



**2010
CLARK COUNTY
COMMUNITY ACTION
PROGRAM
REPORT TO THE
COMMUNITY**



CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tom Mielke, Chair

Marc Boldt

Steve Stuart

CLARK COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Bill Barron

CLARK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Vanessa R. Gaston, Director

CLARK COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM

Peter Munroe, Manager

Kate Budd, Program Coordinator

Karen Evans, Program Coordinator

Bonnie L. Scott, Program Coordinator

Samantha Whitley, Program Coordinator

Rebecca Royce, Office Assistant

Tif Rock, Housing Preservation Manager

Tara Anderson, Housing Preservation Program Coordinator

Jerry Giese, Housing Rehabilitation Specialist

Arthur Knoles, Housing Rehabilitation Specialist

Bob Patterson, Housing Rehabilitation Specialist

Rich Walters, Housing Rehabilitation Specialist

Janet Clinton, Housing Rehabilitation Program Assistant

Janielle Eveleigh-Tomlin, Housing Preservation Office Assistant

Clark County Department of Community Services

1601 E. Fourth Plain Boulevard • P.O. Box 5000 • Vancouver, WA • 98666-5000

Tel 360.397.2130 • Fax 360.397.6128 • Relay 800.833.6384

www.clark.wa.gov/community-action

TABLE OF CONTENTS

From the Director	2
Program Overview	3
Plans and Reporting	7
Funding Sources and Boards	9
Goal One: Self-Sufficiency	11
Goal Two: Conditions Improved	13
Goal Three: Own a Stake in Community	16
Goal Four: Partnerships Achieved	17
Goal Five: Agencies Increase Capacity	18
Goal Six: Achieving Potential	22
Community Data	26
Survey of Needs Outcomes	27
Return on Investment	28
Contact Information	30

Dear Friends of Community Action:

For many in Clark County, it will be difficult to remember many positives from the 2010 economy. Increased demand for emergency food, shelter and other basic needs taxed non-profit agencies and faith-based communities to meet growing needs. There were, however, as you'll see in this report, some positive stories.

Enacted in 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) delivered additional funds to the County to assist with weatherization projects. The primary focus of the program is to install cost effective measures for energy conservation while addressing health and safety concerns. ARRA funding helped weatherize an additional 125 homes in 2010 with energy savings allowing recipients to pay for other needs. In addition, ARRA funds brought new jobs to the County.

Originally supported with ARRA funds, the Community Housing Resource Center has increased the capacity of its existing Foreclosure Assistance Program. After ARRA funds were exhausted, local funding was dedicated to the continuance of this valuable program helping people who are at risk of losing their home.

A record number of requests for emergency food services emptied many shelves, but also brought the community together to fund a new distribution center for the Clark County Food Bank. A combination of state, federal and private donations resulted in more than \$4 million for the center that will enable a greater capability to store and distribute food. The department's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program was able to contribute \$466,000 to the project.

The Clark Homeless Engagement Collaboration (CHEC) helped 81 individuals living in uninhabitable areas obtain housing. Another component of the project was focused on housing for individuals re-entering the community from jail, hospitals, prison or institutions, as well as a landlord outreach component. More than 100 landlords have agreed to partner with social service agencies to address housing for individuals with barriers. More than 100 individuals who re-entered the community have been housed.

Thanks to the greater Clark County community, we continue to help many individuals facing hard times.

Sincerely,

Vanessa R. Gaston, Director
Clark County Department of Community Services



COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS

The Clark County Community Action Program is a key provider for emergency needs, and basic and essential services. The Community Action Program coordinates the planning and administration of a variety of funds and programs including: the Human Services Fund (a local Clark County fund), [Community Services Block Grant \(CSBG\)](#), Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Marriage License Fees, Deed Recording Fees, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Veterans Assistance Fund and [Emergency Shelter and Homeless Prevention \(ESHP\) Program](#). These funds and programs provide emergency assistance and support services to help people who are low-income achieve self-sufficiency. Services include: emergency shelter, energy assistance, homelessness prevention through rent/mortgage assistance, case management, child care, health and dental care, access to services, and family services. The Community Action Program allocates more than \$2 million dollars per year to community agencies to provide services to people who are homeless and low-income in Clark County. The demand for services far exceeds the available funding however, with approximately 50% of people seeking emergency shelter turned away. The Community Action Program continually works with the community to help prioritize and address these problems.



The Washington State Department of Commerce intends to merge funding of several programs into the Consolidated Homeless Grant (CHG). This includes the consolidation of state emergency shelter funds, federal emergency shelter grant funds, state transitional housing funds (THOR), state independent youth housing and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) grants to counties. County governments may use this funding for rent assistance, temporary housing operations, program operations and services for people who are homeless. Planning for this new direction is underway.

LOCAL FUNDING THROUGH HOUSE BILLS 2060, 2163 AND 1359

The Washington State Legislature passed a document recording fee, [House Bill 2060](#) in 2002 which enacted a \$10 document recording fee, 40% of which is sent to Washington State. The remaining funds stay in the county with the first \$250,000 collected annually utilized to pay back a county bond which acquired land for affordable housing. The final bond payment will be December 2013. The remaining funds are used for shelter operating costs.

The Washington State Legislature passed a \$10 document recording fee, the [Homelessness Housing and Assistance Act \(ESSHB 2163\)](#) in 2005, directing local governments to develop 10-year plans “which shall be aimed at eliminating homelessness, with a minimum goal of 50% by July 1, 2015.” Clark County’s 10-Year Homeless Plan is outlined in the Plans and Reporting section.

In 2009, the Washington State Legislature increased the surcharge by \$10. The increased surcharge will be in effect through the 2011-2013 biennia. The auditor shall retain two percent of the fee with 60% going to the county. The funds may be used to accomplish the goals of the local homeless plan. The remaining funds shall be remitted to the state treasurer for deposit in the home security fund account.

In 2007, the Washington State Legislature passed [Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1359](#) which creates an additional \$8 document recording fee. The bill allows counties to retain \$7.20 from each \$8 collected. The funds must be used to “directly accomplish the goals” of the county’s 10-Year Homeless Plan. The remaining funds are remitted to the Department of Commerce (COM) for homeless housing programs.

HOMELESS GRANT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

In 2008, Clark County was awarded \$3,300,000 for the [Homeless Grant Assistance Program](#) (HGAP) operated under the aegis of the Washington Department of Commerce. Clark County’s program was designed to address the needs of the most vulnerable segment of the homeless population in Clark County— those living on the street and in encampments, those with mental health and/or substance abuse disorders, and individuals coming from jail and state hospitals. Results for year two were recently released and HGAP/Clark Housing and Engagement Collaboration (CHEC) has achieved an impressive second year set of accomplishments offering concrete assistance to citizens facing severe problems attributable to homelessness and often concurrent issues related to substance abuse and/or mental illness as well as aiding in the improvement of the Vancouver community’s public safety and quality of life.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AND HOME PROGRAMS

Each year since 1985, Clark County has received over \$1 million in [Community Development Block Grant](#) (CDBG) funds. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) annually allocates these funds in a single or "block" grant to eligible cities and counties with the objective of improving communities. The funds are then distributed to municipalities, organizations, and groups through a competitive proposal process.

The federal [HOME Investment Partnerships Program](#) (HOME) was created under the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 and became available in 1992. HOME funds are administered by Clark County with the purpose of expanding the supply of affordable housing for families and individuals with very low and low-incomes. Since 1992, over \$19 million in HOME funds have been committed to 300+ units of low-income housing.

Unlike traditional categorical grant programs, HOME funds give Clark County the flexibility to undertake a broad range of affordable housing activities. HOME funds may be used for: property acquisition, new construction for rental housing, homeownership, tenant-based rental assistance, housing rehabilitation, or improving sites for HOME-assisted development or demolishing dilapidated housing on such sites.

NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAM

In 2009, HUD's [Neighborhood Stabilization Program](#) (NSP) provided emergency assistance to acquire and redevelop foreclosed properties that might otherwise become sources of abandonment and blight within the community. Clark County was awarded \$1,577,664 via the Washington State Department of Commerce. Through a competitive process, funds were awarded to the Vancouver Housing Authority who purchased foreclosed land for construction of an affordable multi-family housing development and provided down payment assistance to one household for affordable homeownership of a foreclosed residence. Funds awarded to Share were used to purchase two foreclosed single-family homes which serve as transitional housing for individuals recovering from substance abuse. Inland Empire Residential Resources also received an award to purchase two foreclosed single-family homes which serve as permanent housing for special needs populations.

HOUSING PRESERVATION

[Housing Preservation](#) includes various programs to help homeowners. The Housing Rehabilitation Program provides financial assistance for home repairs to homeowners of single-family residences with low and moderate-income. The Accessibility Program is for owners and tenants with physical challenges who need their homes modified for easier accessibility in and around their home. The Minor Home Repair Program is for homeowners who have emergency health issues arise that necessitate safety repairs to their home. The Weatherization Assistance Program works to significantly increase the number of low-income households receiving cost effective and energy efficient improvements while ensuring the health and safety of the people served. The Housing Preservation program also conducts lead hazard evaluations and reduces the lead hazard.

VETERANS ASSISTANCE FUND

The [Clark County Veterans Assistance Fund](#) provides emergency relief for County residents with low-incomes who have served in the military. Washington State law and Clark County code designate a portion of property tax revenue to the Veterans Assistance Fund. The fund is administered by the Veterans Resource Committee to be utilized for the needs of indigent veterans and their families. Direct emergency assistance to veterans is available through a contracted veteran's service officer and an annual Veterans Stand Down. Dental services for eligible veterans and a Veterans Assistance Center, which is a drop-in center providing counseling, referrals and other services as needed were approved for funding and will begin in 2011.

2010 AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT FUNDING

The [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009](#) (ARRA) was signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009. This Act provided Clark County with one-time additional funding for the following programs:



CDBG-R funds are CDBG recovery funds that were provided to Clark County to be used in the same manner as regular CDBG funds. Clark County received a CDBG-R award of \$365,690. These funds are used for projects that are ready to implement and that maximize job creation and retention. Through a competitive process, three community projects received these funds.

CSBG-ARRA funds provided an opportunity to assist clients severely impacted by the economic recession by creating programs, partnerships, and systems that enhanced service delivery, increased local capacity, and strengthened communities’ ability to be self-reliant and vibrant. The State of Washington determined that the CSBG priorities would be employment, emergency services, and capacity building activities.

Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) is a federally funded three-year program through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. It is designed to help persons gain housing stability through temporary financial assistance and/or services. The program aims to serve those who are currently homeless or would be homeless *but for* this assistance and can remain housed after the temporary assistance ends.

Weatherization funds are used to significantly increase the number of low-income households receiving cost effective and energy efficient improvements while ensuring the health and safety of people served. Approximately \$1,970,000 in additional funds was received in 2009 and was allocated on a first come first served basis for eligible renters and homeowners. The measures are applied according to established technical standards, cost-effectiveness tests, and relevant building codes.

HUD allocated \$200,000 in **Lead Based Paint Hazard Control Grant** funds to Washington State Department of Commerce for Community Action Programs to undertake comprehensive activities to identify and control lead-based paint hazards in eligible low-income privately owned rental or owner-occupied housing.

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH FROM ARRA FUNDS

Jobs created at least in part by ARRA funds	6
Jobs saved at least in part by ARRA funds	6

CLARK COUNTY 10-YEAR HOMELESS PLAN

The [Clark County 10-Year Homeless Plan](#) was developed by an array of Clark County stakeholders and initially adopted by the Commissioners on December 21, 2005. Input was received through community meetings, focus groups and surveys of community members and persons who are homeless. The 10-Year Plan was revised in 2006 with additional strategies and priorities aimed at ending homelessness. In 2007, the plan was updated to ensure consistency with the state's plan. As part of the planning process, action items were prioritized for resource allocation. Five workgroups have been established through the Coalition of Service Providers to review and make recommendations on key strategies. The 10-Year Plan will be updated periodically to respond to emerging issues, needs, and changes in available resources.

Strategies are listed in priority order:

- Strategy 1 Prevention
- Strategy 2 Diversion/Re-Entry
- Strategy 3 Permanent Supported Housing
- Strategy 4 Transitional/Supportive Housing
- Strategy 5 Employment/Income Support
- Strategy 6 Outreach/Access/Linkage
- Strategy 7 Access to Shelter
- Strategy 8 Planning/Coordination
- Strategy 9 Data Analysis

The following plans and reports also help guide program funding and develop priorities:

CONSOLIDATED HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The 1990 National Affordable Housing Act requires that a Housing and Community Development Plan be prepared by each jurisdiction directly receiving assistance from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Consolidated Plan addresses the allocation of two programs administered by Clark County: the Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnerships Programs. The Consolidated Plan consolidates the local applications and reporting processes for these federal entitlement programs. It is also a strategic plan that outlines specific courses of action. The County completed the [2010-2014 Consolidated Housing and Community Development Plan](#) which was approved by the Clark County Board of County Commissioners in May 2010. The public was given ample opportunity to comment on the plan. The broad goals of this plan include: Establishing and Maintaining a Suitable Living Environment and Economic Opportunities, Ensuring Decent Affordable Housing, and Providing Services to End Homelessness.

ACTION PLAN

Clark County is required to submit an annual [Action Plan](#) to HUD. The Action Plan is a detailed list and description of the activities that will be conducted with federal Community Development Block Grant and HOME funds in Clark County (outside of the City of Vancouver). This annual plan has the same goals outlined in the Consolidated Plan.

CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION REPORT

The purpose of the [Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report \(CAPER\)](#) is to present to the public and HUD how Clark County attained the goals and objectives established in the Consolidated Housing and Community Development Plan. It also reports how federal funds available for housing and community development were utilized during the program year (July 1 to June 30).

POVERTY IN CLARK COUNTY REPORT

This [Poverty in Clark County Report](#) profiles the Clark County population living below the economic poverty level as established by the US Census. Monitoring poverty and its influence in Clark County helps to promote ongoing understanding and awareness among policy makers, programs, and citizens for cohesive community response to poverty-related issues.

NATIONAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS OUTCOME OF EFFORTS REPORT

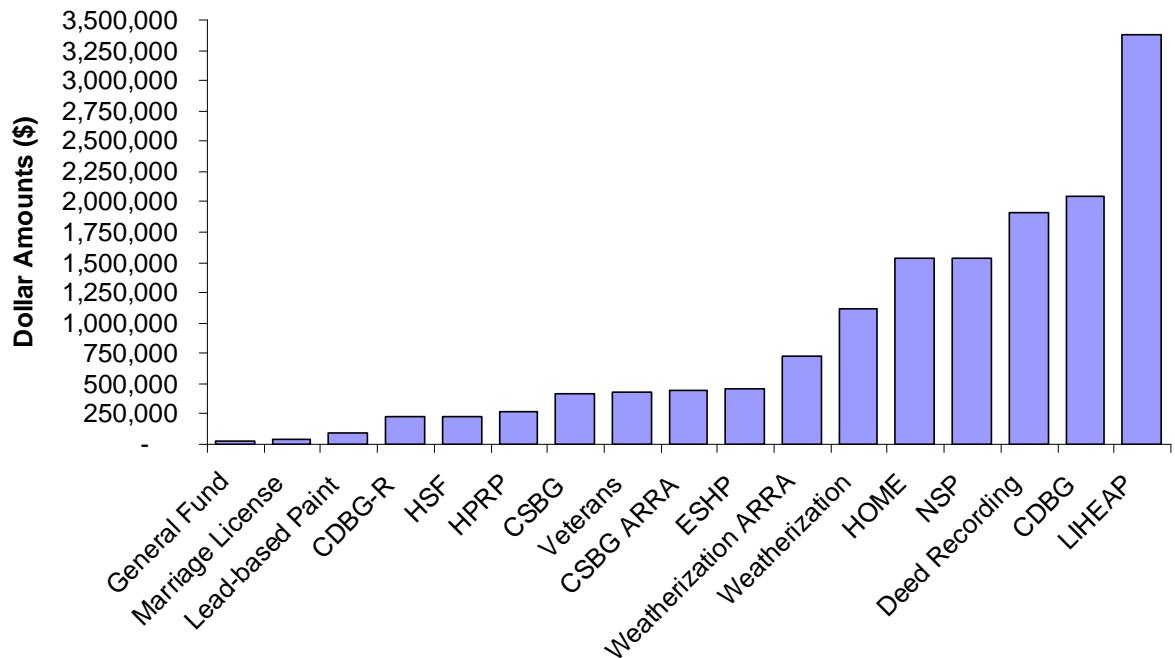
The national performance indicators were created collaboratively within the Community Services Network to enable approximately 1,000 diverse community action agencies in 50 states and two territories to present a more uniform and coherent national picture of their work and accomplishments. The outcomes of these goals are reported semi-annually to the state. The national performance goals are:

1. Low-income people become more self-sufficient
2. The conditions in which low-income people live are improved
3. Low-income people own a stake in their community
4. Partnerships among supporters and providers of service to low-income people are achieved
5. Agencies increase their capacity to achieve results
6. Low-income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening family and other supportive systems

Community Action Programs and Advisory Boards

Community Action Advisory Board	Deed Recording, CSBG, CSBG-ARRA, ESHP, HSF, GF. ML, HPRP	Homeless and Community Services
Urban County Policy Board	CDBG, HOME, NSP, CDBG-R	Housing and Community Development
Veterans Resource Committee	Veterans Assistance Fund	Veterans Relief Services

2010 Community Action Funding
(Approximately \$14.9 million distributed over 90 contracts)



- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>CDBG: Community Development Block Grant</p> <p>CDBG-R: Community Development Block Grant – Recovery</p> <p>CSBG: Community Services Block Grant</p> <p>CSBG-R: Community Services Block Grant – Recovery</p> <p>Deed Recording: HB 2060, 2163 and 1359</p> <p>ESHP: Emergency Shelter and Homeless Prevention</p> | <p>HOME: Home Investment Partnerships Program</p> <p>HPRP: Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program</p> <p>HSF: Human Service Fund</p> <p>LIHEAP: Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program</p> <p>NSP: Neighborhood Stabilization Program</p> |
|--|---|

COMMUNITY ACTION ADVISORY BOARD

The [Community Action Advisory Board](#) (CAAB) is comprised of nine members representing a cross section of the community. Board membership includes citizens who are low-income, or have experienced poverty, elected public officials, and representatives from the private sector. The Advisory Board conducts a biennial needs assessment and recommends funding for programs and services provided by community-based organizations that meet identified priority needs. The CAAB makes recommendations for funding programs that address essential human needs and programs that move people towards self-sufficiency.

URBAN COUNTY POLICY BOARD

The [Urban County Policy Board](#) (UCPB) was founded in 1985 to enable Clark County to become a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) entitlement. This board selects CDBG, HOME and NSP projects based on a numeric scoring system. The UCPB consists of the Mayors of all cities and towns in the county or their designee and is chaired by a county commissioner. The City of Vancouver is not included in this board as they are a separate entitlement. The projects selected are recommended to the Board of County Commissioners for final approval and submission to HUD.

VETERANS RESOURCE COMMITTEE

The [Veterans Resource Committee](#) (VRC) develops programs and procedures to assist individuals and their eligible family members who are low-income and have served in the military. The board is comprised of members from each Congressionally Chartered Veterans organization and veterans from the community at large. The board provides policy guidance to all services funded by the Veterans Assistance Fund.

In 2009, the VRC conducted a formal process to identify and adopt strategic community and organizational direction for veteran-related priorities for 2009 through 2012. Participating in a series of educational briefings highlighting the needs and issues facing the growing veteran population, members of the VRC completed the process by developing a strategic plan that identified future funding priorities and action items for the board.

GOAL 1: LOW-INCOME PEOPLE BECOME MORE SELF-SUFFICIENT

COLUMBIA RIVER MENTAL HEALTH HOMELESS EMPLOYMENT NAVIGATOR

This program provides supported employment services for individuals who are chronically homeless and families and individuals who are homeless. Staff provides comprehensive services including vocational profiles, planning, resource coordination, job placement and advocacy.

- 69 formerly employed persons obtained employment
- 146 support services were provided to program participants, including bus passes, and work clothing



SHARE INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNTS (IDA)

IDAs are bank savings accounts that assist households in their path to self-sufficiency and greatly support their efforts to rise out of poverty on a long-term basis. Participants save up to \$4,000 and any savings they accumulate is matched by the agency on a 1:1 or 2:1 basis. When participants reach their savings goal, they can use the funds for a down-payment on a home, further education, a car or computer purchase, or starting a micro-enterprise. In the first two years, participants receive case management, extensive money management training, and education regarding their asset choice.

- 43 participants were enrolled in the program
- 15 participants used their IDA savings toward the purchase of an asset



PARTNERS IN CAREERS/SALVATION ARMY MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

These two agencies work together to help people move toward self-sufficiency through rent/mortgage subsidies along with case management, child care, medical care, and transportation assistance provided while clients receive employment services.

- 67 individuals obtained and maintained housing for twelve months
- 9 individuals obtained employment



VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAM AND HOMELESS COURT

The Volunteer Lawyers Program hosts family and general law clinics to assist clients who are low-income with legal services such as custody issues, divorce including property division, maintenance and child support, eviction and other landlord/tenant issues, credit problems and employment issues. They also provide a volunteer attorney for services that include civil legal advice clinics at homeless shelters, a monthly District Court Homeless Court docket and direct placement with attorneys as needed.

- 986 individuals were assisted with legal services
- 151 jail days were saved through Homeless Court
- 50 clients received assistance for bankruptcy
- 166 households resolved landlord tenant dissolutions
- \$9,531 saved due to the early release days

COUNCIL FOR THE HOMELESS COMMUNITY VOICEMAIL



Community Voice Mail provides reliable and private access to telephone-based communications which is essential for clients to access support services and referrals until they are able to acquire regular phone service.

- CVM provides 40 county service agencies with over 797 individual voicemail boxes
- 1583 individuals benefited from a voicemail box



211INFO

Information and referral is the process of bringing people and services together to give people the tools they need to help solve common, everyday problems. 211 lines are staffed by specially trained information and referral specialists, skilled at locating and providing information about resources for help with a wide variety of problems and needs. They work with each caller to decide on the best course of action for a particular problem, and then help to determine the best places to call as the first step in working towards a solution.

- 3,441 people referred and linked to services
- 261 agencies had a formal update of information



SUMMARY OF GOAL ONE

LOW-INCOME PEOPLE BECOME MORE SELF-SUFFICIENT

Unemployed and obtained a job	181
Obtained safe and affordable housing (in support of employment)	543
Enrolled in telephone lifeline or energy discounts	444

GOAL 2: THE CONDITIONS IN WHICH LOW-INCOME PEOPLE LIVE ARE IMPROVED

City of Battle Ground SE 1st Street Pedestrian Improvements. Improvements on the south side of 1st Street between 2nd Avenue and Parkway Avenue consisting of curb, gutter, landscaping, five foot sidewalk, storm water and road improvements.

Town of Yacolt Elevator for New Town Hall. Installation of an elevator in the new town hall to enable people with disabilities to safely access the second floor. The elevator will be accessed from the interior of the building located at 202 W. Cushman Street.



City of Ridgefield Sargent Street Neighborhood Garden Project. Construction of a neighborhood garden at Sargent Street and S 5th Avenue including providing water to the site, vinyl fencing, benches, grading and preparing topsoil and construction of a 6' gravel path. This project will also include concrete sidewalks to connect the garden lot with other city sidewalks.

Clark County Housing Rehabilitation Program. Low-interest loans provided to homeowners throughout the county, except within the city limits of Vancouver, to rehabilitate their homes. This program also provides grants for small emergency repairs or accessibility improvements to single-family, owner-occupied homes. Seven households to be served.

Longview Housing Authority Lilac Gardens. Design and construction of 35 units of rental housing affordable to households earning less than 60% AMI and rents will be no more than 30% of a household's income in Woodland, WA.

Clark County Food Bank Warehouse and Distribution Center. Purchase and renovation of an existing warehouse to include storage and shipping, drive-in freezers and coolers, offices and meeting space. The new facility will also accommodate the collecting, storing and distribution of a wider variety of foods and will allow for future expansion.



Affordable Community Environments McCallister Village. Additional funding for the construction of 48 units of affordable rental housing for households at or below 60% of area median income (AMI) at the southwest corner of NW Fruit Valley Road and Firestone Lane in West Vancouver.



Camas Evergreen Neighborhood ADA Ramps. Construction of approximately 60 handicapped curb ramps at various intersections bounded by NE 6th Avenue, Everett Street, NE 3rd Avenue and Oak Street in the Evergreen neighborhood.

Janus Youth Programs, Inc. Oak Grove Facility Upgrades. Renovation of the Oak Grove Youth Shelter, a shelter serving youth in the Vancouver/Clark County area. Upgrades include: HVAC and fire alarm systems replacement. The gutter system and front mag-lock security door will also be replaced.

Inland Empire Residential Resources Residences. Purchase and renovation of two foreclosed residential properties that serve as permanent housing. One residence serves up to six men with substance or alcohol abuse addictions who are referred by the Clark County Drug Court. The other residence is for three individuals who are dually diagnosed with developmental disabilities and chronic mental illness.

Share Residences. Purchase and renovation of two foreclosed residential properties that serve as transitional housing for individuals who struggle with substance abuse addiction. The incomes of the households renting these units can not exceed 50% of area median income.



Vancouver Housing Authority Multi-Family Permanent Rental Housing Development Project. Purchase of a foreclosed residential property zoned for development of a multi-family rental project. Contractor will undertake the necessary steps to develop the property into a 50–100 mixed income, permanent rental housing development within seven years of the closing date.

Vancouver Housing Authority Affordable Home Ownership. Provide down payment assistance to one household for affordable homeownership opportunities of a foreclosed residence.

SUMMARY OF GOAL TWO

CONDITIONS IN WHICH LOW-INCOME PEOPLE LIVE ARE IMPROVED

Safe and affordable housing units created in the community	216
Safe and affordable housing units in the community preserved or improved through construction, weatherization or rehabilitation	378
Accessible and affordable health care services/facilities for low-income people created or maintained	4
Accessible new or expanded transportation resources	2
Increases in community assets as a result of a change in law, regulation or policy, which results in improvements in quality of life and assets	105
Increase in the availability or preservation of community services to improve public health and safety	3
Increase in the availability or preservation of community facilities to improve public health and safety	3
Increase or preservation of neighborhood quality of life resources	10

GOAL 3: LOW-INCOME PEOPLE OWN A STAKE IN THEIR COMMUNITY

Share Individual Development Accounts (IDA) Program provides up to \$2,000 of matching funds for individuals who have a low-income and are saving for an asset such as educational expenses, purchasing a home, computer, small business or car. All participants must attend applicable community classes and open up a local bank account.

Columbia Nonprofit Housing First Home Loan Program provides funds for financial assistance for eight first-time homebuyers with incomes at or below 80% of area median income. This program includes pre- and post-purchase counseling and homebuyer seminars.



**SUMMARY OF GOAL THREE
LOW-INCOME PEOPLE OWN A STAKE IN THEIR COMMUNITY**

Total number of hours volunteered to community action	81,364
Number of low-income people participating in formal community organization, government, boards or councils that provide input to decision-making and policy setting through community action efforts	19
Number of low-income people purchasing their own homes in their community as a result of community action assistance	27
Number of low-income people engaged in non-governance community activities or groups created or supported by community action	19

GOAL FOUR: PARTNERSHIPS ACHIEVED

GOAL 4: PARTNERSHIPS AMONG SUPPORTERS AND PROVIDERS OF SERVICES TO LOW-INCOME PEOPLE ARE ACHIEVED

<p>211 Info 503.222.5555 http://www.211info.org/</p>	<p>Cowlitz Indian Tribe 360.397.8228 http://www.cowlitz.org</p>	<p>Second Step Housing 360.993.5301 http://www.secondstephousing.org</p>
<p>Affordable Community Environments 360.597.0088 http://www.acecommunities.org</p>	<p>Inland Empire Residential Resources 509.534.9999</p>	<p>Share 360.695.7658 http://www.sharevancouver.org</p>
<p>Clark County Food Bank 360.693.0939 www.clarkcountyfoodbank.org</p>	<p>Interfaith Treasure House 360.834.4181 http://ifth-cw.org</p>	<p>Vancouver Housing Authority 360.694.2501 http://www.vhousa.com</p>
<p>Clark Public Utilities 360.992.3000 http://www.clarkpublicutilities.com</p>	<p>Janus Youth Programs 503.233.6090 http://www.janusyouth.org</p>	<p>Vancouver School District 360.313.1000 http://www.vansd.org</p>
<p>Columbia Non-Profit Housing 360.993.9552 http://www.columbianonprofithousing.org</p>	<p>Longview Housing Authority 360.423.0140 http://www.longviewha.org</p>	<p>Volunteer Lawyers Program 360.823.0423</p>
<p>Columbia River Mental Health Services 360.993.3000 http://www.crmhs.org</p>	<p>Neighborhood Partnership Fund 503.226.3001 www.neighborhoodpartnerships.org</p>	<p>Washington Dept of Veterans Affairs 800.562.0132 http://www.dva.wa.gov</p>
<p>Community Housing Resource Center 360.690.4496 http://www.homecen.org</p>	<p>Partners In Careers 360.696.8417 http://www.partnersincareers.org</p>	<p>Washington State Service Corps 360.486.5990 www.esd.wa.gov/washingtonservicecorps/index.php</p>
<p>Community Services Northwest 360.397.8484 http://communityservicesnw.org</p>	<p>Salvation Army & Stop Hunger Warehouse 360.892.9050 http://salvationarmyvancouver.org</p>	<p>YWCA Clark County 360.696.0167 http://www.ywcaclarkcounty.org</p>
<p>Council for the Homeless 360.993.9561 http://www.icfth.com/</p>		

GOAL 5: AGENCIES INCREASE THEIR CAPACITY TO ACHIEVE RESULTS BROADENING THE RESOURCE BASE

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The CHEC team developed out of a community planning process to address the “top 25” users of police, detox and homeless services. A grant from the state was applied for and awarded. The program addresses homeless persons in encampments, provides supportive housing for individuals discharged from jail, hospitals or institutions, expands the supply of supportive housing and increases the coordination and linkage among mainstream programs. The program has accomplished the following:

- 57 persons have been housed, 11 persons housed were from the “top 25” list.
- Homeless issues have been integrated into police Crisis Intervention Training.
- Improved coordination with DOT and City of Vancouver Public Works.
- 90 landlords have agreed to participate in housing hard to serve individuals.



DISCHARGE/RE-ENTRY

Janus Youth’s **The Nest Program** assists youth up to age 24 transitioning out of foster care, on the street or being released from juvenile facilities to prevent homelessness. Through a program of case management and basic financial support tailored to the unique situations of each youth, The Nest helps youth become stabilized in all aspects of their lives.

EMPLOYMENT

Partners in Careers’ **Veteran Women Program** assists women veterans with incomes up to 200% of the federal poverty level who have been severely impacted by the economic recession by providing education, training and mentoring activities that result in employment-related outcomes, job placements and removal of barriers to employment.

EVICITION PREVENTION



The Volunteer Lawyers Program and Community Mediation Services partnered to provide a **Housing Justice Program** which assists people who are low-income maintain their housing or find other housing when they are at risk of eviction. The program provides outreach to landlords and tenants, education about rights and responsibilities, and mediation and legal services in an effort to avoid eviction or help tenants to move to other stable housing.

FORECLOSURE ASSISTANCE

The Community Housing Resource Center has increased the capacity of its existing **Foreclosure Assistance Program** by hiring one additional full-time Spanish speaking financial counselor. The counselor provides critically needed mortgage default prevention counseling service to homeowners with incomes up to 200% of the federal poverty level who are at risk of losing their home. The counselor also provides credit repair and debt management education and counseling to Clark County households.

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

The Share **Stability and Eviction Prevention Services (STEPS) Program** identifies and engages clients in a way that emphasizes calculated prevention, personalized support, tenant education and improved employment. The program is designed to prevent homelessness by delivering a combination of services, rental subsidy payments, supportive case management and employment skill building activities. Rapid re-housing services will also be provided, as needed.



The Salvation Army, through its **Moving Forward Together Program**, provides rent/mortgage assistance to singles, couples and/or families with children. Clients also receive case management for up to 12 months to prevent homelessness. An additional 16 families were served.

RAPID RE-HOUSING

The Janus Youth **Progressive Access to Housing (PATH) Program** provides case management and monetary assistance to youth, up to age 24. Case managers engage youth who are homeless, to connect them with community resources, help them work through rental barriers and help the youth move into stable housing. This program also provides homelessness prevention.

EMERGENCY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

The current Clark County Food warehouse/distribution center has been leased since 1985 and is inadequate, inefficient, outdated and unable to meet the growing needs of the hungry and food insecure population in Clark County. Demand for emergency food grew over 15% in 2009. Without expanded resources, the food agencies that assist the hungry will face difficulty in accessing adequate food resources to meet the growing need of the people they serve.

With the help of Community Action, Clark County Food Bank will construct a new food bank distribution facility, which will have space to substantially expand bulk storage and shipping of food to 25 Clark County food programs. The new food warehouse and distribution center will provide efficient access for agencies to pick up food as well as allowing larger trucks to deliver donated and purchased food supplies to the warehouse.

The new facility will also provide for bulk storage, shipping, receiving, box storage, drive-in freezers and coolers, repackaging areas, administrative offices, meeting space and classrooms to allow expanded nutrition programs, receiving and distribution docks and future expansion capability. The increased space will accommodate additional volunteers who collect, sort, store and distribute food to the area food banks. Most importantly, the space will allow a greater variety and larger quantity of shelf-stable, frozen, chilled and fresh foods.

VETERANS RESOURCES

Community Action worked with this new nonprofit to get it off the ground and will be providing the funding for the Center's rent for 12 months. The Clark County Veterans Assistance Center (CCVAC) will provide and promote a safe environment and a listening ear for veterans and members of the United States Armed Forces and their families. The CCVAC volunteers will help clients build positive and productive relationships through community reintegration and assisting veterans with the challenges that sometimes cause barriers to community living.



HOUSING FIRST

Bridges to Housing is a partnership between city and county governments, housing developers, service providers and the housing authorities in a four county region. The partnership creates a regional sustainable system for addressing high risk, high needs families and to generate system changes to eliminate long-term, repeated homelessness.



The **Clark Housing and Engagement Collaboration (CHEC)** program employs a housing first model and addresses habitual challenges for engagement and recovery with several evidence-based/promising practices: 1) a new street outreach team located at Community Services Northwest as well as tenant-based rental assistance subsidies at apartment complexes; 2) tenant-based rental assistance at scattered sites for individuals involved with some of the county's mental health agencies to assist people re-entering the community from jail, hospitals, institutions or prison; 3) landlord outreach and education, including coordination with tenant education and other incentive components; and 4) training, coordination and system linkages to increase access to crisis services, employment, mental health and substance abuse treatment services for individuals leaving homelessness. Funds are provided by the Department of Commerce Homeless Grant Assistance Program.

GOAL 6: LOW-INCOME PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS, ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL BY STRENGTHENING FAMILY & OTHER SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENTS

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

Homelessness prevention is an essential element of any effort to end homelessness. The central challenge of prevention is targeting our efforts toward people that will become homeless without the intervention. Providing rent/mortgage assistance and other needed supportive services to help an individual or family maintain their housing is more cost effective than allowing that individual or family to fall into homelessness. Through various agencies and programs, 1,513 households received rent/mortgage assistance.

OTHER EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

A variety of emergency assistance is available through the Community Action Programs. People in need can access emergency shelter, motel vouchers, food, rent or mortgage assistance, and protection from violence. Through various agencies:

- 6,350 households received utility assistance
- 1,434 people received temporary shelter
- 307 people received protection orders
- 4,894 people were connected with services through the Emergency Shelter Clearinghouse



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The **YWCA SafeChoice Program** serves victims of domestic violence by providing a 24-hour crisis line, shelter, children's advocacy program, legal advocacy, counseling, support group facilitation, safety planning and community education. The objective of the program is to reduce and prevent the number of families who are homeless by maintaining current domestic violence services and expanding emergency rental assistance.

The Legal Advocacy Specialist guides clients through the court systems by accompanying them to court for arraignments, hearings and trials and by providing assistance to obtain a Protection Order. The Client Services Coordinator supports women in crisis, particularly victims of domestic violence, and is accountable to the Shelter Manager. The program was able to assist 82 individuals with rental assistance, 457 people with advocacy based counseling services and 289 people with legal advocacy.

FOOD



There are food banks and meal programs throughout Clark County serving over 88,000 households whom received some type of food assistance.

Share’s **Hunger Response Program** includes three different components. The Hot Meals Program provides hot meals to men, women and children at the Share House shelter. This program serves 5,000 meals each month. The Back Pack Program provides over 500 children with nutritious non-perishable food to take home each weekend throughout the school year. In the summer, Share partners with Evergreen Public Schools and Washington State University, Vancouver to provide a half-day of learning activities as well as breakfast and lunch for low-income children through The Summer Lunch Program. Over 150 children receive food each day during program operation.



Salvation Army’s **Fresh Alliance Program** retrieves fresh and frozen food from participating area grocery stores for distribution to Clark County food banks. In 2010, 19,256 households were served by volunteers picking up donations from 12 grocery stores participating in the program.

CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

The Vancouver School District has two **Family Resource Centers** that were funded by Clark County, one at Fruit Valley Elementary and one at Washington Elementary. The Resource Centers provide community outreach activities, youth support and skill building, parenting and skill building, after school activities, resource and referral, and staff training. Both schools serve a majority of low-income students. The following outcomes were the result of both schools’ centers:

- 457 youth improve social/emotional development
- 230 youth avoid risk-taking behavior for a defined period of time
- 460 youth increase academic, athletic, or social skills for school success
- 87 parents and other adults learn and exhibit improved parenting skills
- 67 parents and other adults learn and exhibit improved family functioning skills

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Share **ASPIRE** is a two-year program that combines case management with rental assistance to help people transition from homelessness. Participants receive enrollment in educational programs, Life Skill Education and mental health care. In 2010, Share provided rental subsidies and supportive services to 86 households.



Community Services Northwest's **Welcome Home Program** is a supportive housing program serving individuals who are homeless and have high-needs. The program uses "housing first" strategies, and moves participants directly into permanent housing. Program participants are provided opportunities to engage in wrap-around services designed to stabilize physical and mental health, sustain sobriety and increase the skills needed to maintain housing stability. Clients are provided permanent housing placement, high-level supportive housing services and rent assistance, all designed to move an additional ten people who are homeless or chronically homeless toward permanent housing stability. In 2010, 23 individuals were stably housed.

Janus Youth's **The NEST Program** assists young people transitioning out of foster care or being released from juvenile facilities to prevent youth homelessness. Through a program of case management and rental assistance in semi-supervised independent living apartments, The NEST addresses the primary assistance needed to break the cycle of homelessness: living options and support tailored to the unique situations of each youth. In 2010, 14 youth obtained stable housing and 24 developed Individual Development Plans and were connected to resources.

Second Step Housing's **Transitional Housing Program** provides affordable housing linked with community services to women and families who are homeless in Clark County. They offer transitional housing and permanent rental housing services coupled with intensive case management to assist clients' move to self-sufficiency. All residents are committed to goals and life plans that move them closer to economic and social self-sufficiency and family reunification. Funding allows Second Step to preserve housing and supplements rent income to cover all of the maintenance and utility costs associated with the homes. In 2010, 166 women and 137 children were housed.

VETERANS ASSISTANCE

The **Clark County Veterans Assistance Fund** provides emergency relief for the area's indigent veterans. These veterans have access to the fund through the Veterans Service Officer for a variety of emergency services. In 2010:

- 309 veterans were assisted with transportation
- 88 received food assistance
- 18 veterans were assisted with medical prescriptions
- 250 households received rent assistance
- 88 households received utility assistance
- 190 veterans attended the annual Veteran Stand Down event, they received information and services related to VA benefits, housing, dental, transportation, employment and medical.

The **Veterans Incarcerated Project (VIP)**, through the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs, is designed to address the unique needs of veterans incarcerated in the Clark County jail for non-violent offenses. Veterans classified as sex offenders or arsonists are not eligible. VIP advocates for a reduction in sentencing for those veterans eligible and willing to participate in treatment and/or employment oriented veterans' reintegration programs. The program made contact with 187 veterans in 2010 and showed an 8.5% recidivism rate, compared to the 61% state average. The program placed 23 veterans in employment, 43 veterans in housing and referred 39 veterans to treatment services. Reduced time served in jail produced \$137,294 in savings.

**SUMMARY OF GOAL SIX
LOW-INCOME PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS
ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL BY STRENGTHENING FAMILY AND OTHER
SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENTS (EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE)**

Food (individuals)	490,331
Emergency vendor payments, including fuel/energy bills (households)	6,350
Temporary shelter (households)	1,434
Emergency medical care (households)	267
Protection from violence (households)	307
Legal assistance (households)	1,281
Youth increase academic, athletic or social skills for school success by participating in before or after school programs	274
Parents and other adults learn and exhibit improved parenting skills	25
Parents and other adults learn and exhibit improved family functioning skills	25

Annual Unemployment Rates by Location	Year		
	2005	2009	2010
Portland/Vancouver MSA	6.5%	10.8%	11.7%
Clark County (Includes Vancouver)	7.2%	14.3%	13.7%
Washington	6.4%	9.5%	9.6%
United States	5.2%	10.0%	9.6%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Clark County Households Living Below Poverty in 2009

Population Group	% of Households
Married – Couple Family	41%
Male Householder; No Wife Present	6%
Female Householder; No Husband Present	48%
Total Population Below Poverty Level	12%
Population Group	# of Households
Total Households Below Poverty Level	9,101
Total Population Below Poverty Level	50,617

Source: American Communities Survey, 2009 one year estimate.

*2009 Health and Human Services (HHS) Poverty guidelines designate a single person at 100% of poverty when earning \$10,830. For a family of four, 100% of poverty is \$22,050.

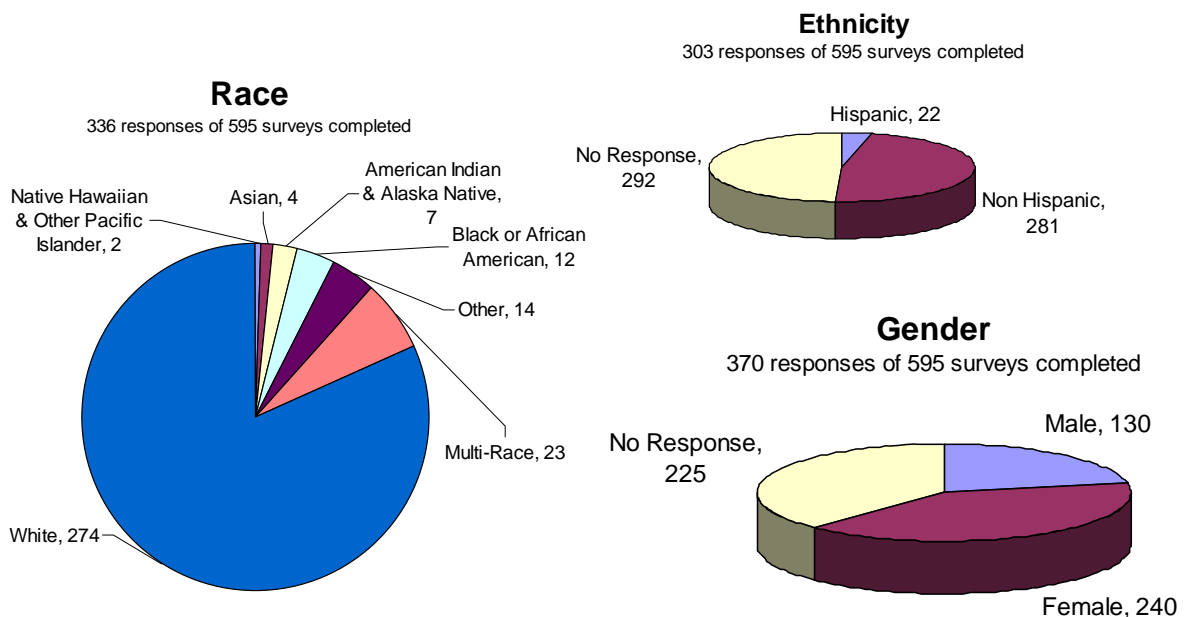
Clark County “Point In Time” Homeless Count, January 28, 2010

Homeless Subpopulations (Adults only, except g. below)	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
a. Chronically Homeless	114	50	164
b. Severe Mental Illness	66	46	112
c. Chronic Substance Abuse	64	35	99
d. Veterans	95	15	110
e. Persons with HIV/AIDS	6	0	6
f. Victims of Domestic Violence	146	19	165
g. Unaccompanied Youth (Under 18)	20	4	24

SURVEY OF NEEDS OUTCOMES

Ranking	Family Need	Average Score
1	Food Assistance	7.6
2	Dental Care	6.7
3	Health Care	6.2
4	Employment Services	5.8
5	Clothing	5.8
6	Utility/Fuel/Heating Assistance	5.6
7	Rental Assistance	5.5
8	Prescription Medication	5.4
9	Referrals to Other Resources	5.0
10	Transportation	5.0
11	Education	4.8
12	Emergency Shelter	4.7
13	Mental Health Services	4.2
14	Legal Assistance	4.1
15	Money Management/Budgeting	3.9
16	Youth Activities/Centers	3.7
17	Disability Resources	3.7
18	Parenting Resources	3.3
19	Child Care	3.3
20	Substance Abuse Treatment	2.8
21	Domestic Violence Services	2.7
22	Mortgage Assistance/Counseling	2.7
23	Senior Services	2.7
24	Veterans Resources	2.6

*Scale of 1-10, 10 being highest need



EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

“Jerry” spent three years in prison and had recently been released when he found the Employment Navigator Program. He was living with his parents and was on public assistance. He came to the program asking to apply for a bus pass. The Employment Navigator Program worked with Jerry to put together a resume and provided him with several months of bus passes. Staff took job leads to his home and transported him to various employers. He was able to secure a job through Express Personnel, and was such a good worker he was promoted to full-time status making \$12 an hour with benefits. He was able to get off all state assistance and move into his own place. He has maintained his employment, purchased a car and enjoys the independence that comes from earning an income. It is a very different life from the one he had before.

- **\$1.00 of investment yields \$49.89 of return.**

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

“Jeri” contemplated returning to her abuser because she was frustrated with her search for employment. She met regularly with advocates for one-on-one advocacy based counseling and participated in YWCA Clark County in-house support groups and was referred to the Legal Clinic. Her young daughter was able to participate in the Children’s Advocacy Program. With support from the YWCA, Jeri obtained employment and qualified for a housing program. She and her daughter received food, clothing and toiletries during their stay along with bus tickets and the use of Community Voice Mail. The total of Jeri’s success is an estimated \$37,564 based on one year of full-time employment.

- **\$1.00 of investment yields \$12.90 of return.**

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

A two parent household entered into the Share A.S.P.I.R.E. program after spending time in shelters, treatment facilities, jail, and work release programs. This household had five children although the two youngest had been in CPS custody for over a year. Once they secured housing they were returned to the household. During the year the household was in the program, Share ASPIRE paid \$8,680.00 in rental subsidies and spent \$2,347.00 in staff time for case management, supportive service meetings and resource development to assist the household. Living in their own home saved the community \$105.00 per night in shelter costs for a household of seven, saved \$15,000.00 in treatment costs for each adult the first thirty (30) days, and \$6,500.00 for each adult per month for the next five months. In addition, the children were returned and no longer in the care of CPS saving the state \$12,600.00 in foster care payments, \$525.00 per month per child, one of the adults secured employment earning \$17,280.00 in wages a year including taxes and benefits, the state also saved \$12,000.00 in TANF payments for the year making this family's return on investment approximately \$185,605.00.

- **\$1.00 of investment yields \$16.83 of return.**

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

“Jennifer” entered Second Step Housing’s Transitional Housing program due to an addiction. She had a 10th-grade education and was a domestic violence survivor. She had no income and had lost custody of her two sons. During her time in the program, Jennifer participated in numerous programs that helped her recovery, including Parent Partners, Lifeline Connections Drug and Mental Health Treatment, YWCA Clark County Domestic Violence Support Groups, Child Protective Services Counseling Resources and the Clark County Volunteer Lawyers Program. During the first few months, she relied on Clark County single women’s rental assistance funding administered by Share as well as public assistance, which allowed her to reclaim custody of her children. She earned a GED from Clark College, and with the help of Employment Navigator Program, she obtained employment and was able to move into permanent housing. The cost of the transitional housing program for Jennifer was \$11,000, but she paid \$7,500 to Second Step Housing for rent and utilities during her time in housing. She went from no income to earning \$27,000 annually, including benefits, at the time of her exit from the program. The total value of Jennifer’s success is estimated at \$45,222, based on 12 months of employment.

- **\$1.00 of investment yields \$4.11 of return.**

EMERGENCY FOOD

Salvation Army’s **Fresh Alliance Program** retrieves fresh and frozen food items from participating area grocery stores for distribution to Clark County Food Banks. In 2010, volunteers picked up food from 12 grocery stores participating in the program resulting in 332,896 pounds of food. Prior to the development of this program, food was all placed in the dumpster. The estimated value of food is \$221,930. Clark County’s contribution to the program was \$32,000.

- **\$1.00 of investment yields \$7.00 of return.**

More information about Community Action Program as well as plans and reports referenced in this document can be found online at:

<http://www.clark.wa.gov/community-action>

<http://www.clark.wa.gov/cdbg>

<http://www.clark.wa.gov/veterans>

<http://www.clark.wa.gov/housing-preservation>

Staff for these programs work for Clark County's Department of Community Services and can be reached by calling (360) 397-2130.

Vanessa R. Gaston, Director, Department of Community Services

vanessa.gaston@clark.wa.gov

Pete Munroe, Program Manager, ext. 7801

pete.munroe@clark.wa.gov

Tif Rock, Housing Preservation Manager, ext. 7809

tif.rock@clark.wa.gov

Kate Budd, Program Coordinator, ext 7832

kate.budd@clark.wa.gov

Karen Evans, Program Coordinator, ext. 7835

karen.evans@clark.wa.gov

Bonnie L. Scott, Program Coordinator, ext. 7813

bonnie.scott@clark.wa.gov

Samantha Whitley, Program Coordinator, ext. 7842

samantha.whitley@clark.wa.gov

Rebecca Royce, Office Assistant, ext. 7863

rebecca.royce@clark.wa.gov

Tara Anderson, Housing Preservation Program Coordinator, ext 7870

tara.anderson@clark.wa.gov



For other formats

Clark County ADA Office, Voice (360) 397-2000

Relay (800) 833-6384, E-mail ADA@clark.wa.gov