

## SUPPORTIVE HOUSING SERVICES: WASHINGTON COUNTY LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN WORK SESSION

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Date: May 3, 2021  
Department: Planning & Development  
Work Session Date: May 18, 2021

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Presenters: Patricia Rojas, Regional  
Housing Director; Washington County  
Chair Kathryn Harrington (invited); Josh  
Crites and Jes Larson, Washington  
County Department of Housing Services  
Length: 60 min.

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### ISSUE STATEMENT

On May 19, 2020, greater Portland voters approved Measure 26-210, establishing Metro's regional supportive housing services program to address homelessness and help people find and keep safe, stable, affordable housing across the region.

This program brings a groundbreaking level of regional coordination and scale to address this regionwide challenge. Each of the Metro area's three counties are responsible for developing a local implementation plan through inclusive engagement with community and local practitioners, analysis of local conditions and needs, and developing a framework for planned investments. As described in the Supportive Housing Services measure and work plan, these plans are high-level frameworks built with a racial equity lens to initiate implementation of the measure within each county, with additional details to be worked out in the months and years ahead.

On April 6, the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved the county's Local Implementation Plan for review by the Regional Oversight Committee and Metro Council. On April 26, the Regional Oversight Committee unanimously recommended the plan for approval by the Metro Council. The plan is attached to this worksheet as Attachment 1.

At Council's May 18 work session, Washington County Chair Harrington and County staff will join Metro Regional Housing Director Patricia Rojas to present the Washington County Local Implementation Plan and engage in a discussion with Council about the engagement and analysis that shaped it, and the strategies it proposes to advance regional Supportive Housing Services outcomes and requirements.

### ACTIONS REQUESTED

This work session is intended to help prepare the Metro Council for its May 27 meeting, in which Council will consider adoption of Resolution No. 21-5172. If adopted, this resolution would approve the Washington County Local Implementation Plan as consistent with regional requirements, and direct staff to incorporate it into an intergovernmental agreement with the county, which would later be considered for adoption by the county and Metro Council. Additionally, the Council would acknowledge considerations attached by the Regional Oversight Committee to its recommendation of the plan.

## **IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES**

Local Implementation Plans are described in Section 6 of the Supportive Housing Services measure referred to voters by the Metro Council in February 2020 and approved by voters that May. In referring the measure, the Metro Council recognized the unique needs of each county and stated its policy that "there be sufficient flexibility in implementation to serve the needs of residents, communities, and those receiving Supportive Housing Services."

After several months of work with the Stakeholder Advisory Committee, jurisdictional partners and other stakeholders, on December 17, 2020 the Metro Council adopted a series of resolutions and ordinances to implement the Supportive Housing Services measure, including Resolution No. 20-5148, adopting the Supportive Housing Services Program Work Plan ("Work Plan"); Ordinance No. 20-1452, codifying the programmatic aspects of the Measure in Title XI of the Metro Code; Ordinance No. 20-1453, codifying the requirements, membership, and responsibilities of the Supportive Housing Services Regional Oversight Committee in Chapter 2.19 of the Metro Code; and Ordinance No. 20-1454, codifying the enforcement, collection, and implementation of the income taxes imposed by the Measure in Chapters 7.05, 7.06, and 7.07 of the Metro Code.

The Metro Council has directed that Local Implementation Partners must have an approved Local Implementation Plan in order to receive Supportive Housing Services funds. Metro's work plan further defines Local Implementation Plans' purpose, process of development and review, and required elements, including "local housing and homeless service needs, current programming and unmet programming capacities, and proposed use of funds in accordance with the purposes of the regional Supportive Housing Services Program." (These requirements are listed in detail in the "Background" section below.)

Council's direction has established Local Implementation Plans as high-level frameworks that establish local priorities and actions based on identified gaps and regional outcomes. Recognizing how systemic racism is reflected in racial disparities in the region's homelessness and housing crisis, the plans are required to be developed through inclusive community engagement that centers the voices of Black, Indigenous and people of color communities as well as people with lived experience of homelessness and housing instability. The plans also commit Local Implementation Partners to be accountable for tracking and reporting on regionally-identified outcomes, particularly racial equity outcomes.

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

Through the adoption of Resolution No. 21-5172, the Metro Council would accept the Regional Oversight Committee's recommendation that Washington County's Local Implementation Plan meets regional requirements described in the measure and program work plan. If the Council approves, Metro staff would incorporate the Local Implementation Plan into an intergovernmental agreement with the county, which will be considered for adoption by Washington County and the Metro Council prior to the beginning disbursement of Supportive Housing Services funds to the county.

If the Metro Council does not approve the Washington County Local Implementation Plan, it could direct staff instead to work with Washington County to address concerns Council may raise. If this would require a modification of the plan, it may necessitate further action

by the Board of County Commissioners and review by the Regional Oversight Committee before an intergovernmental agreement can be completed. This could lead to a delay in initiating program implementation in Washington County.

The Metro Council may also consider approving the plan while also attaching additional considerations for Metro and Washington County to address, evaluate or track during implementation.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff will recommend that Council adopt Resolution No. 21-5172 to approve the Washington County Local Implementation Plan on May 27, in recognition of the engagement, analysis and proposed investments that led to the Washington County Local Implementation Plan's recommendation by the Regional Oversight Committee, and the requirements set forth in the Supportive Housing Services measure and work plan.

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

The Metro Council established the requirements and processes for Local Implementation Plans in its measure referral (Ordinance No. 20-1442), work plan adoption (Resolution No. 20-5148), and Metro Code adoption (Ordinance No. 20-1452).

Metro's work plan and Code describes a process for review whereby a local advisory body, after inclusive community engagement and extensive analysis, makes a recommendation for the county board of commissioners to approve a local implementation plan for review by the Regional Oversight Committee, which in turn considers recommending the plan for approval by the Metro Council. If the Metro Council approves, each county's plan is then incorporated into an intergovernmental agreement between the county and Metro.

Washington County is the second of the three counties to bring its Local Implementation Plan for Metro approval. The county's plan was highly praised by the Regional Oversight Committee for the inclusive engagement that shaped it and its thoughtful approach to analysis of existing conditions, proposed first-phase investment framework, and specific early goals for outcomes.

The Washington County Local Implementation Plan forthrightly describes the county's unique needs and opportunities to addressing the challenge of homelessness within its jurisdiction. "Naming these truths and facing our responsibilities to equitably ensure access to opportunity for all residents gives us hope and purpose to continue building a county that reflects our community values," the plan states.

The plan was shaped through inclusive engagement, prioritizing communities of color and people with lived experience. Engagement included individual interviews with more than 75 people, focus groups with over 360 participants, and the involvement of 75 people representing 45 community organizations and service providers on an advisory body.

The plan outlines several specific goals for implementation in the county, including:

- Create 1,665 supportive housing placements with permanent housing and supportive services, with a goal of 500 such placements in Year 1 of implementation;
- Create a shelter system that provides 250 beds of year-round, full-service emergency and non-congregate shelters that serve all parts of Washington County, with an initial goal of 100 year-round and 150 winter shelter beds by the end of Year 1;
- Build a network of culturally specific services led by organizations of color that serve the diverse populations of the county with quality and culturally specific care;
- Create a standard of care among all service providers that is culturally responsive, based in Housing First principles, guided by people with lived experience, and informed by the best practices of trauma-informed and people-center care; and
- Demonstrate housing placement and stability outcomes that advance racial equity and functionally end chronic homelessness with year over year system improvements and regional coordination, with a goal of achieving greater housing stability for 500 households in Year 1.

Following the local advisory body's recommendation on March 10, the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved the plan for Metro review on April 6. The Regional Oversight Committee then received the plan. Following a presentation from County staff and a robust discussion, the committee gave its unanimous recommendation for the plan on April 26, 2021.

Similar to its review of the Multnomah County Local Implementation Plan, the Regional Oversight Committee also attached several *considerations* to its recommendation. These are issues the committee recognizes are beyond the scope of the LIP requirements, but which nevertheless they seek to monitor and evaluate during implementation and annual review. The Metro Council may acknowledge these considerations and provide direction to staff to work with the county to ensure they are addressed. As of this writing, Metro staff are working to finalize the language of these considerations with the committee co-chairs; once completed, they will be attached to this worksheet as [Attachment 2](#). Through the adoption of Resolution No. 21-5172, the Metro Council will acknowledge these considerations and direct county and Metro staff to work together to address them.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Supportive Housing Services Program Work Plan, section 5.1, lists required elements in the Local Implementation Plans, with greater detail provided in Appendix D.

The required elements include:

- Analysis of inequitable outcomes:* An articulation of racial inequities in housing stability and access to current services;
- Racial equity strategies:* A description of mitigation strategies and how the key objectives of Metro's Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion have been incorporated;

- C. *Inclusive community engagement*: An articulation of how perspectives of Black, Indigenous and people of color and culturally specific groups were considered and incorporated into the development of the plan and will continue to be engaged through implementation and evaluation;
- D. *Priority population investment distribution*: A commitment that funding will be allocated as specified in Section 4.2;
- E. *Current investments*: A review of current system investments or capacity serving priority populations, an analysis of the nature and extent of gaps in services to meet the needs of the priority population, and a commitment to prohibit displacement of current local funding commitments for such services;
- F. *Distribution*: A strategy for equitable geographic distribution of services with partnering jurisdictions and service providers across the region;
- G. *Access coordination*: A plan for coordinating access to services with partnering jurisdictions and service providers across the region;
- H. *Procurement and partners*: A description of how funds will be allocated to public and nonprofit service providers;
- I. *Planned investments*: An articulation of programmatic investments planned, including the types of services to be funded to address the gap analysis;
- J. *Outcomes, reporting and evaluation*: An agreement to track and report on program outcomes annually as defined through regional coordination and with regional metrics.

Pertaining to item J, the SHS program work plan also describes several regional outcome metrics in Section 5.2; these will be further developed in partnership with the counties, regional oversight committee and the Tri-County Advisory Body.

The Metro Council formally approved the Multnomah County Local Implementation Plan by adoption Resolution No. 21-5171 on April 29. Staff are now working with the county to incorporate the plan into an intergovernmental agreement that will return for adoption by the Metro Council and Multnomah County.

The Clackamas County Board of Commissioners approved its plan for Oversight Committee review on April 13. The Regional Oversight Committee will begin its discussion of the plan on May 24. Pending an oversight committee recommendation, Metro staff tentatively plan to bring that plan to Metro Council in mid-June.

Also in June, the Metro Council is expected to consider adoption of intergovernmental agreements incorporating approved local implementation plans with the counties, which would allow for fund disbursement and program implementation to begin this summer.

## ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1: Washington County Local Implementation Plan
  - Attachment 2: Regional Oversight Committee recommendation and considerations for the Washington County Local Implementation Plan
- Is legislation required for Council action? ☐ Yes ☐ No
  - If yes, is draft legislation attached? ☐ Yes ☐ No