



Homeless Network of Yakima County

**"I lost my job and our family ended up homeless, living in the woods and then in a shelter until a great nonprofit helped find us a home, getting our lives back on track. "**



For more information  
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# Local Housing Revenue

## A NEW OPTION FOR YAKIMA COUNTY

No matter where we are from, what we look like or how much money we have, we all need a safe, affordable place to live.

### We have a housing crisis in Yakima County

- Per the US Census, 24,128 households (27%) are paying more than a third of their income towards housing.
- Lack of housing requiring support services is especially acute. Many low-income housing providers have waitlists with people waiting years to gain access.
- State and federal funds typically require local match funds to gain access and local governments have limited finance tools.
- Housing is healthcare. The average cost nationally to public systems of an unsheltered person is over \$40,000 annually. Housing with supportive services is less than half the cost and results in better health for the individual.
- COVID-19 has only increased housing instability and lack of affordable housing is a public health emergency that will be with us beyond this pandemic.

### We need consistent and locally controlled funds

- Cities and Counties can pass a local housing sales tax, as authorized by HB 1070 in 2020.
- This sales tax will help acquire land or existing buildings and/or construct affordable housing to address the housing crisis.
- This sales tax would complement funds currently managed by the County as well as leverage HOME and 2060 for an impact five or more times larger
- This 1/10th of 1% sales tax will cost the average resident one penny for every \$10 taxable sales a year (we do not tax food) and will provide a responsible stream of revenue in Yakima County, about \$4 million annually.
- The timing of this initiative is ideal due to the bi-partisan Working Families Tax Credit which passed this year giving a significant cash boost to households with children. This will greatly offset this small sales tax increase.

We support the authority of the Board of County Commissioners to serve the entire county including our second largest area – unincorporated Yakima County with these funds.