Community Voices and Plans



**Snohomish County**  
Human Services

November 2023

## Housing and Behavioral Health Capital Fund

An Investment Plan to Preserve and Build Affordable Housing and Behavioral Health Facilities in Snohomish County

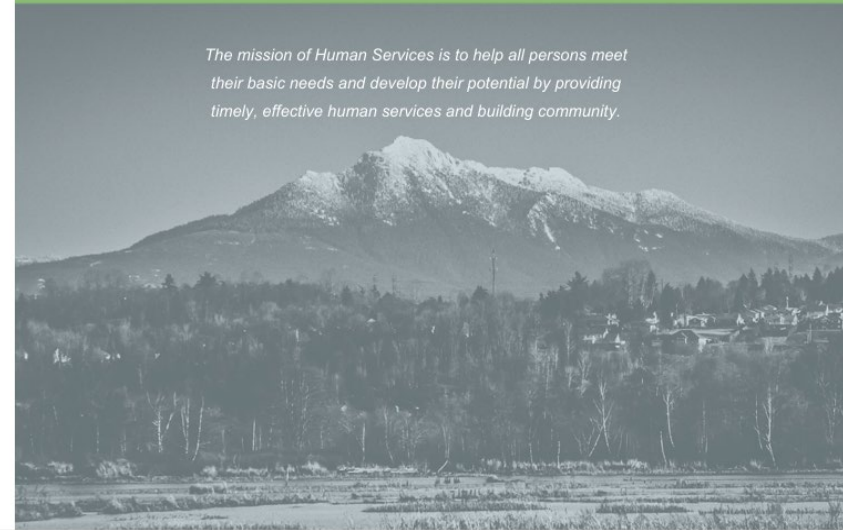
*The mission of Human Services is to help all persons meet their basic needs and develop their potential by providing timely, effective human services and building community.*



**Snohomish County**  
Human Services

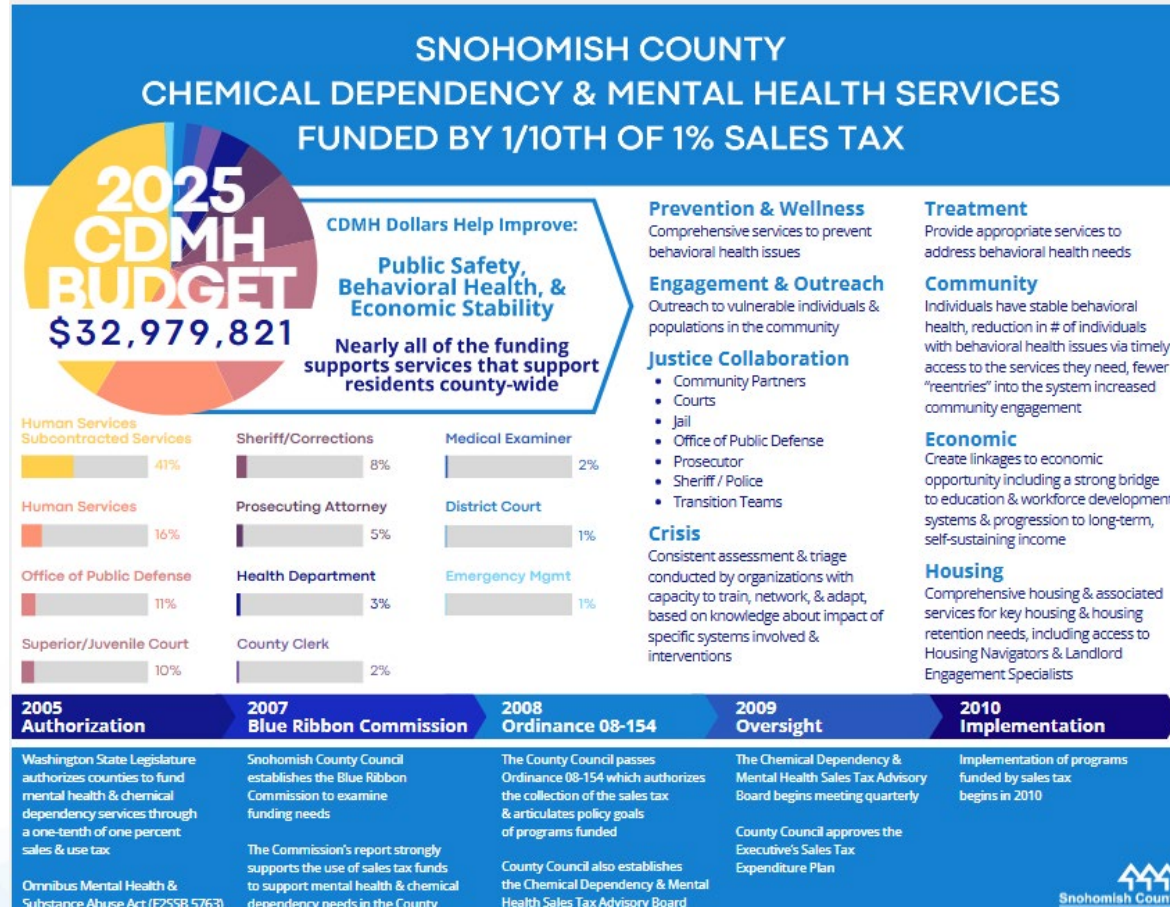
## Homeless Prevention and Response System Strategic Plan

*The mission of Human Services is to help all persons meet their basic needs and develop their potential by providing timely, effective human services and building community.*

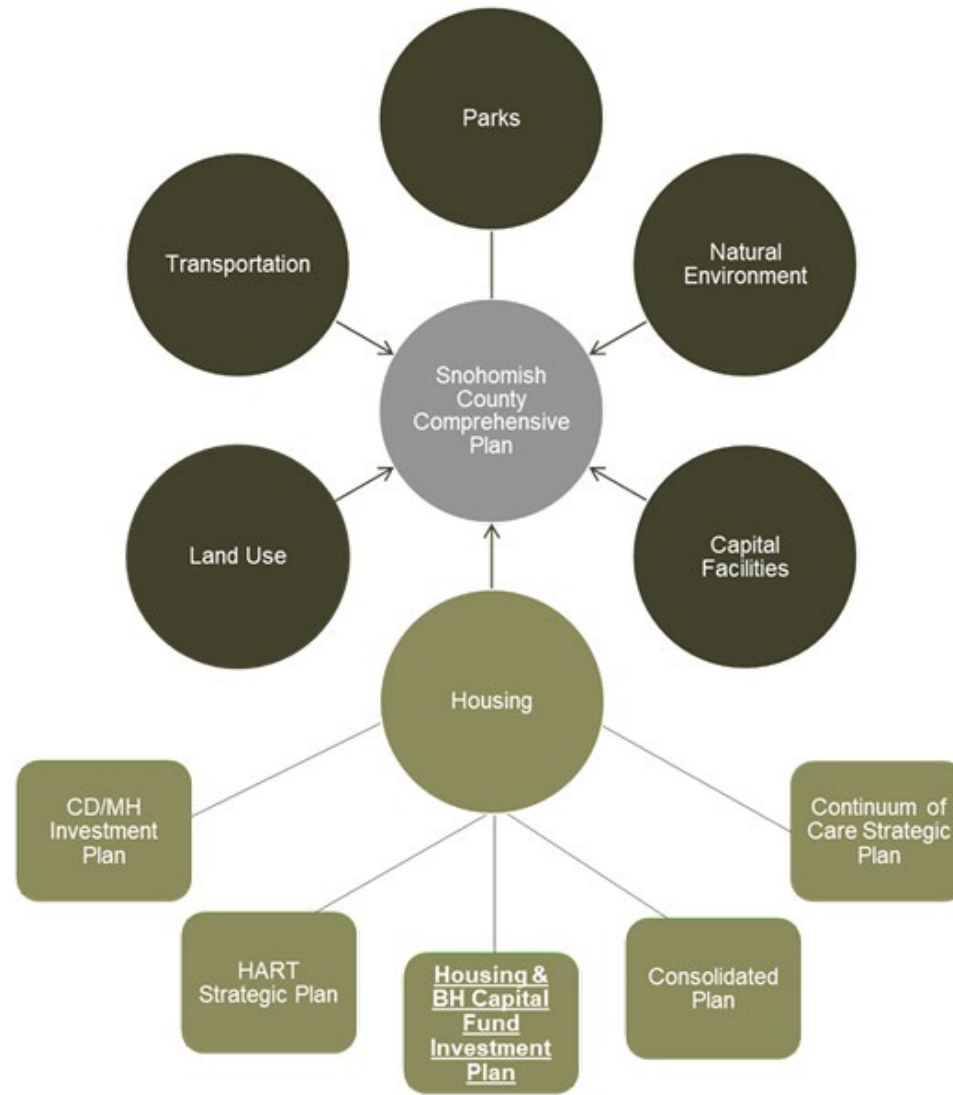


**Snohomish County**

# Collaboration with Public Health and Law and Justice



# Ecosystem and Plans



# A History of Innovation to Address Homelessness

New Theory of Action

Coordinated Entry System

Navigators

SCOUT and city street outreach efforts

Diversion Center

Carnegie Resource Center

Safe Parks

Pallet Shelters

Graduated Shelters

Creative Resolution

# Introducing a New Service Model: Emergency Bridge Housing

# What is Emergency Bridge Housing?

Referred to as a “New Start Center” with two locations, Edmonds & Everett, both operating under the same requirements:

*A type of temporary accommodation designed to help people experiencing homelessness transition to permanent housing. It serves as a "bridge" between an urgent need to house those experiencing homelessness as quickly as possible, while providing a range of services designed to support people moving to permanent housing. Services may be more intensive or frequent to meet the needs of those housed. Services include behavioral health services, employment services, medical care, and other services that are provided onsite or through coordinated access to offsite services. Emergency Bridge Housing is focused on navigating the complex needs and services that move people toward permanent housing placement.*

# How is It Different from Emergency Shelter?

While classified as emergency shelters, the New Start Centers are not drop-in, low-barrier-to-entry shelters

The Centers are accessed by referral only

Referral Partners inform clients about Center requirements

Like other emergency shelters, the Centers are not filled through Coordinated Entry



New Start Centers are intended for clients who are already connected to services and are actively engaging with Referral Partners to obtain permanent housing



New Start Centers have a more structured and restrictive environment than many emergency shelters but do not operate on a WAQRR Level 1 or 2 recovery housing model

# New Start Center Edmonds History

- August 2022 – Snohomish County purchased the future home of New Start Center Edmonds
- March 2025 – YWCA of Seattle | King | Snohomish was selected as the site operator for the Center
- January 2026 – Snohomish County Council approved the contract for the Center to be operated by the YWCA

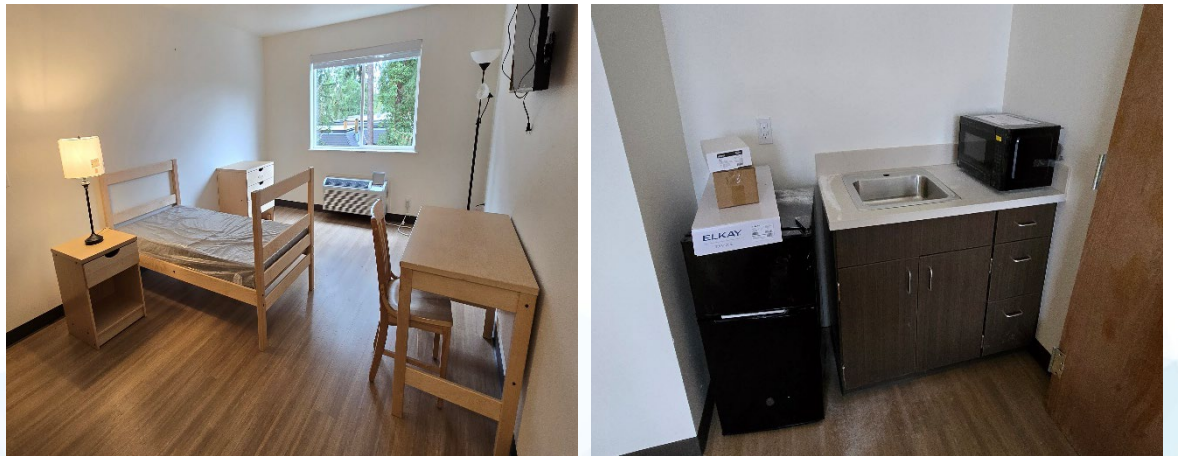
*Before Photos*



# New Start Center Edmonds Current Status

- March 2026 to Present – YWCA hiring & training staff
- May 2026 – Construction finished & the YWCA takes occupancy
- June 29, 2026 – Ribbon Cutting
- July 2026 – YWCA starts accepting referrals
- November 2026 - Four-month ramp up for filling all units

*Current Photos*



# New Start Center Everett History

- August 2022 – Snohomish County purchased the future home of New Start Center Everett
- November 2024 – The Salvation Army was selected by Snohomish County as the site operator for the Center
- January 2026 – Snohomish County Council approved the contract for the Center to be operated by The Salvation Army



# New Start Center Everett Current Status

- May 2026 to Present – The Salvation Army hiring & training staff
- June 2026 – Construction finished on Phase I & The Salvation Army takes occupancy
- August 2026 – Ribbon Cutting
- August 2026 – The Salvation Army starts accepting referrals
- December 2026 – Four-month ramp up for filling all units



# Client Eligibility Requirements

## Client Must Be:

- At least 18 years old
- Experiencing Homelessness (HUD definition Category 1)
- At or below 50% area median income
- Currently:
  - Residing in a shelter operated by a Referral Partner; OR
  - In consistent contact with a Referral Partner; AND
  - Actively engaging in activities to achieve housing stability
- Able to manage activities of daily living

## Client Must Not:

- Have a conviction within the last 5 years of:
  - Manufacture or distribution of a controlled substance
  - A crime of violence (assault, homicide, arson, property damage, etc.)
- Be a Level I Non-Compliant or above Registered Sex Offender
- Have used substances within the past 30 days
  - Based on combination of service provider knowledge & client self-report, not a drug test
  - This includes legal substances like alcohol & marijuana
- Cigarettes & nicotine use are allowed in designated areas

# Referral Process Overview



Eligibility requirements are approved by the Snohomish County Council and cannot be changed without Council approval

They will be reassessed by the Council within the first year and could change based on gathered program data



Client referrals will only come through approved Referral Partners

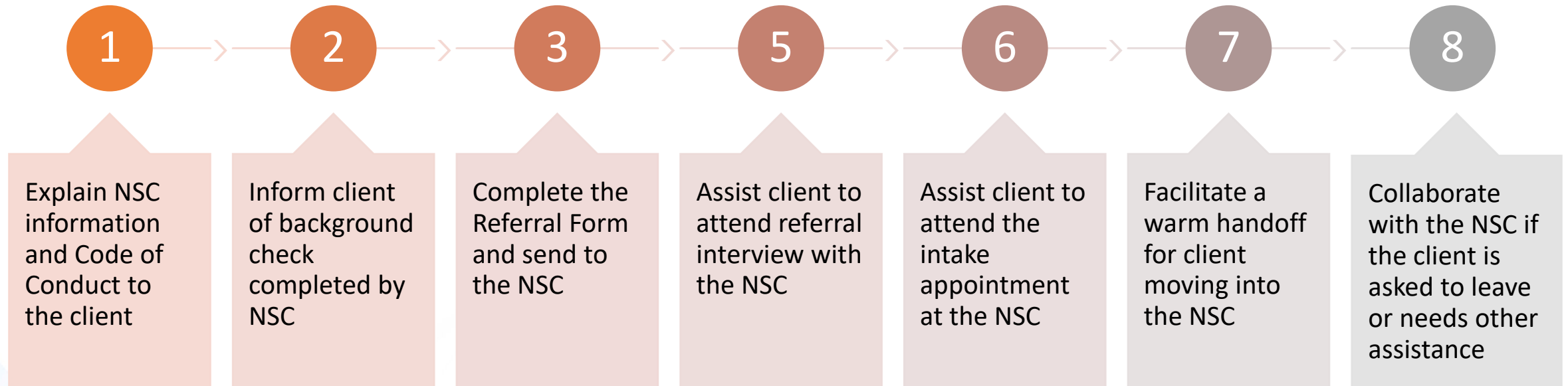
Snohomish County Emergency Bridge Housing Referral Partner Agreement will be provided to each agency



Client referrals will go to the New Start Center Site Operator

Reviews the Referral Form & will speak with the Referral Partner & conduct an interview with the client

# Role of Referral Partner in Referral Process



# Lessons Learned

There is not enough housing and there are not enough behavioral health services to meet the need – an innovative response is needed

Community partners and advisory boards play a key role in guiding innovation

Innovation is enhanced, not hindered, by many voices and points of view

It is important to ask how a given approach or strategy adds to and helps balance the “ecosystem” – it is critical to prevent one issue from monopolizing all the oxygen

It is important to think of context – what is needed and when – the system needs to be flexible to respond to changes in economic and social conditions beyond our scope

It takes time – we didn’t get here overnight and we won’t address our challenges overnight either but we need to think in terms of progress rather than assume the fault is in ourselves and represents failure – the only failure would be not trying

# Questions?

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Snohomish County