There’s No Place Like Home …

A Ten-Year Plan to Address Issues Surrounding Housing and Homelessness In Linn County Oregon
Contents

Executive Summary .................................................. 3
List of Steering Committee Members ...................... 6
Introduction ............................................................... 7
Data on the Homeless and Services ......................... 11
Goals ........................................................................ 25
Glossary ................................................................... 38
Additional Resources ............................................... 43

This publication was produced in 2009

A note about the photographs: Many of the photographs in this document portray the faces of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Linn County and elsewhere in the state of Oregon. Some were taken by local law enforcement; others were supplied by the Homeless Enrichment and Rehabilitation Team (HEART); Jackson Street Youth Shelter; Melissa Hendricks, a Portland photographer; staff at ChristWalk Supportive Transitional Housing.

Production: Joann Zimmer
The creation of this document has been a long and informative process, one in which “labors of love” and “it’s our duty as citizens” were commonly expressed thoughts. While ambitious in its broad scope, this plan is merely an attempt to guide, and channel, if you will, the energies and focus of the citizens of Linn County into an organized plan to address the issues surrounding homelessness in our own communities. It is the solid belief of the Steering Committee that the goals contained within this document are indeed attainable and, most importantly, sustainable in steps moving forward into the next decade.

To that end, the Board of Commissioners in Linn County unanimously chose to support the Community Services Consortium, the community action agency for Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties, as it worked to coordinate the interests of the various stakeholders in facilitating the creation of this comprehensive housing and homelessness planning document.

The Steering Committee adopted the following statements:

**Vision:** Everyone residing within Linn County should have opportunity to live in decent, safe, and affordable housing that provides the basis for a stable environment from which to move forward in their respective lives.

**Mission:** The primary charge of this committee is to develop a comprehensive document dealing with issues around housing and homelessness for Linn County that will approach the realities of not only those currently homeless but also those at close risk of joining this ever-growing population. The plan will identify problems, identify specific and attainable solutions and goals, and establish timelines and resources for meeting those goals. The creators of this plan recognize that a primary outcome of this work needs to be the development of transitional and permanent, supportive housing that can accommodate the needs of those who face unique challenges associated with mental illness, addictions, long-term homelessness, and other difficult-to-place populations.

This document, once it is blended with the Benton County document, will eventually be organized into four sections: Part One will briefly describe the overall efforts throughout the remainder of Oregon and the nation to address the needs and solutions relating to homelessness; Part Two will present background data that has been gathered over the last year from a variety of sources as well as identify gaps in services; Part Three will present data and issues identified as regional in scope and include basic related data from Linn and Benton counties as well as the bordering counties of Lincoln, Marion, Lane, and Polk; Part Four will contain the actual blended Action Plan, incorporating county and regional views, which will offer ideas, suggestions for solutions, timelines for implementation (in one- to three-year blocks), and ways to measure effectiveness.

A primary interest of the Steering Committee was to better identify, and quantify, the ever-growing scope of overall housing issues in Linn County. It was intended that we more aptly defined the variety of contexts in which homelessness occurs (medical bills, domestic violence, incarceration, etc.) and the housing issues of working families. In addition to the Homeless Summits held by the HEART organization, this document, in varying stages of completeness, was posted on a website for public viewing. Information and data was gathered at the Summits and website comments and have been captured within the pages of this document.

A special note – March 2009

The Steering Committee began meeting together and working on all aspects of the plan’s research and documentation in the fall of 2007. At that time, the economy, though not perfect, was reasonably stable and certainly gave no solid indication of the chaotic and painful turns it would take a little more than a year later. We fully acknowledge the gravity of today’s economics and the pressing need to drastically reduce the numbers of our unemployed neighbors as soon as humanly possible.

That said, the issues that originally brought us all to the table – specific needs and possible solutions to address homelessness and those at risk of losing their homes – are still as valid today, and perhaps even more so (when the discussion is around preventing homelessness altogether), than they were in 2007. Therefore, at a recent meeting,
the Steering Committee elected to continue moving forward with this work as originally planned.

NOTE: An oversight committee will be formed after the plan is officially rolled out at the May 22nd HEART Homeless Service Fair. This committee’s primary purpose will be to track progress of the plan and its suggested solutions. The secondary purpose, and equally as important, is to keep up on emerging issues – such as the economy and unemployment – and work to adjust the draft and corresponding solution possibilities as appropriate. Since collaboration and building partnerships has been the cornerstone of this planning process and will continue to be so as we move forward, the oversight committee welcomes the participation and input of interested community members.

A note about the scope of this plan
This plan is very broad in scale. A survey of plans to end homelessness by the National Alliance to End Homelessness found that approximately one-third of completed plans focused exclusively on chronic homelessness while the rest addressed various types of homelessness. The plan we’ve created for Linn County not only includes homelessness (chronic or temporary) but also housing issues and eventually a regional perspective that incorporates work being done in neighboring counties. Because of the broad scope, it will be essential for the committees charged with implementing the plan to establish priorities and continuously strive to maintain focus on achievable, measurable results while not losing sight of the longer-term goals. For a variety of reasons, the County is facing and currently suffering through a substantial lack of affordable housing (rental and otherwise) that is safe and clean. If by “affordable” we only talk about the monthly cost of the housing, one could argue there is enough of a supply if folks just look for them. On the other hand, strong arguments can be made that “affordable” takes a whole new meaning when the housing stock available for no-, low-, and/or moderate-income folks is poorly managed and maintained, and the cost of heating these homes is nearly the same as, or more than, the monthly rental cost. Taking steps to increase the overall housing supply to this population will be helpful, but ensuring existing laws are enforced in the provision of rental housing must be part of the discussion. Being mindful of these two aspects will not only help the most vulnerable populations, it will also strengthen the economies and the health of the included communities by ensuring that most people are able to find decent, affordable places to live.

We entertain no illusions that the solutions to the problems of homelessness and affordable housing will be simple, quick, or cheap. But we do believe that it is better to identify our needs and begin moving forward than to do nothing at all.

Although it is the dire need of these vulnerable populations coupled with the compassion and interests of local service providers that has brought these issues to the forefront, it will take the combined efforts of city and county government, non-profit agencies, the faith-based community, the business community, and every interested and concerned citizen to eradicate what Philip Mangano, the executive director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, has called the “moral disgrace of homelessness.” We hope you will join us in this important effort.

~Ten-Year Plan Steering Committee Members

"The words "THANK YOU" poorly convey how truly grateful I am to all of you. All of the time and inconveniences in your life to establish and keep the doors open to the shelter, I believe, are truly worth it. You have all truly changed my life for the better, for the rest of my life."

~ Resident at ChristWalk Supportive and Transitional Housing in Lebanon.
RESOLUTION TO DEVELOP A LINN COUNTY 10-YEAR PLAN TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

WHEREAS, safe and decent shelter is one of the most basic of all human needs; and

WHEREAS, the lack of adequate and affordable housing is being felt by individuals of all ages and income levels in Linn County; and

WHEREAS, inadequate housing and homelessness make it more difficult for children to learn, adults to be productive, and people of all ages to stay healthy; and

WHEREAS, lack of affordable housing and homelessness represent an economic burden on the community, especially the public safety and public health systems; and

WHEREAS, many government agencies, non-profit groups and individuals in Linn County are valiantly working to address shelter issues; and

WHEREAS, the local resources to deal with the problem fall far short of the need, with housing and shelter programs of all types reporting long waiting lists; and

WHEREAS, there is a new focus on the problems of affordable housing and homelessness at both the state and federal levels, as well as recognition that new approaches, including the “housing first” model show great promise in ending homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has adopted a 10-year goal to end homelessness, and has asked local jurisdictions to join in this effort; and

WHEREAS, the Community Services Consortium has agreed to coordinate the development of a 10-year Plan to Address Homelessness for Linn County;

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED, that the city of __________ supports development of this plan and will strive to achieve its goals through working with other government partners at all levels, non-profit organizations, the private sector, the faith community and interested individuals.

Cities supporting the resolution
Mill City * Albany * Gates * Harrisburg * Lyons * Tangent * Waterloo * Scio * Brownsville * Halsey * Idanha * Sodaville * Sweet Home * Millersburg * Lebanon
# Linn County Ten-Year Plan Steering Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization/Agency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sharon Konopa</td>
<td>Mayor, City of Albany, Co-Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roger Nyquist</td>
<td>Linn County Commissioner, Co-Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joann Zimmer</td>
<td>Community Services Consortium (CSC), Project Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy-Rose Simpson</td>
<td>CSC AmeriCorps*Vista, Project Assistant 2nd year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamie Ernst</td>
<td>CSC AmeriCorps*VISTA, Project Assistant 1st year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alix Stinnett</td>
<td>Albany Partnership for Housing and Community Development (APHCD) AmeriCorps*Vista</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Craig</td>
<td>Jackson Street Youth Shelter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Thayer</td>
<td>Homeless Advocate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ben Atchley</td>
<td>Albany Police Department/Homeless Enrichment And Rehabilitation Team (HEART)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheryl Haworth</td>
<td>Family And Children Together (FACT)/Greater Albany Public Schools (GAPS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claus Sass</td>
<td>Fish of Albany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clifford Hartman</td>
<td>Linn County Mental Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan Kress</td>
<td>Albany Helping Hands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deb Powell</td>
<td>Love INC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debbi Stephens</td>
<td>FACT/GAPS Homeless Liaison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas McRae</td>
<td>Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Matland</td>
<td>Signs of Victory Mission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Hackett</td>
<td>Linn-Benton Housing Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judith Hamilton</td>
<td>InReach Services/HEART</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June Forsyth-Kenagy</td>
<td>ChristWalk Supportive Transitional Housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larry Eby</td>
<td>Love INC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lori Burton</td>
<td>APHCD, Linn County Commission on Children and Families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynn Koehn</td>
<td>The River Service Center, Lebanon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martha Lyon</td>
<td>CSC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Zelinka</td>
<td>Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence (CARDV)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maureen Robb</td>
<td>Linn County Parole and Probation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natalie Michael</td>
<td>Linn County Adult Parole and Probation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peggy Purkerson</td>
<td>H.A.R.T. Family Resource Center, Harrisburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randy Glaser</td>
<td>Homeless Advocate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Hartsock</td>
<td>Sweet Home Emergency Ministries (SHEM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roxanne Beach</td>
<td>Cascades West Council of Governments (COG)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terry Knoll</td>
<td>CSC/HEART</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tony Howell</td>
<td>Linn County Alcohol and Drug</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vesta Craiger</td>
<td>God’s Storehouse, Harrisburg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In creating and implementing this plan, Linn County joins a growing nationwide movement to address issues surrounding housing and homelessness with an intent to eventually end homelessness altogether. Although the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) was originally created in 1987, it was dormant for several years before being reactivated in 2002. That action was motivated not only by a growing recognition of the problem of homelessness but also by the realization that there were promising new approaches that made it possible to move beyond managing homelessness toward a vision of ending it.

In 2000, the National Alliance to End Homelessness announced the creation of “A Plan, Not a Dream: How to End Homelessness in Ten Years.” This report drew on research and innovative programs from around the country to outline a new approach to addressing the problem of homelessness. Under the leadership of the USICH, more than 300 cities and counties to date have launched the development of plans to end homelessness.

These plans target a variety of strategies aimed at providing housing and services to shorten the time that people spend in homelessness as well as preventing it in the first place. The suggested strategies have been proven through extensive research and have a focus on measurable outcomes. This results-oriented approach has further validated these approaches.

At the core of this strategy are two elements: Housing First is an alternative to the current system of emergency shelter/transitional housing which tends to prolong the length of time that individuals and families remain homeless. The methodology is premised on the belief that vulnerable and at-risk homeless individuals and families are more responsive to interventions and social services support after they are in their own housing, rather than while living in temporary/transitional facilities or housing programs. With permanent housing, people can begin to regain the self-confidence and control over their lives they lost when they became homeless.

Permanent Supportive Housing is affordable rental housing with support services for low-income or homeless people with severe mental illness, substance abuse, or HIV/AIDS. Some support services are offered in the home and some are offered in other locations in the community. There are different types of permanent supportive housing, including furnished single room occupancies (SROs), group homes, subsidized Section 8 apartments, and shared living arrangements. While some people stay in permanent supportive housing for only a few months, others may stay for several years, and, for some, it will be their permanent living situation.

Here in Oregon, the efforts by Multnomah County and the City of Portland have been in the vanguard of the effort to end homelessness. During the first three years of implementation of their plans, that area has seen a marked reduction in chronic homelessness. As of this writing, one-third of Oregon counties have plans completed, in development, or under discussion.

In 2006, Governor Ted Kulongoski approved an Executive Order creating the Oregon Ending Homelessness Advisory Council (EHAC) to develop a Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness for the State. The State council, co-chaired by Lincoln County Commissioner Bill Hall, is focused on increasing coordination of services by state agencies, advocacy for homeless populations and support to cities and counties in development of local plans. The council was scheduled to deliver a completed plan to Governor Kulongoski in December 2007, and in June of 2008, the completed plan was approved by the Governor and rolled out to the public at the 2008 Oregon Homeless Leadership Summit in Salem.

... "the Spiritual changes that have occurred in me have come from the "shelter" that you all have given so much of your heart and time to."

~ Resident at ChristWalk Supportive and Transitional Housing in Lebanon.
In the spring of 2006, the Albany City Council ordered that City staff shut down and clean out a long-established homeless camp in the City’s Simpson Park. An estimated 40-plus individuals lived in the camp, some of them for decades. The park is deeded as a conservation easement, and camping activities were harming the natural vegetation, the character of the area, and individuals who went to the park for recreation were fearful of those residing there.

Albany Police and Parks and Recreation staff coordinated the clearing of the park and provided residents there with more than 30 days’ warning. One member of the City Council visited the campsite and subsequently worked directly with about a dozen of the residents to help them find work and establish new residences in more traditional housing.

City staff worked with representatives of state and county government health and social service agencies and local non-profits to sponsor a resource fair at Albany Helping Hands homeless shelter a few weeks before the park eviction was complete. A series of three community summits on homelessness grew from that resource fair.

Nearly 100 individuals attended the first summit at Albany City Hall in November 2006. Attendees included government staff and elected officials from City, Linn County and state government; health and human services professionals; shelter providers and staff; local law enforcement; private non-profit agency staff and board members; representative of the faith community; local landlords; interested Albany residents; and a few homeless or formerly homeless individuals.

Captain Terry Holderness, Fontana, Calif., Police Department special operations division, addressed the first summit, describing Fontana’s program to address homelessness there. The TEN-4 program combined special police training, jobs, rehabilitation, and housing, working with individuals who were homeless to get them cleaned up, a place to stay and work.

Paul Carlson, with the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, part of HUD, also attended, recommending that those present put together a 10-year plan to end homelessness. He encouraged the group to focus on the chronically homeless, and emphasized housing as the basis for successful change.

Summit attendees later split into five interest groups for focused discussion:
- Health care – discussed re-establishing a clinic for the homeless community; improve communication with the shelters to make sure clients who have been to the emergency room come to follow-up appointments and know about all the services available to them.
- Housing – liked the Oxford House model for transitional housing; acknowledged difficulties in finding landlords who will rent to felons or the mentally ill.
- Government – needs to find a way to keep people on the verge of homelessness from crossing the line, such as help with utility bills, rent, gas, reliable transportation, jobs.
- Faith – are providing life-skills training but need to set expectations higher; agreed they should not repeat activities (clothing giveaways, free meals) while expecting different results; should work together to provide services rather than duplicating them.

Following the first summit, representatives of the five subgroups self-selected into an advisory group for the Albany City Council to keep them informed of ongoing community efforts to end homelessness. The Homeless Enrichment and Rehabilitation Team (HEART) is intended to maintain contact among the five subgroups, convene annual summits for that purpose, and organize annual resource fairs that build on the initial one held in June 2006. The HEART board meets monthly and hosts a drop-in breakfast meeting at Samaritan Albany General Hospital on the last Friday of each month for others who work directly with the homeless.
HEART hosted resource fairs in May 2007 and May 2008. About 120 individuals attended in 2007 and about 150 attended in 2008. Services and information available include blood pressure and blood sugar testing, haircuts, information about getting identification, veterans’ benefits, Social Security benefits, housing assistance or placement, jobs, basic dental care, veterinary services, and free socks, sunglasses, sunscreen, reading glasses, personal hygiene items and lunch.

The Summits are honing the community focus to these areas of concern:
- The need for a county detoxification facility
- Jobs
- Appropriate care for the mentally ill, who make up a significant segment of the homeless population
- Suitable housing and willing landlords
- Advocacy
- Streamlined access to existing services to prevent and reduce homelessness and improve effectiveness through collaboration

*People from Linn, Benton & Marion Counties came together to help those who are in need...*
After the Housing Summits  
Working Towards a Ten-Year Plan

Housing Specific Focus Groups (this is information the Steering Committee sub-groups provided; information-gathering is on-going)

In the initial phases of development of the Linn County Ten-Year Plan, the Steering Committee broke out into focus groups that were homeless sub-population specific. After a couple of meetings and much discussion of the needs of these different populations, it became apparent that they all had one thing in common: the need for housing. After some consideration, it made sense for the focus groups to concentrate on the three areas of housing which are required by different homeless populations: transitional/emergency, affordable, and supportive.

Additional needs identified are better, more efficient coordination of existing governmental and community services, development of services and outreach efforts to underserved areas including East Linn County and the Santiam Canyon, and to continue to identify and find ways to fill gaps in services throughout the county.

51% of the participants of the 2008 Resource Fair lived in temporary shelters …

2% lived outdoors, 15% lived with someone else,

6% lived in transitional housing, 13% were living in a variety of places
Data on the Homeless Population and Services

NOTE: The statistical information that follows will be continuously updated during quarterly reviews of this planning document.

Who are the homeless in Linn County and how many are there?
The number of people experiencing homelessness in Linn County is a compilation of data gathered from agencies in the county serving the homeless population. It is noted that these estimates may include some duplicate counts. It is also noted that many more homeless individuals were not counted. This includes many of those who are doubled up with families and friends, those sleeping in vehicles, in campgrounds, in the woods, and those who have exhausted their opportunities for services or who have never attempted to access them.

Shelter Count in Linn County
According to the Oregon one-night-shelter count conducted in January of 2008, there were a total of 329 total homeless individuals in Linn County, sheltered and turned away. This count included:
- 130 total sheltered individuals
- 137 singles
- 173 persons in families with children
- 76 children less than 11 years old
- 26 children between 12 and 17 years old

Students Experiencing Homelessness in Linn County
**Linn County School Districts (2007-2008 school year)**
- Central Linn School District: 32
- Lebanon Community School District: 156
- Sweet Home School District: 123
- Greater Albany Public School District: 234
- Santiam Canyon School District: 15
- Harrisburg School District: 18
- Scio School District: 21
- **599**

Linn County
- Adults released from jail and prison and are a part of parole and probation: about 9 per month. Between November 2007 and June 2008, 77 individuals released from incarceration were released into homelessness
- Alcohol and Drug clients: more than 50% of clients are homeless or at risk of homelessness at time of admission to outpatient programs
- Mental health clients: served 84 homeless clients in 2007
- Recently released youth from foster care

Albany Helping Hands
Average of 90-100 on any given day in 2007

Albany Partnership for Housing & Community Development
There are six 1-4 bedroom units of transitional housing that become available throughout the year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographics of the Homeless (from the National Coalition for the Homeless)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two trends are largely responsible for the rise in homelessness over the past 20-25 years: a growing shortage of affordable rental housing and a simultaneous increase in poverty. Persons living in poverty are most at risk of becoming homeless, and demographic groups who are more likely to experience poverty are also more likely to experience homelessness.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence (2006-2007, Linn and Benton Counties)**
- 108 women, 101 children (unduplicated count)
- 2,706 bed nights
- CARDV will be opening 10 permanent supportive housing units in 2010; this is a joint project with Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services in Corvallis

**ChristWalk Supportive Transitional Housing in Lebanon**
10 individuals in two houses; 5 men and 5 women each

**Community Outreach Inc. (fiscal year 2006-2007)**
- 268 people sought housing due to homelessness
- 114 men, 67 women, 32 families (adult), 55 families (children)
- 82 total adult clients from Benton County
- 38 total adult clients from Linn County
- 17 total children from Benton County
- 20 total children from Linn County
- **Emergency housing only**: 84 adults; Housing nights: 390 for men, 269 for women, 295 for families
- **Transitional housing program**: 129 adults; monthly averages: 21 men, 13 women, 8 families

**FISH of Albany Apartments and Guest House**
There are three transitional apartments available; one four-bedroom unit and two three-bedroom units. The Guest House serves an average of 5 at-risk youth and women to age 22

**FISH of Lebanon**
Serves an average of 2 homeless families/individuals per month

**God’s Storehouse, Harrisburg**
Served 15 homeless families/individuals, 90% with children, between January and June 2008

**H.A.R.T. Resource Center, Harrisburg**
No current information

**Jackson Street Youth Shelter**
- In FY 2007-2008, 16 of the 60 youth served were from Linn County; 42 crisis calls
- From July 2008 to November 2008, 42 of the 214 youth served were from Linn County; 37 crisis calls
- Albany Police Department reported 226 runaway youth January 1, 2007 to October 10, 2007

**Sweet Home’s Hope Inc.**
Average 10 women and children (boys must be under age 11) in shelter on any given day

**SHEM (Sweet Home Emergency Ministries)**
Serve an average of 75 people per month (54 adults, 21 children).
Self-designated as homeless when picking up food boxes.
17% increase in food box allocation from December ’06 to December ’07

**Signs of Victory Mission**
Average of 81 individuals served 2008. During the same period, 113,063 food boxes were distributed, a total of 961,635 meals were served on site, and they counted 98,176 bed nights

**The Lord’s Storehouse, Lebanon**
11 households (21 adults, 8 children) self-designated as homeless when picking up food boxes in May 2008
Current Housing Programs: Shelter/Rental Assistance in Linn County

**Emergency**
- Albany Helping Hands: 110 beds
- Signs of Victory Mission: 70 beds
- Sweet Home’s Hope Inc: 12 beds for women and children
- FISH guest house: emergency basis

**Permanent Supportive**

**Linn County Developmental Disabilities Services**
- Adult foster homes: 21 (2-5 beds in each home)
- Residential homes: 18 (2-5 beds in each home)
- Supportive living apartments: 5 (1-2 people in each apartment)

**Linn County Mental Health Services**
- Residential Treatment Facilities
  - Linn County Mental Health: 7 bed Springer House (5 longer term, 2 crisis respite)
  - Two supportive housing beds targeting individuals with co-occurring disorders
  - Shangri-La Corporation: 5 bed Old Oak Place serves people transitioning from extended care unit at Oregon State Hospital; Casa del Rio, opened in 2009
  - Trillium Family Services: 5 bed Sender House
- Foster Homes
  - Linn County Mental Health: 7 beds at homes throughout Linn County
- Assertive Community Treatment
  - Linn County Mental Health
    - Program can provide care to about 60 adults
    - 8 clients reside in an apartment complex in Albany
    - Rent with aid of housing subsidy
    - 52 clients live independently, many with aid of housing subsidy
    - All clients are enrolled in LCMHS

**Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments**
- Adult foster homes: 32
- Assisted living facilities: 7
- Residential care facilities: 1
- Specialized care facilities: 3 residential care facilities

Current Housing/Rental Assistance in Linn County

**Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services**
- 6 units in current portfolio (Sweet Home area)
- 178 units added to portfolio after mergers and acquisitions in 2008

**Linn-Benton Housing Authority**
Approximately 1,700 Section 8 Housing Choice voucher households in Linn County
Average household subsidy is $449.23 per month or an estimated $9,164,292.00 annually

**APHCD**
133 units, up to 400 individuals

**Community Services Consortium**
- Albany
  - Transitional Housing Program (Tenant Based Assistance): $77,804 received in FY 2007-2008
- Lebanon
  - Housing Stabilization Program: $13,396 allocated in FY 2007-2008
  - Transitional Housing Program: $77,804 received in Fiscal Year 2007-2008
Emergency Shelters and Services in Linn County

A variety of housing types, services, and needs are covered under the “emergency” label and include the following:

- Emergency shelter
- Daytime drop-in-center
- Inclement weather shelter/warming shelter
- Homeless prevention: general and/or emergency assistance services to those at-risk of homelessness

A variety of populations in need of “emergency” services include the following:

- Seniors on low and/or fixed incomes
- Chronically mentally ill
- Those addicted to or recovering from drugs and/or alcohol (including those being discharged from residential treatment programs (A&D, psychiatric, or dual-diagnosis)
- Youth
- Felons and/or those released from incarceration (including parole and probation)
- Sex offenders (adult and youth)
- Veterans
- Victims of domestic violence
- Homeless – temporary and chronic (families, youth, and adults without children)
- Those who are discharged from hospitals with chronic health issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Available Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clothing</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albany FISH (no cost clothing)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albany Helping Hands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Tree Relief Nursery (Albany)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gleaners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>God’s Closet (non-profit ministry in Albany) (clothing giveaway once per month)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>God’s Storehouse (Harrisburg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson/Scio/Crabtree Food Bank (Jefferson)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon FISH (through referral process)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salvation Army (Albany) (only in extreme crisis – not a typical social services provider)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharing Hands (Brownsville)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHEM (Sweet Home)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Vincent DePaul (Lebanon)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Counseling/Education/Advocacy</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albany and Lebanon FISH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albany Helping Hands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcoholics Anonymous/Al-non/Narcotics Anonymous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARDV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHANCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FACT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free on the Inside (Albany mentor program for people being released from incarceration)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home for Good of Oregon (prevention program for those transitioning from prison to community)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linn County Alcohol and Drug</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linn County Mental Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signs of Victory Mission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dental services</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NW Medical Teams through Albany Helping Hands Shelter and United Way of Linn County.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-emptive medical through Disability Services for those who qualify and meet criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way (in partnership with NW Medical Teams)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Current Available Services—continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Food Distribution/food boxes</strong></th>
<th><strong>Assembly of God (Sweet Home)</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FISH (Lebanon and Albany)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Gleaners (70 groups in Linn and Benton counties)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lord’s Storehouse (Lebanon)</strong></td>
<td><strong>River Center (Lebanon)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Salvation Army (Albany)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Seventh Day Adventist Church (Sweet Home)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sharing Hands (Brownsville)</strong></td>
<td><strong>SHEM (Sweet Home)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>St. Vincent DePaul (Lebanon)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DHS food stamp and self-sufficiency programs</strong></td>
<td><strong>Disability Services</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Linn County Department of Health Services</strong></td>
<td><strong>Women, infants, and children (WIC)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Health Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Albany FISH (prescriptions)</strong></th>
<th><strong>Benton County Health</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>East Linn Clinic (Lebanon)</strong></td>
<td><strong>In Reach Clinic (through Samaritan Health Services)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lebanon FISH (prescriptions)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Linn County Health Department (partnership with Albany Helping Hands, Signs of Victory, Clinics)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lions Club (eye exams/glasses)</strong></td>
<td><strong>SHEM (Sweet Home) (prescriptions)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Household Goods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Albany Helping Hands</strong></th>
<th><strong>Jefferson Food Bank</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Linn-Benton Furniture Share</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sharing Hands (Brownsville)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SHEM (Sweet Home)</strong></td>
<td><strong>St. Vincent DePaul (Lebanon)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Housing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Affordable</strong></th>
<th><strong>APHCD – multi-family, senior, disabled, individual</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Linn-Benton Housing Authority – senior, chronically mentally ill, disabled</strong></td>
<td><strong>Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services – multi-family, senior, disabled, individual</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Transitional</strong></th>
<th><strong>APHCD – family and individual</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CSC – family</strong></td>
<td><strong>FISH of Albany – family and individual</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Signs of Victory Mission – individual</strong></td>
<td><strong>Teen Challenge (Lebanon and Shedd)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ChristWalk Supportive and Transitional Housing</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mental health</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Mental health

- "Dirty Home Calls" (possible substandard or health issues) through Senior and Disability Services
- "Wellness Checks" through the police department or mental health
- Linn County Mental Health services are prioritized for emergency services, adults with severe and persistent mental illness, and those covered by Medicaid
- Need a Mid-Valley Housing Plus model – a co-housing model with on-staff assistance to aid mentally ill residents in many facets of day-to-day living (paying bills, money management, ensuring medication is taken, assisting during a mental health crisis, grocery shopping, etc.)
Current Available Services—continued

**Rental Assistance**
Albany FISH
APHCD
Community Services Consortium
Lebanon FISH (collaborates with Lebanon churches to help meet needs)
Linn Benton Housing Authority
Linn County Mental Health
Linn County Alcohol & Drug
SHEM (Sweet Home)
Salvation Army

**Senior and Disabled**
Payee pool – Currently provided through Social Security services; Linn County Mental Health clients contract with A&S Accounting
SOAR – DHS trains individuals to assist people in obtaining Social Security assistance. Currently 25 trained volunteers have been identified

**Shelters (emergency)**
Albany and Lebanon FISH – teen pregnancy/parenting shelter and services
Albany Helping Hands
Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence (CARDV) (located in Benton County but also serves Linn County)
Community Outreach, Incorporated (located in Benton County but also serves Linn County in a limited capacity)
HOPE (Sweet Home)
Jackson Street Youth Shelter (located in Benton County but also serves Linn County)
Signs of Victory

**Soup Kitchens (emergency meals)**
Albany Helping Hands
Lebanon Soup Kitchen (3 nights per week)
Signs of Victory (Albany)
St. Mary's Catholic Church (Albany 3 nights per week)
Sweet Home Emergency Ministries (SHEM) (Sweet Home United Methodist Church 1 night per week)

**Transportation**
Albany and Lebanon FISH (gas vouchers)
Albany Volunteer Caregivers for senior population (connects volunteers to seniors in need)
Cascades West Ride Line – for Medicaid and OHP clients
‘Free on the Inside’ (bikes)
SHEM (Sweet Home) (transportation vouchers, Dial-a-Ride)
Toto fund – monitored by Albany FISH and is accessed through FISH and/or Albany Police Department

**Utility Assistance (limited funding)**
Albany and Lebanon FISH
APHCD (includes funding for firewood & non-metered utilities)
Community Services Consortium
Salvation Army (Albany)
SHEM (Sweet Home) (free firewood; is satellite office for Salvation Army utility assistance)
Wood Share through gleaning groups (must meet membership criteria)

---

**Demographics of the Homeless**
(from the National Coalition for the Homeless)
Families with children are among the fastest growing segments of the homeless population. In its 2007 survey of 23 American cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors found that families with children comprised 23% of the homeless population. This proportion is likely to be higher in rural areas.
## Identified Gaps/Needs

- Additional assistance for one time events – utilities, rent, move-in expenses, car repair etc.
- Advocates – assistance in navigating through a variety of venues (SSI, SSD, Senior and Disability Services, other community services)
- Assistance in obtaining an Oregon identification card (this is vital) and birth certificates (needed for employment; disability benefits)
- Awareness and education of homeless issues
- Case management and outreach services
  - Close to schools, close to sources
- Clothing
- Crisis counseling
- Dental
- Detox services (drug and alcohol services)
- Drop-in day centers (CHANCE in Albany exists; need drop-in center(s) in East Linn County)
- Drug & Alcohol treatment – current services are limited, not widely available (long waiting lists)
- Education and training for “living and employability” i.e., sex and health education (Hepatitis C, AIDS, etc.)
- Employment services/restoration – 2nd chance employability
  - Establishing a program through Love INC.
  - Establishing money management programs through AARP and Easter Seals
- Family transitional housing
- Financial/staff support to case manage/coach people in adapting to living in housing
- Food boxes and emergency meal sites
- Housing First with supports
- Information and referral – services currently exist in a number of formats, but a centralized and comprehensive community response is preferable
- Medical and dental services (currently inadequate)
- Mental Health; Mental health transitional and permanent supportive housing
- Need a Mid-Valley Housing Plus model (supportive housing in Corvallis)
- Oregon Health Plan – more comprehensive coverage for a more broadly defined population
- Payee Pool – help for those unable to manage financial resources and/or unable to manage financial obligation/needs. There is need to expand the payee programs that are free for clients. This could be done by: personal coaches (life, spiritual, financial, etc.)
- Prevention – One single event can spiral an at-risk household into homelessness (reduced wages, loss of work, illness, death, loss of childcare, loss of utilities, car repairs, divorce, domestic violence, etc.).
- Re-entry support for a variety of populations – mental illness, physical illness and limitations, released from incarceration, returning veterans, etc.
- Referral and resource center (Love INC is working on this)
- Restoration and employment services – support finding a job with encouragement and direction (some employers will not hire felons). Ideally, a Second Chance employability program where participants can do volunteer work to start and establish good work habits that can be verified
- Rural shelters (close to smaller towns; safe, temporary housing)
- Senior and disabled services volunteers
- Sex offender transitional housing (adults and youth being released from incarceration)
- SOAR volunteers (additional needed) to help navigate the Social Security process. (Love INC and Albany Helping Hands have been identified as possible training sites for financial mentoring, financial management, and other related services)
- Transportation (especially to/from the rural areas of the county)
- Veteran’s awareness and outreach (assistance is out there but folks don’t know how to access: Linn County veteran service; Employment Department has a veteran employment program)
- Youth shelter/s (one already exists in Corvallis and takes Linn County referrals), but most youth need a more local solution
Affordable Housing and Linn County

According to the Federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) department, the generally accepted definition of Affordable Housing/affordability is for a household to pay no more than 30 percent of its annual income on housing, including utilities. Families who pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing are considered cost burdened and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation and medical care.

Currently, it is estimated that 46% of renter and homeowner households in Linn County now pay more than 50 percent of their annual incomes for housing, and a family with one full-time worker earning the minimum wage cannot afford the local fair-market rent for a two-bedroom apartment.

Scope of the issue in Linn County

The need for affordable housing in Linn County has been determined by looking at the 2000 U.S. census and comparing the information to local area Median Income:

In 2000, there were a total of 39,468 households in Linn County:

- Of these households, 3,866 were extremely low income (ELI) (below 30% median) (9.8% of total households)
- 4,671 households were very low income (VLI) (between 30-50% median) (11.8% of total households)

Availability of affordable rental units for four-person households:

- In 2000, there were 1,029 rental units in Linn County with rents affordable for ELI households. This means that there was a deficit of 2,837 affordable rental units for ELI households
- In 2000, there were 3,812 rental units in Linn County with rents affordable for VLI households. This means that there was a deficit of 859 affordable rental units for VLI households

Availability of affordable rental units for one person and other non-family households:

- In 2000, for the 1,991 one-person and other non-family ELI households ("other non-family households" may be comprised of two or more persons that are not related), there were a total of 447 affordable rental units, resulting in a deficit of 1,544 affordable rental units
- In 2000, for the 2,154 one-person and other non-family VLI households, there were a total of 954 affordable rental units, resulting in a deficit of 1,200 affordable rental units


Note: The cost of utilities is assumed to be $74 for a four-person household and $43 for a one-person and other non-family household.

Affordable Housing Available in Linn County

Albany: 407 units
Other incorporated cities and towns: 314 units
Unincorporated cities, towns, private sources: unknown at this time

Sustainable Affordable Housing

Preserving affordable housing

Many of the current affordable housing units could go away (would no longer be considered “affordable”) if they are not preserved.

When the rental assistance contract expires, there is the possibility that the landlords of these units would no longer be willing to rent to low-income residents.

Oregon Housing and Community Services is working to preserve the stock of affordable housing

Local capacity could also jump in to aid if necessary

What is needed?

- Adequate funding for housing providers (community support)
- Reserves to make units available

Battered women who live in poverty are often forced to choose between abusive relationships and homelessness.
Unhoused Subgroups
The chronically homeless often remain so for a variety of reasons. These individuals are often discharged from public institutions (hospitals, jails and prisons, or treatment programs) despite the knowledge that they will be living on the street or in a shelter without the support systems that could prevent their return. This revolving-door process of admission for incarceration or treatment followed by discharge to the streets leads to significantly increased costs for social and other community services. In order to better serve both the individuals and the community structure at large, it is imperative that an educational program be built around philosophical support and community outreach, thus building trust and a safer environment, before knowingly discharging individuals into homelessness.

Among the Unhoused subgroup are those:
- With chronic and persistent mental illness
- With a history of substance abuse
- Who are survivors of domestic violence
- Who are elderly, often on fixed incomes
- Who are military veterans
- With a criminal history

Generational Poverty
Those who live in generational poverty are frequently families and youth who have left dysfunctional or unsafe families. Generational poverty is often associated with moving frequently, often for the primary provider to find work. This pattern then leads to:
- Poor socialization skills
- Lack of adequate or consistent education or consideration of its importance
- Lack of social support outside the family
- Lack of mentoring opportunities by those not living in poverty
- Living “in the moment”, getting by, no future orientation
- An oral tradition which can create difficulties when needing to function within the literate and written tradition of mainstream society

What is needed?
- Increased funding for programs and services
- Community education
- Increased access to money management education
- Workforce development (work readiness, job skills)
- Resident/supportive services in housing
- Streamlined access to existing services in order to prevent homelessness
- More units of affordable housing

Sustainable Affordable Housing—continued
Keeping people in affordable housing
People are not able to successfully remain in housing for a number of reasons, including the availability of: jobs, transportation, child care, health care, mental illness services, etc. The following are a list of available services (may not be all-inclusive):
- Love INC is working on a program to match persons in need with volunteer to help educate in housekeeping, money management, etc.
- The State is working on strategies for keep residents in their affordable housing units
- Linn-Benton Housing Authority has self-sufficiency and personal asset development programs.
- The APHCD has a resident services program, a personal asset development program, and offers emergency rent and utility assistance
- Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services has a personal asset development program and community education program (i.e., financial literacy, homeownership, business training).
- Community Services Consortium offers rent and utility assistance as do the Salvation Army, FISH, SHEM, and other agencies previously noted; the Regional Housing Center offers financial fitness classes

Among the Unhoused subgroup are those:
- Currently housed but at risk of homelessness
- With physical disabilities and chronic illness
- Who are chronically homeless
- Who are single adults (without children)
- With dual diagnoses (mental health, drug/alcohol)
### Possible Solutions

- A Habitat for Humanity model for reclaiming housing units
- Advocacy to legislators to reinstate general assistance program
- Community development with Block Grants
- Community planning support/funding for shared living arrangements, and other transitional/ supportive housing, as an intermediate step to permanent housing
- Concentrate resources on programs that offer measurable outcomes and best practices
- Educational programs for landlords so they will feel safe in renting to chronically homeless people (with supportive services provided by various social agencies)
- Also educate homeless on how to be good tenants; this should be a focus piece
- Enforcement, assistance with maintenance and repair of housing units (maintain current)
- Fair Housing Act education: service providers, property managers, landlords, the homeless
- Funds for public education and citizen involvement with homeless housing programs so town residents learn that the homeless exist but are not threatening. More publicity and Resource Fairs are also needed (Albany has annual – perhaps expand to East Linn area); help with infrastructure
- Incentives for owners to increase available Section 8 housing; local jurisdiction must apply
- Mental health court
- More readily available and free clinics for mental health, physical health, dental, vision, addiction resolution, and other needed health services
- Public Education through the development and promotion of the Ten-Year Plan
- Rehabilitation of existing housing
- Supportive Housing with case management services
- When Albany becomes an entitlement community, more financial resources will be available to help develop more affordable housing units

### Models of existing programs

#### Examples of how affordable housing is currently being financed

- **HUD-811**: Supportive housing for people with disabilities
  - HUD provides funding to nonprofit organizations to develop rental housing with the availability of supportive services for very low-income adults with disabilities and provides rent subsidies for affordability. This program allows persons with disabilities to live as independently as possible by increasing the supply of rental housing with supportive services. The program also provides project rental assistance which covers the difference between the HUD-approved operating costs of the project and the tenants’ contribution toward rent.

- **HUD-202**: Supportive housing for the elderly
  - HUD provides capital advances to finance construction, rehabilitation or acquisition with or without rehabilitation of structures that will serve as supportive housing for very low-income elderly persons, including the frail elderly, and provides rent subsidies for affordability. The Section 202 program helps expand the supply of affordable housing with supportive services for the elderly. It provides very low-income elderly with options that allow them to live independently but in an environment that provides support activities such as cleaning, cooking, transportation, etc.

- **HUD-236**
  - In Section 236, HUD subsidizes the interest payments on mortgages for rental or cooperative housing owned by private nonprofit or limited-profit landlords and rented to low-income tenants.

- **HUD-HOME program**
  - HOME provides formula grants to states and localities that communities use, often in partnership with local nonprofit groups to fund a wide range of activities that build, buy, and/or rehabilitate affordable housing for rent or homeownership or provide direct rental assistance to low-income people.

- **IRS-Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program**:  
  - The LIHTC Program is an indirect Federal subsidy used to finance the development of affordable rental housing for low-income households.

- **USDA-Rural Development Program**
  - USDA Rural Development is committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in all of rural America through financial programs that support essential public facilities and services, economic development, technical assistance and information and community empowerment programs.
Partners in Change

- Builders
- Businesses
- Community and governmental agencies
- Community members/volunteers
- Landlords
- Local government; Linn County Extension
- Ministries/faith community
- Realtors

- Un-housed individuals and families
- Utility and garbage services – deposits over time; notify resident services prior to shut-off:
  * Do not escalate late payment amounts and schedules because of past due balances for water, gas, electricity for low-income people
  * Have assistance programs available through utilities for low-income residents in danger of shut-off

Volunteer Services

There is need to develop a clearing house to connect skills with needs; Love INC of Linn County’s goal is to match needs with volunteer – to serve as a clearinghouse (will begin as the clearinghouse and then move to the advocacy piece)

- Available organizations to provide services
  * Budgeting
  * Cleaning
  * Collecting, distributing household supplies
  * Construction
  * Cooking
  * Help getting ID, birth certificates
  * Yard work, donation of tools, plants
- Kiwanis
- LB Vision
- Love INC
- Mentoring

- Needed services
  * Painting
  * Payees and Social Security lay representatives
  * Repair and maintenance
  * Responsible renting
- Rotary
- RSVP
- Senior companion program
- United Way
- Volunteer Caregivers
- Youth Volunteer Corps

Are You At-Risk of Being Homeless?
Take this 6 question Quiz to Find Out

If you are, or if you were to become, unemployed or temporarily disabled, do you have enough savings to live on for at least three months?

Yes
No

If you were laid-off today, could you find another job with comparable pay in your area?

Yes
No

Do you spend less than 1/3 of your income on rent or mortgage payments and utilities?

Yes
No

Do you have low credit card balances that would not default if not paid for a few months?

Yes
No

Could your extended family help you out for a few months should something happen to your income?

Yes
No

Are you covered by disability, car and/or medical insurance in case of a catastrophic illness or accident?

Yes
No

If you answered NO to two or more of these questions, you are potentially at risk of homelessness.
Supportive Housing and Linn County

Identified needs

- Assist residents of mobile home parks from being displaced or with purchase of the park
- Assistance with paying rent
- Build stronger mentor – youth relationships and internships
- Case management can help people get out of difficult, emergency situations, one-time help
- Case management/outreach to help individuals access community services.
- Coordinate services and agencies in efficient and effective ways to prevent duplication
- Create a better transportation system for those who need to get to jobs and services
- Detailed assessments for those entering shelters or other social service agencies (people who are homeless often are focused on getting an immediate need met, not able to evaluate the bigger picture (cause of homelessness or plan of action).)
- Drug and alcohol housing
- Engage the business community into creating housing for their workforce
- Find additional funding for programs
- General Assistance Program – discontinued in 2005 (homelessness increased as a result)
- Increase the number of permanent supportive housing units
- Initiate fees to support affordable housing development
- Local city governments (electeds) need education. Their most fundamental responsibility is to improve communities by addressing existing and future needs
- Look at new models – housing cooperatives and community land trusts
- Mental health housing
- Need a centralized place, address or PO Box where people can be contacted
- Need a funding source to provide additional rent assistance, deposits; revolving loan fund
- Need a safe, secure temporary shelter where people can stay overnight
- Need employment opportunities to help people support themselves, part-time and periodic work
- Need long-term support network for adults and youths being released from the foster care system
- Need more “Oxford House” style of housing
- Need more assistance to prevent housing loss for households facing eviction
- Need more subsidized housing units
- Need to educate the community about the issues of homelessness and barriers the homeless face
- Need to stop discharging people into homelessness: will require more housing units, services, and better coordination between agencies
- Preserve existing housing through rehabilitation
- Preserve expiring use HUD and Rural Development projects
- Provide job training to clients.
- Second Chance Housing/Housing First/Housing Plus
- Strategies for the Prevention of Homelessness in Linn County.
- Street-level outreach: sharing information on resources, etc., get people into shelter and care
- Systematic approach for chronically mentally ill – treatment and support vs. punitive measures
- There is a need for additional free/low-cost medical/dental clinics and health care. People have to choose between shelter and medical care
- There is a need for more housing in Linn County, particularly workforce housing
- There is a need to have some type of shelter available for families with children that experience temporary homelessness so that they don’t have to worry about where they will sleep that night
- There is a need to have the municipalities and Linn County develop and implement a policy on homeless camping that recognizes the social nature of the problem and ensure the most humane treatment for the removal of homeless individuals from camping sites on public property
- There is a need to look at cooperative ownership of mobile home parks
- We need to develop a plan to help people and help change the communities’ attitudes toward homelessness. Homeless behavior is criminalized. People are living in cars, using public facilities such as libraries as de facto daytime shelters.
### Existing Services

- APHCD
- Alcohol and drug
- CARDV
- Developmentally and physically disabled caseworkers
- FACT
- Jackson Street Youth Shelter
- Linn County Mental Health
- Seniors: Assisted and Alzheimer’s
- Veterans Services
- Vocational rehabilitation

### Concerns

- Abandoned vehicles that are parked long-term are sometimes used as sleeping quarters
- It is in the best interest of the community to address issues of homelessness as it is a liability and safety issue to all who live in the County
- Most homeless service providers are located in Albany. East Linn County homeless are underserved
- Need more outreach and assessments once person enters shelter or other ‘point of entry’ – this is part of the continuum of care plan
- Police agencies report increased incidences of people experiencing homelessness trespassing, sleeping in public, using public facilities, littering, and shoplifting
- Sex offenders have a difficult time finding available housing due to landlords unwilling or unable (parole and probation restrictions) to rent to them
- There are illegal, unsafe and unsightly shelters and encampments that raise concerns about potential health issues
- There is a strain on social service agencies
- There is negative public perception of homelessness by the public who don’t like panhandling