

County Action Menu

Introduction:

The County Action Menu is a set of performance metrics that was created and refined with county governments and stakeholder groups specified in section 2 (2) (c) of Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill (E2SHB) 1277.

The County Action Menu requires that county governments take actions that will prevent and reduce homelessness. Beginning July 1, 2023, this requirement will take effect and apply to the funds described in section 1 (1) (c) of E2SHB 1277.

The strategies identified to prevent and reduce homelessness are:

- 1. Increase Housing Capacity / Inventory**
- 2. Improve Financial and Supportive Services / Increase Housing Placements**
- 3. Address Racial Disparities**

Counties will select two action items per strategy at contract negotiation. This is total of six actions. At mid-contract and near contract end Commerce will evaluate if the selected actions were achieved. If the majority of actions were achieved, the county will retain the performance-based allocation.

This County Action Menu was developed specifically to acknowledge and address the wide variety of actions needed to make gains in each strategy. There must be available actions appropriate to both frontier communities and large urban centers. To achieve this responsiveness, Commerce will develop a typology of a county's experience of homelessness. Counties will be categorized in types, and county type will filter the available actions for each strategy.

Timeline:

December 15, 2021:

- Initial County Action Menu

January 2022 – January 2023:

- Program design and guideline development
- Refinement of County Action Menu (develop county typology and actions)

January 2023 – June 2023

- Counties select six actions from Final County Action Menu to achieve over two year contract period (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025)

July 2023:

- County is awarded allocation. Fifteen percent of funding must be used for activities that *can be discontinued*, such as Rapid Re-Housing, or acquisition
- Completed County Action Menu is incorporated into contract Statement of Work

June 2024:

- Commerce monitors county progress
- Counties that have demonstrated that the majority of selected actions have been achieved will continue to receive the fifteen percent performance-based allocation

County Action Menu December 15, 2021

January 2025:

- Commerce monitors county progress
 - Additional counties that have demonstrated that the majority of selected actions have been achieved will continue to receive the fifteen percent performance-based allocation
 - Counties that have failed to demonstrate that the majority of selected actions have been achieved will enter into a corrective action plan with Commerce and must agree to undertake the actions outlined in the corrective action plan
 - If within the 2 years following the corrective action plan the county demonstrates that the majority of selected actions *have not been achieved*, Commerce will reclaim the fifteen percent performance-based allocation using the amendment process
 - Performance-based allocations unspent due to lack of compliance with a corrective action plan will be distributed to other counties that have met their target actions
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Process Requirements:

Nationally and in Washington State, people of color and other historically marginalized communities are dramatically over-represented in homeless and unstably housed populations. This is due to structural oppression. The decision-making processes of homeless service systems must work to stop perpetuating disparities, inequity and oppression.

The County must use an equity-based decision-making framework when selecting actions to achieve each strategy. The County must include historically marginalized communities in decision-making relating to this performance requirement.

“Communities that should be considered to be historically marginalized and disproportionately impacted by homelessness in the United States include: Black and African Americans; people who identify as Latinx, Native, or Pacific Islander; individuals with disabilities; people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ); incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals; and undocumented individuals and mixed-immigration-status families and communities”¹

Counties should examine local data to understand their community demographics and the disparities in their homeless and unstably housed population. Information about the homeless and unstably housed population in each county can be found here: [Snapshot of Homelessness in Washington](#)

Recommended Resources:

- [GARE-Racial Equity Toolkit.pdf \(racialequityalliance.org\)](#)
- [Equity Based Decision Making Framework — National Innovation Service \(nis.us\)](#)

¹ [Equity Based Decision Making Framework — National Innovation Service \(nis.us\)](#)

Strategy 1: Increase Housing Capacity / Inventory

System Monitoring Measures: Increase in units from baseline to target

Inventory Type	Baseline	Change	Target
Permanent Housing Units ² (includes PSH/OPH)			
Emergency Housing Units ³ (includes ES/TH)			
Rapid Re-Housing Units			

<i>Actions to Increase Housing Capacity / Inventory</i>	<i>Compliance Indicator</i>
Example: Purchase multi-family or single-family homes for use as permanent supportive housing projects	<i>Description of how we will measure or know that the action was achieved.</i>
Example: Create home-sharing program	
Example: Offer education in zoning and planning to relevant commissions & community groups	
Other (in agreement with Commerce):	

Strategy 2: Improve Financial and Supportive Services

System Monitoring Measures: Increase in housing placements from baseline to target

Inventory Type	Baseline	Change	Target
Permanent Housing Units (includes PSH/OPH)			95%
Emergency Shelter			50%
Rapid Re-Housing			80%

System Monitoring Measures: Reduce returns to homelessness from baseline to target

Inventory Type	Baseline	Change	Target
Permanent Housing Units (includes PSH/OPH)			
Emergency Shelter			
Rapid Re-Housing			

<i>Actions to Improve Financial and Supportive Services</i>	<i>Compliance Indicator</i>
Example: Provide organizational development training for community-based organizations	<i>Description of how we will measure or know that the action was achieved.</i>
Example: Increase case management and operations funding	
Example: Create grant program to provide direct cash assistance	
Other (in agreement with Commerce):	

² Permanent Supportive Housing, Housing with Services, Housing Only type projects

³ Non-congregate Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing type projects

Strategy 3: Address Racial Disparities

System Monitoring Measures: The rate of housing placements and returns to homelessness are similar regardless of the participant’s race or ethnicity

System Monitoring Measures: Increase system access as for each racial/ethnic subpopulation as compared to the race and ethnicity of the population experiencing a housing crisis from baseline to target

Inventory Type	Baseline	Change	Target
Permanent Housing Units (includes PSH/OPH)			
Emergency Shelter			
Rapid Re-Housing			

Actions to Address Racial Disparities	Compliance Indicator
Example: Implement equity-based decision-making framework	<i>Description of how we will measure or know that the action was achieved.</i>
Example: Disaggregate all homeless system data by race and ethnicity	
Example: Create peer navigator positions and hire from within most impacted communities, particularly people of color	
Other (in agreement with Commerce):	