

# Homeless Housing in Rural Areas: Different Approaches



# Presenters

Moderator: Ginger Segel, GS Consulting

Panelists:

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# Rural Homelessness



- Highest Rates of Homeless School Children in Washington in Rural Counties:
  - Statewide 3.4% of public school children experience homelessness.
  - Rural SW WA, very high rates – Wahkiakum 15.3%, Pacific 11.7%, Mason 9%
  - Walla Walla and Clallam, lower at 4.2% and 3.9%, but still higher than statewide.
  - Nationwide, from 2013 – 2017, rural homeless children have increased 11%.
- Point In Time (PIT) Count Particularly Inaccurate in Rural Areas
- Greater Percentage of Rural Homeless People are Unsheltered

# Common Themes



- Rural homeless programs are serving locals, not imported homeless people.
- Intergenerational poverty is common, rural homeless housing providers are serving multiple generations of the same families.
- Lack of any rental housing is a huge contributor to homelessness, and keeping people homeless, in rural areas.
- Shortage of PSH units is dramatic in rural areas.
- Communities need both no/low barrier and recovery housing.

# Financing/Funding Challenges



- Smaller projects are difficult to finance – cannot use the LIHTC program.
- Not enough capital funding to build rental housing– of any type – in rural areas.
- Funding programs are inflexible, often pushing practitioners to only serve people with the lowest incomes and highest needs.
- Rural Counties have fewer resources, especially for services and operations.
- Social services are spread out or unavailable.

# How to Reach Us



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