



Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

Statement on Encampments

Safe Sites for All

April 9, 2021

The Tacoma Pierce County Coalition on Homelessness calls for Safe Sites for All.

We believe that everyone has a right to shelter. Every person living unsheltered deserves an appropriate and accessible and available shelter option.

When accessible and appropriate indoor shelter is not available or people prefer to remain outdoors, those who are unsheltered have a right to a Safe Site in which to live.

Where desired, Safe Sites should make it possible for people residing in them to create community among themselves.

We believe that small, safe, sites should be designed with the people who will live in them. The Sites could provide a variety of shelter options with full hygiene services on-site and laundry either on-site or nearby. Full hygiene services include places to safely and privately go to the bathroom, hand washing stations, garbage collection, and hazardous waste removal.

Sites should be dispersed and strategically placed on well-drained land in low-impact areas near public transportation.

To the extent possible, Safe Sites should be self-managed with services brought to the Sites on a daily basis. Sites could also operate with a range of management options.

Safe Sites could have tents, pallet shelters, tiny houses, container-based units, vehicles, travel trailers and a container for locked storage of personal items. Safe Sites could also include individual hotel and motel rooms.

The Sites could use a variety of operating models such as: low-barrier, harm reduction, pets, clean and sober, 18 years old or older, single adults, couples.

Living in a Safe Site should lead to permanent housing.