# Health & Community Services
# San Juan County

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## Staff Report

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| **TO:** | County Council |
| **CC:** | Mike Thomas, County Manager |
| **FROM:** | Ryan Page, Housing Program Coordinator <br> Mark Tompkins, Director Health & Community Services |
| **SUBJECT:** | **Five-Year Homeless Plan 3rd Touch** |
| **For the Meeting of:** | October 22, 2019 |
| **ATTACHMENTS:** | Five-Year Homeless Plan Dated October 1, 2019 <br> Resolution to Adopt Five Year Homeless Plan |

**Recommended Motion:**

**Move to Approve a Resolution Adopting a Five-Year Homeless Plan.**

**Background:**
Per the Homeless Housing and Assistance Act (RCW43.185C.050), each local government in the state is required to prepare a five-year homeless housing plan for its jurisdiction consistent with the state's guidelines.

Staff began work on the County's five-year homeless plan draft in July, 2018 with the Homeless Housing Task Force. This group met monthly to draft the five-year homeless plan. The draft plan was developed based upon guidelines released by Commerce in January and updated in June 2019.

In creating this plan, the Task Force and staff attempted to engage with as many stakeholders of the homeless crisis response system in San Juan County as possible. Efforts were made to engage law enforcement, Juvenile Court services, school districts, drug abuse treatment and mental health providers, and community members interested in homelessness. These efforts will be ongoing until plan adoption.

The overarching goal of the five-year homeless plan is to eliminate homelessness in San Juan County, and that no person living in the County go without access to shelter or housing for a single night. The plan includes 4 main goals with 13 total actions. Each action has a specific measure of success and target for that measure. Commerce also has 5 required objectives that have been incorporated into the County's plan.

This plan's engagement with the required State objectives must be understood in the context of the current homeless crisis response system in San Juan County. The system as it currently exists is primarily focused on homeless prevention activities, as there are no transitional or supportive housing projects in the County. Nearly all individuals served by the system who exit homelessness do so into permanent housing.

The lack of transitional or supportive housing projects means that local programs are geared towards preventing people from losing their housing, or swiftly moving them into new housing if they do become homeless. The lack of available housing makes this task extremely arduous. We are working with Commerce technical assistance staff to ensure compliance with the State guidelines.

Local plans may include specific local performance measures adopted by the local government legislative authority and may include recommendations for any state legislation needed to meet the state or local plan goals.

Recommendations suggested by the Task Force are included on Page 13. Appendix A of the plan illustrates the baseline data for each action, Appendix B includes the cost to implement each action and Appendix C contains a timeline.

This plan has been reviewed and recommended to the Council by the Housing Advisory Committee.

Council held a first touch of the County's Five-Year Homeless Plan on July 8th, 2019. At that meeting staff received feedback from Council, including a request for cost estimates and timeline of completion (Appendix B & C).

Council held their second touch on September 23, again providing feedback and direction. The most recent draft of the Five-Year Homeless Plan incorporates feedback received from Council, and includes an impact projection (Appendix E) made following conversations with Tedd Kelleher, the Director of Commerce's Housing Assistance Unit. This projection found that by 2024, with the plan fully implemented at current funding levels, 33 homeless and 108 at-risk of homeless individuals could be served each year. Staff have also reviewed the plan checklist provided by Commerce and all items are addressed.