



# TOOLBOX Resource Sheet

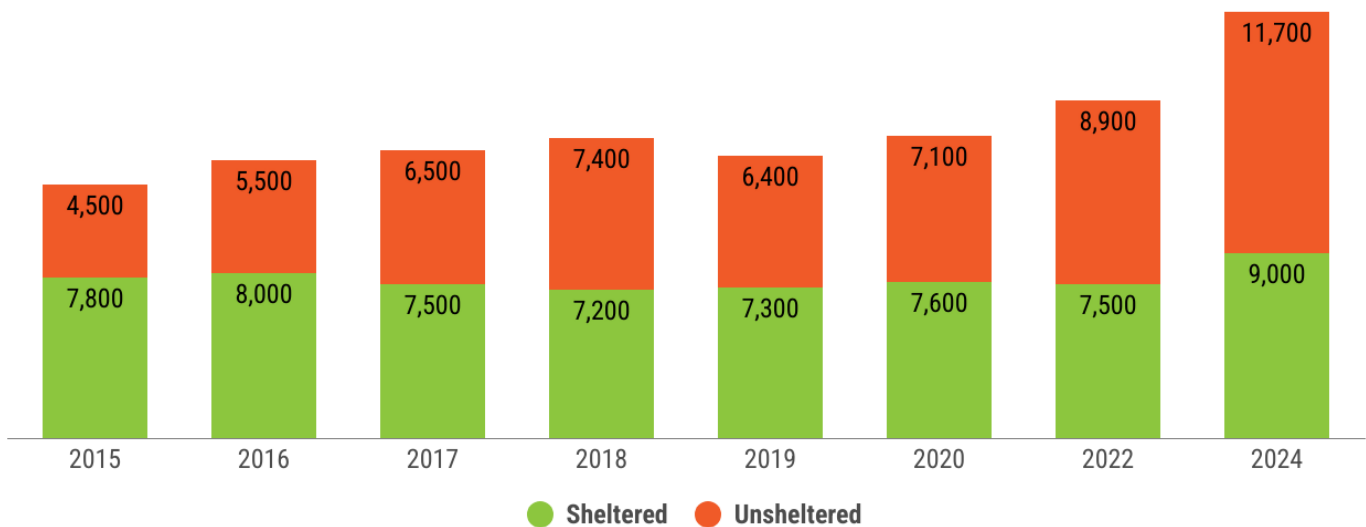
## Local Approaches to Housing and Supportive Services

June 26, 2026

### Background

Homelessness is a persistent challenge that impacts all corners of the region and requires a coordinated response from local governments and service providers. The number of people experiencing homelessness in the central Puget Sound region has nearly doubled over the past decade. Over the same period, the number of unsheltered individuals tripled in our region.

People Experiencing Homelessness in the Central Puget Sound Region, 2015-2024



Source: HUD Point-in-time (PIT) Counts, 2015-2024 by Continuum of Care (CoC). King, Pierce, Snohomish Counties

State housing legislation has brought changes to local planning requirements in recent years. Jurisdictions have recently incorporated housing targets for emergency housing and shelters alongside permanent housing in recent comprehensive plan updates. In the 2026 Legislative Session, HB 2266 requires jurisdictions to allow transitional and permanent supportive housing in residential and hotel development zones within the urban growth area.



Puget Sound Regional Council

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### Featured Case Studies

[North Kitsap Recovery Resource Center and Recovery Café](#) | **City of Poulsbo:** The North Kitsap Recovery Café is a drug and alcohol-free community space that provides long-term recovery support to people experiencing mental health issues, homelessness, and substance use disorder. The Café is part of the international Recovery Café Network and is the first city-run Recovery Café. It operates alongside a City-run Resource Center that offers easy access to peer support, housing, mental health and substance use disorder services.

[Homelessness Continuum of Care Action Plan](#) | **City of Kirkland:** In December 2025, City Council adopted Kirkland's first Homelessness Continuum of Care Action Plan. The Action Plan includes over 70 actions spread across six goal areas: Prevention; Outreach; Emergency Shelter Services; Temporary Shelter and Housing; Subsidized Permanent Housing; and Program Delivery and System Support.

[New Start Centers](#) | **Snohomish County:** Snohomish County is opening two "New Start Centers" that will provide more than 125 total units of bridge housing in Everett and Edmonds. In 2022, Snohomish County acquired and renovated two hotel properties using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and the county's Affordable Housing and Behavioral Health tax. The properties are being converted to emergency bridge housing with wraparound services and will be operated by nonprofit partners.

### Further Reading

[Homeless Response Funding Overview](#) | **NYU Furman Center Housing Solutions Lab:** The Housing Solutions Lab provides a detailed review of federal homeless assistance funding programs, examples of how states and local governments have made use of these funds, and profiles several cities' efforts to bolster local responses. The center's [Homeless Response Peer Network](#) is an opportunity for local housing agencies and Continuums of Care (CoCs) to strengthen local coordination and partnerships. Applications are live through July 17, 2026.

[Zoning Alternatives to Penalizing Homelessness \(Zoning Practice Vol. 43 No. 1\)](#) | **APA:** This issue of *Zoning Practice* explores regulatory alternatives to criminalizing homelessness. Following a discussion of the state of homelessness and the costs of criminalization, it outlines zoning and land-use-based solutions that balance the rights of the unhoused with a jurisdiction's duty to promote public health, safety, and welfare.



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