March 31, 2022

Senator Patty Murray

We, the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness, believe emergency shelter is a vital resource for people experiencing homelessness. While shelter alone does not lead to housing, it provides a safe, healthy environment to live in while reestablishing permanent housing.

Hotel purchases are an opportunity to quickly create shelter that offers a level of individual safety only found in non-congregate settings. In addition, hotels can easily be converted from shelter to permanent housing, a great tool in the work to create enough very low income housing for people experiencing homelessness.

The Coalition set a community goal to end street homelessness by November 1st, 2021. While that goal was not reached, more shelter has been established in Pierce County than any time prior – and we have a plan to establish enough shelter to meet need. This capital funding will help us along that pathway.

We, the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness, look forward to this additional level of support from our federal partners.