

# Ten Year Ending Homelessness Plan Summary

## Mission

Prevent, and eventually eliminate, chronic homelessness by providing permanent housing and coordinated services to help individuals achieve maximum self-sufficiency.

## Guiding Principles of Yamhill County's 10-Year Plan

- ❑ Use the long-term view in developing strategies and solutions to end homelessness.
- ❑ Develop and strengthen partnerships through an interagency culture of communication, cooperation, and collaboration.
- ❑ Deploy resources in an effective and efficient manner to create a seamless service delivery system that will improve the infrastructure serving the very poor.
- ❑ Provide for the rapid re-housing and stabilization of homeless families and individuals with an adequate inventory of housing types, combined with flexible access to an array of services to reduce the chances of a return to homelessness.
- ❑ Cultivate individual and family self-sufficiency with flexible services customized to their needs and developed with consumer input.
- ❑ Address the needs of chronic homeless, youth and other special populations who need a broader service support system.
- ❑ Cultivate a "community of care" by involving and mobilizing citizens, business and local organizations in developing long-term solutions to end homelessness in Yamhill County.

## Executive Summary:

Yamhill County has an ambitious goal: our plan is not to "manage" homelessness, but to end homelessness. Our plan is to see homelessness disappear and see that every citizen has a decent, safe and affordable place to call home. The 10-year housing plan for Yamhill County focuses especially on chronic homelessness and provides perspectives on what is going on nationally and in Oregon.

The need for affordable housing and the growing incidence of homelessness in Yamhill County are increasing issues of importance. There is an overall lack of affordable housing available to local residents with commuters coming in from outlying areas increasing the demand for higher-end homes. New developments are putting upward pressure on land costs and making issues of housing affordability more pronounced. While still a leader in the agricultural industry, Yamhill County now is placing an economic focus on the service industry and tourism. This produces high housing costs and low average wages.

In 2009 in Yamhill County, the Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment is \$756. In order to afford this level of rent and utilities, without paying more than 30% of income on housing, a household must earn \$2520 monthly or \$30,235 annually. Assuming a 40-hour workweek, 52 weeks per year, this level of income translates into a Housing Wage of \$14.54. In Oregon, a minimum wage worker earns an hourly wage of \$8.40. In order to afford the FMR for a two-bedroom apartment, a minimum wage earner must work 69 hours per week, 52 weeks per year. Or, a household must include 1.7 minimum wage earners working 40 hours per week year-round in order to make the two-bedroom FMR affordable. For those

**Copies of this plan can also be found at: <http://www.co.yamhill.or.us/index.asp>**

receiving Monthly Supplement Security Income (SSI) payments, the outlook is even more bleak. Monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments for an individual are \$674 in Yamhill County. If SSI represents an individual's sole source of income, \$202 in monthly rent is affordable, while the FMR for a one-bedroom is \$632.

Homelessness in Yamhill County comes in many forms. Based on the data from the Point In Time Count that was conducted in January 2008, 216 families with a combined total of 364 persons (does not include those not involved with a shelter or social services on that day) were counted as being homeless on that particular night. Of this number, approximately 5.6 percent are considered chronically homeless and have been without a home for a year or more or have had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past four years. The January 2009 Point In Time Count that included a full countywide count effort resulted in a total of 233 families with a combined total of 404 persons (does not include all school aged children).

Children show up as a predominate category among the homeless. For the school year 2006-07, the McKinney-Vento count through the Oregon Department of Education found 313 homeless children and youth identified in Yamhill County.

Another large subpopulation are those who have been incarcerated and have been paroled or are on probation. These hard to serve individuals are often discharged into the local communities without any thought as to where they will sleep that night. Other experience homelessness because they have mental illnesses, alcohol and drug problems, are being emancipated from foster care or are victims of domestic violence.

Others, who live from month to month are very susceptible to becoming homeless. One medical emergency, job loss, eviction notice, or other calamity and they too, are one paycheck away from becoming homeless.

For the Ending Homelessness Advisory Committee, Ending Homelessness means:

- ✓ Community buy-in
- ✓ Rapid re-housing with services and extended follow-up
- ✓ Economic development and jobs
- ✓ Community and private resources

The first year of Yamhill County's 10 Year Ending Homelessness Plan is filled with a great variety of activities requiring strong communication and coordination among our community partners to accomplish desired outcomes. In the first year of the plan, some of the tasks that are planned include:

- ☞ Completion of a fully countywide homeless count – January 28, 2009 **(COMPLETE)**
- ☞ Compilation of data from the count **(COMPLETE)**
- ☞ Updating the 10-Year Plan with the data from the count **(COMPLETE)**
- ☞ Creation of a permanent governing committee to monitor progress of the 10-Year Plan on an ongoing basis
- ☞ Creation of subcommittees to implement the Action Steps of the 10-Year Plan
- ☞ Project Homeless Connect Event – February 18, 2009 **(COMPLETE)**

The plan also includes coordination with current housing providers to expand current ability to provide additional services and increase bed capacity, as well as supply of affordable housing stock.