



# Mid-Willamette Homeless Initiative Regional Task Force

[www.homelesstaskforce.net](http://www.homelesstaskforce.net)

**The Mid-Willamette Homeless Initiative** is a collaborative effort among the cities of Salem and Keizer and Marion and Polk counties. The task force's purpose is to identify and launch proven strategies that will reduce homelessness in the Marion-Polk county region, encompassing the cities of Keizer and Salem, Oregon. Co-chairs include Salem Mayor Anna Peterson, Keizer Mayor Cathy Clark, Marion County Commissioner Janet Carlson and Polk County Commissioner Jennifer Wheeler. Task force members include business and community leaders with expertise in social services, housing, public safety, and business.

The task force focuses on the homeless problem in cities and counties; lack of affordable housing; best practices for reducing chronic homelessness; current available services; impacts on public safety and business; and potential revenue sources. Contributing factors such as mental illness, addiction, lack of education and the need for transportation, as well as the challenges of unique populations such as youth and veterans are also addressed.

The Task Force will establish an action plan including measurable outcomes by February 2017. Task force meetings are open to the public.



## Subcommittees

The Task Force appointed eight subcommittees as follows:



### **Public Safety**

Develop recommendations to implement new approaches, such as Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion, to address public safety issues related to homelessness, including runaway and homeless youth.

### **Support Services/Education**

Develop recommendations to enhance coordination and to fill gaps in support services and education for individuals, families, children and youth experiencing homelessness. Scope includes K-12 education, mental health services, alcohol and drug abuse services, crisis intervention, Ready to Rent classes and other financial literacy strategies including credit recovery, job training/readiness services, and transportation.

### **Affordable Housing**

Develop proposals to increase housing supply. Identify barriers and potential solutions for zoning, land supply, and other pressures that limit housing capacity.

### **Financial**

Develop recommendations related to credit recovery including eviction prevention, resale of vacant homes/property, and financing collaborations for public and private dollars to increase affordable rate housing and multi-family housing.

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### **Health & Housing**

Develop recommendations for proposal to the Oregon Health Authority and Oregon Housing & Community Services to deliver support services, connect with Willamette Valley Community Health (Coordinated Care Organization) and other community service providers.

### **Veterans**

Develop recommendations to provide housing, shelter, and support services for homeless veterans.

### **Transitional Housing/Shelters**

Develop recommendations to address gaps in transitional housing and shelter beds.

### **Focus Groups/Coalition**

Connect other coalitions, partners, community members, and individuals who are homeless or who have experienced homelessness into the Task Force's work.



## **Task Force Topics**

Task Force meetings focus on the following topics:

- Background and Scope
- Best Practices
- Continuum of Care
- Barriers and Opportunities to Expand Affordable Housing
- The Challenge to Better Serve Homeless Veterans
- Innovative Public Safety Strategies
- Local Opportunities and Barriers for Renters
- Asset Maps/Service Coordination
- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Health in Housing
- Runaway and Homeless Youth
- Families with Children
- Domestic Violence
- Senior Housing
- Rentry Housing



<b>Task Force Meeting Dates</b>			
(All Meetings are Held at Keizer City Hall)			
<b>2016</b>		<b>2017</b>	
<b>February 17</b>	<b>September 19</b>	<b>January</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>March 29</b>	<b>October 17</b>	<b>February</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>May 2</b>	<b>November 7</b>		
<b>June 6</b>	<b>December 1</b>		
<b>July 20</b>			