



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

1011 Plum Street SE • PO Box 42525 • Olympia, Washington 98504-2525 • 360-725-4000
www.commerce.wa.gov

November 10, 2020

The Honorable Patty Kuderer
Washington State Senate
411 Legislative Building
PO Box 40448
Olympia, WA 98504

The Honorable Cindy Ryu
Washington State House of Representatives
421 John L. O'Brian Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504

Re: Homelessness in WA State ([43.185C.045](#))

Dear Senator Kuderer and Representative Ryu:

I wanted to update you on a decision I am implementing to ensure we are effectively using our resources where they can make the most difference for the most vulnerable people in our state during these difficult times.

I have directed Commerce staff to prioritize their efforts to support communities across the state as we fight through the COVID-19 outbreak. Because of this, staff will not produce the Homelessness in Washington State 2020 Annual Report ([2019 report version](#) for reference). The COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated a heightened response from our staff ensuring that CARES Act dollars disbursement is our top priority. It is expected that this decision is temporary as we work through the pandemic. We look forward to getting back on a regular report schedule when the pandemic ends and will continue to communicate with the Legislature on our efforts. Commerce staff will be presenting to the House Appropriations Committee during the 2020 Committee Assembly Days looking at operating investments in housing and homelessness programs. We will be ready to provide additional briefings to you or committees.

For background, this annual report complements the "[State of Washington Homeless Housing Crisis Response System Strategic Plan 2019-2024](#)," updated in 2019. It fulfills reporting requirements outlined in several chapters of the Homeless Housing and Assistance Act, including RCWs 43.185C 045, 170, 220, 340, and RCW 43.63A.311.

I would also point you towards our current online resources that provide data about our homeless programs. Links to the [Annual Point in Time Count](#) and our [County Report Card](#) feature are all located on the [Homeless System Performance Page](#). I think you will find the live dashboards provide a real-time window into what is happening across our state.

Senator Kuderer and Representative Ryu

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Please contact Tedd Kelleher, Managing Director Department of Commerce Housing Assistance Unit at tedd.kelleher@commerce.wa.gov or myself at lisa.brown@commerce.wa.gov if you have any questions regarding this report.

Sincerely,



Lisa Brown
Director

CC: Tanya Lavoy, Legislative Assistant to Senator Kuderer
Shoubee Liaw, Legislative Assistant to Representative Ryu
Diane Klontz, Commerce Assistant Director
Jasmine Vasavada, Commerce Legislative and Policy Director