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## King County's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness & How Solid Ground Fits In

### **How many people are homeless in King County?**

- 8,000 – 8,500 people are homeless on any given night according to the One Night Count in King Co.; this amounts to more than 24,000 people over the course of a year.
  - 5,200 are living in shelters or transitional housing.
  - 2,200 are living on the street or in their car.
  - Of the people living in shelters or transitional housing, 65% are families with children.
  - Of the 3,000 members of homeless families, Solid Ground will be able to house 10% through building housing at Sand Point.

### **What is being done about homelessness?**

- The City of Seattle, the United Way, King County and service providers are currently putting \$30 million per year into the current system of “managing homelessness” – to support transitional housing and shelter programs.
- The Federal government has mandated that local communities develop 10-Year Plans to End Homelessness, reflecting a shift from managing the problems of people who are homeless toward an effort to find permanent solutions to end homelessness.
- In King County, the Committee to End Homelessness (CEHKC) developed a unique model, combining a Governing Board, an Interagency Council and a Consumer Group to develop, manage and oversee execution of the King County 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness.
- The 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness calls for the creation of 9,500 housing units, 1,900 of which are targeted for families.
- The plan was developed in March 2005; implementation started in July 2005.

### **What's different about this plan?**

- There are about 200 national plans: most are city-specific and demographic-specific.
- King County's plan is county-wide with buy in from the City of Seattle, King County, suburban cities, as well as major private funders such as the United Way.
- The plan addresses homelessness for all populations, including families, youth, singles and people who are chronically homeless.

- The plan is being implemented through community work plans.

### **What are the main points of the plan?**

1. Prevent homelessness.
2. Move people rapidly from homelessness to housing.
  - King County needs to build and/or acquire an additional 9,500 units of permanent housing.
  - “Housing First” and “Transition-in-Place” are newer care models based on the current wisdom that people who receive permanent housing and stability as their first step out of homelessness and poverty will be more successful at maintaining stability.
3. Increase the efficiency of the existing system: The overwhelming standard is that people need to connect to many services and that case managers need to know about them.
4. Build the public and political will to end homelessness: Bill Block is a community leader on this plan.
5. Measure and report outcomes to demonstrate the effectiveness of the Plan.

### **What is Solid Ground’s role?**

- Active participant with the Interagency Council (IAC) on the Committee to End Homelessness.
- Leader in helping homeless people achieve stability through innovative programs such as Community Voice Mail, JourneyHome and others.
- Solid Ground stabilizes 600 families per year through “Stable Families,” a program specifically designed to help people who are chronically homeless stay housed.
- Over 4,700 families are served annually through the continuum of services in Solid Ground’s Housing Department. Services include: mortgage default prevention, landlord/tenant counseling, financial skills education, and comprehensive and individualized case management.
- Solid Ground will build 106 permanent housing units at Sand Point, most of which will be designated for families.
- Sand Point will remain subsidized housing, meaning that residents will only ever pay 30% of their income to live there.

### **Links to relevant information:**

- **Committee to End Homelessness in King County:** <http://www.cehkc.org/>
- **Progress towards goals:** <http://www.cehkc.org/progress/highlights.aspx>
- **National Alliance to End Homelessness: Community Plans:** <http://www.naeh.org/section/tools/communityplans>
- **List of U.S. cities with completed 10-year plans:** <http://www.ich.gov/slocal/plans/10-year-plan-communities.pdf>
- **One Night Count: Seattle/King Co. Coalition on Homelessness:** <http://www.homelessinfo.org/onc.html>