

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING SERVICES  
REFORM UPDATE: CURRENT STATE

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**Date:** October 2, 2025

**Department:** Housing

**Meeting Date:** October 14, 2025

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**Presenter:** Liam Frost (he/him), *Interim  
Housing Director*

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Director*

**Length:** 60 minutes

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## ISSUE STATEMENT

Metro staff are preparing to advise the Metro Council this fall on a comprehensive Reform Work Plan that outlines key action areas for near-term, practical reforms in response to identified priorities for improving the Supportive Housing Services (SHS) fund. The first of four scheduled work sessions and business meetings will take place on October 14 and will provide an overview of the current state of the SHS program, including existing gaps and challenges.

## ACTION REQUESTED

No formal action is requested at this time; however, this presentation will help lay the foundation for potential Council action of approving an SHS Reform Work Plan, and other actions at Council's direction.

This presentation is part one of a four-part series:

- Oct 14 - Current State
- Oct 30 - Draft Reform Work Plan: Pt 1
- Nov 6 - Draft Reform Work Plan: Pt 2
- Nov 20 - Council consideration of a resolution to adopt SHS Reform Work Plan

## IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

No specific policy outcomes are proposed at this time; however, this presentation is intended to help lay the groundwork for potential future policy decisions. Metro Council has called for SHS reforms and system improvements to achieve better on-the-ground outcomes, as well as increased accountability and efficiency. This presentation supports that ongoing effort.

## **POLICY QUESTION(S)**

- How can these conditions and gaps inform future policy considerations in the SHS Reform Work Plan?
- Throughout the four-part SHS Reform Work Plan series:
  - Which areas would Council like to explore in more depth or receive additional information on?
  - Which areas would Council like to prioritize?
  - Are there any additional considerations Council would like included in the Work Plan to support future actions?

## **POLICY OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER**

Metro Council has called for SHS reforms and system improvements to achieve better outcomes on the ground, along with greater accountability and efficiency. This presentation supports that effort and helps lay the foundation for potential future policy options.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

Metro Council consider SHS progress and system improvement areas in anticipation of a Reform Work Plan for subsequent Council consideration in October and November 2025.

## **STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

Over the past 18 months, Metro has engaged deeply with a broad range of partners and key interested parties across the region to better understand both the challenges and the opportunities within our homeless response system. These conversations have been instrumental in shaping a series of commonsense improvements aimed at making the system more effective.

In response, Metro staff provided the Metro Council with a memo in July 2025 outlining proposed reform areas and committed to developing an SHS Reform Work Plan for formal Council consideration this fall. The Reform Work Plan identifies a set of near-term, practical reforms that can be implemented without requiring a ballot measure. These changes are designed to streamline oversight, speed up coordination, and better support our regional system to deliver better outcomes for people experiencing homelessness.

## **BACKGROUND**

Metro is responsible for ensuring the effectiveness of the system that supports SHS investments regionwide—for the benefit of the individuals it serves, for our partners, and for voters and taxpayers across the region. Now at the midpoint of the initiative's 10-year duration, Metro and its partners are responsible for applying the lessons learned into refining areas that will enhance the regional homeless services system.

During the first half of SHS initiative implementation, Metro, the three county partners (Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties) and their contracted service providers have accomplished:

- **Regional goals that are expected to surpass the original goals** of connecting at least 5,000 households experiencing homelessness to permanent supportive housing and stabilizing at least 10,000 households at risk of or experiencing homelessness in permanent housing. *(Metro staff are currently validating County data and expect to confirm this by end of October 2025.)*
- **Establishing regional Population A and B definition alignment** and consistent financial reporting
- **Developing a regional plan** featuring six implementation strategies identified by the Tri-County Planning Body
- **Integrating SHS-funded supportive services and rent assistance with Metro affordable housing bond-funded capital investments** and creating **853** new permanent supportive housing units

These accomplishments provide a solid foundation for the next phase of SHS, as Metro and its partners focus on deepening regional impact, improving system performance, and ensuring better accountability to the public.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

None.