



**Understanding the experiences of homelessness in Tri-Cities
Englewood, Littleton and Sheridan Colorado
Submitted: May 2019**

The cities of Englewood, Littleton and Sheridan (referred to as the Tri-Cities) are located in Arapahoe County, Colorado and are considered part of the Denver metropolitan area. As of 2010, the population of the three cities was 77,656.

Arapahoe County communities have participated in the Denver metro Point-In-Time count organized annually by the Metro Denver Homeless Initiative (MDHI). While the Tri-Cities have not received information specific to homelessness in the three-city region, community members have received data about homelessness in Arapahoe county. According to the 2018 PIT report, Arapahoe County reported 198 persons experiencing homelessness. Experts across the country acknowledge that PIT counts are almost always an undercount—meaning the actual number of people experiencing homelessness in Arapahoe County is almost certainly more than 200. Through the PIT survey, local communities don’t often acquire population demographic information to assist with planning and community education. Additional data on homelessness is also collected by school districts across the country and within the Tri-Cities region as part of the McKinney-Vento act. Below are the most recent reported numbers from the PIT and McKinney-Vento:

| Jurisdictions | 2018 PIT | 2016-17 McKinney-Vento |
|--------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Arapahoe County | 198 persons 42.9% Sheltered 14.6% Transitional housing 42.4% Unsheltered | |
| Bennett School District 29J | | 22 |
| Byers School District | | 12 |
| Cherry Creek School District | | 82 |
| Deer Trail School District 26J | | 2 |
| Englewood 1 | | 332 |
| Littleton Public Schools | | 152 |
| Sheridan School District #2 | | 334 |
| Strasburg 31J | | 21 |
| | | 957 |



The Tri-Cities region share physical borders and often collaborate on municipal and regional issues. Currently, a community initiative called *Change the Trend Network* has come together to discuss broad community involvement to address homelessness. A key part of addressing homelessness will be to educate the public on the topic.

Change the Trend is an innovative collaboration between local government, faith communities and local non-profits. The Tri-Cities region has the opportunity to mobilize community members through public education and outreach, strengthen partnerships with congregations and non-profits to better address local needs, and leverage funds from the region, county, state and federal governments. The proposed projects contained in this document are dependent upon partnerships and active collaboration with local non-profit agencies, school districts, faith congregations, service clubs, community members and cities of Englewood, Littleton and Sheridan.

Literature on addressing homelessness identifies data as an important first step for communities to understand the nature of local homelessness. To assist the Tri-Cities region to better understand the nature of chronic and family homelessness in the region we propose to:

1. Understanding chronic homelessness: Interview persons experiencing chronic homelessness, compile and analyze the data, and develop a final report to inform city officials and local stakeholders about the underlying causes of chronic homelessness in the Tri-Cities, and contributing factors and barriers which prevent interviewed individuals from exiting homelessness; and,
2. Understanding family homelessness: Interview families experiencing homelessness in the Tri-Cities region. The initiative will work with local stakeholders (school districts, McKinney-Vento liaisons, health service providers, non-profit agencies, food banks, churches, etc.) to develop outreach strategies and an interview tool toward understanding the underlying causes of local family homelessness and factors which impact their ability to exit homelessness. The project will collect data from families and stakeholders, compile and analyze the data, and develop a final report to inform city officials and local stakeholders about family homelessness in the Tri-City region.

| Proposed project costs | |
|--|----------------------|
| Phase 1: Assessment of chronic homelessness in Tri-City region | \$ 51,545.00 |
| Phase 2: Assessment of family homelessness in Tri-City region | \$ 55,596.00 |
| TOTAL COST | \$ 107,141.00 |



PROPOSED PROJECTS:

Phase 1

GOAL: Interview single persons experiencing homelessness and present findings in final report
Work with community partners to interview single adults experiencing homelessness in the Tri-City region. Specifically, persons experiencing chronic homelessness, those sleeping outside including encampments, as well as, those sleeping in vehicles. Interviews will occur at community program and public settings. Data will be compiled, analyzed and presented in a final report.

Related tasks:

- Hire and train consultant to serve as a Count Coordinator and a formerly homeless individual to serve as a Count Outreach Peer
- Develop survey interview tool and protocols
- Identify and prepare interview locations (day centers, libraries, Café 180, as well as other sites identified by community members)
- Train providers and volunteers to outreach and interview individuals
- Collect surveys, compile and analyze data
- Develop final report
- Provide presentation(s) to stakeholders

ANTICIPATED TIME FRAME AND RELATED TASKS: 8 months

| Month 1 | Month 2 | Month 3 | Month 4 |
|---|---|--|---|
| Meet with providers and stakeholders to introduce project Finalize survey tool Hire and train Count Coordinator and formerly homeless individual as Count Outreach Peer | Support Count Coordinator and Peer Outreach staff to present project to community groups and stakeholders Plan events to attract target population(s) Develop volunteer training Map areas in region with concentration of those experiencing homelessness | Conduct training of volunteers Secure incentives for those interviewed Copy survey tool, outreach flyers, resource information Identify locations for interviews Disseminate outreach flyers Conduct interviews | Conduct interviews Conduct a de-duplication of surveys Begin data entry |
| Month 5 | Month 6 | Month 7 | Month 8 |
| Continue data entry Begin data analysis | Conduct data analysis Begin development of final report | Present draft report to Tri-Cities team for feedback Finalize report | Present final report to Tri-Cities Present report findings upon request |



PROJECTED PROJECT COSTS

| Burnes Center | | |
|---|--|--------------------|
| Staffing costs (fte – 8 mos): | | |
| Gary Sanford (.25) | \$ 18,223.00 | |
| Research Assistant (.25) | \$ 10,936.00 | |
| Count Coordinator (240 hours X \$60/hour) | \$ 14,400.00 | |
| Peer Outreach Worker (140 hours @ \$20/hour) | \$ 2,800.00 | |
| Dr. Daniel Brisson (.05) | (In-kind) | |
| MSW students | (In-kind) | \$46,359.00 |
| Supplies | Flip chart paper, markers, handouts, surveys, outreach flyers, resource lists | \$500.00 |
| | Sub-total | \$46,859.00 |
| | In-direct costs (10%) | \$ 4,686.00 |
| | TOTAL | \$51,545.00 |



Phase 2

GOAL: Interview families experiencing homelessness and provide findings in final report

The Burnes Center will work in partnership with community stakeholders in the Tri-Cities region (Cities of Englewood, Littleton and Sheridan) to assess family homelessness. The Burnes Center team will conduct interviews with: local school district staff including McKinney-Vento liaisons, local service providers (food banks, churches, non-profit agencies, health care providers) as well as, city staff to develop strategies to engage families in the study.

The study will identify factors contributing to homelessness, history of housing and homelessness as well as barriers and challenges inhibiting families from securing permanent, stable housing. Burnes Center proposes to interview 15 families from each city. There will be an effort to engage families into the study who live in an emergency shelter, local motels, vehicles as well as situations where they are doubled up with another household. Burnes Center will also analyze recent McKinney Vento data from each school district to identify trends over the past three years.

Anticipated tasks:

- Engage consultant
- Gather information from community stakeholders
- Hire peer interviewer (formerly homeless household head)
- Develop interview tool
- Gather information from 45 identified families (15 from each city)
- Enter survey data into SPSS
- Analyze data
- Present draft report to Tri-Cities team for input
- Finalize report



ANTICIPATED TIME FRAME AND RELATED TASKS: 8 months

| Month 1 | Month 2 | Month 3 | Month 4 |
|---|--|---|---|
| Hire consultant and peer interviewer Develop interview tool(s) Interview key stakeholders to assist in development of outreach strategies Develop strategies to engage families for interviews | Finalize interview tools Finish stakeholder interviews Identify outreach strategies including sites and contacts for family interviews | Identify families for interviews Begin family interviews | Conduct family interviews |
| Month 5 | Month 6 | Month 7 | Month 8 |
| Conduct family interviews Begin data entry | Finish data entry Analyze data Begin project report | Finish data analysis Develop draft report Share draft project report with Tri-Cities team | Finalize project report Provide final report and presentation(s) to stakeholders |

PROJECTED PROJECT COSTS

| Burnes Center | | |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Staffing costs (fte – 8 mos): | | |
| Gary Sanford (.15) | \$ 10,934.00 | |
| Research Assistant (.35) | \$ 13,608.00 | |
| Consultant (200 hours X \$60/hour) | \$ 12,000.00 | |
| Peer interviewer (200 hours @ \$20/hour) | \$ 4,000.00 | |
| Dr. Daniel Brisson (.05) | \$ 5,000.00 | |
| Senior Research Associate (.10) | \$ 5,000.00 | |
| MSW students | (In-kind) | \$ 50,542.00 |
| | Sub-total | \$ 50,542.00 |
| | In-direct costs (10%) | \$ 5,054.00 |
| | TOTAL | \$ 55,596.00 |