

City of Seattle

Homelessness

SEATTLE / KING COUNTY ADS ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Briefing Objectives

1. Introduction of Department and Role
2. Seattle's Homelessness Crisis (background and context)
3. City's Response (overview of investments)
4. New Strategies to Address Homelessness (national best practices)
5. Questions and Discussion

City of Seattle, Human Services Dept.

- The Seattle Human Services Department (HSD) invests \$89 million annually in the local human service safety net.
- The department's work is carried out through four divisions which are responsible for planning, grant-making and direct services (Aging and Disability Services, Youth and Family Empowerment, Community Support and Assistance, and Leadership and Administration)
- HSD's span of control includes an annual budget of \$129M, 320 FTEs, and approximately 400 contracts with 200 unique grantees.
- The department is focused on achieving four strategic priorities: 1) achieve a results culture; 2) ensuring strong public stewardship; 3) create a positive employee experience; and 4) being an innovator in human services and future focused.

What We Know About Homelessness

Determinants of Homelessness

Research of 300+ cities and states found statistical correlation between these factors and rising homelessness:

Housing market	Increase in rent of \$100 associated with 15% increase in homelessness in metro and 39% in rural/suburban areas
Economic conditions	Areas with high poverty and unemployment rates associated with higher rates of homelessness
Demographic composition	Areas with more Hispanic, baby boomer, and single person households associated with higher rates of homelessness
Safety net	States with lower mental health expenditures associated with higher rates of homelessness
Transience	Areas with more recently moved people associated with higher rates of homelessness

Source: Byrne, T., Culhane, D., et. al., “New Perspectives on Community-level Determinants of Homelessness” (2013): [Article](#) and [Summary](#)

Racial Disproportionality

Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders:

3x more likely 

African Americans:

5x more likely 

Native American/Alaska Native:

7x more likely 

Seattle's Homelessness Crisis

- Seattle is a very prosperous city; however severe and persistent **economic and racial disparities** exist across the region
- One in three residents pay **30% or more towards housing expenses in King County**
- 2016 One Night Count found **2,942 individuals were living unsheltered in Seattle, 4,505 across all of King County.**
- Seattle funding makes available **1,800 emergency shelter beds** each night. This is roughly 80% of the total beds available across King County
- **6,000 units of affordable housing** produced over the last 15 years countywide

Seattle's Homelessness Crisis

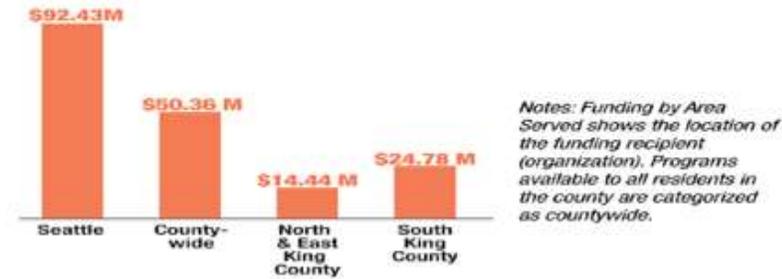
- **Number of Homeless People:** The Seattle-King County Continuum of Care has 10,122 homeless people. This is the third largest number of homeless persons nationally, behind the CoCs in New York and Los Angeles (Data Source: *U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development*)
- **Housing Units:** Seattle-King County has 8,337 housing for the homeless. This is the third in the nation, behind only New York and Los Angeles (Data Source: *U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development*)
- **Human Service Investments:** HSD invests roughly \$50M annually to address homelessness (Data Source: *Homelessness Investment Analysis Report, 2015*)

Homelessness Investments 2014

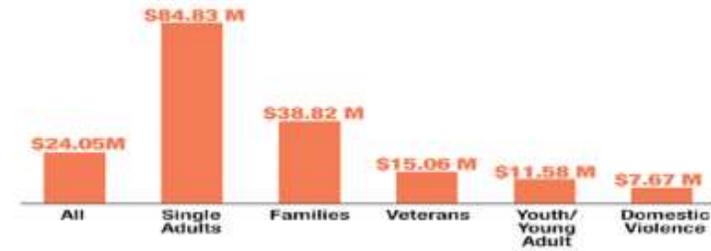
FUNDING BY STRATEGY



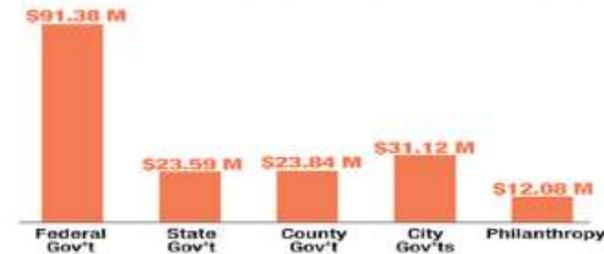
FUNDING BY AREA SERVED



FUNDING BY POPULATION



FUNDING BY SOURCE

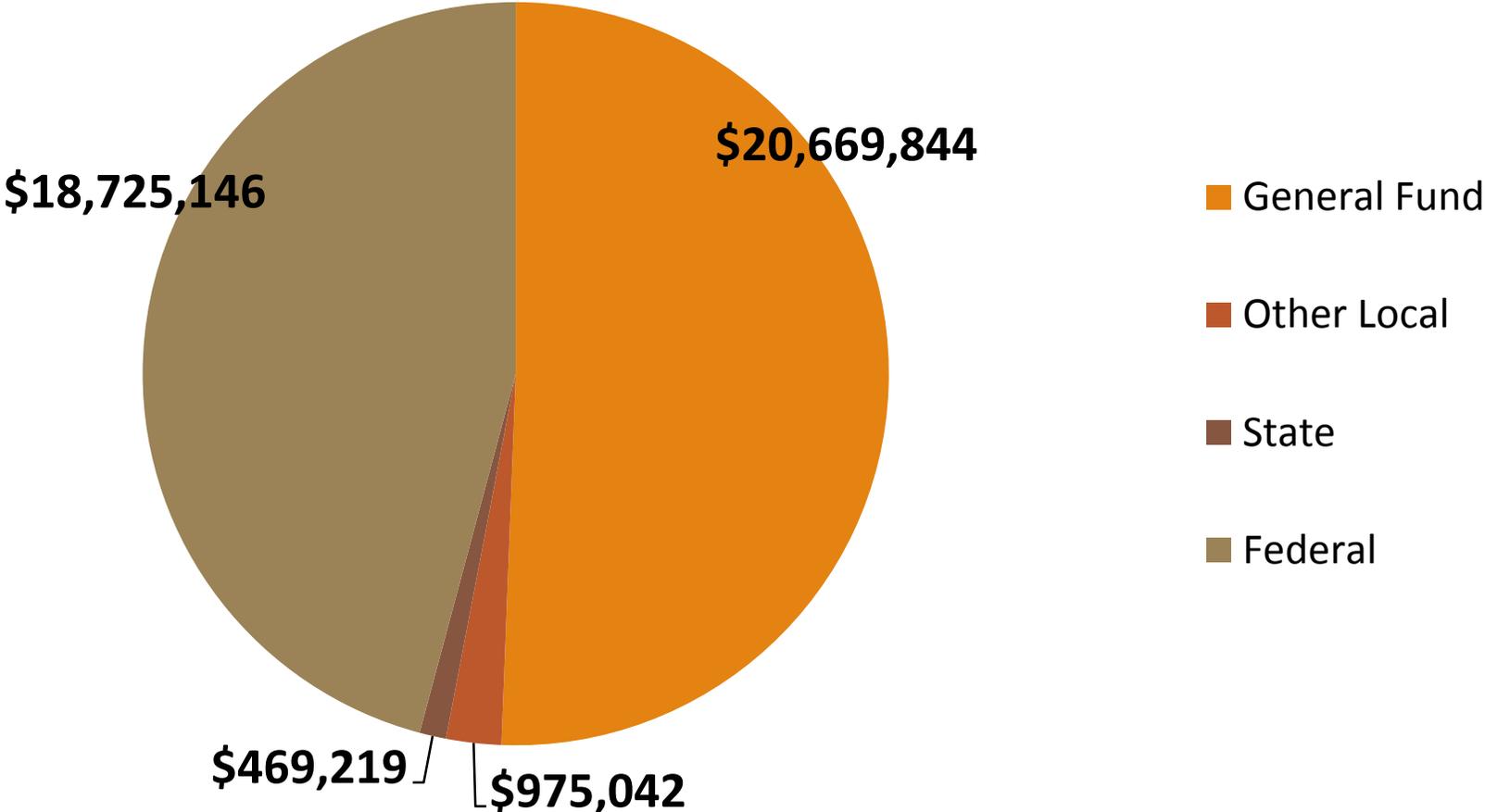


Federal	91.38	County	23.84
CDBG + HOME	3.79	General Fund + Special Projects	3.01
Health & Human Services	5.68	HOF/Doc Recording Fees	8.13
McKinney/Homeless Housing	22.91	Veterans & Human Services Levy	9.37
Public Housing	53.28	MIDD	2.60
VA	5.73	Other	0.73
State	23.59	Local	31.12
CHG	2.78	Seattle General Fund	15.23
HEN	13.16	Seattle Housing Levy	12.10
Medicaid + Match	6.82	Human Services Funding	3.79
Other	0.82	Collaborative General Fund	
		Philanthropy	12.08
		UWKC	9.16
		Building Changes, Gates, Raikes, others	2.92

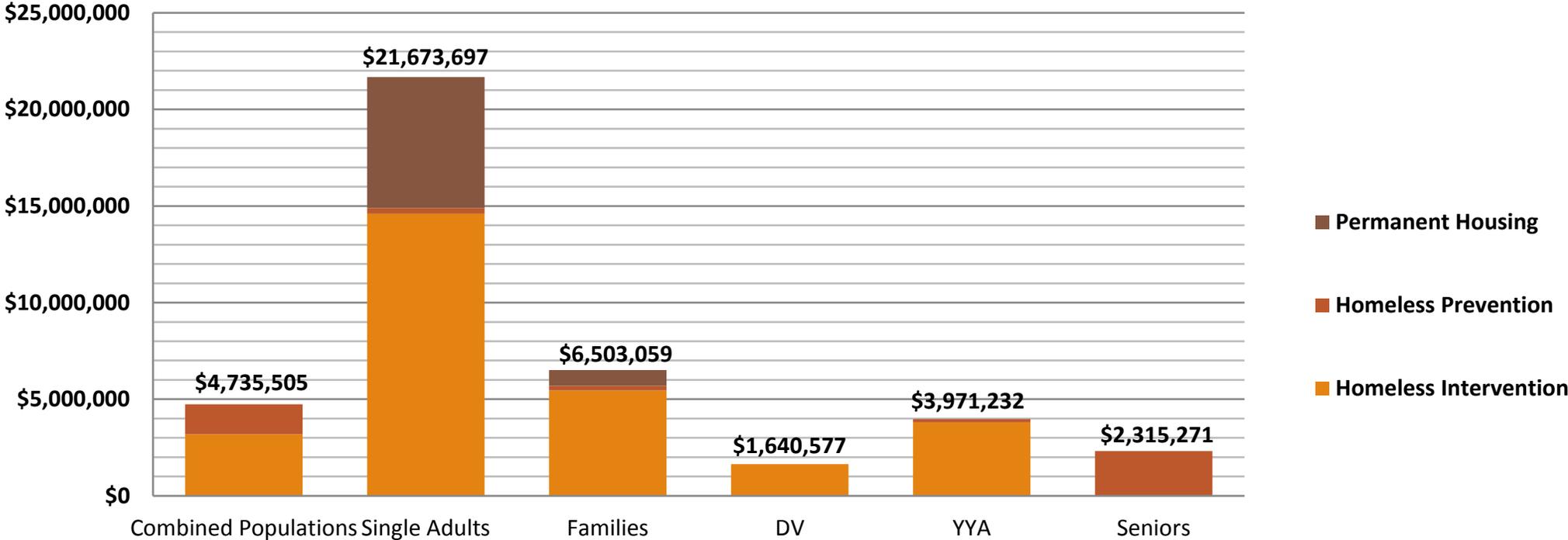
Notes: See previous page for details on the data source for this chart. The Human Services Funding Collaborative resources on this chart only include general funds.

The City's Response

Homeless Investments: Resources



Homeless Investments: Population



Homeless Investments: Intervention

HSD Invests over \$48.6 million through 3 service divisions: ADS, CSA, and YFE.

- **Prevention: \$4.55 million** in services that prevent individuals and families from entering homelessness or rapidly access stable housing (Approximately 2,675 households served)
- **Intervention: \$28.68 million** in services to support individuals and families who are currently experiencing homelessness (shelter, transitional housing, day/hygiene centers, outreach)
- **Permanent Housing: \$7.59 million** in services that provide permanent housing for individuals and families who are homeless (1095 units; 591 for chronically homeless)
- **State of Emergency: \$7.265 million** in services that address the immediate crisis need of the unsheltered following the State of Emergency declaration

Actions taken under the SOE

- Added \$7.3M additional local funds
- Opened 288 new, additional shelter beds
- Additional services for children and youth experiencing homelessness
- Launched a new mobile van unit
- Responding to more citizen complaints
- Increased outreach efforts
- Made available public health resources (i.e. trash, needle containers, etc.)
- Beginning to address data issues – important to invest in what works
- State and Federal Advocacy
- Community Awareness Campaign

New Strategies

New Strategies to Address Homelessness

1. Rapid Re-Housing

- Rapid Re-Housing programs provide financial assistance, housing navigation services, and employment training to individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness to be quickly re-housed and stabilized in private market housing.

2. Diversion and Flexible Funding

- Diversion is a strategy that prevents homelessness for people seeking shelter by helping them identify immediate alternate housing arrangements and, if necessary, connecting them with services and financial assistance to help them return to permanent housing. Diversion programs can reduce the number of families becoming homeless, the demand for shelter beds, and the size of program wait lists.
- Flexible Funds offer outreach and shelter workers the ability to assist individuals and families experiencing homelessness address meet their basic needs. Flex Funds can be used for a variety of items from hotel/motel vouchers, transportation or relocation assistance, medications, work clothes, car repairs, etc.

3. Housing First

- Housing First is an approach to ending homelessness that centers on providing people experiencing homelessness with housing as quickly as possible – and then providing services as needed. This approach has the benefit of being consistent with what most people experiencing homelessness want and seek help to achieve.

Policy & Practice Shifts for Long-term Change

1. Aggressively “open the backdoor”
2. Implement regional coordinated entry with diversion at front door
3. Align homelessness strategies with affordable housing agenda
4. Implement Housing First through integrated citywide response
5. Use data analysis to inform shift and alignment of resources
6. Ensure funding processes and contracting practice are outcomes driven
7. Improve coordination and alignment with other funders

Discussion, Questions & Answers

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<http://www.seattle.gov/humanservices>