
HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

· 2023 STRATEGY ·



IMPACT NW

PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS

SINCE 1966

OUR MANIFESTO

Things must change. Public camping, doubling up, or other drastic measures that people must take because of a lack of affordable places to live is a disaster for everyone.

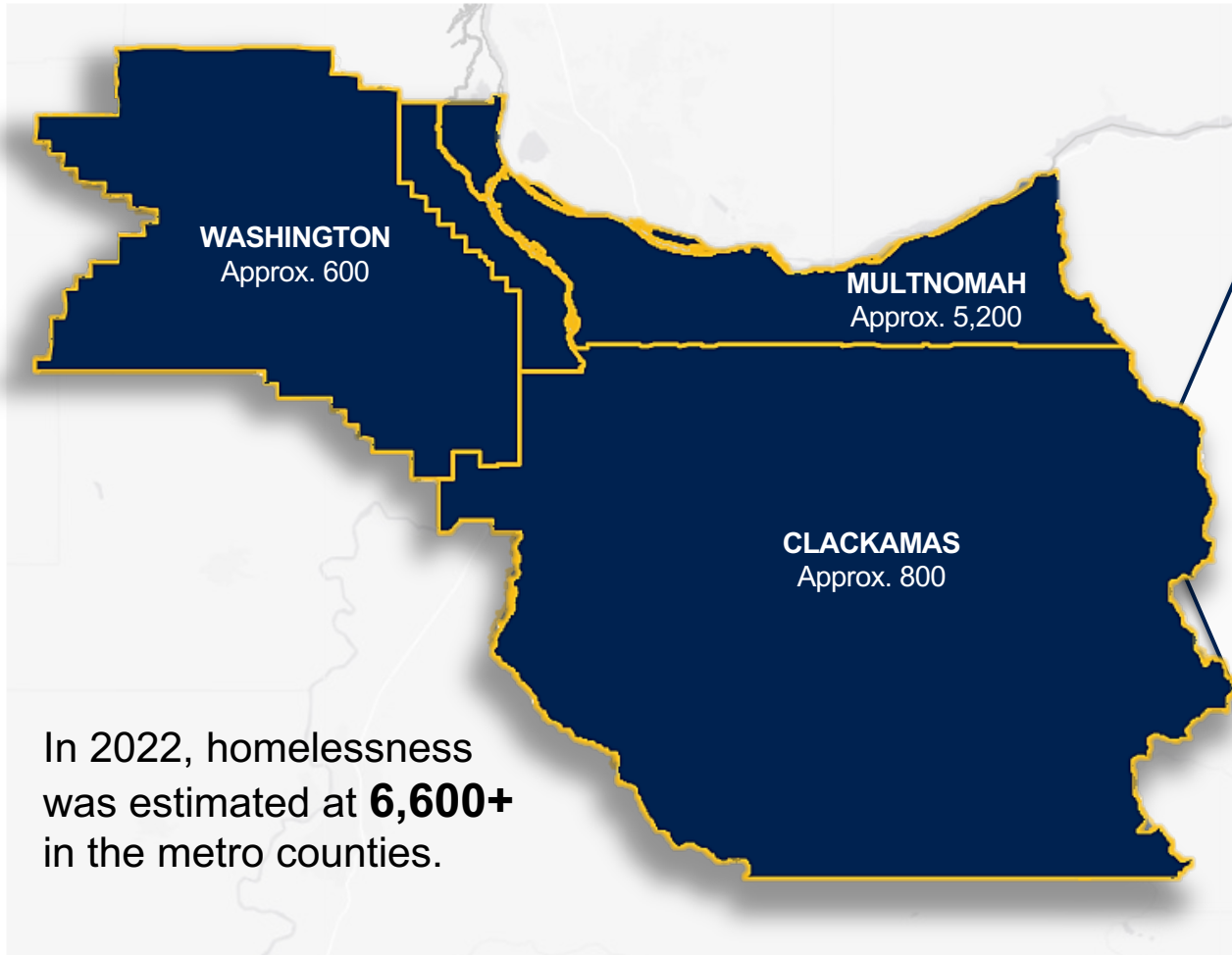
To change things, Impact NW is tackling the core issue that drives the crisis. Drugs? Mental health? We see the driver of the crisis as a lack of affordable housing fueled by systemic poverty and racism. We understand how substance abuse and behavioral health issues have compounded the problem. But we know the core issue is a housing system that fails our most-vulnerable neighbors.

Services alone won't solve the crisis. But services plus systems change creates a potent solution. Impact NW's vision goes beyond the conventional solutions and rhetoric. We see the beauty in people. We see how a housing-first strategy will work. We offer near- and long-term solutions that give us the best chance for the type of community we want to see – **FOR EVERYONE.**



CURRENT SITUATION

Oregon depends on nonprofits but doesn't understand nonprofit challenges. For example, public contracts pay less than 80% of nonprofits' costs and 80% of social service workers earn below housing wage.



30%

Increase in homelessness during the pandemic

43%

Increase in evictions during the pandemic

125k

Number of housing insecure households

23%

Proportion of renter households that are extremely low income

143k

Number of Oregon's affordable units for our 250,000 low-income families

\$1.2B

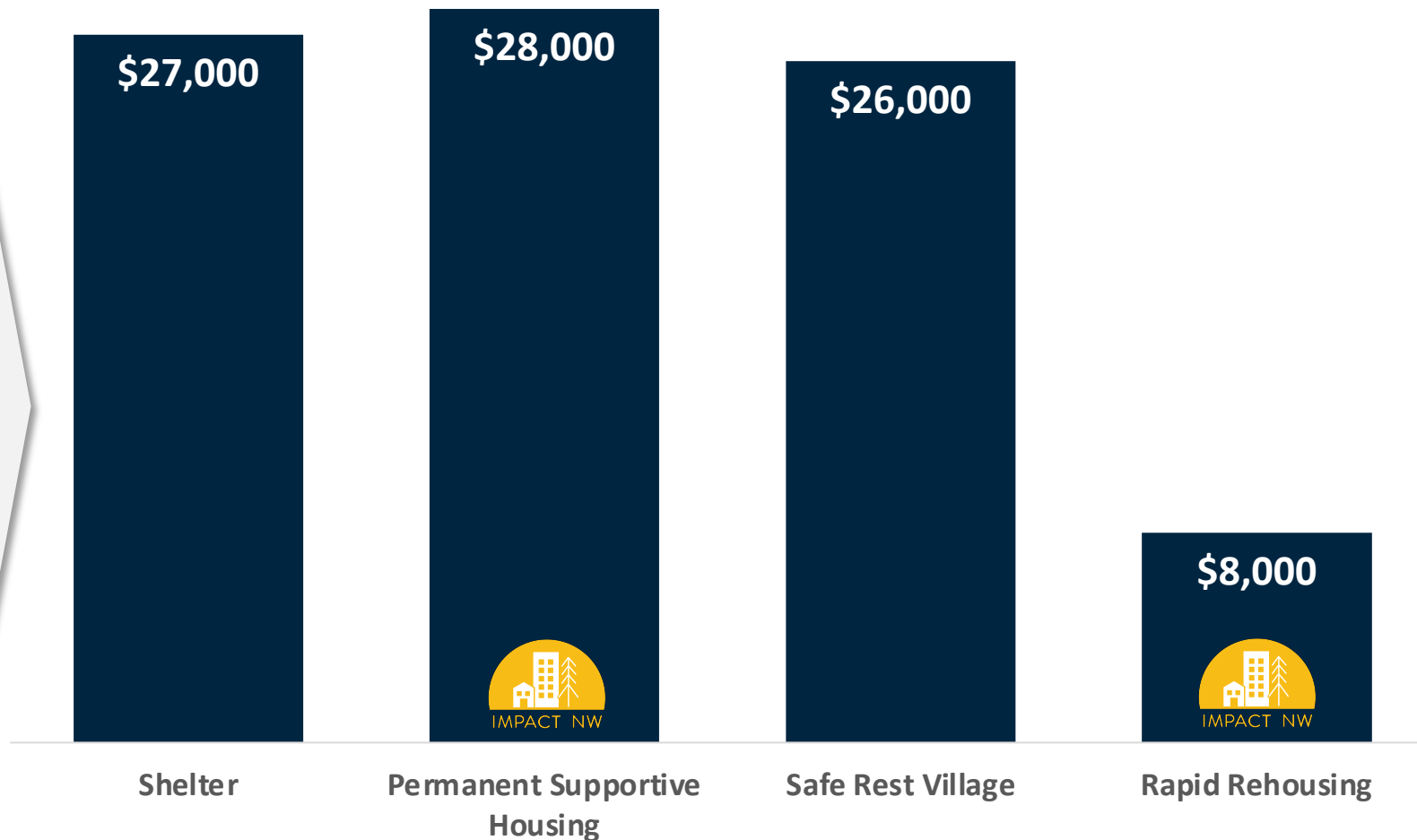
Downstream costs driven by homelessness



COMPARING HOUSING COSTS

At Impact NW, we take a **HOUSING-FIRST** approach, because research shows it is the most successful path to preventing homelessness.

We focus our efforts predominately on **PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING** and **RAPID REHOUSING**.



Costs are annual



WHAT IS HOUSING



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

At Impact NW, we define housing as meeting these criteria as defined by the United Nations Office of Human Rights.

Security of Tenure

Housing is not adequate if its occupants do not have a degree of tenure security which guarantees legal protection against forced evictions, harassment and other threats.

Availability of Services

Including materials, facilities and infrastructure. Housing is not adequate if its occupants do not have safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, energy for cooking, heating, lighting, food storage or refuse disposal.

Affordability

Housing is not adequate if its cost threatens or compromises the occupants' enjoyment of other human rights.

Habitability

Housing is not adequate if it does not guarantee physical safety or provide adequate space, as well as protection against the cold, damp, heat, rain, wind, other threats to health and structural hazards.

Accessibility

Housing is not adequate if the specific needs of disadvantaged and marginalized groups are not taken into account.

Location

Housing is not adequate if it is cut off from employment opportunities, health-care services, schools, childcare centers and other social facilities, or if located in polluted or dangerous areas.

Cultural Adequacy

Housing is not adequate if it does not respect and take into account the expression of cultural identity.



OUR APPROACH

Our comprehensive approach to Homelessness Prevention leverages our values, near and long-term solutions, as well as partnerships to end the homelessness crisis.

Values & Beliefs

At our core, the values and beliefs we lead with every day drive our work to end the homelessness crisis.

Inspiration & Partnership

We walk alongside many people and partners everyday as we work together to prevent homelessness.



Near-Term Solutions

Clarify our solutions to improve life for the most people in the shortest amount of time.

Long-Term Solutions

Our focus remains changing the housing system while prioritizing housing-first solutions with supportive services.



OUR VALUES & BELIEFS

The values and beliefs we hold inform our approach to this work and propel our organization and our work in ending the homelessness crisis. We believe that:

- ♥ **Housing is a human right. Everyone deserves to live safely.**
- ♥ **Services alone will not solve the housing crisis. Only services plus system change will.**
- ♥ **The dismantling of racist systems and rebuilding of anti-racist systems is paramount.**
- ♥ **A housing-first approach creates the best results, as research shows.**
- ♥ **Shelter has a place but should be a secondary solution.**
- ♥ **Behavioral health and addiction services are critical but won't solve the issue alone.**
- ♥ **Solutions must be trauma-informed and human centered and reflect the desires of the people who are experiencing homeless or housing insecure.**



NEAR-TERM SOLUTIONS

Impact NW advocates for the following **near-term solutions** to the homelessness crisis to improve life for the most people in the shortest amount of time. The **services we provide** prioritize prevention and advocacy.



Impact NW
Core Services



Other **Services** we
support

LONG-TERM SUBSIDIES

Vouchers and other means of subsidizing housing costs are effective ways to help people secure and maintain housing. We need more from all sectors of government.

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

Work upstream to provide resources and support to people at risk of losing their housing.

PROVIDE HOUSING WAGES

Attain housing wages for nonprofit human service workers who we rely on to provide these critical services.

ACCESS EMPTY APARTMENTS

Use rent support, landlord coordination and wraparound services to quickly move people into existing, vacant units.

PURCHASE PROPERTIES

Motels and other properties are available now that provide move-in or nearly-move-in housing units.

SUPPORT AUTONOMOUS VILLAGES & CAMP SITES

Provide case management, safety, sanitation and trash service. Ensure that encampments meet the principles established by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness.

LOW BARRIER SHELTERS

Ensure for shelters that provide maximum flexibility and livability for people for whom this option is the best fit.



LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

Impact NW advocates for the below **long-term solutions** to our homelessness crisis. The **services we provide** prioritize housing-first with supportive services and advocacy.

Increase education and advocacy to create law, policy and practice that expands dramatically the number of housing units available in the public commons.

Shift focus from emergency services to homelessness prevention by helping people navigate financial and other challenges—so they don't lose housing in the first place.

Increase supportive services from behavioral health & substance use treatment to employment & educational supports to childcare and transportation to direct cash transfers—so that people will remain housed.

Work upstream so people at risk of homelessness build experiences, skills and assets that help them realize their goals, especially children.

Ground policy decisions in accurate, real-time data, and sound evidence, so that we are making the best use of the resources we have.

Fix the public contracting system to compensate nonprofits for their true costs of providing these solutions.

More affordable housing units. Make them accessible for the range of people who are homeless, including chronically-homeless, and ensure screening doesn't further racial disparities.



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INSPIRATION

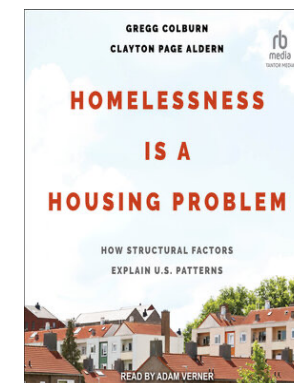
Impact NW's Homelessness Prevention Plan has many inspirations, most of all the people we walk alongside everyday as we work to prevent homelessness. We'd like to recognize the inspiration of:



United States
Interagency Council
on Homelessness
*Preventing and Ending
Homelessness in the United States*



National Low Income
Housing Coalition



CALL TO ACTION



EMPLOYEES

Align with the vision and mission; advocate externally with our key messages.



PARTNER NON-PROFITS

Amplify a unified message to the public; work collaboratively and collectively to change the housing system.



FUNDERS/DONORS

Invest in solutions that are proven to work, like Impact NW's mission to prevent homelessness.

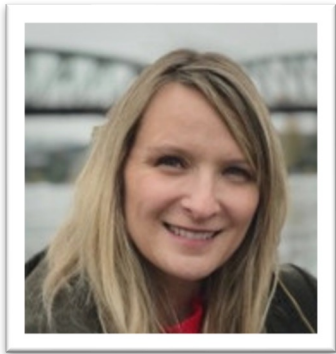


ELECTED OFFICIALS

Prioritize policies and fund solutions that are person-centered, racially equitable and housing first.



JOIN US!



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