



LEWIS COUNTY HOUSING WORK PLAN

February 2022

The Lewis County Housing Initiative is implemented through the Housing Work Plan. The Housing Work Plan is a 5-year plan that is updated annually in February. The Housing Work Plan includes housing-related programs, projects and processes that Lewis County departments are actively leading or taking part in. Each project has a designated county lead. Some items are actually lead by an entity that is not part of the county government. When that is the case, the description will specify the non-county lead.

These actions are listed in chronological order based on completion date. Some items have a long timeframe to completion but are currently underway. A progress report to the Board of County Commissioners will be made on an annual basis in February.

Action Item A: Countywide Governmental Coordination

Create a forum of county leaders, city mayors and staff to coordinate each jurisdiction's housing plans and leverage/combine efforts where possible.

County Lead: Board of County Commissioners/County Manager

Completion: On-going

Action Item B: Countywide Community Coordination

Create a forum in which housing issues can be discussed across disciplines and perspectives, to highlight problems as they arise, propose and refine solutions or strategies for those problems, and capture collective community knowledge over time. This forum could eventually be led by a community member or organization, or an outside facilitator, if desirable.

County Lead: County Manager

Completion: On-going

Action Item C: Develop and Advance a State Legislative Agenda

Build a coalition of support for legal and policy changes that will advance the availability and affordability of housing for low income rural residents in Lewis County. Partner with WSAC, AWC, and other willing partners to further legislation. Ensure local governments' voices are heard in state and federal policymaking that affects local housing and infrastructure.

County Lead: Board of County Commissioners/County Manager

Completion: Ongoing

Action Item D: Track Measures of Success

Develop and track progress on goals and milestones for improvement in the Initiative's metrics.

County Lead: Board of County Commissioners/County Manager

Completion: On-going

**Action Item E: Night-by-Night Shelter**

Through a Request for Proposals and contract(s), obtain services of a night-by-night shelter at a location that has access to other supportive services and a clear pipeline into the step-up facility or facilities below.

County Lead: Public Health & Social Services

Completion: Issuance of RFPs by March 2022; services to begin Summer 2022

Action Item F: Step-up Facility or Facilities

Through Request(s) for Proposals and contract(s), develop transitional housing services by which eligible participants, through coordinated entry, can step up from the night-by-night shelter into stable, medium-term, service-rich housing designed to help them move into permanent housing.

County Lead: Public Health & Social Services

Completion: Issuance of RFPs by March 2022; services to begin Summer 2022

Action Item G: Promote Infrastructure to Support Residential Growth

Assess countywide infrastructure needs to support residential housing, commercial development, and seek to construct or promote the construction of such infrastructure.

County Lead: Public Works

Completion: Assessment to be completed June 2022

Action Item H: Multi-Family Housing Proof of Concept

Create one or more rural multi-family housing concepts that are vetted to generally meet county and state codes and rules. Create a Multi-Family Housing Concepts Notebook for use by developers to aide in choosing multi-family housing types that may fit specific site conditions.

County Lead: Community Development/Housing Initiative staff

Completion: December 2022

Action Item I: Packwood Subarea Plan

Create and adopt a subarea plan for Packwood that establishes a 20-year vision, with supporting goals and actions, and addresses a comprehensive set of issues including affordable housing, public infrastructure and essential services.

County Lead: Community Development/Public Works

Completion: April 2023



Action J: Rural Character Update

Update the Land Use chapter of the Comprehensive Plan to take a form-based approach to rural character. Where appropriate, change zoning to allow multi-family housing that fits the new definition of rural character.

County Lead: Community Development

Completion: December 2023

Action Item K: Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update

Update the Lewis County Comprehensive Plan to meet the Housing Initiative objectives and address affordable housing legislation.

County Lead: Community Development

Completion: June 2025

Action Item L: Packwood Sewer Project

Complete the design and construction of a waste water treatment system to protect the community drinking water source, surface water, and the economic health of the community. The new waste water system will support existing and new development in the Packwood community including new affordable housing options and associated essential services such as employment, medical and education to meet existing and future needs in Packwood.

County Lead: Public Works

Completion: December 2026