

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**February 23, 2016**

**MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**411 NORTH 5<sup>TH</sup> ST**  
**SHELTON, WA 98584**  
**(360) 427-9670 EXT. 419**

TO: KMAS, KRXY, SHELTON-MASON COUNTY JOURNAL, THE OLYMPIAN,  
SHELTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, NORTH MASON CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE, CITY OF SHELTON, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
COUNCIL, THE SUN

RE: Mason County Selected for 100 Day Challenge to End Family Homelessness

Mason County was one of three counties selected by the Department of Commerce to participate in the 100 Day Challenge to End Family Homelessness. Strategies used to meet the goal of ending family homelessness may include allocating more resources to rapid rehousing, landlord relationship building for shelter diversion, quickening access to permanent housing, progressive engagement of families and improving connections to mainstream systems.

“We were excited to be one of the three counties selected for this technical support.” said Tammy Newton, Human Services Coordinator for Mason County Public Health and Human Services. “We know that there are opportunities for improvement, and it is exciting to work with a team that has a proven track record for helping counties gain new levels of success in strengthening their communities.”

Funding for technical assistance is provided through a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and DSHS Economic Services Administration. This project is led by the Vulnerable Families Partnership which includes Commerce, DSHS, the Governor’s Office, and other state and regional partners. The other counties selected for the challenge were Cowlitz and Thurston County.

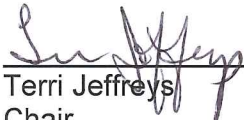
“Through similar efforts in Virginia and Connecticut, communities were able to reduce veteran homelessness.” said Cary Retlin, Policy Advisor for the State of Washington Department of Commerce. “Though no new funds will be awarded through Commerce; participating counties will receive technical assistance and significant support and the opportunity to collaborate with the other participating counties.”

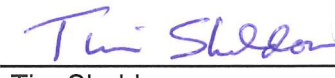
“Our 100 Day Challenge leadership team is diverse and includes members from Crossroads Housing, Community Lifeline, Turning Pointe, Community Action Council, DSHS, HOST (Housing Options for Students in Transition), Peninsula Community Credit Union, City of Shelton, City of Shelton Police Department, Shelton School District, Concerned Citizens and coordinated by Mason County Public Health.” said Newton “The community is enthusiastically embracing the challenge.”

Mason County in partnership with the Housing Coalition just completed the annual homeless point-in-time count. Results of the count should be available from the Department of Commerce at the end of February.

The Mason County Housing Coalition meets monthly. To learn more about how you can participate as a member of the Housing Coalition or if you are interested in participating on the RFP review panel for 2016, please contact Tammey Newton, Homeless & Affordable Housing Coordinator at 360-427-9670 Ext. 293.

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