



WHO WE ARE

The Whatcom Homeless Service Center (WHSC) provides eviction prevention, rental assistance, case management and other services to prevent and end homelessness using housing-first strategies. We focus on providing permanent housing opportunities to homeless consumers as soon as possible, creating a more stable environment within which supportive services will be highly effective.

OUR MISSION

The mission and purpose of the WHSC is to find a home for everyone. Working with our community partners, we will reduce homelessness in Whatcom County by 50% within a decade. Moreover, we believe that homelessness is unacceptable, and that by working creatively and corroboratively, eventually it can be eliminated.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

WHSC's program relies on public/private partnerships wherein public resources are blended with private rental opportunities.

**FACTS ABOUT
HOMELESSNESS IN
WHATCOM COUNTY**

- » At any given time, over 1,300 people in Whatcom County are homeless
- » Most are Whatcom County residents
- » Nearly one in four are children under 10 years old. Your children or grandchildren's classmates may be homeless
- » Most homeless persons have an income (75%) and many are working either full or part-time (25%)
- » Catastrophic changes - such as medical bills, job layoffs and foreclosures - are common causes of homelessness in Whatcom County



Whatcom Homeless Service Center is a program of the Opportunity Council, a community action agency providing a broad range of human services to the community. Visit the Opportunity Council online at www.oppco.org.

The Whatcom Homeless Service Center is operated with funds made available through the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development; State of Washington; Whatcom County; City of Bellingham and other public and private sources.



**HOMELESSNESS IS THE PROBLEM
AS A LANDLORD, YOU CAN BE AN
IMPORTANT PART OF THE SOLUTION**

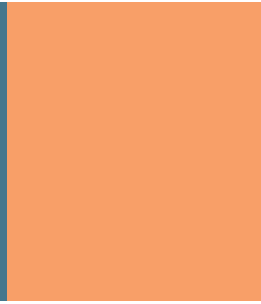
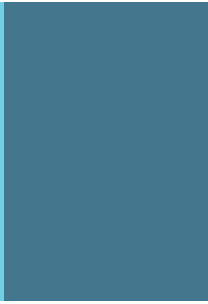
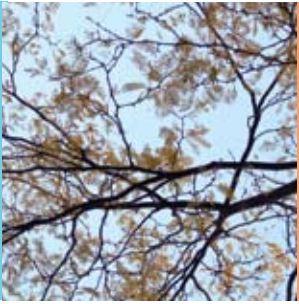
**By working together creatively,
we can solve homelessness
in Whatcom County**



SON RISE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, INC.

“No other organization I’ve worked with is more conscientious, more skilled and dedicated than WHSC. The success we’ve had together meeting the housing needs of our community has been highly rewarding and equally refreshing.”

– Chester Shaw, Senior Property Manager



HOW YOU CAN BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION



RIVERSTONE RESIDENTIAL

“For the last year I have been privileged to work with the staff and case managers at the WHSC. They have not only provided much needed assistance to some of my residents during these financially troubling times, but have also referred a number of qualified residents to my properties. I believe the WHSC provides a valuable service to the people of Whatcom County.

– Eric Howard, Property Manager

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- » Offer your units to us for master leasing to guarantee steady cash flow
- » Partner with our program to assist the tenants with continued success
- » Keep in touch with our office and case managers to solve any problems or concerns
- » Maintain safe housing
- » Let us know when new units become available

WHAT WE WILL DO

- » Support renters with short and long-term rent deposit assistance
- » Keep your units filled without costly advertising
- » Support your tenants who have fallen behind in rent payments
- » Provide tenants with education to help them maintain their housing
- » Provide 24/7 support for landlords
- » Provide case management services to the individual to ensure housing stability; the more support a person needs, the more support he or she receives

ADVANTAGES TO LANDLORDS

- » Each landlord’s policies and rules are honored
- » Eliminates the need to advertise and the time and cost associated with responding to applicants
- » All of our tenants receive home-based case management
- » Substantial increase in rental revenues from this type of ongoing support
- » Payment for damages and vacancy loss

SUPPORT FOR RENTERS

- » Short and long-term rent and deposit assistance
- » Individuals are linked to other needed support programs in the community
- » We help resolve any issue that arises following housing placement

RESULTS WE CAN EXPECT

- » Working together, we can begin to end homelessness in our community. Our goal is to reduce homelessness by 50% within a decade. We cannot achieve this goal without your help