

Washington State Encampment Resolution Program

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Update

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Program summary

- In spring 2022 work began on the state's Right of Way Safety Initiative – now called the **Encampment Resolution Program** – a partnership of state and local partners to find solutions for people living homeless on state rights of way.
 - Commerce
 - Transportation
 - Washington State Patrol
 - **Partnerships:** Our agencies do this work in partnership with numerous local governments and non-profit partners.
- Centered on five counties:
 - King
 - Pierce
 - Thurston
 - Snohomish
 - Spokane

Results to date

STATEWIDE – ACTIVE and CLOSED SITES to DATE

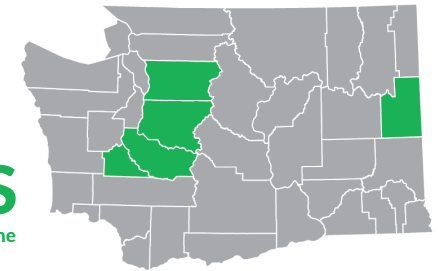
49 TOTAL SITES

CLOSED: 47 ACTIVE: 2

Work taking place in

5 COUNTIES

Thurston, Pierce, King, Snohomish and Spokane



NUMBER OF
PEOPLE AS OF
BY-NAME DEADLINE

1,758

TEMP/SHELTER

947

PERMANENT
SUPPORTIVE
HOUSING

+

261

=

ACCEPTED
HOUSING

1,208

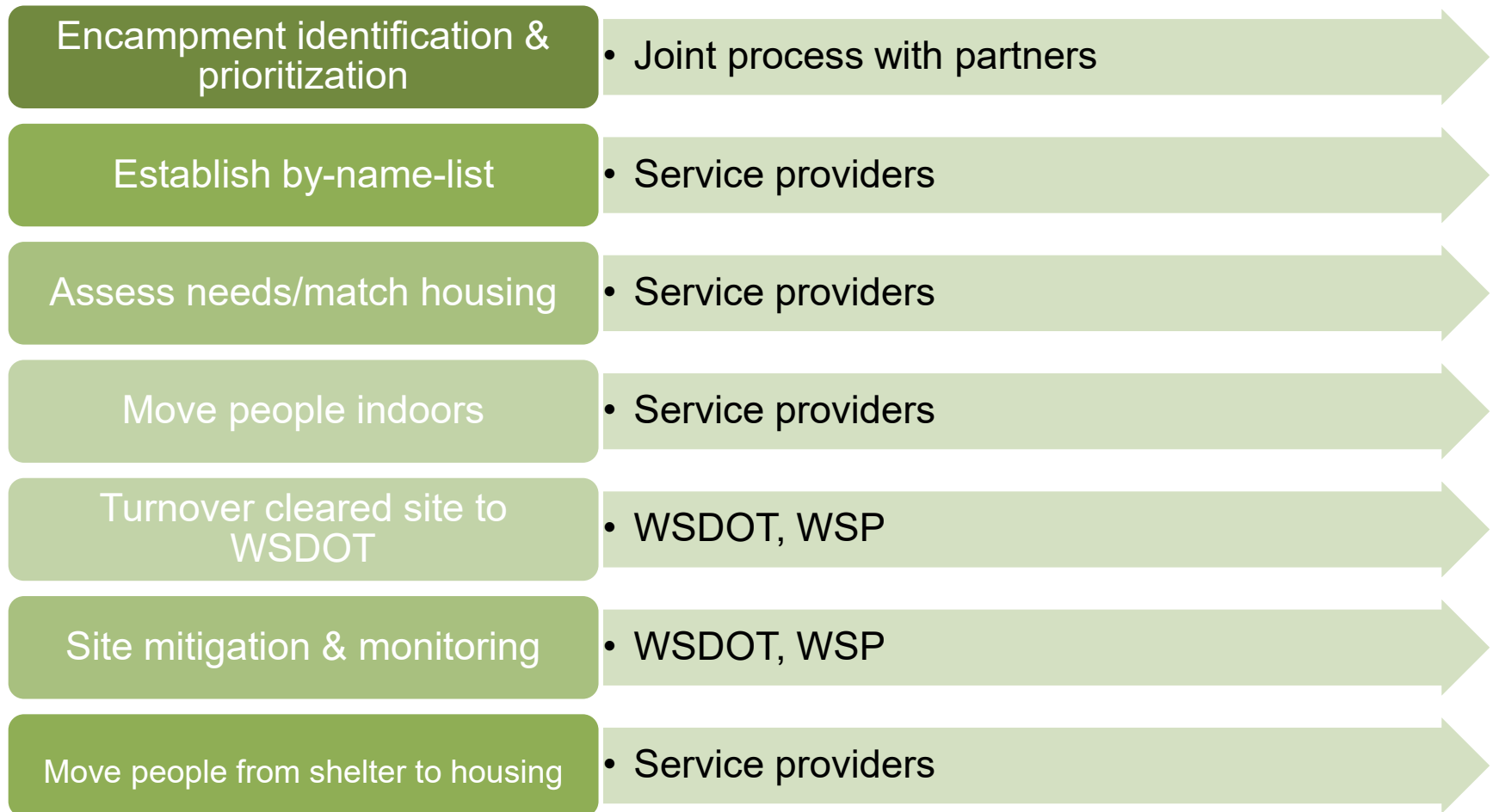
STILL IN
HOUSING

891

AS OF AUGUST 31, 2024

23-06-0193

How the program works



Site monitoring

47 sites resolved to date (as of Aug. 2024)

- Every site has been modified to include vegetation management; some also include chain link fence repair/installation.
- Several modified further to include boulders to prevent re-encampment (many sites are not suitable for boulders due to access/terrain/etc.)

Monitoring is a team effort

- A combination of staff monitor sites to include WSDOT, WSP, local jurisdictions and outreach providers.
- Can't fence our way out of monitoring. EVERY fence type is penetrable.

See something, say something

- Some WSDOT ROW cannot be seen directly from our infrastructure and WSDOT crews monitor more closely for those sites where WSP doesn't have regular eyes on.

WSDOT utilizes the least cost, least invasive approach to site modification first and re-visits if necessary.

Employment training

By the numbers:

- **106 total assessments** – individuals' assessment for program readiness, potential job interests and other job-related barriers that may be present
- **157 service connections** – connections include offers of housing, substance use disorder services, GED, behavioral health and legal services.
- **47 people graduated** – includes graduates from two pre-apprenticeships in Spokane County, one flagging course and two job readiness courses in King County.
- **80% graduation rate** (47 graduates/59 people enrolled)
- **26 graduates employed** – total people employed in apprenticeship, flagging or other fields



Challenges ahead

- Additional housing is needed in all counties
 - Lack of new housing options means re-setting expectations on addressing new sites moving forward.
 - Inability to address large sites like we have in the recent past will be a challenge on a number of fronts.
- A small number of individuals with high acuity issues/needs who have either been banned or cannot be safely served in the shelter/housing options
- Cost drivers
 - Costs associated with cleaning and modifying sites for WSDOT .
 - Ongoing patrol costs for WSP to maintain sites being clear of inhabitants.
 - Ongoing overtime costs for WSP paid for by WSDOT.
- Enforcement of rest areas with legal issues surrounding RVs.
- Ability to modify sites to prevent re-encampment; costs and resources associated with site activation in lieu of hardening.

Questions

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