

Kittitas County, Washington  
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

District One  
**Linda Huber**

District Two  
**Alan Crankovich**

District Three  
**Mark McClain**

## **Kittitas County Homeless Assistance Act Committee**

### **Vision**

An informed and active citizenry engaged in shared goals and activities to end homelessness in Kittitas County.

### **Mission**

The mission of the Kittitas County Homeless Committee is to develop, prioritize, implement, evaluate and recommend strategies to the Board of County Commissioners to reduce and prevent homelessness and associated risks to the citizens of Kittitas County by:

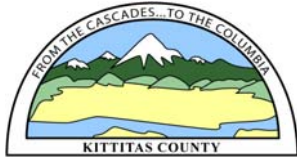
- Encouraging the coordination of services between agencies that serve the homeless community;
- Working in partnership with community social and health service organizations, businesses, and the faith community throughout Kittitas County;
- Increasing public awareness of issues of homelessness;
- Impacting public policy;
- Recommending the distribution of 2163 funds in appropriate ways to support the continued reduction and prevention of homelessness in Kittitas County.

### **Operating Principles**

Kittitas County has experienced record growth in recent years and it appears that this growth will be on going for years to come. Although this growth will bring prosperity to many in the County, it will also bring increasing housing prices and land values. As a result many people will have difficulty finding affordable housing. Homelessness has many causes: lack of affordable housing, mental health problems, substance abuse, job loss or lack of employment opportunities, and sudden changes in family structure are some of the reasons that people find themselves without adequate shelter. It is clear that homelessness cannot be eradicated at present, but it can be significantly reduced. SHB 2163, the Homelessness, Housing and Assistance Act, sets aside funds and imposes a mandate on Washington Counties to plan to reduce homelessness by 50% by the year 2015.

The Committee is guided by seven principles:

- We will address all homeless populations throughout our county.
- We will create strategies that fit our local communities' needs and priorities.



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- We will create goals, strategies and outcomes in a coordinated, collaborative manner to serve our homeless population.
- We will concentrate on strategies that are sustainable, financially feasible and offer measurable results.
- We will be proactive in identifying resources, innovative and best practices, at the local, state and federal levels.
- We will make data-driven decisions to monitor, modify, and improve our plan.
- We will look for creative partnerships and clear strategies to prevent homelessness.

### **Authority**

The Washington State Legislature passed ESSHB 2163, the Homeless Housing and Assistance Act, into law in April 2005. The law requires each county in Washington State to have a Homeless Housing Task Force and a 10-year strategic plan that supports the State's 10 Year Plan to reduce homeless by 50% in Washington State by 2015.

In passing this law, the Legislature amended RCW 36.22.178 and provided an additional surcharge of ten dollars by the county auditor for each recorded document, except for those previously excluded from any fees. The law stipulates that the county auditor shall retain two percent for collection of the fee, and of the remainder shall remit sixty percent to the county to be deposited into a special fund that must be used by the county and its cities and towns to accomplish the purposes of this act, six percent of which may be used by the county for administrative costs related to its homeless housing plan, and the remainder for programs which directly accomplish the goals of the county's homeless housing plan.

The auditor shall remit the remaining funds to the state treasurer for deposit in the homeless housing account. The department may use twelve and one-half percent of this amount for administration of the program established in section 5 of this act, including the costs of creating the statewide homeless housing strategic plan, measuring performance, providing technical assistance to local governments, and managing the homeless housing grant program. The remaining eighty-seven and one-half percent is to be distributed by the department to local governments through the homeless housing grant program.



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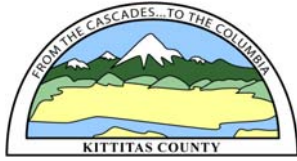
## **Definitions**

"Homeless person" means an individual living outside or in a building not meant for human habitation or which they have no legal right to occupy, in an emergency shelter, or in a temporary housing program which may include a transitional and supportive housing program if habitation time limits exist. This definition includes substance abusers, mentally ill people, and sex offenders who are homeless.

While this definition from Washington State is embraced by this committee, there is recognition that many homeless persons "couch surf" and many who lose their homes to foreclosures, job loss, etc. frequently move in with relatives for a period of time. This Committee believes that efforts to address the issues facing a broader range of homeless persons in Kittitas County are essential if we are to prevent homelessness and since we have made prevention of homelessness a focus of our plan.

## **Permissible Uses Under the Law**

1. Rental and furnishing of dwelling units for the use of homeless persons;
2. Costs of developing affordable housing for homeless persons, and services for formerly homeless individuals and families residing in transitional housing or permanent housing and still at risk of homelessness;
3. Operating subsidies for transitional housing or permanent housing serving formerly homeless families or individuals;
4. Services to prevent homelessness, such as emergency eviction prevention programs including temporary rental subsidies to prevent homelessness;
5. Temporary services to assist persons leaving state institutions and other state programs to prevent them from becoming or remaining homeless;
6. Outreach services for homeless individuals and families;
7. Development and management of local homeless plans including homeless census data collection; identification of goals, performance measures, strategies, and costs and evaluation of progress towards established goals;
8. Rental vouchers payable to landlords for persons who are homeless or below thirty percent of the median income or in immediate danger of becoming homeless; and
9. Other activities to reduce and prevent homelessness as identified for funding in the local plan.



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The Committee would like to thank the following agencies and individuals for supporting and contributing greatly to our planning efforts. Without your input and support, we could not be moving forward with this work. The work you do with the homeless population of our county every day is greatly appreciated.

**Agency Partners and Representatives**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Representative</b>
Hopesource	Geoff Crump Jenelle Dean Delton Hauck
Central Washington Comprehensive Mental Health	Harry Kramer Greg Aubol Deborah Dove
Kittitas County Housing Authority	Perry Rowe
ADDS/Drug Court	Emily Brown
ASPEN	Lara Samford Katie Salvo Malarie Tobin
St. Vincent DePaul	Don Davis
DSHS	Dennette Woodiwiss Pam Anderson
Elmview	Bruce Tabb
FISH Food Bank	Roger McCune Karen Gookin
Ron Cridlebaugh Harold Brockman Jenny Carkner	Kittitas County Affordable Housing Committee
Crestview Manor Apartments	Bonnie Dey
Landmark Realtors	Cindy Phillips

**Meetings: The Committee meets the fourth Tuesday of each month, 3 pm, Kittitas County Courthouse Auditorium.**

**Due to a conflict with the Thanksgiving Holiday, the next meeting will be held Dec. 2, 2008**