



## The Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

*We are a loose network of individuals, non-profit agencies, government agencies, and community businesses working together to serve people experiencing homelessness. Our end goal is to help folks establish safe housing as quickly as possible and help them to retain that housing so their homeless episode is short and never repeated. We also work to address many of the factors that drive homelessness. (Description taken from our webpage at <http://www.pchomeless.org>).*

### What the Coalition Does

We gather weekly between 9 - 11 a.m. on Fridays (currently virtually using Zoom), to learn about local resources to assist those who are living homeless or at risk of homelessness, and to coordinate our efforts as we seek adequate housing for all. Committed to addressing the disproportionate effects of homelessness on marginalized communities, we work together on multiple initiatives, bring our voices to public policy debates, and advocate for the right to housing throughout Pierce County.

We maintain a website at [pchomeless.org](http://pchomeless.org) which serves as a repository for information about homelessness and resources for those who are currently homeless in Pierce County, including links to find shelter openings, to join Coalition mailing lists, or to locate resources for an individual who has needs.

### Membership

The Coalition is an open table for all who are committed to ending homelessness; there is no membership requirement. "Members" are those who participate. Interested persons can access the Coalition's activities and resources through subscribing to the Coalition listserv at <http://www.pchomeless.org> (over 700 are subscribed at this time).

To carry out the activities of the Coalition, we depend on the contributions of time and expertise from service providers, advocates, and community volunteers. At this time, we have no direct employees. As needed, we create committees and workgroups to focus our activities. Attendance at all group meetings is open upon subscribing to the list for specific groups or registering for a specific meeting through the website. (A zoom link is included with the schedule).

Committees and workgroups currently include:

- A weekly Steering Committee meeting (Wednesdays from 3 - 4 p.m.) to plan for the Friday Coalition gathering and to consider topics and action proposals where the Coalition has determined it has a role or viewpoint;
- A gathering immediately after each Friday meeting to develop the program for the following Friday.
- Focused committees and workgroups: Safe Sites for All (SS4A)—aligned with the Safe Parking Network), SS4A Media Workgroup, Housing Committee, Race and Equity Committee, Governance Workgroup.

### Values we support as participants in the Coalition

- **An open table** – all who care about eliminating homelessness are welcome.
- **Diversity** - of role, race, age, gender identity, ability, income/wealth
- **Lead with equity** — center the experience and voice of those most affected
- **Growth** – challenge ideas, beliefs... with respect
- **Care** – for each other... positive energy, encouragement, mentorship, listening
- **Shared power** – own and step into our own power; encourage and make room for others

### How to Get Involved

Check out the Coalition Website at <https://www.pchomeless.org> and sign up for the listserv to receive updates and notice of events. Use this listserv to make requests for information or resources and to let others know about resources you have to share. Please know that receiving responses to requests on the listserv will depend on who among us has the information or resources. For a general sense of Coalition work, drop-in at a Friday meeting between 9 am and 11 to listen and contribute. Let us know if you would like to make a short presentation about your group or project during one of these meetings. The [pchomeless.org](http://pchomeless.org) site announces other meetings scheduled throughout the week, and we encourage you to stop by to introduce yourself and explore ways we can work together to promote adequate housing for all.