Homelessness in Jackson County & the Continuum of Care’s Response
Not a single state has an adequate supply of affordable rental housing for the lowest income renters.

- Homelessness has reached epidemic proportions in Oregon and across America.

- In 2017, there was a nation-wide shortage of 7.2 million affordable and available rental homes for families with incomes at or below the poverty level. ($12,140 for households of one person; $25,100 for households of 4.)
Jackson County Point In Time Count

Homeless Individuals

Year of Count

2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018

601 548 625 729 527 633 732
Root Causes of Homelessness in Jackson County

- Loss of Job
- Poor Rental History & History of Evictions
- Family Trauma/Crisis – Divorce, Family Disputes
- Domestic Violence/Sexual Abuse/Stalking
- Loss of Home Upon Death of Relative
- Mental Illness
- Job Injury
- Physical Disability
- Health Crisis
- Substance Use Disorder
- Low Wages
- Rent Increases Exceed Ability to Pay
- Very Low Vacancy Rate
- Incarceration
- Unexpected Bills
- Education – Cannot Pay Rent and Tuition
Jackson County

CONTINUUM of CARE

Working together to end homelessness
What is a Continuum of Care?

It is a HUD-mandated, community-wide effort to end homelessness by:

• Providing stable housing for the homeless and

• Offering preventative services to those at risk of becoming homeless.

Housing the most vulnerable is a collaborative effort and requires the resources of all sectors of the community.
What is Coordinated Entry?

The purpose of a Coordinated Entry System (CES) is

• to align providers and resources within a system
• to ensure every person experiencing homelessness is accounted for and helped with the most appropriate and available support and in the fastest way possible.
The Coordinated Entry System

- Coordinated Entry includes outreach, diversion & prioritization
- Works to ensure that homelessness is rare, brief, & non-recurring
- Housing-focused system: all interventions quickly end episode of homeless & move people to permanent housing
- The right mix of interventions that match the needs
- The system is easily understood and navigated by persons experiencing homelessness
Unique Approaches to Housing Tailored to Specific Needs

GOAL: STABLE HOUSING

• Seasonal Shelter
• Emergency Shelter
• Tiny Houses
• Transitional Housing
• Permanent Supportive Housing
• Affordable Housing
Breaking down Silos: Coordinated Entry
Coordinated Entry: A Paradigm Shift

- Provides fair and equal access to crisis response services and housing with standardized vulnerability assessment and referral process
- Prioritizes highest-barrier households versus “households most likely to succeed” in any given program
- Closes “side doors” to shelter and programs
- Moves away from “agency determination” to “assistance determination”
- Does away with “first come, first served” by elevating most vulnerable to top of centralized interest list
- Provides a streamlined and transparent system of access to crisis and permanent housing
- Reduces waiting lists and length of homelessness

Target services to those with the highest housing barriers: Serve those with greatest need first.
Jackson County’s Access Points
Homeless Management Information System Providers

• ACCESS
• Ashland Community Resource Ctr. (ACRC)
• Columbia Care
• Community Works
• Hearts with a Mission
• Maslow
• OnTrack Rogue Valley
• Rogue Valley Council of Governments
• Rogue Valley Veterans and Community Outreach (RVVCO)
• Salvation Army
• Veterans Administration

Coming online in December:
• Family Nurturing Center
• Housing Authority of Jackson County
• Jackson County Mental Health
• St. Vincent de Paul
Coordinated Entry: Easy Access
Coordinated Entry Referral: Uniform Across All Housing Projects – No Screening Out

Diversion Conversation

Participant presents at access point → Assessment Process → Prioritization → Referral
Housing First Philosophy: Another Paradigm Shift

- Housing First is a paradigm shift from traditional housing ready approach.
- Basic Principle: Everyone is ready for housing, regardless of the complexity of their needs.
- Housing First is not a “program.” It is a system-wide orientation and response.
- Low barrier admission policies. For example: no clean and sober or income requirements.
- Supportive Services are voluntary.
- Tenants have full rights, responsibilities and legal protections.
- Applicable in a variety of housing models.
Denver's Sanderson Apartments, a three-story 50,000 sq. ft. building, features 60 one-bedroom apartments for homeless people.

The bedrooms have no doors to shut, but, instead, window-sized wall cutouts to see through to the interior corridor.
Tenants accessing Housing First programs are able to move into housing faster than programs offering a more traditional approach.

Tenants using Housing First programs stayed housed longer and more stably than with other programs. Over 90% of tenants using Housing First programs are able to stay housed.

In general, tenants accessing Housing First programs access services more often, have a greater sense of choice and autonomy, and are far less costly to public systems than tenants of other programs.
Housing First saved Denver $17,858 per person over 2 years in these costs alone:

A person on LA’s Skid Row costs 5 times as much as one in Housing First:

Sources: Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, Economic Roundtable
# The Cost of Homelessness vs. Supportive Housing

## Remaining Unhoused

2018 Central Florida study included:
- In-Patient Hospitalization Costs
- Emergency Room Use
- Incarceration Costs

$31,065 per person in Central FL

With Area Cost Adjustment = $35,217 per person in Rogue Valley

## Supportive Housing with Services Provided

- $10,051 per person in Central FL
- $11,358 (with area cost adjustment) per person in Rogue Valley

Housing an individual who is experiencing homelessness in supportive housing (with case management and wraparound services) equates to a 67% cost savings, but more importantly provides stable housing and assistance!

Jackson County

CONTINUUM of CARE
Working together to end homelessness