

The Road Home

Spokane Regional Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness

2009 Annual Update



July 2010

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This annual report for the calendar year of 2009 reflects an ongoing need and commitment to reduce homelessness by 50% by 2015 within the Spokane Regional Continuum of Care (CoC). Our first planning process took place in 2005 in response to the State requirement for local jurisdictions to establish Ten Year Plans to End Homelessness in their communities. Since that time, a task force composed of a broad range of community leaders met over the course of 2008 to update the Plan, resulting in *The Road Home, the Spokane Regional 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness*. This document represents our first annual report as a supplement to support the action steps and strategies outlined in *The Road Home*.

2009 was a very exciting year for our Regional CoC. During 2009 our Regional CoC worked together to envision a centralized intake system to provide greater assistance to our clients. Improved Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) training and technical assistance has been provided to partner agencies with an increased commitment by the City of Spokane Human Services Department. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided funding to the City of Spokane and Spokane County to implement Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP) programs that assist homeless households and households at risk of homelessness to achieve stabilize housing.

Spokane Low Income Housing Consortium (SLIHC) was awarded a grant from the Campion Foundation to assist in the planning efforts to reduce homelessness within the Spokane Regional CoC. In August, the Human Services Department and SLIHC partnered to sponsor an all-day training event with Data Systems International (DSI) to improve data quality and the use of HMIS as we move toward a centralized intake model. Additionally, several agency surveys were conducted to help shape what our local centralized intake model might look like. The result of our combined efforts was a drafting of a Spokane HMIS Partner Agency Agreement. Once finalized, this agreement will allow service provider agencies to share client data with other partner agencies (with client approval).

On January 29, 2009 the Spokane Regional CoC conducted the annual One Day Homeless Count. Data from the One Day Count reveals progress made toward reducing the number of homeless by 50% by 2015. Between 2006 and 2010 data indicates a reduction in the number of homeless persons counted by 23%. This measurement helps our regional CoC realize the progress being made toward our goal to reduce homelessness.

We hope that this annual update will provide a clear picture of the accomplishments made during 2009 and offer additional data from 2010 to illustrate our ongoing progress. We have made significant progress, but there remains work to be done to meet our desired objective to reduce homelessness by 50% by 2015.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
TABLES AND FIGURES	4
1.0 TEN-YEAR PLAN BACKGROUND	4
2005 Ten-Year Plan	5
2005 Spokane Regional Strategies	5
2008 Ten-Year Plan Update	6
2.0 MEASURING OUR PROGRESS	8
Strategies	8
Measurements	8
Conclusion	10
3.0 ACTION STEPS	11
Ten-Year Plan Action Steps	11
Continuum of Care – HUD Program Goals and Annual Actions	17
4.0 2010 ONE DAY COUNT	20
Historical Change in Homeless Population	20
Homeless Veterans	21
Race	23
Age	24
Gender	25
Homeless Singles	25
Homeless Families and Persons in Homeless Families	26
Cause for Homelessness	27
Instances of Homelessness	28
Chronic Homelessness	28
Doubled Up	29
Conclusion	30
5.0 2009 HMIS DATA REPORT	31
Homeless Singles	31
Homeless Families	31
Domestic Violence	31
Homeless Veterans	31

Chronic Homelessness	32
Independent Youth	32
Conclusion	33
6.0 CHANGING HOUSING NEEDS	34
Populations Served	34
Housing Inventory	35
Emergency Shelter	35
Transitional Housing	35
Permanent Housing	36
Conclusion	36
7.0 SOURCE OF FUNDS	37
2009 Total Funding Allocation	37
Regional Funding Allocations	38
Federal Funding Sources	39
Federal Stimulus Funds	40
Washington State Funding Sources	41
Local Funding Sources	41
Conclusion	42
8.0 PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER	43
Conclusion	43
APPENDIX: A	44
2009 & 2010 Transitional/Permanent Housing Gap Analysis	44
APPENDIX: B	45
2009 Funding Distribution by Source	45
APPENDIX: C	46
2009 FEDERAL STIMULUS FUNDS DISTRIBUTION MATRIX	46
APPENDIX: D	47
GRANTS AWARDED DEFINITIONS	47

TABLES AND FIGURES

TABLE 2.1: Key Indicators	9
TABLE 4.1: Historical Change in Homeless Population (2007-2010)	21
TABLE 4.5: 2010 One Day Count Statistics – Homeless Veterans	23
TABLE 5.1: Annual HMIS Data Change in Subpopulations	32
TABLE 6.2: 2009 - Year-Round Beds/Units	35
FIGURE 2.2: Locally Created Indicators Trend line: 2006-2010	9
FIGURE 4.2: One Day Count Change in Population: 2006-2010	21
FIGURE 4.3: Homeless Veteran Population: 2010 One Day Count	22
FIGURE 4.4: Veterans Benefits: 2010 One Day Count	23
FIGURE 4.6: Homeless Population by Race: 2010 One Day Count	24
FIGURE 4.7: Homeless Age Distribution: 2010 One Day Count	24
FIGURE 4.8: Homeless Population by Gender: 2010 One Day Count	25
FIGURE 4.9: Homeless Singles by Gender: 2007-2010	26
FIGURE 4.10: Homeless Families and persons in homeless families: 2007-2010	27
FIGURE 4.11: Reported Cause for Homelessness: 2010 One Day Count	27
FIGURE 4.12: Reported Instances of Homelessness: 2010 One Day Count	28
FIGURE 4.13: Chronic Homelessness: 2007-2010	29
FIGURE 4.14: Doubled Up Count	30
FIGURE 5.2: HMIS Data Comparison 2008 and 2009	33
FIGURE 6.1: 2009 - Year-Round Beds/Units	34
FIGURE 6.3: Historical Change in Total Year-Round Beds/Units: 2007-2009	36
FIGURE 7.1: 2009 Fund Award Allocation	37
FIGURE 7.2: Total Funding Allocations for Regional CoC	38
FIGURE 7.3: Total Funding Allocations by Funding Source – 2009	39
FIGURE 7.4: Total Federal Funds: Allocation by Grant Type	39
FIGURE 7.5: Total Stimulus Funds Awarded	40
FIGURE 7.6: Stimulus Funds Awarded for use in 2009	40
FIGURE 7.7: Total Washington State Funds – Allocation by Grant Type	41
FIGURE 7.8: Total Local Funds – Allocation by Grant Type	42

1.0 TEN-YEAR PLAN BACKGROUND

The development of a Ten-Year Plan to reduce Homelessness by 50% by 2015 was enacted by the Washington State legislature in 2005. RCW 43.185C, was written to provide guidance to communities in support of their efforts to reduce homelessness. The Homelessness Housing and Assistance Act was designed to coordinate a statewide planning effort by allocating resources toward the issues relating to homelessness. Moreover, the Act requires the implementation of Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) and the annual One Day Count of homeless persons as a means to monitor our progress made toward reducing homelessness by 50% by 2015.

The origin of the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness came from the National Alliance to End Homelessness. In 2000, the National Alliance to End Homelessness published *A Plan: Not a Dream How to End Homelessness in Ten Years*. This publication was endorsed during 2001 by the secretary of HUD as a means for communities to begin drafting local plans to end homelessness.

2005 Ten-Year Plan

Planning efforts began in 2004 with the development of our regions first cooperative plan to address homelessness. This relationship between the City of Spokane and Spokane County was an effort to improve services and resources offered to the regions homeless population. The plan was directed to accomplish one central goal to significantly reduce the number of homeless persons in the Spokane region by 2015.

During the initial planning process there was significant discussion surrounding what this plan should look like. The consensus was to combine both City and County Continuums of Care and begin issuing annual homeless data reports to update the plan. Prior to the development of this plan (2005), the County and City were generating separate annual Continuum of Care reports. This aggregate planning approach lacked a robustness that inhibited some of the coordination and data analysis between local government and partner agencies.

Additional efforts were made to develop a list of action steps that would help direct the plan. Two action steps were identified to isolate a direction for future planning efforts. First, develop a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Spokane and Spokane County; second, establish a Citizen Oversight Committee. These action steps were intended to monitor regional progress of the strategies to reduce homelessness.

2005 Spokane Regional Strategies

- Move people into appropriate housing with appropriate supportive services
- Fully utilize existing resources

- Prevent homelessness
- Develop new funding sources
- Coordinate among regional jurisdictions
- Develop a communitywide response to homelessness
- Advocate for changes in public policy that inhibit the community's ability to address issues of chronic homelessness

2008 Ten-Year Plan Update

Throughout 2008, a taskforce composed of a broad range of community leaders met to update and re-invigorate Spokane's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness. In December of 2008, the Spokane County Board of Commissioners along with Mayor Mary Verner and the Spokane City Council, adopted and endorsed *The Road Home, the Spokane Regional 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness* as our updated plan. *The Road Home* is a comprehensive planning document that outlines the overall plan and action steps to achieve a 50% reduction in the number of persons facing homelessness in the Spokane region by 2015. In addition to strategies and action steps to guide our progress, *The Road Home* includes a set of guiding principles that are the tenants of the National Alliance to End Homelessness' America's Road Home Initiative, which were adopted by political leaders in both the City and the County of Spokane.

Guiding Principles

- Our primary goal is to end homelessness for all homelessness populations in our region
- Partnerships are essential to the effort to end homelessness and include government at all levels, the business community, schools, philanthropic organizations, non-profit organizations and faith-based organizations
- Local government accepts the responsibility of a leadership role in developing regional solutions to resolving homelessness
- All levels of government and our system of care must work cooperatively to end homelessness in our region
- Solutions must be outcome-based and sustainable

The Road Home envisioned 2009 as a year of transition from what was the current homeless planning and funding system to a more coordinated and consolidated approach. The first action step listed in the plan called for the creation and implementation of a Regional Homeless Coordinating Council to oversee the implementation and progress of the plan.

At the same time, the City of Spokane and Spokane County, (previously operated independently in planning and implementing homeless programs) consolidated their efforts into one Regional Continuum of Care. The City of Spokane was identified as the lead agency and administrator

of the annual Housing and Urban Development (HUD) McKinney Vento Homeless Grant Program for the region. The goal of this combined regional CoC was to eliminate duplication, coordinate the allocation of resources, and systematically look at our system of care and housing for homeless household and individuals. An Interim CoC Steering Committee was formed until such time as the Regional Homeless Coordinating Council was place. Our region continues to struggle with developing a governance model that is not only regional but encompasses the various local, state and federal resources and requirements. While there seems to be agreement that approaching strategic efforts to reduce homelessness from a regional perspective is desired, work is to be done in creating what that would look like for the Spokane Region.

This report is a reflection of the commitment to ongoing updates and annual reporting of the progress being made within the CoC. Progress will be evaluated using data collected throughout the year through the HMIS database, and from data collected during the annual Point-in-Time Counts (One Day Count of homeless persons and Housing Inventory Chart). The report includes an annual update as to the progress being made toward the achievement of each action step outlined in *The Road Home* along with our progress in meeting the performance objectives as mandated by HUD for the continuation and expansion of our HUD McKinney Vento homeless assistance programs.

2.0 MEASURING OUR PROGRESS

In addition to the Guiding Principles outlined on page seven, the revised plan includes regional strategies to end homelessness and action steps for 2009. These revisions make up the framework for *The Road Home* and our regional approach to ending homelessness. The action steps are used to measure our progress and areas that require additional attention.

Strategies

- Prevention - Reduce the incidence of homelessness by providing tools to families and single persons at-risk of becoming homeless.
- Reduce the period of time that families and single persons are homeless.
- Increase the capacity to assist homeless families and single persons to return quickly to self-sufficiency.
- Improve access to services and housing for families and single persons experiencing homelessness.
- End Homelessness for our most vulnerable populations (including chronic homeless persons) by providing permanent supportive housing to disabled homeless persons.
- Develop coordinated, multi-system responses to end homelessness.
- Enhance coordinated solutions through regional planning and expanded funding capacity.

Measurements

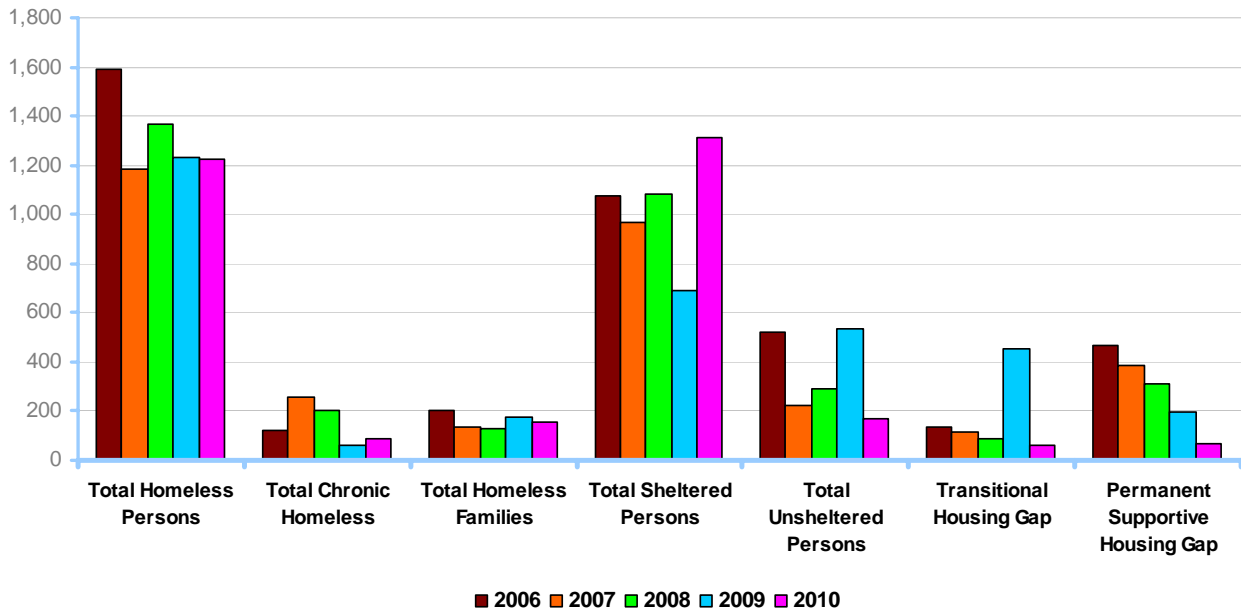
In an effort to track our annual progress, the following indicator model was developed. This indicator tracking model identifies our annual progress using two primary data sources; the 2006 Point-in-Time Count and Housing Inventory Chart. 2009 represented a shift in how data was collected and reported; as such, please be advised that this data set should be used with caution. Table 2.1, indicates a decline in the number of homeless persons counted, chronic homeless individuals, total sheltered persons and permanent supportive housing gap (2009). There was an increase in the number of homeless family's counted, total unsheltered persons and transitional housing gap (see table 2.1).

TABLE 2.1: KEY INDICATORS

Indicators	Data Source	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2015 Target
Total Homeless Persons	ODC	1,592	1,187	1,370	1,229	1,224	796
Total Chronic Homeless	ODC	125	259	206	63	88	63
Total Homeless Families	ODC	201	137	129	174	156	101
Total Sheltered Persons	HIC	1,073	965	1,080	693	1,310	537
Total Unsheltered Persons	ODC	519	222	290	536	172	260
Transitional Housing Gap	ODC/HIC	137	114	91	454	62	69
Permanent Supportive Housing Gap	ODC/HIC	465	388	311	198	65	233

The historical trend between 2006 and 2009 indicate a continued reduction in the total homeless population, chronic homeless, total homeless families, total unsheltered persons, transitional housing gap and permanent housing gap. The only indicator that has demonstrated a sustained increase was the *total number of sheltered persons*; based on information collected during the annual sheltered point-in-time count (see figure 2.2). Although 2010 is not the emphasis of this report, please note the vast differences between 2009 and 2010 (see appendix A). The data indicates some significant variances in how data was reported (see table 2.1). Overall, these key indicators are illustrating an increased regional effort to reduce homelessness by providing necessary services to meet the housing needs of homeless families and individuals in our region.

FIGURE 2.2: KEY INDICATORS TREND LINE: 2006-2010



Conclusion

Our regional progress to reduce homelessness will be guided by these principles and strategies. In an effort to maintain the good work that has taken place during 2009, we must continue to embrace our regional approach to reduce homelessness. Further analysis will identify trends and action steps to correct areas where we are not making our desired progress. Several data categories indicate specific subpopulations that are reporting fewer instances of homelessness. These examples can offer viable action steps to address homeless subpopulations in future annual updates.

3.0 ACTION STEPS

The Road Home includes a list of thirteen different action steps to ensure our attainment of the 2015 goal to reduce homelessness by 50%. The plan identifies annual reporting as an evaluation tool to access progress over the preceding year. In this (2009) annual report there will be a brief description of each action step and an evaluation of the actions taken during 2009. Moreover, this chapter will conclude with a reflection on the progress made toward achieving CoC action steps as part of the McKinney Vento application for 2009.

Ten-Year Plan Action Steps

- 1. Establish a Regional Homeless Coordinating Council to oversee the implementation and monitoring of progress towards reaching our goals.**

Outcome: Our goal to establish a Regional Homeless Coordinating Council was delayed in 2009. In its place we maintained the Spokane regional CoC Interim Steering Committee to oversee implementation and monitoring of progress towards reaching our regional goals.

- 2. Explore the establishment of a single regional advisory group to coordinate regional priorities and funding recommendations for homelessness and affordable housing.**

- a. Form a committee to develop a set of recommendations (to be presented to elected officials) on the role and composition of a consolidated regional advisory group on housing and homeless programs.

Outcome: A task force was convened by Mayor Verner to look at various different models of regional governance around the county. At this time, no formal set of recommendations have been developed.

- 3. Initiate the development of an Allocation/Financing Plan to support the Ten-Year Plan priorities.**

- a. Form a committee to establish the parameters of the financing plan and the criteria to be used.

- b. Draft a one-year financing plan to support the strategies and actions in the plan.

- c. Take steps to assure that the community is prepared to take advantage of federal, state and local funding opportunities by leveraging local funds.

Outcome: The first step of developing an allocation/financing plan was to compile information on the multiple sources of funding that currently comes to our region that supports the strategies in the 10 Year Plan. A matrix of these funds is included in this report. The development of a committee to establish a financing plan is somewhat problematic until such time as a regional oversight body is established. We are however in discussion around the idea of convening the multiple funders identified to discuss opportunities for coordination and leverage of the various sources of funds.

- 4. Expand the number of affordable housing and homeless housing beds available to homeless persons and persons at risk of homelessness and assure the continued viability of existing housing.**

- a. Increase housing resources for homeless households by at least 24 units through new development and leasing activities.

Outcome: Nearly 400 low-income rental units opened for occupancy in 2009. More than 50 units were set-aside for people who are homeless: 7 units at the Pearl on Adams; 8 units at the Elm St. Apartments; 8 units at the Bel Franklin; and 28 units at Walnut Corners. Additionally, 10 beds in two single-family homes became available through VOA for homeless veterans and persons being released from jail.

- b. Study the status of the existing inventory of low-and moderate-income affordable housing and homeless housing to determine the need for 1) restructuring operational budgets and 2) for rehabilitation to maintain viability and functionality.

Outcome: A few community agencies have been able to access Operations and Maintenance funds through the Dept. of Commerce's Housing Trust Fund.

- c. Develop a list of priority needs for assistance and seek funding resources to fill the identified needs.

Outcome: The availability of funds to finance the development of affordable housing and funds to maintain affordable housing properties—especially developments and properties that serve households with 30 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI) or below remains slim. There are, however a few low-income properties that will become available in 2010-2011: 33 units at the Market Street Station in the Hillyard neighborhood; 51 units at the Martindale Apartments in Hillyard; 38 Sec. 202 senior rentals in Spokane Valley; and 17 Sec. 811 units—for persons with disabilities—on two sites in the West Central neighborhood.

5. Expand cooperative efforts between service providers and landlords.

- a. Develop and seek funding for a program to provide a Landlord Incentives Program for increased housing availability and housing stability for persons at risk of homelessness and homeless persons.

Outcome: Originally there was hope for funding through Transitions Responsible Renter program to provide monetary incentives for landlords who rent to people with challenging backgrounds. That has not happened. Currently, landlords are asked to refer tenants who are behind on their rent to SNAP's Home Run program, or to the City and County HPRP programs prior to eviction. This seems to be working for those that are qualified for those programs.

- b. Conduct outreach to enlist the participation of landlords in stabilizing tenants in housing. Meet with local landlord associations to 1) establish methods of increasing the amount of housing available to the homeless and to 2) develop mechanisms to improve coordination between landlords and case managers so that a rapid community response to a tenant's crisis can be effectively taken to prevent eviction and the loss of housing.

Outcome: SLIHC OneStopHousing staff has met either directly or indirectly with 716 landlords throughout the inland northwest that use the housing locator. There are currently 243 landlords that will rent to applicants with challenging backgrounds. The following are suggestions that landlords have shared with case managers to help tenants to locate suitable housing:

- *Use a protective payee for tenants with bad credit issues.*
- *Get a copy of an offenders screening report at date of release and any certificates they may have received while incarcerated that document changed behavior patterns.*

- *Ensure honesty, no matter how bad their past may have been*
- *Case workers must be willing to work with landlords in a “teamed case management” approach to housing unstable households.*
- *Be willing to assist with damage and security deposits and provide ongoing access (awareness to educational resources for the tenant).*

6. Work with agencies and staff at all levels to reduce potential homelessness caused by institutions releasing persons without adequate services and housing.

- a. Work with state level staff to improve formal policies and protocols for releasing persons from correction facilities, state mental health institutions and foster care.

Outcome: Formal discharge planning protocols to prevent homelessness have not been established at the state level. However, many state departments have established programs to help vulnerable people access mainstream benefits; such as the 1290 program between DSHS and Department of Corrections, and the 1088 program between DSHS and juvenile detention facilities.

- b. Work with local institutions such as hospitals, jails, detention, courts, detox facilities, crisis clinics, etc., and establish formal policies and protocols to decrease the number of persons exiting to homelessness. Establish working relationships to plan for release and re-integration into the community.

Outcome: In 2008, Spokane County was awarded HGAP funding that created the Spokane Homeless Assistance Response and Prevention Partnership (SHARPP) a project aimed at housing and assisting former offenders exiting County incarceration facilities with community reentry services. Volunteers of America, Transitions and Goodwill Industries contract with the County for the provision of housing and direct client services in the SHARPP project which served offenders by the end of 2009. The SHARPP program funding will expire in the spring of 2011.

- c. Support the stabilization of homeless persons by targeting provider services for use in implementing new procedures of improved discharge planning policies.

Outcome: SLIHC has offered the following recommendations for successful reentry of former offender populations include:

- *A 6-month advance discharge planning process prior to release from the incarceration facility:*
- *Work with DOC personnel to issue 3-month housing vouchers to offenders as appropriate/eligible before their earned release date.*
- *Coordinate mainstream benefits and services with DSHS 1290 and 1088 reentry teams 45 days prior to release date.*
- *Assign case workers from non-profit/community based organizations to each client to assist with reentry services coordinating with DOC supervisor and assigned Community Corrections Officer.*
- *Provide referral to and help from legal services such as child support, help with education and life skills/parenting classes, legal financial obligations, applications to waivers (as appropriate) until a job is secured, obtain ID, SS card, drivers license, marriage and drug counseling.*
- *Have successful reentry clients mentor other offenders exiting incarceration as part of their probation requirements.*

- *Funding a program in which case managers work one-on-one with homeless offender populations and DOC personnel to develop a reentry plan six months before the earned release date and to provide post-exit care for six months. After six months of reentry/transition services, there should be a person that could be called upon for further service/counseling as needed. There are approximately 50 adults exiting incarceration monthly from Airway Heights and Pine Lodge. The Department of Corrections should fund this as part of a money saving strategy. The savings would be approximately \$1,500 per offender per month. With 50 offenders being released/served each month that would equal \$75,000.00 or \$900,000.00 per year. This savings would be a huge benefit to our community.*
- *SLIHC is currently working with the Department of Corrections, Volunteers of America, Catholic Charities, SNAP, Center for Justice, Northwest Justice Project, Health for All, Consumer Credit Counseling, and Goodwill Industries, as all these agencies provide direct client services in the form of case management, treatment or counseling to the people they serve.*

7. Improve preventative tactics, outreach and service delivery model to homeless persons.

- a. Increase training of homeless persons on the use of computers.

Outcome: In 2009, The Salvation Army partnered with Spokane Public Schools to set up a computer lab at their Family Resource Campus. High school students provide technical assistance and support to homeless families in the use of the computers. The computer lab is open to homeless families staying at The Salvation Army's emergency shelter or transitional housing units located at the campus.

- b. Explore methods of increasing homeless persons' awareness of available services through methods such as websites, kiosks, etc.

Outcome: The City of Spokane convened several stakeholder meetings in 2009 to discuss and share information on ARRA-funded stimulus programs designed to support low-income households during the economic downturn. The result was the development of a comprehensive matrix of support programs –from housing assistance to workforce training and job placement services– which is updated quarterly and distributed to housing and service provider agencies to help inform homeless people of community resources and services.

- c. Enhance client-centered case management (based on needs assessment) after-care and follow-up services through increased funding and on-going provider training.

Outcome: In 2009, HUD released its stimulus-funded programs to cities and counties to help families at-risk of homelessness due to the economic downturn. The City of Spokane and Spokane County received approximately \$2.1 million for 36 months of Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing (HPRP) funding after amending their respective consolidated plans. Nationally, HPRP funding was established to provide short- to mid-term homelessness prevention services in the form of rental subsidies, utility and security deposit payments, and other forms of preventative services. Locally, the City of Spokane determined to use HPRP funding for both homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing services in addition to creating a new homeless services delivery model called Moving Forward – a partnership between Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners, Volunteers of America, Catholic Charities of Spokane and the Spokane Low-income Housing Consortium. It is the intent that successful outcomes of the Moving Forward project will provide learning community forums to become the foundation for a new homeless services delivery model throughout the Spokane Regional Continuum of Care network. Additionally, Spokane County Community Services, Housing, and Community Development Department

administers HPRP funds for residents in 12 cities, towns and unincorporated areas outside the City of Spokane. These funds are used exclusively for homeless prevention.

8. Focus efforts on meeting the needs of homeless persons who are mentally ill and/or chronic substance abusers.

- a. Support the Mental Health Plan by increasing the number of units available in the region for persons with mental illness, including the provision of vouchers for mentally ill persons.
- b. Promote the increase of assistance to homeless veterans by aggressive enrollment in VASH Voucher Program and the use of the Veteran's Per-Diem Program.

Outcome: In 2009, the Veterans Administration and Northeast Washington Housing Solutions (NEWHS) utilized 70 VASH vouchers for homeless veterans. Volunteers of America partnered with the VA and opened their second housing program designated for homeless veterans called the Eagle's Rest, located in the Hillyard community.

- c. Increase the focus on case management and services in permanent supportive housing programs.

Outcome: Goodwill Industries of the Inland Northwest applied for a Department of Labor grant to provide counseling and therapeutic services to offenders diagnosed with co-occurring disorders who are in the process of transitioning (re-entering) the community into permanent supportive housing programs.

- d. Continue to develop cooperative relationships between the Regional Support Network (RSN), local government, nonprofits, for-profits and funders.

Outcome: Several Continuum service providers are leveraging resources beyond McKinney Vento programs to provide the case management and supportive services necessary to help chronic homeless households remain in stable suitable housing for as long as is possible. One such source of funding for this hard-to-serve population is provided through the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) called Treatment for Homeless program. In 2009, Catholic Charities of Spokane convened a group of Continuum partners to submit an application to SAMHSA for this grant. If funded, the Treatment for Homeless grant will provide up to 5 years of direct client services (case management) to more than 55 mentally ill and/or chronic substance abusers annually.

9. Improve outreach to the media and the community to inform on issues, needs and solutions to combat homelessness.

- a. Establish a uniform message on homeless issues, incorporating national, state survey and local data.
- b. Train provider and key leader staff to deliver single message talks.
- c. Obtain financial support to strengthen messaging and community outreach during Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week, and the Annual One Day Count of Homeless.
- d. Explore feasibility and community support to conduct an Annual Homeless Connect in Spokane.
- e. Improve communication with public and private schools to identify resources to assist families in crisis.

Outcome: Each year, the City of Spokane leads the implementation of the annual One Day Count of Homeless Persons as mandated by federal and state housing governmental entities. In order to conduct this count, hundreds of volunteers and the media were engaged

in bringing a greater awareness of the impact of homelessness upon the community. This past year, more than 90 college students enrolled in sociology classes volunteered to help with the One Day Count. This also helped raise the awareness of homelessness to a whole new audience of learners.

Additionally, the Spokane Homeless Coalition conducts a week-long campaign on hunger and homelessness. In 2009, this event included a City Proclamation from the Mayor's office and the opportunity for homeless advocates to address the City Council and County Commissioners. The 2009 hunger and homelessness awareness campaign also featured numerous community-wide media events throughout the week.

In 2009 the City of Spokane and Spokane County updated their respective Consolidated Housing and Community Development Plans. The plans are used to identify each respective jurisdictions priority housing and non-housing needs and strategies, including homeless populations.

10. Increase understanding and awareness of legislation and State Plans and the inter-relatedness of the City and the County Consolidated Plans, including their homeless and anti-poverty planning sections.

- a. Inform homeless providers on the proposed sections of the City, County and State Consolidated Plans relating to homeless needs and activities and opportunities for commenting on draft plans.
- b. Increase agency awareness and understanding of State plans and legislation affecting affordable housing and homelessness.

Outcome: More than a dozen persons from Spokane area agencies attended Housing and Homeless Advocacy Day in February 2010. With guidance from SLIHC and the Spokane Homeless Coalition, the group prepared a list of four legislative priorities that were presented to 15 Spokane area legislators in Olympia: 1) increase funding for the Housing Trust Fund; 2) increase state revenue to mitigate cuts to social service programs; 3) renew funding for the Washington Families Fund; and 4) retain all benefits in the General Assistance-Unemployable (GAU) program.

11. Move toward the creation of a centralized intake system and Rapid Re-housing Model.

- a. Conduct a one-year planning process to develop a centralized intake system for Spokane.
- b. Identify the funding of a centralized intake system serving the Spokane Region as a priority in the funding plans of the region.
- c. Establish a working group to explore the development of a rapid re-housing program in conjunction with a flexible funding source to meet individual needs.

Outcome: During 2009, Spokane Low Income Housing Consortium (SLIHC) was awarded a grant to research approaches to centralize intake. SLIHC conducted a survey that identified examples of effective and developing centralized intake programs across the state and country. This has led to the draft of a local partner agency agreement that will allow for interagency data sharing (with client consent).

12. Establish a common and simple set of community outcomes for measuring progress in ending homelessness in the region.

- a. Adopt and communicate common measures to homeless providers and housing developers.
- b. Strengthen data collection methods to assure that data on specific priority measures is valid and reliable.

Outcome: the City of Spokane strengthened technical assistance to CoC agencies entering client and program data into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) database through the provision of group training sessions and onsite one-to-one training support. The result has been a dramatic increase in data quality and consistency by the 60 HMIS users located in the Spokane regional Continuum of Care network.

- c. Review progress in obtaining results, and prepare and convey to the community and elected officials, an annual report on achievements.

Outcome: A list of indicators has been established to monitor our regional progress toward reducing homelessness. The selected indicators include total homeless persons, total chronic homeless, total homeless families, total sheltered persons, total unsheltered persons, transitional housing gap and permanent supportive housing. Each of these indicators are reported on annually and used as a benchmark to monitor our progress toward the goal to reduce homelessness by 50% by 2015.

13. In an effort to improve our competitiveness in the annual HUD Homeless Assistance Grant Program, McKinney Vento, and ensure ongoing funding through this grant program, ensure the following local, annual actions are implemented, tracked and reported for inclusion in our annual McKinney grant application to HUD.

Outcome: Each year, HUD presents five objectives in its McKinney Vento application for Continuum of Care networks to address by devising action steps that are aimed at quantifying and reducing homelessness within their respective service delivery areas. In Spokane, an interim steering committee for the Continuum of Care was established to strategically plan action steps around the annual objectives set forth by HUD. These action steps are reviewed and monitored quarterly at Continuum of Care meetings and updated throughout the year – as needed – to ensure ongoing McKinney Vento funding.

Continuum of Care – HUD Program Goals and Annual Actions

As part of the Regional Continuum of Care agreement between the city and county an Interim Steering Committee was created to advise the CoC network of housing and service provider agencies. The Interim Steering Committee assisted in the development of the following actions steps as part of the 2009 HUD Homeless Assistance Grant application. The following action steps are intended to be reevaluated annually to ensure that we are meeting the goals established as part of the annual grant application.

1. Create new Permanent Housing beds for chronically homeless persons.

- a. Apply to Spokane County for acquisition funding to support 9 permanent supportive housing units of housing for chronically homeless individuals.
- b. Create a set aside of 8 permanent supportive housing units for chronically homeless individuals.
- c. Spokane Homeless Assistance Response and Prevention Partnership (SHARPP) will create 7 permanent supportive housing units for chronically homeless persons that have a history of incarceration and are chronic homeless persons. All individuals will have completed the Responsible Renter Program and Vocational Assessment and Training.

Outcome: The Continuum began 2009 with 111 beds designated for chronic homeless persons, with a goal to increase the number of those beds up to 135. Proposed action steps created new permanent housing beds for the chronically homeless. However, over the course of the year, more permanent housing beds designated for chronically homeless individuals were lost than gained for a net loss of two beds.

2. Increase percentage of homeless persons staying in Permanent Housing over 6 months to at least 71.5%.

- a. Utilize County funds to provide additional leasing resources to reduce units in existing McKinney Vento permanent supportive housing projects as a result of rent increases.
- b. Analyze performance of all permanent supportive housing grantees (HUD McKinney Vento) to improve performance and will provide technical assistance to 3 lowest performers with the goal of improving their performance by 10%.
- c. Develop new case management position to assist Supportive Housing and Shelter Plus Care clients to access mainstream resources in order to maintain housing and prevent individuals from homelessness.

Outcome: The Spokane Regional Continuum of Care has surpassed this objective for the past few years, having attained a 79% housing stability outcome in 2008 for homeless persons staying in permanent housing over 6 months. The permanent housing stability goal in 2009 was set at 80%, based upon the assurance and provision of more tenant-based rental vouchers and more intensive case management services. Over the course of the year, the Continuum attained a 77% permanent housing stability rate at 6 months due to an unforeseen freeze on TBRA and section 8 housing vouchers.

3. Increase percentage of homeless persons [households] moving from Transitional Housing to Permanent Housing to at least 63.5%.

- a. Provide staff and curriculum for Responsible Renter Program to 30 McKinney Vento Transitional Housing clients to improve budgeting skills, assist with housing search and removal of barriers.

Outcome: Transitions (Transitional Programs for Woman) provided the Responsible Renters program training to 62 transitional housing clients in 2009.

- b. Offer 100% of transitional housing, Shelter Plus Care and Supportive Housing Program clients budget life skills classes, and provide permanent supportive housing to 12 graduates upon completion of program.

Outcome: Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners provided budgeting skills classes along with other life-skills training programs to 42 households served in SNAP's transitional housing programs.

- c. Analyze performance of all McKinney Vento transitional housing projects in regards to moving clients into permanent housing and provide technical assistance to 3 lowest performing agencies to improve their performance by 10%.

Outcome: The 2008 percentage of homeless persons moving from transitional housing to permanent housing in Spokane was 62%, with a goal of increasing that percentage to 64% during 2009. Action steps included convening monthly meetings with transitional housing program managers to discuss barriers to permanent housing accessibly and provide technical assistance as needed. 2009 data from Annual Progress Reports (APRs) sent to HUD indicate that we attained 66% of homeless persons moving from transitional into permanent housing.

4. Increase percentage of homeless persons employed at exit to at least 19%.

- a. Employment Committee will provide one-on-one technical assistance and consultation to staff of 2 McKinney Vento projects to improve their employment performance by 10% within 12 months after technical assistance.
- b. Seek local funding to hire an additional employment specialist to serve an additional 35 McKinney Vento homeless participants in Continuum Shelter Plus Care or Supportive Housing programs.
- c. Employment Committee of Homeless Coalition will design and offer technical assistance workshops to McKinney Vento sponsors on how to streamline resources to expand job training, job readiness skills and secure employment.

Outcome: According to 2008 data, 17% of Spokane's homeless persons were employed at program exit. The 2009 objective was to increase employment outcomes to 19% of those exiting housing programs through action steps that included the provision of technical support and assistance with job search and increasing access to job skills development and assessment. 12-month outcomes indicated that the Continuum had attained 14% of homeless persons employed at program exit.

5. Decrease the number of homeless households with children.

- a. Apply to Washington State Department of Trade and Economic Development Transitional Housing, Rental Assistance (THOR) Expansion of funding (\$250,000) to provide rent subsidies for 38 homeless households with children through that funding.
- b. Apply to local community foundations for a \$30,000 grant to support a one year planning effort to transform the area's scattered homeless mainstream services into a centralized service center and promote rapid re-housing for households with children who are homeless.
- c. Distribute to households with children: 60 long term rental assistance Homeless Preference Vouchers through a partnership between the Housing Authority and the Homeless Coalition.

Outcome: 2008 data from the One Day Count reported 129 households with children who were homeless. The 2009 objective and related action steps were to decrease this number to 115 homeless households with children. 2009 One Day Count data revealed 149 households in the City of Spokane and 25 households in Spokane County (174 total households) with children were homeless. Certainly several factors, including the economic downturn across America and in Eastern Washington, impacted this outcome. However, it should also be noted that there was a freeze locally on section eight housing vouchers from the public housing authority for eight months during 2009 which severely restricted accessibility to housing for many low-income families.

4.0 2010 ONE DAY COUNT

The annual point-in-time count has been part of our regional effort to reduce homelessness since 2006. Each year we conduct an annual One Day Count during the final week of January. Statistical reports from previous years have shown a reduction in the overall number of Homeless persons since our first regional count was conducted. The annual change is a representation of positive regional efforts made toward reducing homelessness.

Multiple factors can influence the accuracy of the count; however, using a basic data analysis we can affirm a reduction in the number of homeless persons counted between 2006 and 2010. The total number of homeless persons counted during the 2006 One Day Count was 1,592. This year (2010) we counted 1,224 homeless persons; a reduction of 23% in a four year period.

Although we are reporting an overall reduction in the number of homeless persons counted during 2010; there remains a great deal of work to meet the needs of homeless persons. While some data indicates a reduction in the total number of homeless persons, other data shows an increase in areas like the number of single homeless males. This data will help our future planning efforts to focus on specific subpopulations and explore methods for a sustainable reduction of homelessness in our region.

One important note to make in this report is that all One Day Count data is based on surveys. This data is intended to provide a basic snapshot of the regional homeless population. We can develop some basic assumptions from this data, but the reader should be informed that this data represents what we were able to count during one specific point-in-time count. Ongoing data analysis through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) will provide a more detailed description of how successfully we are addressing homelessness as a region as detailed in the next chapter.

Historical Change in Homeless Population

The first regional One Day Count was conducted January 26, 2006. This first attempt to gain an accurate point-in-time count was part of the Washington State's Homelessness Housing and Assistance Act (RCW 43.185C). This 2005 legislative mandate called for communities throughout Washington State to plan for reducing the total number of persons experiencing homelessness by 50% by 2015. As noted above, our regional action plan has proven effective based on the number of individuals counted during this point-in-time survey; even with the unforeseen economic downturn.

Our 2006 One Day Count identified 1,592 homeless individuals. Between 2006 and 2010 there has been one increase, followed by two successive declines in the total number of homeless persons counted. Between 2006 and 2007 there was a reduction in the number of homeless persons counted by 25.4%. During 2007 and 2008 annual point-in-time counts there was a sharp increase (13.46%) in the

number of homeless persons counted; followed by a sizable reduction (10.3%) in the number of homeless persons counted between 2008 and 2009. The reduction between 2009 and 2010 was less significant with a 0.4% reduction over 2009 (see table 4.1).

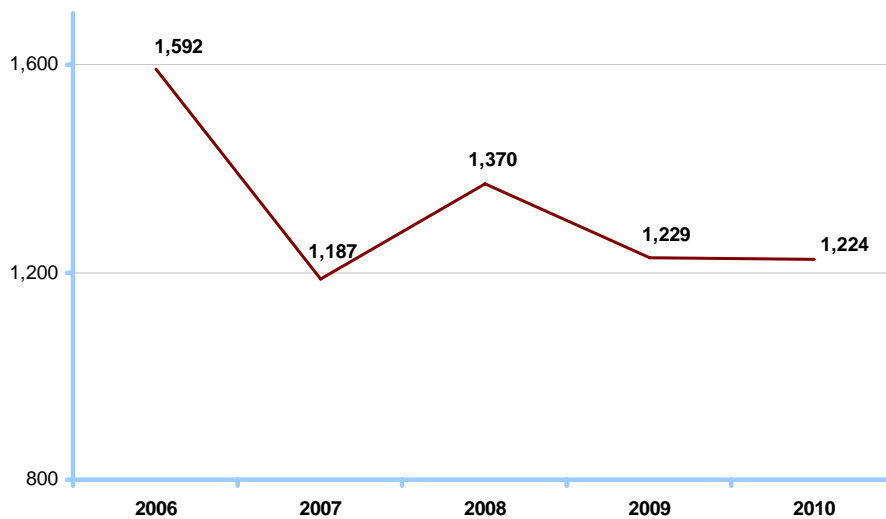
TABLE 4.1: HISTORICAL CHANGE IN HOMELESS POPULATION (2007-2010)

Change 2006-2007 <i>Decrease</i>		Change 2007-2008 <i>Increase</i>		Change 2008-2009 <i>Decrease</i>		Change 2009-2010 <i>Decrease</i>	
2006	2007	2007	2008	2008	2009	2009	2010
1,592	1,187	1,187	1,370	1,370	1,229	1,229	1,224
(-)25.44%		(+)13.36%		(-)10.29%		(-)0.41%	

Data Source: Spokane Regional One Day Count

The figure below provides a graphic illustration to show our progress between 2006 and 2010 in reducing the total number of homeless persons counted in our region (see figure 4.2).

FIGURE 4.2: ONE DAY COUNT CHANGE IN POPULATION: 2006-2010

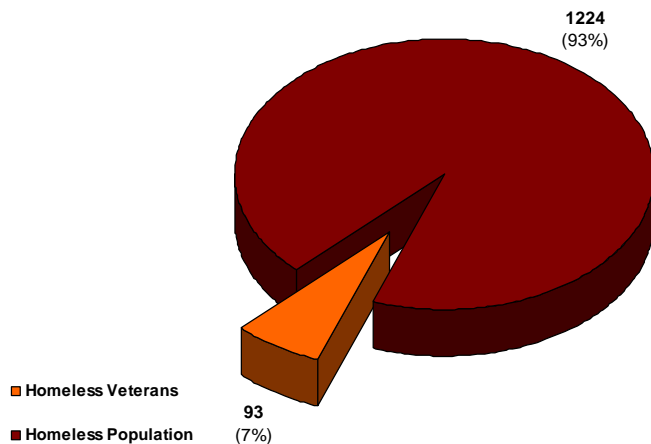


Data Source: Spokane Regional One Day Count

Homeless Veterans

The total number of homeless veterans that were counted during the 2010 One Day Count was 93. This figure (93) represents 7% of the total homeless population (1,224) counted in January 2010 (see figure 4.3). We believe this number does not capture the complete picture of homeless veterans and speculate that the number is significantly higher. That being said, based on the surveys collected during our point-in-time count, the number of homeless individuals that reported themselves as veterans was significantly lower than national averages.

FIGURE 4.3: HOMELESS VETERAN POPULATION: 2010 ONE DAY COUNT

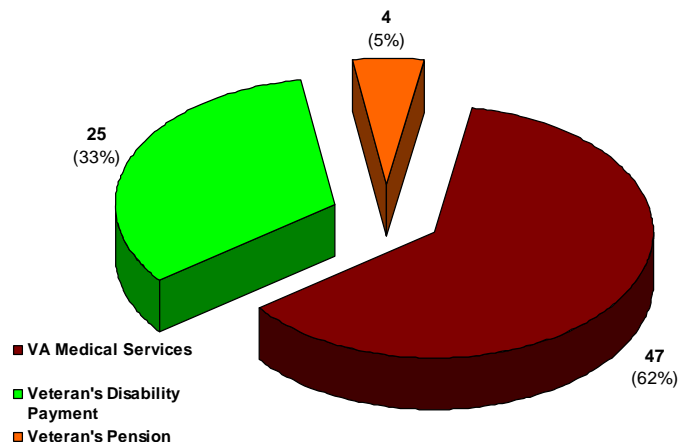


Data Source: Spokane Regional One Day Count

Of the total homeless veterans counted (93), we found some encouraging information about the services they receive. Veterans Administration (VA) Medical Service provided the greatest number of services to homeless veterans with 47 (50.5%) individuals reporting that they received VA medical services (see figure 4.4). The second most reported benefit was Veterans Disability Payment; 25 (26.88%) individuals reported receiving disability payments.

The final benefit reported during the count was veterans pension; a total of 4 (4.3%) identified veterans reported receiving a veteran pension. These statistics represent an increased level of services that are being offered to homeless veterans in our region (see table 4.5). Improved service levels could have a direct correlation between the number of homeless veterans that receive benefits and a reduction in the total number of counted homeless veterans. It is important to note that this data consists of duplicated counts based on the information filled out during the One Day Count Survey; therefore these numbers may reflect an individual being counted in more than one category.

FIGURE 4.4: VETERANS BENEFITS: 2010 ONE DAY COUNT



Data Source: Spokane Regional One Day Count

TABLE 4.5: 2010 ONE DAY COUNT STATISTICS – HOMELESS VETERANS

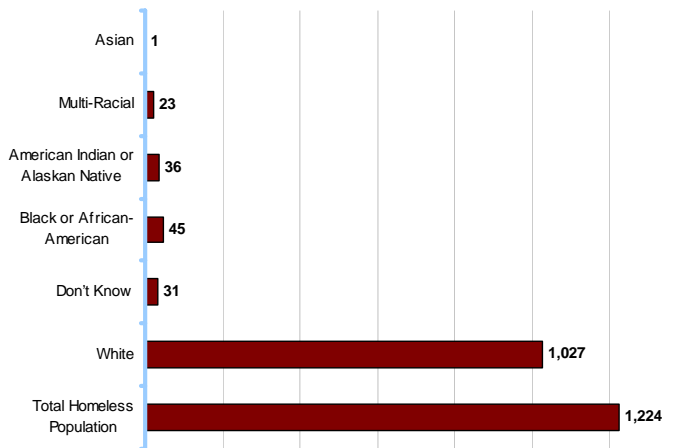
Comparison	Total	%
Homeless Veterans -Total (N=)	93	7.60%
Homeless Population - Total	1,224	100.00%
Veteran Benefits	Total	%
Veteran's Administration Medical Services	47	50.54%
Veteran's Disability Payment	25	26.88%
Veteran's Pension	4	4.30%
Total % of Veterans Receiving Benefits	76	81.72%
N=	93	

Data Source: Spokane Regional One Day Count

Race

Individuals surveyed during the One Day Count were asked to identify a race that best represents them. A racial breakdown of the homeless population indicates that a majority of our homeless population identifies themselves as white, followed by African American, American Indian, and so forth (see figure 4.6).

FIGURE 4.6: HOMELESS POPULATION BY RACE: 2010 ONE DAY COUNT

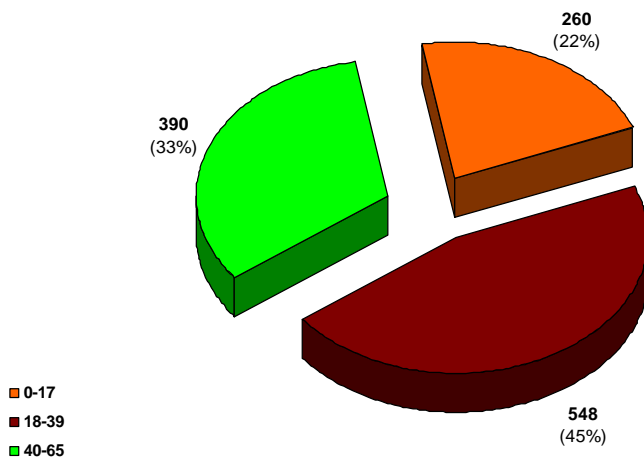


Data Source: Spokane Regional One Day Count

Age

Age distribution provides a greater understanding of the age groups experiencing the greatest frequency of homelessness. Based on our unduplicated One Day Count data, the greatest population experiencing homelessness is the 18-39 age group (see figure 4.7). 45% of the regional homeless population that was counted reported their age within the 18-39 range. The homeless youth figure presented in this graphic does not account for the total number of doubled up youth experiencing homelessness. Based on our point-in-time count we can report that 260 youth under the age of 17 were homeless during this count, but the reader should be aware that this number is likely much higher.

FIGURE 4.7: HOMELESS AGE DISTRIBUTION: 2010 ONE DAY COUNT

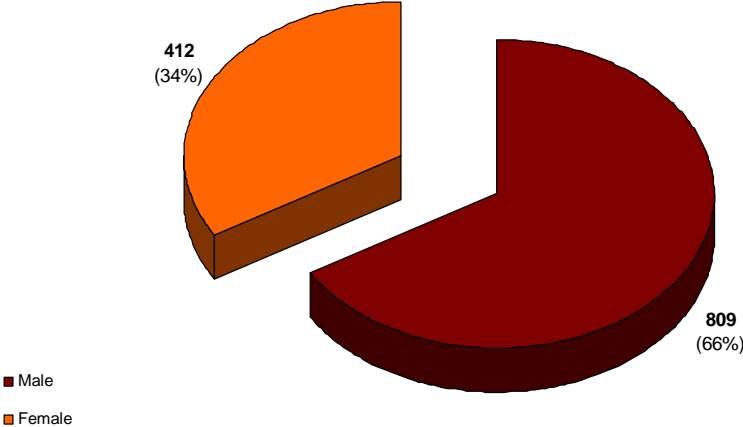


Data Source: Spokane Regional One Day Count

Gender

Of the 1,224 total homeless persons counted, 809 individuals identified themselves as male; while 412 identified themselves as female (see figure 4.8). The remaining 3 individuals selected unknown for their gender classification, due to the small data sample we have not included this subpopulation in the graph. This data illustrates a need for more male focused supportive services within our region.

FIGURE 4.8: HOMELESS POPULATION BY GENDER: 2010 ONE DAY COUNT



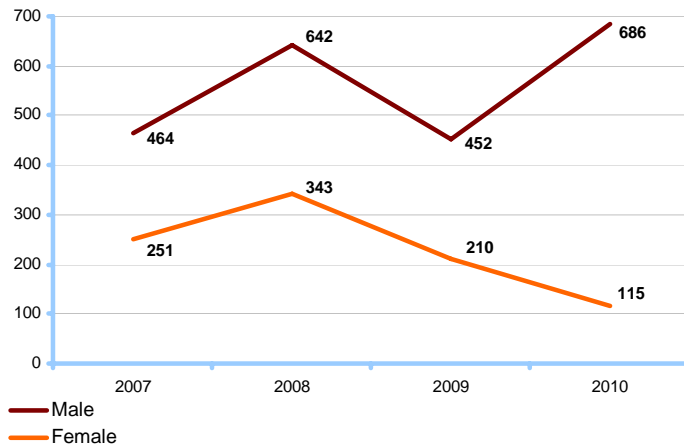
Data Source: Spokane Regional One Day Count

Homeless Singles

Homeless singles by gender reflects the total gender classifications discussed above. During 2008, both male and female homeless singles peaked with a sharp decline the following two years for single females based on our point-in-time data (see figure 4.9). The homeless male population followed the downward trend in 2009, but significantly increased in 2010. The gap between homeless male and female singles continues to widen, suggesting a need for more attention on methods to reduce the number of homeless single males. There is some local factor working to reduce the number of homeless single females that should be explored as a method to reduce the number of homeless single males.

Regionally, we are seeing a reduction in the total number of homeless subpopulations. The sustained reduction in single homeless females indicates some local factor that is contributing to the overall reduction. Our challenge is to identify the positive and negative factors that are attributing to these statistical trends in homeless single populations.

FIGURE 4.9: HOMELESS SINGLES BY GENDER: 2007-2010



Data Source: Spokane Regional One Day Count

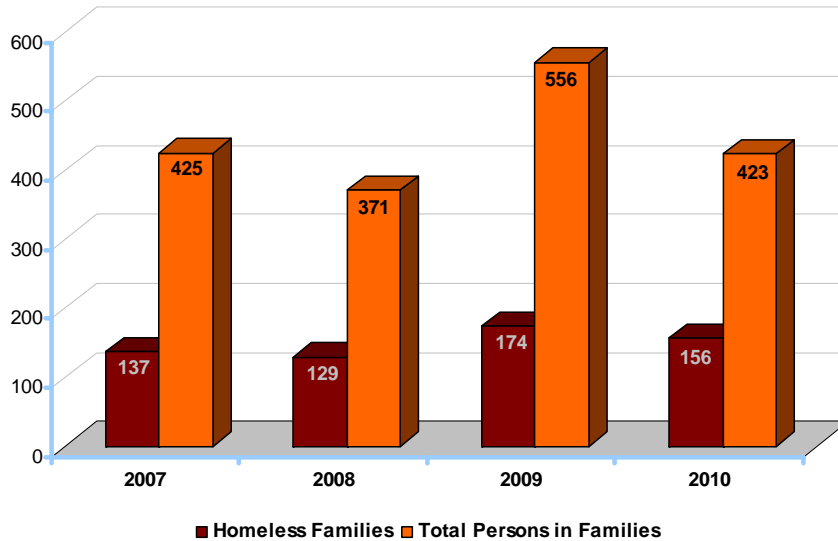
Homeless Families and Persons in Homeless Families

Homeless families are a representation of the total identified homeless families, including those doubled up during the 2010 One Day Count. Historical trends between 2006 and 2010 illustrate an elevated number of homeless families in 2009 and 2010 (see figure 4.10). The increase in homeless families is likely a reflection of our economic downturn as more people have become unemployed during these two years. One interesting finding from the data is the differences between 2006 and 2010. The difference between the total number of homeless persons in families between 2006 and 2010 is 2; however, the difference in the total number of homeless families is 19 (see figure 4.10). The number of homeless families is a primary indicator in our regional focus to reduce homelessness. This data can offer additional strategies and action steps to focus on this subpopulation in future reports and planning efforts.

The number of persons living in homeless families has followed a similar pattern to the number of homeless families. One reason to make note of the number of persons living in homeless families is to emphasize the need for affordable housing units set aside for this particular subpopulation. Another reason to focus on homeless families and the persons living in those families is break recidivism rates and instances of domestic violence. Homeless families face tremendous stress levels in their effort to find shelter, raise children and provide basic necessities to their families.

The number of persons living in homeless families has not been reflected in the overall reduction of regional homelessness. Between 2006 and 2010 we have seen a 23% reduction in the number of homeless persons counted. Using the same time period, the overall reduction of persons living in homeless families has been 2 persons (see figure 4.10).

FIGURE 4.10: HOMELESS FAMILIES AND PERSONS IN HOMELESS FAMILIES: 2007-2010

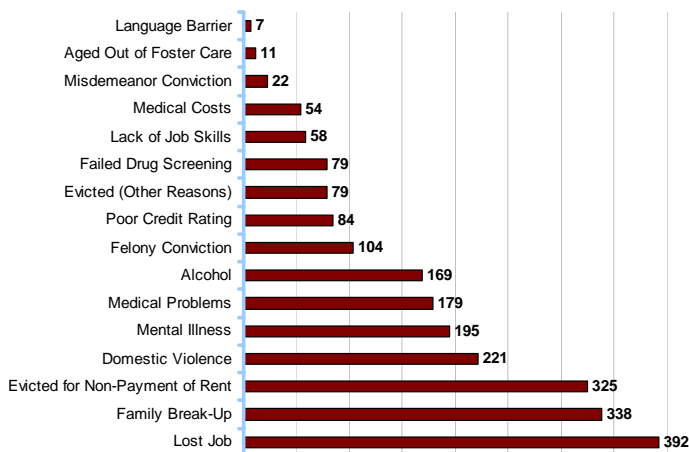


Data Source: Spokane Regional One Day Count

Cause for Homelessness

One of the survey questions asked individuals to report their cause for homelessness. The total number of responses to this question is greater than the total number of homeless persons counted (1,224), due to multiple responses on one form. The survey asked individuals to identify all available responses for homelessness as presented in the survey. The three most commonly reported instances were lost job, family break-up and eviction for non-payment of rent (see figure 4.11).

FIGURE 4.11: REPORTED CAUSE FOR HOMELESSNESS: 2010 ONE DAY COUNT

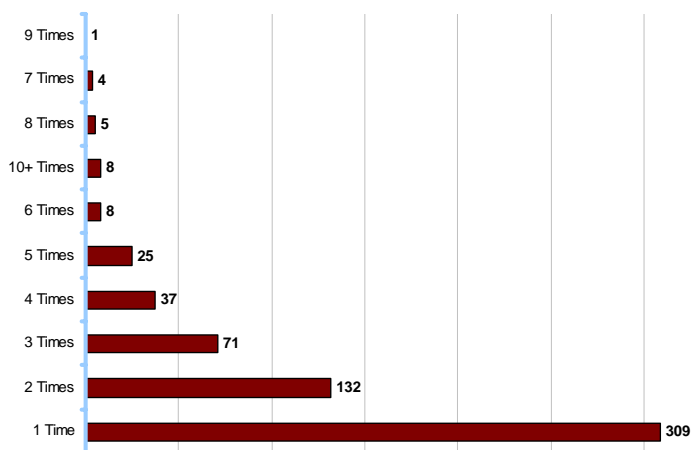


Data Source: Spokane Regional One Day Count

Instances of Homelessness

The reported instance of homelessness was a new data element that was collected during the 2010 One Day Count. This data helps frame issues related to chronic and repeat instances of homelessness in our region. The most common responses to our survey were The majority of our homeless population indicated having experienced homelessness 1, 2 and three times that individuals experienced homelessness (see figure 4.12). This information indicates an elevated number of first time homeless persons during the final week of January 2010.

FIGURE 4.12: REPORTED INSTANCES OF HOMELESSNESS: 2010 ONE DAY COUNT

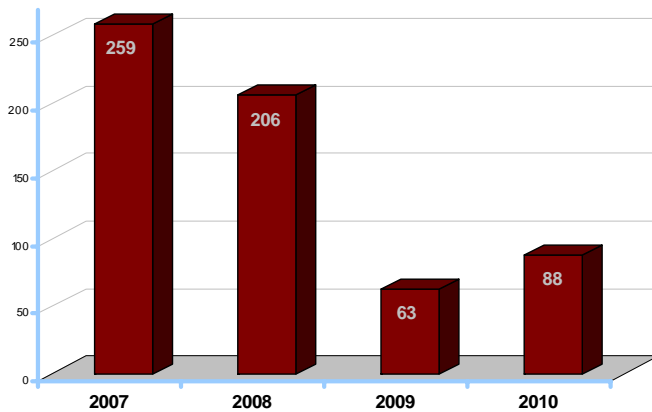


Data Source: Spokane Regional One Day Count

Chronic Homelessness

Our regional approach to reducing the number of individuals experiencing chronic homelessness seems to be working. More than any other statistic; chronic homelessness has demonstrated a sharp and sustained decline between 2007 and 2009 with a slight elevation in the number of chronic homeless persons counted in 2010 (see figure 4.13). This suggests a reduction in services available to chronic homeless populations or some other local factor that can be attributed to the increase. The reader should be aware that this subpopulation is one of the most difficult to identify and define. The survey does not ask the individual to identify themselves as chronic homeless; rather a determination is made based on a criterion to determine if an individual is chronically homeless.

FIGURE 4.13: CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS: 2007-2010



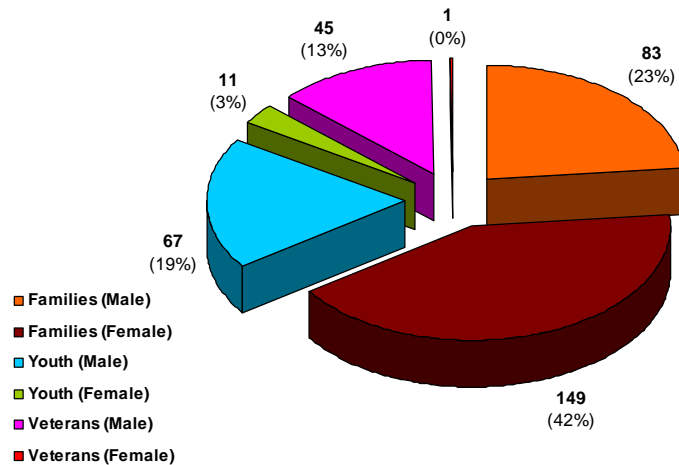
Data Source: Spokane Regional One Day Count

Doubled Up

The total number of persons that identified themselves as doubled up increased significantly over 2009. Our 2010 survey form was a change from the one historically used, therefore the data presented in this section should signify a shift in data collection and results over the previous years. Past surveys collected the total number of doubled up persons, single households and family households. This year we collected the number of doubled up families by gender, youth by gender and veterans by gender. The following analysis will provide an overview of the persons reported as doubled up during the 2010 One Day Count.

Due to the differences in how data was collected this analysis will not compare with previous years results. The total number of doubled up families that were counted was 232. Of that total 83 males and 149 females reported being doubled up. A combined 78 total youth reported being doubled up; 67 male youth and 11 female youth. A new data set that was collected during the One Day Count was the total number of doubled up veterans. The total number of doubled up veterans was 46, with 45 males reported being doubled up and 1 female (see figure 4.14).

FIGURE 4.14: DOUBLED UP COUNT



Data Source: Spokane Regional One Day Count

Conclusion

The data presented in this report is intended to provide a basic snapshot of the regional homeless population for 2010. Historical data has been used to identify progress made and better inform our efforts to isolate regional issues and develop action plans that will address trends in homelessness. As a region we have made significant progress toward reducing homelessness. Statistically, we are reporting a 23% reduction in the number of homeless persons counted between 2006 and 2010. This regional report on homelessness is one of many steps that will lead a community wide effort to reduce regional homelessness as stated in our ten-year plan to end homelessness.

5.0 2009 HMIS DATA REPORT

This chapter will provide a more detailed illustration of the changes in homeless populations between 2008 and 2009. The One Day Count provides a point-in-time account of the individuals experiencing homelessness. This report provides a more robust representation of the total number of homeless persons entered into the HMIS database. These individuals and families are entered by case workers who provide supportive services to homeless families and individuals. This chapter will focus on six primary homeless subpopulations; they include homeless singles, homeless families, domestic violence, homeless veterans, chronic homeless and independent youth.

Homeless Singles

The number of homeless singles entered into HMIS during 2009 increased by 147. This represents an 84% increase in the number of homeless singles that sought supportive services through HMIS partner agencies (see table 5.1). This data supports our ability to identify specific needs for specific homeless singles in our region and revise our action steps to address changing needs.

Homeless Families

The number of families entered into HMIS during 2009 increased by 125. This represents a 67.5% increase between 2008 and 2009. When comparing the data from HMIS and the One Day Count it becomes clearer how essential our supportive service providers are at reducing the number of homeless individuals in our region. While there was an increase in the number of families entered into HMIS, there was a reduction in the number of homeless families counted during the 2010 One Day Count (see figure 4.10).

Domestic Violence

Instances of domestic violence increased during 2009. Based on the data entered into HMIS during 2008 and 2009, there was an increase of 49 (a 79% increase) individuals who sought supportive services. Domestic violence is a significant indicator that can be used to measure additional causes for homelessness. Often domestic violence is attributed to elevated stresses in the home; such stress can correlate to loss of job, increased living costs, and other related domestic difficulties.

Homeless Veterans

The change in homeless subpopulations entered into HMIS during 2009 was elevated in all but one subpopulation. Homeless veterans were the only subpopulation to decline during 2009. The total reduction in homeless veterans between 2008 and 2009 was 47 (see table 5.1). This data provides an

indication that some local service factor (improved access to supportive services) has contributed to the reduction in the number of homeless veterans that were entered into HMIS during 2009.

Based on our One Day Count statistics, there were 93 total homeless veterans counted in 2010. During 2009, 111 veterans were recorded as seeking supportive services through HMIS. This represents a significant reduction in the total number of veterans entered into HMIS during 2008 (see table 5.1). Our most difficult challenge when gathering data on homeless populations is the inconsistency in how homeless individuals report their personal information. These disparities between data signify the importance of multiple data collection sources to establish identifiable trends in homeless subpopulations. Additionally, this data represents a duplication of veterans entered into HMIS. There are instances where one individual may have been entered into HMIS more than once through multiple partner agencies.

TABLE 5.1: ANNUAL HMIS DATA CHANGE IN SUBPOPULATIONS

HMIS Annual Data Comparison				
Population	2008	2009	Change	% of Change
Singles	785	932	147	15.77%
Families	260	385	125	32.47%
Domestic Violence	186	235	49	20.85%
Homeless Veterans	158	111	-47	29.75%
Chronic Homeless	70	110	40	36.36%
Independent Youth	35	45	10	22.22%

Data Source: City of Spokane Human Services Department: HMIS

Chronic Homelessness

The total number of chronic homeless individuals reported in HMIS during 2009 increased significantly over 2008. This data illustrates the need for multiple data collection sources. Based on data reported from the One Day Count our region has witnessed a decline in the number of chronic homeless individuals. This may be attributed how data is collected and the case worker/surveyors understanding of what qualifies an individual as being chronically homeless. Overall there was an increase of 40 chronic homeless individuals reported into the HMIS database between 2008 and 2009.

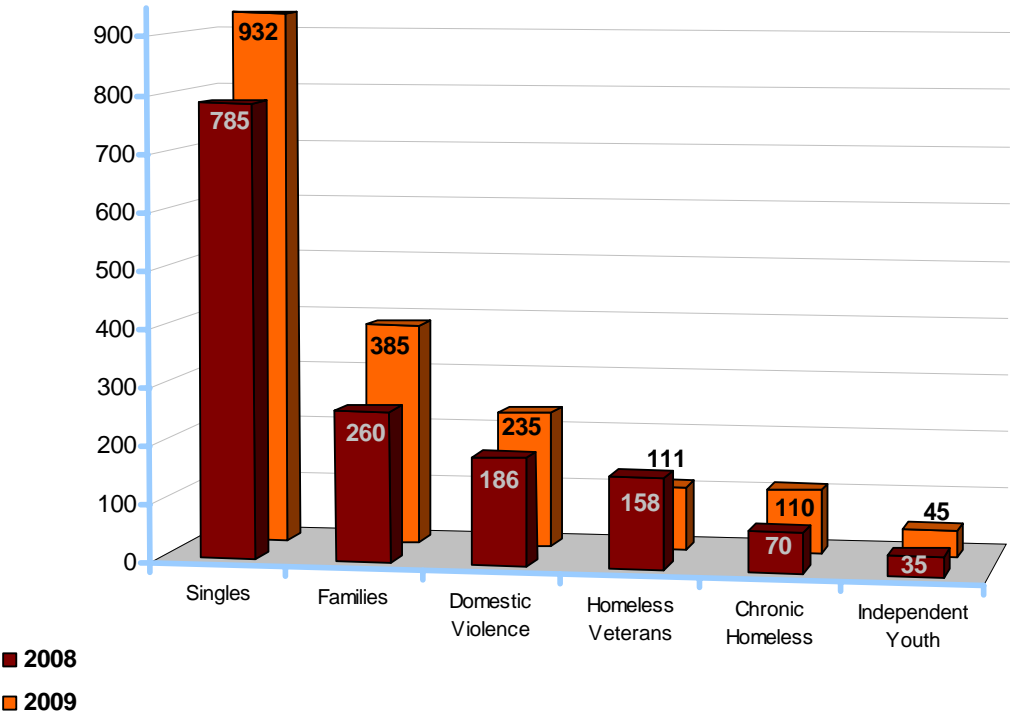
Independent Youth

The number of independent youth increased according to data entered into the HMIS database in 2009 (see table 5.1). Our HMIS data query reported 35 independent youth that received supportive services. During 2009 the total number of independent youth increased from 35 to 45, an increase of 77.8% independent youth receiving supportive services as recorded in HMIS.

Conclusion

The correlation between homelessness and domestic violence is evidenced by the increased number of families and individuals who experienced homelessness in 2009 (see figure 5.2). This data can be used to monitor our progress toward reducing the total number of persons experiencing homelessness in our region. The data contained in this report will assist future efforts to isolate causes for homelessness and develop improved action steps to address how we will achieve our goal of reducing homelessness by 50% by 2015.

FIGURE 5.2: HMIS DATA COMPARISON 2008 AND 2009



Data Source: City of Spokane Human Services Department: HMIS

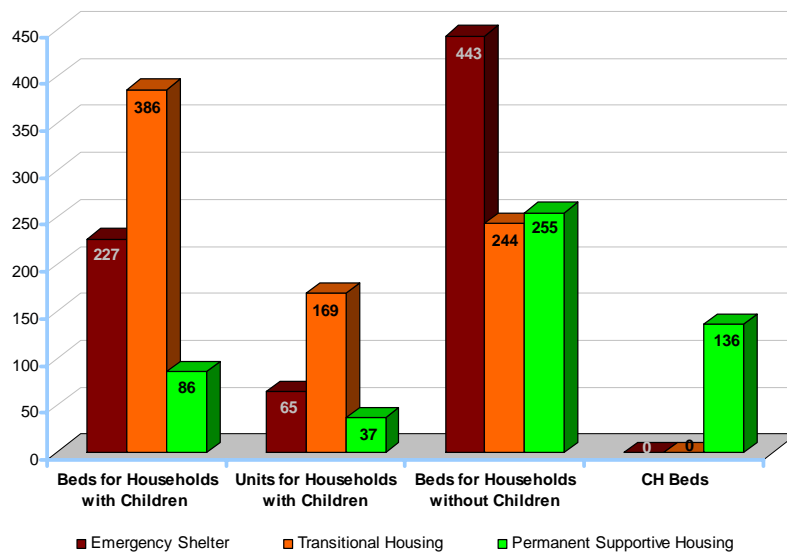
6.0 CHANGING HOUSING NEEDS

The number of housing and shelter beds available has increased steadily since 2007. Annually the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires a census of the total beds/units available for homeless populations in our region. The Housing Inventory Chart (HIC) is used to monitor our progress and track the net loss, or gain in beds/units available for homeless individuals. This portion of the report will illustrate how housing has changed from 2007 to 2009, using data collected through annual Housing Inventory Charts.

Populations Served

Primary service populations include households with children, households without children and chronic homeless. Based on data collected through the 2009 Housing Inventory Chart, the populations with the greatest amount of housing availability are *Households without Children* (see figure 6.1). One of the most telling examples of our regional commitment toward reducing the number of persons experiencing homelessness is the number of affordable permanent housing units. Figure 6.1 illustrates an elevated number of permanent supportive housing available to household without children and chronic homelessness. Future reports will provide a more detailed historical analysis of the total housing available to each subpopulation.

FIGURE 6.1: 2009 - YEAR-ROUND BEDS/UNITS



Data Source: City of Spokane Human Services Department: Housing Inventory Chart

Housing Inventory

The Housing Inventory Chart is a tool used by HUD to monitor changing housing needs in our region. The total bed/unit inventory has increased for emergency shelters, transitional housing and permanent housing. This reveals our regional commitment to reduce and end homelessness by providing beds/units and housing for specific subpopulations.

Emergency Shelter

Between 2007 and 2009 there was an increase of 205 emergency shelter beds available for homeless individuals, a 31% increase. Based on data reported in 2007 the total number of emergency shelter beds was 465; that number increased to 624 in 2008 and again to 670 in 2009 (see table 6.2). Emergency shelter is an important element in our battle against homelessness, but not the most effective tool. Emergency shelters offer temporary relief for one or more nights, but they do not provide a sustainable housing alternative for individuals experiencing homelessness.

TABLE 6.2: 2009 - YEAR-ROUND BEDS/UNITS

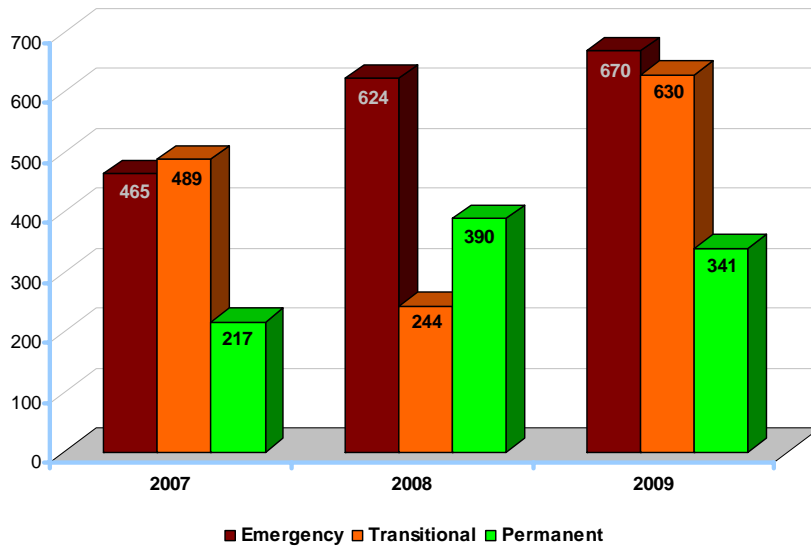
Housing Type	Change 2007-2008		Change 2008-2009		Total # Increase	Total % Increase
	2007	2008	2008	2009		
Emergency	465	624	624	670	205	31%
Transitional	489	244	244	630	141	22%
Permanent	217	390	390	341	124	36%

Data Source: City of Spokane Human Services Department: Housing Inventory Chart

Transitional Housing

The total number of transitional housing beds/units increased from 489 in 2007 to 630 in 2009, a 22% increase (see figure 6.3). This increase reflects an increased emphasis on helping homeless individuals transition from shelters into more stable housing. One important note to make is the dramatic decline in 2008; this is likely the result of poor data reporting and not a reflection of the total transitional housing available in 2008.

FIGURE 6.3: HISTORICAL CHANGE IN TOTAL YEAR-ROUND BEDS/UNITS: 2007-2009



Data Source: City of Spokane Human Services Department: Housing Inventory Chart

Permanent Housing

Permanent supportive housing has increased by 124 total beds/units between 2007 and 2009, a 36% increase. In addition to transitional housing, permanent supportive housing is essential to assist our efforts to reduce regional homelessness. Permanent supportive housing provides homeless individuals and families with stable affordable housing. Permanent housing is the gateway to ending homelessness and breaking recidivism rates in homeless families. Regionally, we are in need of additional permanent housing beds/units to provide the necessary support for households with children (see figure 6.3).

Conclusion

Regionally, we are making significant advances to address and reduce homelessness. Housing is our most critical element to achieve the goal of reducing homelessness by 50% by 2015. There is a direct correlation between a 23% reduction in the number of homeless individuals counted and the overall increase in housing. Regionally, we must continue our pursuit toward addressing and increasing the number of available beds/units to help reduce regional homelessness.

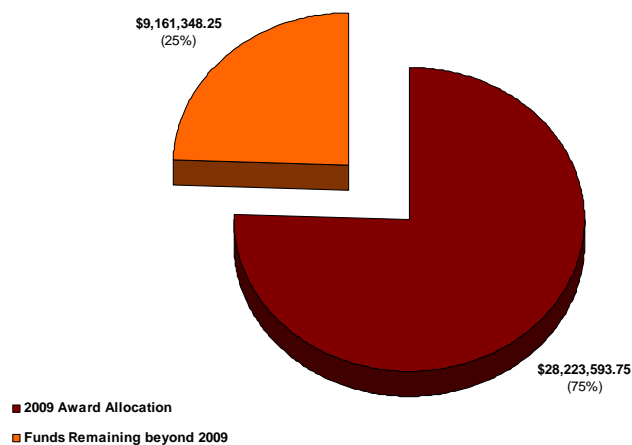
7.0 SOURCE OF FUNDS

The Spokane Regional Continuum of Care receives funding from multiple sources to assist our efforts to reduce homelessness. This section provides a snapshot of the regional funds allocated during the 2009 calendar year. Data sources for this analysis were retrieved from our regional Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Spokane office, Spokane County Community Services, Housing and Community Development Department, Spokane Low Income Housing Consortium (SLIHC), Northeast Washington Housing Solutions (Spokane Housing Authority), City of Spokane Community Development Department and City of Spokane Human Services Department. The reader should be aware that this chapter provides an overview of the regional funds dedicated to homelessness and acknowledges additional funding sources that have not been mentioned in this report. For a detailed explanation of each grant type, please refer to appendix D.

2009 Total Funding Allocation

During 2009, our regional CoC received a combined total of \$37,384,942.00 in funding awards. Of the total grants awarded during 2009, 75% of those funds were allocated for the 2009 calendar year; the remaining 25%, or \$9,161,348.25 will be awarded over the next several years as indicated in appendix B. All funds allocated for use during the 2009 calendar year was used to assist our efforts to reduce regional homelessness (see figure 7.1).

FIGURE 7.1: 2009 FUND AWARD ALLOCATION

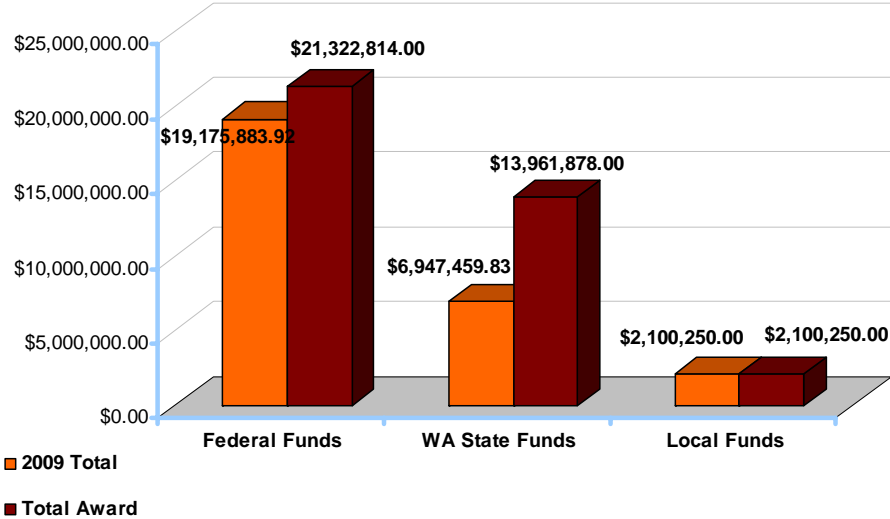


Data Source: HUD, SLIHC, Spokane County Housing and Community Development, City of Spokane Community Development, NEWHS, and City of Spokane Human Services Department.

Regional Funding Allocations

Our region receives funding allocations annually that specify use terms. During 2009, the region received an influx of additional funding through federal stimulus dollars and state funding awarded through the Housing Trust Fund and Washington State Homeless Assistance Grant Program (SHARPP). These funds have two and three year award durations, for the purposes of this report the focus will be on funds allocated for the 2009 calendar year (see appendix B).

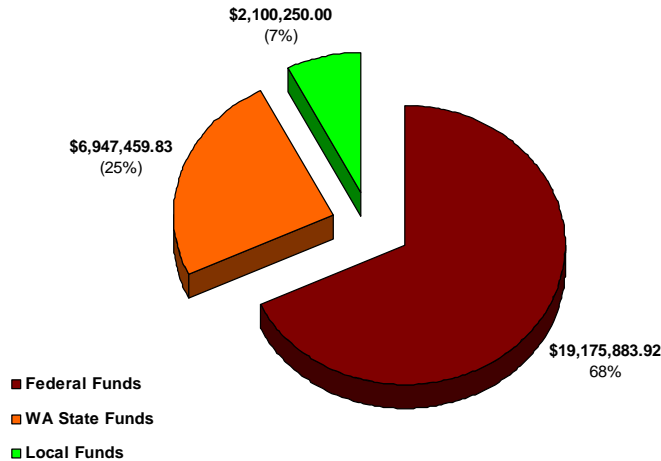
FIGURE 7.2: TOTAL FUNDING ALLOCATIONS FOR REGIONAL COC



Data Source: HUD, SLIHC, Spokane County Housing and Community Development, City of Spokane Community Development, NEWHS, and City of Spokane Human Services Department.

During 2009, the Spokane Regional CoC received a total of \$28,384,942. This represents a significant amount of funding to assist our efforts to provide necessary social services to individuals experiencing homelessness. The federal government (HUD) provided the greatest financial assistance to our region with a total award amount of \$19,175,883.92. This total represents 68% of the total funding allocated for 2009. The second greatest contributor to our region is the State of Washington at \$6,947,459.83. The state represents 25% of the total funding for our region. Local funding sources include document recording fees and grants awarded by the City of Spokane Human Services Advisory Board total 2,593,750.00. Representing 7% of the total funding allocations during 2009 (see figure 7.3).

FIGURE 7.3: TOTAL FUNDING ALLOCATIONS BY FUNDING SOURCE – 2009

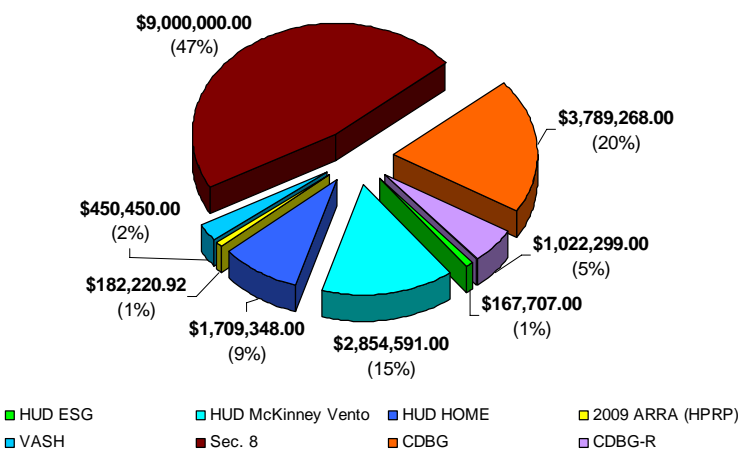


Data Source: HUD, SLIHC, Spokane County Housing and Community Development, City of Spokane Community Development, NEWHS, and City of Spokane Human Services Department.

Federal Funding Sources

The federal government (HUD) allocated \$19,175,883.92 to our region in 2009, through eight separate grant programs (see figure 7.4). The largest funding allotment came through project-based section 8 funding assistance. This grant was awarded through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for \$9,000,000.00, or 47% of the total federal funds awarded regionally in 2009 (see figure 7.4). Several other large grant awards added to the total award amount. These funds represent a significant contribution to the total amount of funds received during 2009.

FIGURE 7.4: TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS: ALLOCATION BY GRANT TYPE

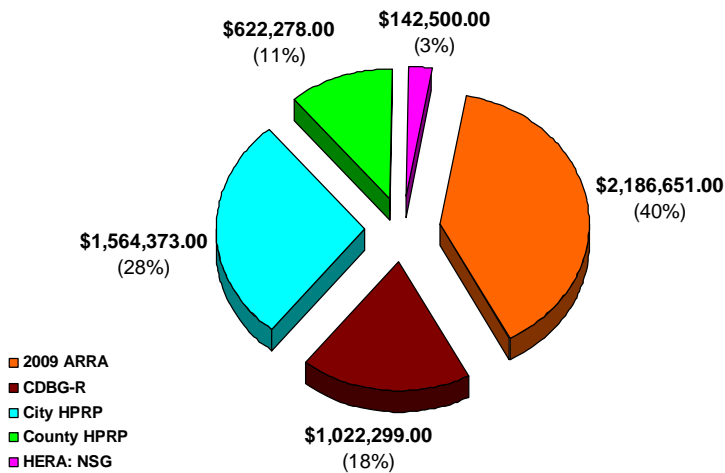


Data Source: HUD, SLIHC, Spokane County Housing and Community Development, City of Spokane Community Development, NEWHS, and City of Spokane Human Services Department.

Federal Stimulus Funds

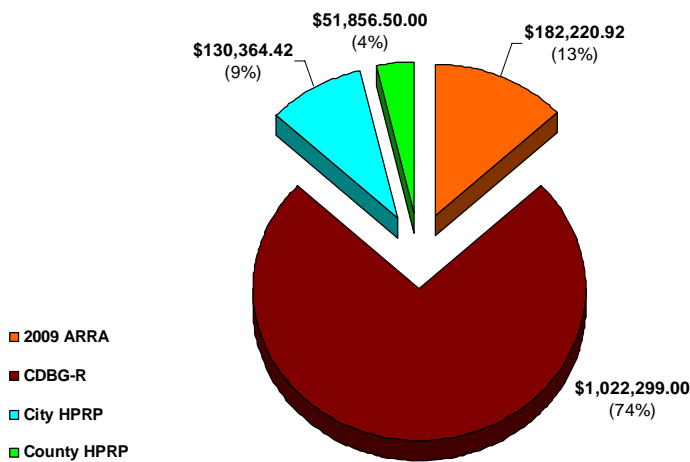
During 2009, our regional CoC received additional funding sources from the federal government (HUD) as part of the American Recovery and Investment Act (stimulus funding). The region was awarded a total of \$3,351,450.00, for distribute among local supportive services agencies over the next 3 year period (see figure 7.5). Of the total amount, our region allocated \$1,204,519.92 during 2009 (see figures 7.5 & 7.6). For a more detailed table of the local stimulus funding, please refer to appendix C.

FIGURE 7.5: TOTAL STIMULUS FUNDS AWARDED



Data Source: HUD, SLIHC, Spokane County Housing and Community Development, City of Spokane Community Development, NEWHS, and City of Spokane Human Services Department.

FIGURE 7.6: STIMULUS FUNDS AWARDED FOR USE IN 2009

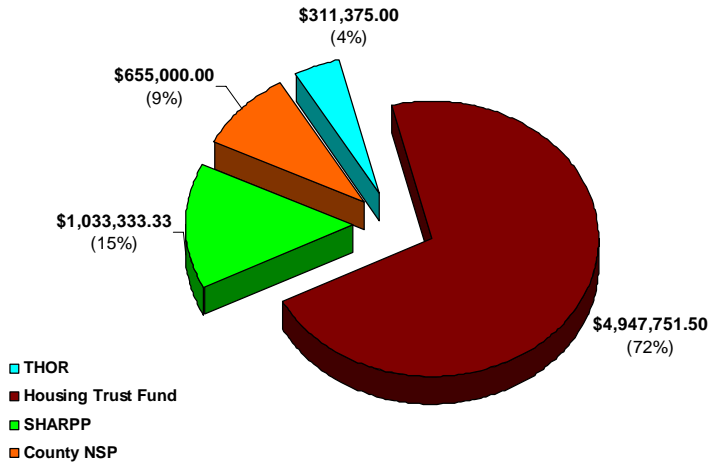


Data Source: HUD, SLIHC, Spokane County Housing and Community Development, City of Spokane Community Development, NEWHS, and City of Spokane Human Services Department.

Washington State Funding Sources

Washington State awarded \$6,947,459.83 to the Spokane region during 2009. The greatest amount of funding came through the Housing Trust Fund, which supports affordable housing development projects. The total award amount was \$4,947,751.50 (72%) for 2009 (see figure 7.7). These funds are a significant contributor to our regional effort to develop housing alternatives for persons transitioning from homelessness.

FIGURE 7.7: TOTAL WASHINGTON STATE FUNDS – ALLOCATION BY GRANT TYPE

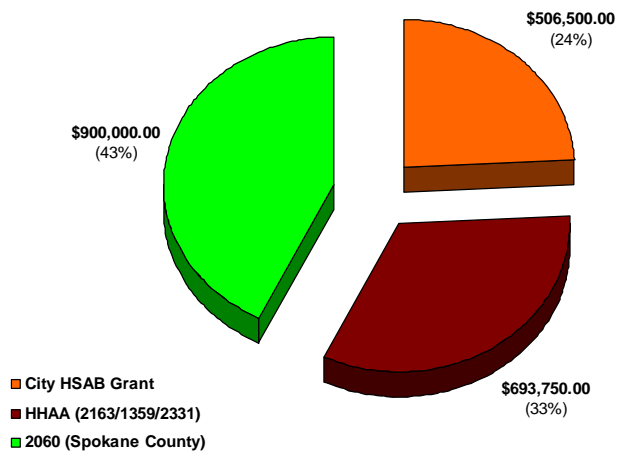


Data Source: HUD, SLIHC, Spokane County Housing and Community Development, City of Spokane Community Development, NEWHS, and City of Spokane Human Services Department.

Local Funding Sources

Local funding sources provide our regional CoC with a significant amount of funds to assist local agencies that serve homeless individuals. In 2009, the total amount of local funds awarded was \$2,100,250.00. In 2009, the Human Services Advisory Board awarded \$506,500.00 to local agencies who provide services to homeless individuals; a total of 24% of all local funds awarded during 2009 (see figure 7.8). Additional revenue is generated from local document recording fees as part of the State Homeless Housing Assistance Act (HHAA). Through the HHAA State legislation has enabled local jurisdictions to levy and collect real estate document recording fees to support projects and programs that increase affordable housing and reduce homelessness.

FIGURE 7.8: TOTAL LOCAL FUNDS – ALLOCATION BY GRANT TYPE



Data Source: HUD, SLIHC, Spokane County Housing and Community Development, City of Spokane Community Development, NEWHS, and City of Spokane Human Services Department.

Conclusion

During 2009, the Spokane Regional CoC was awarded \$28,223,593.75 from federal, state and local governments. These funds support our local agencies efforts to provide the necessary services to reduce homelessness in our region. Future financial reports will be a part of the annual update and provide a better understanding of our total regional funding awards (see appendix B).

8.0 PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

As we move forward into and beyond 2010, it will become imperative that we work together as a region to address the social issues related to homelessness. *The Road Home*, our regional Ten-Year Plan that serves as the foundation to this report has outlined specific action steps and strategies to assist our efforts. These action steps have proven vital in our efforts and appear to be working based on the reduction of homeless persons counted since its implementation. Future annual reports will address how these action steps should be modified to meet the changing needs and respond to specific trends that are identified during our data analysis.

HMIS has become a greater tool in our regional efforts to improve and enhance data collection and analysis. In 2009 the federal government awarded our region with stimulus funds to assist Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP). The HPRP award has provided a dramatic shift in how we collect data and placed a further priority on HMIS. Regionally, the number of agencies that are using and becoming more comfortable with HMIS has dramatically improved in 2009. The improved use of HMIS has directly correlated with our ability to provide services to qualified individuals and analyze the data that is entered into the database.

One of our regional priorities during 2009 was to improve our ability to centralize access to supportive services for homeless individuals. These priorities lead to the drafting of our regional Partner Agency Agreement. The agreement will allow agencies to share client information once a client allows agencies to do so. This will allow agencies to provide a more centralized approach to data collection and enhance the access clients have to supportive services. Additionally, it will assist our efforts to improve data quality by reducing the number of clients that are duplicated in the HMIS database.

Conclusion

The reader of this report must be made aware of the data quality presented in this report. Statistics presented in this report should be referenced as count numbers and do not fully represent the complete picture of homelessness in our region. The social complexity that is associated with homelessness will always present barriers to data quality and statistical analysis. However this report provides a point-in-time representation of homelessness in our region that is used to help plan for improved action steps to continue our regional efforts to reduce homelessness.

APPENDIX: A

2009 & 2010 Transitional/Permanent Housing Gap Analysis

2009 Gap Analysis

Transitional Housing	Total Sheltered	Total Unsheltered	Total	Total Year-Round Beds	Housing GAP
	476	268	744	290	-454
				Total (TH) GAP	-454
Permanent Supportive Housing					
	217	268	485	287	-198
				Total (PSH) GAP	-198

2010 Gap Analysis

Transitional Housing					
Persons in Households without Children	145	146	291	252	-39
Persons in Households with Children	383	23	406	383	-23
				Total (TH) GAP	-62
Permanent Supportive Housing					
Persons in Households without Children	60	146	206	270	64
Persons in Households with Children	186	23	209	80	-129
				Total (PSH) GAP	-65

APPENDIX: B

2009 Funding Distribution by Source

Federal (HUD) Funds	2009 Total	Duration (Years)	Total Award
HUD Emergency Shelter Grant	\$167,707.00	1	\$167,707.00
VASH	\$450,450.00	1	\$450,450.00
HUD McKinney Vento	\$2,854,591.00	1	\$2,854,591.00
HUD HOME	\$1,709,348.00	1	\$1,709,348.00
2009 ARRA (HPRP)	\$182,220.92	3	\$2,186,651.00
Project-Based Sec. 8	\$9,000,000.00	1	\$9,000,000.00
Community Development Block Grant	\$3,789,268.00	1	\$3,789,268.00
CDBG-R	\$1,022,299.00	1	\$1,022,299.00
Housing and Economic Recovery Act: Neighborhood Stabilization Program	\$0.00	7	\$142,500.00
Total	\$19,175,883.92		\$21,322,814.00
Washington State Funds	2009 Total	Duration (Years)	Total Award
THOR	\$311,375.00	1	\$311,375.00
Housing Trust Fund	\$4,947,751.50	2	\$9,895,503.00
County Homeless Grants Assistance Program - SHARPP	\$1,033,333.33	3	\$3,100,000.00
County Neighborhood Stabilization Program	\$655,000.00	1	\$655,000.00
Total	\$6,947,459.83		\$13,961,878.00
Local Funds	2009 Total	Duration (Years)	Total Award
City Human Services Advisory Board Grant	\$506,500.00	1	\$506,500.00
HHA (2163/1359/2331)	\$693,750.00	1	\$693,750.00
2060 (Spokane County)	\$900,000.00	1	\$900,000.00
Total	\$2,100,250.00		\$2,100,250.00
Combined Totals for the Region (2009)	\$28,223,593.75		\$37,384,942.00

APPENDIX: C**2009 Federal Stimulus Funds Distribution Matrix**

Federal Funds	Award	Duration	2009 Total
2009 ARRA	\$2,186,651.00	36 months	\$182,220.92
CDBG-R	\$1,022,299.00	1 Year	\$1,022,299.00
City HPRP	\$1,564,373.00	3 Months (Oct-Dec 2009)	\$130,364.42
County HPRP	\$622,278.00	3 Months (Oct-Dec 2009)	\$51,856.50
HERA: NSG	\$142,500.00	7 Years	No Funds were allocated for 2009
Total	\$3,351,450.00		\$1,204,519.92

APPENDIX: D

Grants Awarded Definitions

Housing and Urban Development McKinney Vento Act: Competitive federal grant awarded annually to regional Continuums of Care. The Department of Housing and Urban Development awards this grant to fund emergency shelter, supportive housing and shelter plus care programs.

Housing and Urban Development HOME: The HOME grant is intended to support affordable housing for low-income households. This is an annual grant awarded through HUD.

2009 American Recovery and Investment Act, Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP): Grant awarded to the Spokane Regional CoC to provide assistance for families and individuals at risk of loose their home and becoming homeless. The HPRP grant is a federal spend down grant that will end mid 2012.

Project-Based Section 8: Grant awarded to subsidize affordable housing development. These funds are managed by Northeast Washington Housing Solutions.

Community Development Block Grant: Federal grant intended to improve community development for low income individuals.

Community Development Block Grant-R: Stimulus grant funds intended to provide additional funds for community development for low and moderate income individuals. The intent of this grant is to provide affordable housing and economic opportunities.

Housing and Economic Recovery Act, Neighborhood Stabilization Program: Federal grant intended to provide assistance for communities suffering from foreclosures and abandonment.

HOME Investment Partnership Program: Federal funds allocated to low and very low income individuals for housing assistance.

Emergency Shelter Grant Program: HUD grant intended to provide emergency shelter and short-term homeless prevention.

County HOME Program - Rental Housing Development: Federal funds used to develop affordable rental housing units for qualifying low-income individuals.

County HOME Program - Tenant Based Rental Assistance: HUD grant used to provide low-income individuals with rent and utility assistance.

County HOME Program - Down payment Assistance: Federal funds used to assist low-income eligible individuals with down payment assistance for home buyers.

County Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program: Federal stimulus program intended to assist low-income individuals at risk of losing their housing and assisting to re-house those who have lost their housing.

County Community Development Block Grant: Flexible program that provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs.

Transitional Housing, Opportunity and Rent (THOR): The THOR program provides homeless families with children with up to two years of rental assistance, transitional facility operating subsidies, and case management to help them transition to permanent housing and self-sufficiency. The program is funded through the State General Fund.

Housing Trust Fund: The Washington State Housing Trust Fund helps communities meet the housing needs of low-income and special needs populations.

County Homeless Grants Assistance Program – SHARPP: Homeless Grant Assistance Program was first launched in 2006 to provide grants to Washington State counties for innovative projects that reduce homelessness and demonstrate systems change by integrating criminal justice, social service, health, and other state and local systems.

County Neighborhood Stabilization Program: Federal grant intended to support local communities that are suffering from foreclosures and abandonment.

City Human Services Advisory Board Grant: City of Spokane funded grant that is awarded to local human service providing agencies.

Homeless Housing and Assistance Act (2163/1359/2331): Local document recording fees that are designated for homeless assistance.

2060 (Spokane County): Local document recording fees that are designated for homeless assistance.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to express our gratitude to the following individuals/agencies that contributed to the development of this report.

Edits

Christine McCabe, Avista

Christy Zuniga, Spokane County

Cindy Algeo, Spokane Low Income Housing Consortium

Tim Crowley, Spokane County

Financial Data

City of Spokane Community Development Department

Spokane County Community Services, Housing and Community Development Department

Spokane Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office

Spokane Low Income Housing Consortium

Washington State Department of Commerce

Spokane Housing Authority dba Northeast Washington Housing Solutions

Staff

Jerrie Allard, Dan Ruddell, David Lewis, Cassandra Friesen, Wendy Quinnan and George C. Dahl, City of Spokane Human Services Department

***Special thanks to **Avista** for providing this document to the readers in print format.*