

#### OVERVIEW OF SEATTLE'S HOMELESSNESS CRISIS:

- The City of Seattle, like many other cities across the country, is facing a **homelessness crisis**. The region's current needs outweigh shelter capacity, leaving too many seniors, families and individuals sleeping on the street and in vehicles.
- The 2015 One Night Count (ONC) found that **3,772 individuals** were living outside and unsheltered in King County, a **21% increase** from the 2014 count. The majority of these individuals were counted in the city of Seattle.
- The City of Seattle **invests more than \$40 million annually** to assist single adults, youth, families, domestic violence survivors, older adults and veterans currently at-risk of or experiencing homelessness.
- Over the last 30 years, the City of Seattle has invested **\$241.3 million of capital funds in affordable housing** projects that include **3,546 permanent homes and 800 transitional homes** for homeless members of our community, for a total of 4,346 units for families and individuals.
- The **reasons underlying this crisis are many**, and it is an issue that no local government can solve alone. As a **result of cuts to or chronic underfunding of many support systems at the state and federal levels**, local municipalities have been asked to bear the burden of crisis response to the critical and growing need.
- Mayor Murray has **taken action** and **created new resources** to address the homelessness crisis, including policies to address affordability, creating additional shelter capacity, and proactive steps to address the needs of those who are living without shelter. While these efforts are ongoing, **it still is not enough**. We cannot continue business as usual and must see all government and community partners rise to the urgency of this challenge.
- Together we must focus on pathways out of homelessness, which means we must **invest more in what works** to address the needs of the most vulnerable people, **support the capacity** of Seattle's nonprofit sector to use best practices more effectively and consistently, and **use data** to benchmark and track

#### CITY OF SEATTLE'S PROPOSED NEW INVESTMENTS:

##### Immediate Strategy #1: Prevention Efforts (\$2,695,000)

###### Flexible Funds & Portfolio Model

- Inclusion of flexible funds to quickly move people through the emergency shelter system into stable housing so that their experience is rare, brief and one-time (i.e. diversion, rapid rehousing, mediation, security or utility deposits, utility or rent payments, moving cost assistance, and transportation assistance)
- Include additional case management support for homeless youth in shelters
- Include more support for homeless children in our school system:

- Flexible wraparound support to assist at-risk families with children to avoid homelessness
- Target schools with identified need using data from the city’s Department of Education & Early Learning and Seattle Public Schools
- Partner with Seattle Housing Authority to leverage housing vouchers and other housing supports
- Targeted and flexible support to people living in their vehicles
- Expand our new “portfolio” model to include a range of services incorporated into one contract that allows agencies to focus on individual outcomes instead of managing multiple contracts

Data Capacity

- Additional data collection capacity to complement other data (i.e. annual One Night Count, Homeless Management Information System)
- Focus on people living unsheltered with intent to support investment decisions and best practices
- Examples: methodology design for data collection and training for data collectors

Public Health Prevention and Precautions

- Managing trash and human waste at encampment sites (authorized & unauthorized)
- Targeted public health/prevention measures at encampment sites, based on Multi-Disciplinary Outreach Team or Customer Service Bureau notification
- Examples: portable restrooms and waste removal

**Immediate Strategy #2: Expanding Outreach to Connect Those in Need to Services and Shelter (\$1,755,000)**

Three Multi-Disciplinary Outreach Teams (MDOT)

- On-the-ground services focusing on unsheltered people
- Prioritize based on public safety and public health criteria
- Examples: outreach and engagement and service navigation to access services/shelters

Mobile Van

- Seattle-specific mobile van providing behavioral health services, prioritizing unauthorized encampments
- Examples: crisis counseling (mental health and substance abuse) and administering immediate drug detoxification treatment

**Immediate Strategy #3: Meeting Current Basic Needs (\$900,000)**

Targeted Shelters

- 100 new beds to address gaps in existing service continuum (i.e. people with pets, couples, individuals with behavioral health needs) with flexible funding
- Examples: emergency overnight shelter and service navigation to access services/permanent housing