

MPAC Worksheet

Agenda Item Title: Regional Supportive Housing Services: Reporting and Reform Updates

Presenters: Andy Shaw, Director of Government Affairs and Policy Development;
TBD, Metro Housing Department

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Purpose/Objective

To provide MPAC members with an update on current impacts of regional Supportive Housing Services (SHS), as well as discussions to reform and extend the program's work to address homelessness in the greater Portland region.

Outcomes

- MPAC members are aware of recent SHS impacts, successes and challenges.
- MPAC members better understand the direction of potential reform efforts.

What has changed since MPAC last considered this issue/item?

MPAC has discussed and received updates on Metro's work to address homelessness many times since voters' creation of the Supportive Housing Services program in 2020. Over the last year, MPAC has also been engaged several times in discussions of how the program could be improved, extended and expanded to include affordable housing investments as well as services.

MPAC last discussed SHS reforms on Dec. 11, 2024. Several significant developments have occurred since then related to this topic. These include:

- Following a yearlong process of partner, stakeholder and community input, the Metro Council has been considering potential actions to reform the SHS program since January, including but not limited to streamlining and aligning regional oversight and strategy; increasing accountability and transparency; and a potential ballot measure to extend the current program's 2030 sunset, expand allowable uses to include affordable housing, and improve compliance. The Council is considering formal action on these and other potential reforms this spring. A decision whether to refer a measure to the November 2025 ballot has not been made.
- On Feb. 24, a new Metro Council President Work Group held its inaugural meeting. Co-chaired by Council President Peterson and Clackamas County Commissioner Ben West, this work group includes three Metro Councilors, two county commissioners and two mayors from each county, and representatives of several leading coalitions representing service and housing providers, community-based organizations and business advocacy organizations. The Work Group is tasked with looking beyond a potential measure referral decision to prepare for the future of SHS, including identifying a regional "North Star" vision of the program seeks to deliver, exploring potential Key Performance Indicators and discussing data collection needs. The work group's meetings are public, and will continue regularly through mid-June.
- Throughout March, the Metro Council and the three county commissions will receive updates on the SHS Program's FY2024 annual report. This presentation will include an overview of the report's highlights, which find that Metro and its county implementation partners are making good progress toward the SHS program's original 10-year goals. In the first three years of implementation, the SHS program funded more than 6,000 housing placements and 15,000 homelessness preventions. In year three alone, more than 3,800 people were served in SHS-funded emergency shelters. However, the region faces continuing headwinds and systemic factors increasing the challenge of homelessness.

Additionally, the program's implementation has highlighted challenges of role clarity, oversight and accountability that reform efforts seek to address.

- Metro and the three counties are finalizing a data-sharing agreement that will improve regional analysis and evaluation, as well as future regional planning and decision-making. Metro staff and county partners provided an overview of this agreement at the Metro Council's Feb. 27 meeting.

What packet material do you plan to include?

- SHS Program Regional Annual Report, July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024
- Metro Council President Work Group Roster