

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

THE  
**WILLIAM D. RUCKELSHAUS CENTER**

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

# Pathways to Housing Security

July 3, 2024

King County

Local Services and Land Use Committee



WASHINGTON STATE  
UNIVERSITY

**W** EVANS SCHOOL  
OF PUBLIC POLICY & GOVERNANCE  
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

# Introductions

## The Center

Hosted By:



WASHINGTON STATE  
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EVANS SCHOOL  
OF PUBLIC POLICY & GOVERNANCE  
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

Independent Convenor

Support Governmental, Private, and Other Entities

Serve Washington State and the Pacific Northwest

Develop Shared Approaches to Complex Policy Challenges

# Introductions

# The Report

## Legislative Task – Facilitated Discussions

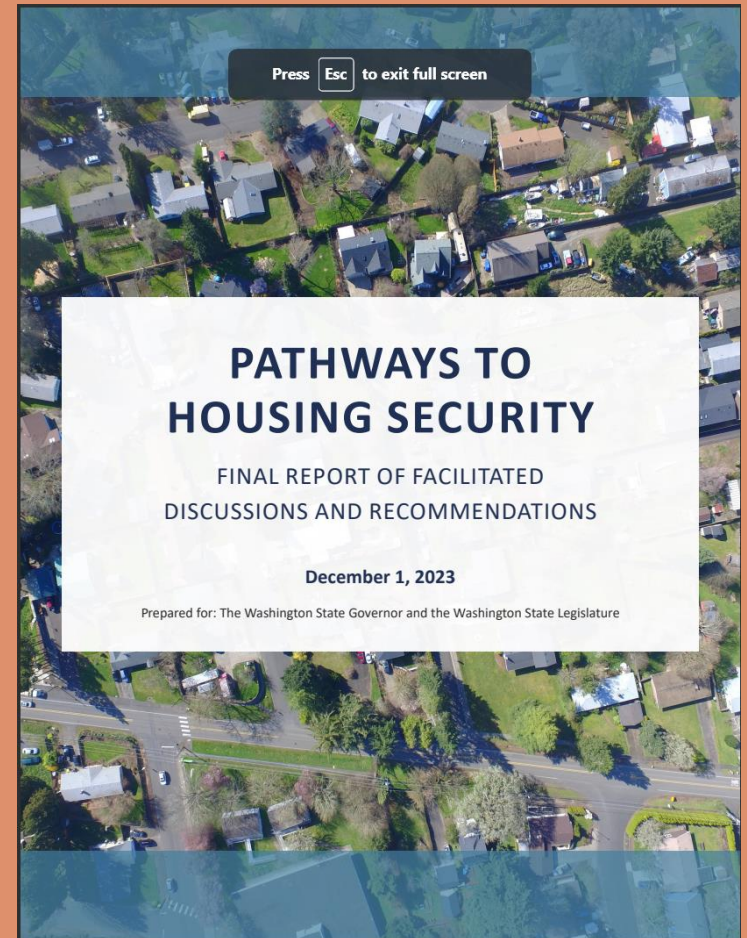
Identify principles, options and recommendations for a long-term statewide strategy to improve services and outcomes for those experiencing or at risk of homelessness and develop pathways to permanent housing solutions.

### Project Homepage:

<https://ruckelshauscenter.wsu.edu/projects/current-projects/pathways-to-housing-security/>

### Final Report:

<https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/2180/2023/11/Recommendations-Pathways-to-Housing-Security-2023.pdf>



Report Scope  
and Use

Long-Term  
Strategy

**Scope:** Statewide, Long-term, Whole of Housing Security

**Use:** Guidance for tailored actions within a comprehensive and adaptable strategy

**A Long-term  
Strategy**

**Core  
Elements**

## Foundational Themes

Conceptual Shifts

Guiding Principles

Recommendations

# Foundational Theme

Understanding Homelessness and Housing Instability

## SUPPLY AND COST OF HOUSING

*Access to and Stability In Housing*

## SYSTEMS OF CARE AND SUPPORT

*Co-Occurring Conditions*

## SYSTEMIC/STRUCTURAL FACTORS AND ACTIONS THAT ADDRESS THEM

*Factors that Amplify Vulnerability and Actions that Mitigate Them*

## ECONOMIC CONDITIONS; INCOME AND WEALTH INEQUALITY

*Employment and Earning Potential*

## SYSTEMIC DISADVANTAGE AND MARGINALIZATION

*Disparities*

**Core  
Elements**

**Conceptual  
Shifts**

Holistic Approach to Addressing Housing Security

Shared Aspirational Future

Relationships of Support, Alignment, and Coordination

# Core Elements

## Guiding Principles

- Guide ongoing decision making
- Serve across sectors, roles, localities
- Contribute to a comprehensive response
- Navigate aspects that seem contradictory or adversarial
- Balance flexibility with consistency
- Enable periodic assessment

**Guiding Principle A:** Foster productive narratives around housing security and homelessness.

**Guiding Principle B:** Mobilize a multi-sector response to advance housing security.

**Guiding Principle C:** Respond to the holistic and interdependent nature of housing security.

**Guiding Principle D:** Design the response to housing insecurity around what people and communities need to thrive.

**Guiding Principle E:** Undo the harm of structural racism and other forms of systemic disadvantage that produce housing inequity.

**Guiding Principle F:** Employ a sense of urgency about both meeting immediate needs and initiating steps for long-term progress.

**Guiding Principle G:** Amplify the influence of those most affected by homelessness and housing instability.

**Guiding Principle H:** Create conditions that reduce competition and facilitate cooperation.

**Guiding Principle I:** Address the inability of the housing market to meet housing needs.

**Guiding Principle J:** Sustain the response to housing insecurity through stability in infrastructure, relationships, and appropriately scaled resources.

**Guiding Principle K:** Prepare to adapt to changing circumstances, unanticipated disruptions, and new knowledge.



# Core Elements

## Areas of Recommendation

Opportunities for State Partnership with Tribal Governments

Set the Strategy Up for Success

Respond to the Continuum of Housing Needs

Respond Holistically to People's Needs

Bolster Systems and Workforce Capacity and Stability

Foster Accountability, Manage Performance, and Adapt Over Time

## Recommendations

**4: Housing Options** Expand the supply, variety, location, and quality of supported options and pathways.

**5: Affordable Housing** Align homelessness services and housing assistance with increasing the supply of affordable housing.

**6: Equitable Access** As housing supply expands, ensure equitable access for those transitioning from homelessness and most at risk of housing instability.

**7: Geographic Variability** Accommodate the ways in which housing challenges manifest differently in different places.

**8: Cooperation Across Jurisdictions** Incentivize greater cooperation across geographic and political jurisdictions.

**Respond to the  
Continuum of  
Housing Needs**

# Guiding Principle H: Create conditions that reduce competition and facilitate cooperation.

## Questions to Consider

What could you do to actively reduce competition?

What would help discern what kind of cooperation is most useful?

What would incentivize useful cooperation?

How could you track competition and cooperation?

## Opportunities to Reduce Competition

- Funding Criteria
- Implementation
- Policy Development
- Accountability Frameworks

## Recommendations

- 10. Holistic Eligibility**
- 13. Diversified Implementation**
- 17. Aligned Policymaking**
- 18. Knowledge Management**

## Related Guiding Principles

- B:** Mobilize a multi-sector response.
- C:** Respond to the holistic and interdependent nature of housing security.
- A:** Foster productive narratives.
- K:** Prepare to adapt to changing circumstances.

## Guiding Principle E: Undo the harm of structural racism and other systemic disadvantages that produce inequity.

### Questions to Consider

To what extent do decisions about housing reflect input from those most affected?

What kinds of experiential expertise are currently missing for key aspects of the response?

How could you track whether you are mitigating ways that expanding housing supply could make inequities worse?

### Opportunities to Undo Harm

- Funding Decisions
- Implementation
- Hiring Criteria
- Accountability Frameworks
- Policy Development

### Recommendations

**3. Experiential Expertise**

**6. Equitable Access**

**13. Diversified Implementation**

**16. Core Competencies**

### Related Guiding Principles

**G:** Amplify the influence of those most affected by housing insecurity.

**A:** Foster productive narratives.

**D:** Design the response around what people and communities need.

## Guiding Principle F: Employ a sense of urgency about both meeting immediate needs and initiating steps for long-term progress.

### Recommendations

**4: Housing Options** Expand the supply, variety, location, and quality of supported options and pathways.

**5: Affordable Housing** Align homelessness services and housing assistance with increasing the supply of affordable housing for rental and ownership.

**12: Precarious Housing** Stabilize individuals or households in circumstances of precarious housing.

### Potential Actions

- Explicit mutual assessments between related sectors (*also rec 17*)
- Acknowledge shared interests in housing stability
- Smaller scale investments to stabilize people in housing and maintain existing housing stock
- Track housing stability over time (*also recs 3, 18*)

### Related Guiding Principles

**I:** Address the inability of the housing market to meet housing needs.

**H:** Create conditions that reduce competition and facilitate cooperation.

**B:** Mobilize a multi-sector response.

**A:** Foster productive narratives.

# Contact Us

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## **Visit Our Website**

Ruckelshauscenter.wsu.edu



Questions?



**Slide Appendix:  
Intersecting  
Recommendations**



**Recommendation 17: Alignment of Policymaking** Assess laws and policies in all areas of government for their potential to affect interrelated goals in other areas.

### Potential Actions

- Assess for both mutual benefit and unintended consequences
- Support time and resources for coordination
- Align closely with poverty reduction strategies

### Questions to Consider

- What other sectors will be affected by the actions you want to take?
- What sectors do you need to rely on to succeed?
- What barriers are you inadvertently contributing to?
- What new relationships would be helpful?
- In what areas might you develop and advance policies jointly with others?

**How would this strengthen your alignment with each of the guiding principles?**

**Recommendation 9: Coordinated Pathway System** Cultivate operational connections among entities working on outreach, entry into the homelessness response system, placement in housing, and longer-term housing stability.

### Potential Actions

- Avoid duplicative eligibility determination and enrollment
- Facilitate and track completion of referrals (*also rec 11*)
- Support flexibility to address specific circumstances
- Track pathways longitudinally (*also recs 3, 18*)
- Provide infrastructure for coordination
- Align policymaking (*rec 17*)

### Questions to Consider

**Relationships:** What connections do you already have that facilitate coordinated pathways? What new relationships would be useful?

**Internal Operations:** What internal changes could better connect you with other systems?

**Collective Action:** Who do you have shared interests with that you might not realize? Whose interests might you be inadvertently competing with?

**Learning:** What do you need to learn to check assumptions you make about other systems?

**How would this strengthen your alignment with each of the guiding principles?**

**Recommendation 12: Circumstances of Precarious Housing** Expand investments that stabilize individuals or households with circumstances of precarious housing.

### Potential Actions

- Bridging grants or loans for unanticipated expenses
- Access to supports matched to specific circumstances that destabilize housing
- Track housing stability over time
- Comprehensive strategies to mitigate eviction and default
- Invest in maintaining current housing stock

### Questions to Consider

**Internal:** What supports can you make available to employees who experience or are at risk of precarious housing?

**Programs and Services:** What would it take to track housing stability over time and across systems? How could you recognize and respond to early warning signs of housing instability?

**Funders:** How could you invest in stabilizing precarious housing? How can funding be flexible to respond to specific circumstances that put housing stability at risk?

**Policy and Strategy:** How can strategies for affordable housing incorporate stabilizing current housing?

**How would this strengthen your alignment with each of the guiding principles?**