

What can I do?

Available space in area shelters is limited, making it essential that a just and consistent system is in place to serve those in need of shelter.

Rather than keeping a wait list, or asking that people experiencing homelessness line up outside the shelters in hopes of getting in, the Clearinghouse serves callers on a first-call, first-serve basis.

Families with children, couples, and single women call the Clearinghouse starting at 9am, 365 days a year. Single men call starting at 11am.



Volunteers make up the heart and soul of what we do at the Clearinghouse. They provide an empathetic ear to listen, a human voice to connect with and to help brainstorm solutions.

Even when area shelters are full, volunteers check in with callers to let them know about other important resources

for healthcare, childcare, food assistance, and other basic needs.

All necessary training is provided to ensure that volunteers are equipped with the tools they need to best serve Clark County residents experiencing homelessness.

If you are interested in serving as a volunteer with the Emergency Shelter Clearinghouse, our coordinator can schedule a time with you to get you started.

Quick Facts

Each year in January the Council for the Homeless conducts a “one-day homeless count” across Clark County. This count is required both by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and by Washington state law.

Based on the January 28, 2010 Point-in-Time Count:

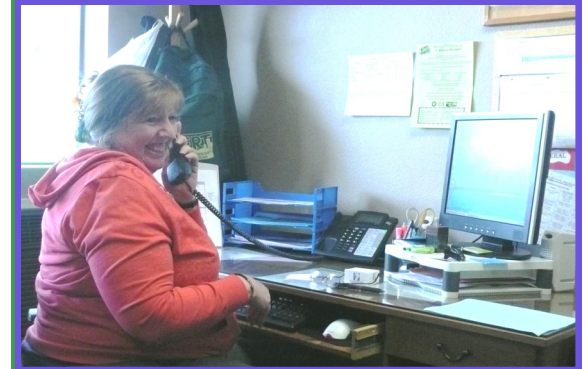
- 1,104 people experiencing homelessness were counted
- 209 of these men, women and children were unsheltered, for instance sleeping in vehicles or encampments
- 55% of all people counted were in households with children

And did you know that:

- During the 2008-09 school year, 48.8% of all students enrolled in Vancouver Public Schools qualified for free or reduced-price meals
- A full-time, minimum wage earner in 2011 (making \$8.67 per hour), budgeting 30% of his or her income for housing, can afford no more than \$450.84 for rent.

The need for shelter and other services is indeed great. In keeping with it’s mission:

The Council for the Homeless provides leadership, advocacy and coordination to create long-term solutions to homelessness, resulting in housing stability and a more livable community.



Emergency Shelter Clearinghouse

“You want to cry for them and take them all to your house—but you can’t, so you come back the next day and hope you can find a space for someone to keep warm.”

“In volunteering with the ESC I have learned about many resources in Clark County that I did not know about.”

“For most of 2010, I was homeless...I understand the fear, hopelessness, anger, and sense of being alone that homelessness brings. Helping people to have a better day makes my days better. “

-ESC volunteers

www.icfth.com/shelter_clearinghouse

Emergency Shelter Clearinghouse

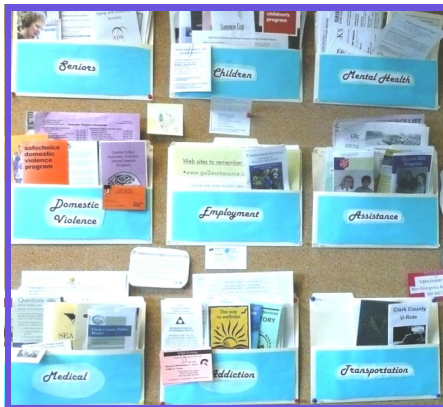
History

The Clearinghouse has been serving Clark County residents without adequate shelter, and the agencies that shelter them, for more than 20 years.

At one point the Clearinghouse operated with a single volunteer in a small office at one of our area shelters. Today we work out of an office near downtown Vancouver where up to four volunteers per shift take calls, refer callers to available resources, and enter data into our database.

For much of this history shelter staff have partnered with the Clearinghouse to confirm callers' eligibility, ensuring that shelter guests have not used all their time for the year, and that people identified as potential risks in community settings are not referred for shelter beds.

Starting in 2011 the Clearinghouse will perform this function as well, which gives shelter staff more time to work one-on-one with their clients, and provides callers with a more efficient service.



Statistics

In 2010...



How many people were represented in households that called the Clearinghouse?

4,156 people
including 1,295 children

How many people were referred to available space in area shelters?

1,528 people including 325 children



How many calls did we receive?

21,219 calls

How many volunteers served as Telephone Operators?

37 volunteers

How many volunteer hours were served?

5,332 volunteer hours

**LET'S HEAR IT FOR OUR
DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS!**

For volunteer opportunities,
please contact our coordinator at:

esc@icfth.com

360-699-5106 ext. 101

A PROGRAM OF



**COUNCIL
for the
HOMELESS**

Donations can be made online at
www.icfth.com

Or made out to Council for the Homeless
and mailed to
Emergency Shelter Clearinghouse
c/o Council for the Homeless
2500 Main Street • Vancouver, WA 98660