

Mayor Wilson's Shelter Action Plan Executive Summary

Introduction

Seattle needs a homelessness response that matches the scale and complexity of today's challenge. Everyone deserves a safe space to call home. It must be easier for people to get help before they lose their housing, and for those most in need to quickly access support and care, with a clear path to stability. Year over year, Seattle residents call out unsheltered homelessness as one of the biggest challenges facing our city.

Under Mayor Katie Wilson's leadership, we are **making Seattle a city where everyone has a safe place to call home, fewer people lose their housing, and those who do can quickly access support with a clear path to stability.**

Our 2026–2027 new shelter pipeline represents a substantial and realistic expansion with an intentional shift to shelters with specialized services, improved referrals, strengthened neighborhood alignment, and expanded capacity. Continued progress depends on regional coordination, behavioral health integration, and sustained investment.

Strategic Goals

This plan reflects the mayor's commitment to meaningful shelter expansion. This approach goes beyond bringing more people indoors. It combines expanded capacity with investing in the necessary supportive services and preventing homelessness in the first place.

- ➔ **Reduce unsheltered homelessness** through expanded and improved shelter capacity and system coordination.
- ➔ **Improve safety and well-being** for people and communities affected by homelessness, building on proven approaches to coordinate services that meet people's needs and improve conditions in the surrounding area.
- ➔ **Give residents meaningful ways to help** by giving Seattle residents a resource to understand how to respond when encountering someone needing help and sharing volunteer opportunities.

2026 Shelter Expansion Progress & 2027 Pipeline

Expand shelter capacity by **960 beds** (540 in development + 420 additional) and serve **1,750 people annually**.

- Of the 540 beds in development, **344** were added through City-funded projects and **196** by expediting projects underway that were funded by other sources or regional partners.
- New shelters will continue to open through the end of 2027.

	Date	Beds Added
2026	Q2	+ 87
	Q3	+ 206
	Q4	+ 112
2027	Q1	+ 415
	Q3	+ 140

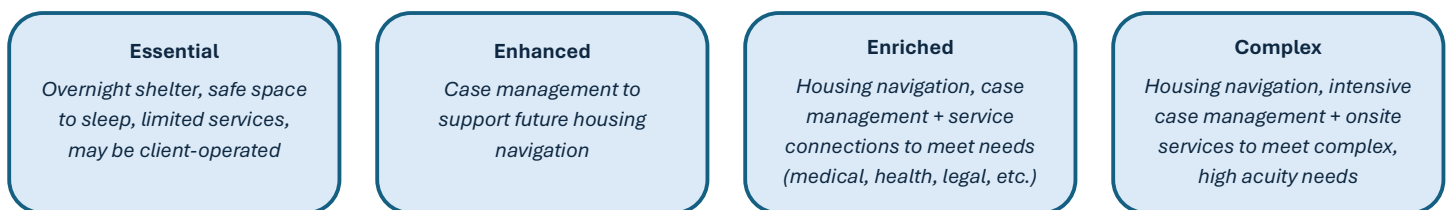
This plan represents a significant down payment toward addressing the scale of need. It outlines what is realistic to accomplish within the City's fiscal realities and encourages identification of opportunities to expand capacity in partnership with private, public and philanthropic partners stretching dollars further and supporting ongoing operational needs.

Budget

Earlier this year, the Mayor's Office in partnership with City Council adopted \$17.8 million for a Shelter Fund for new and expanded shelter projects. Overall, the cost of the shelter investment is approximately \$37 million in 2027. This represents approximately \$18 million of additional funding for the Seattle Human Services Department and \$19 million in existing and reallocated funds deployed as part of this shelter expansion effort. Additional details will be included in Mayor Wilson's Proposed 2027/2028 Budget.

Shelter Operating Models

Unsheltered individuals experience different needs, and no single model is appropriate for everyone. This plan outlines four types of shelter operating models to meet different needs with different service levels:



The [2026 King County Point-in-Time Count](#) found that roughly 60% of people living unsheltered in Seattle likely need Enriched or Complex models. To meet this need and help achieve stability, approximately 60% of new shelters will be Enriched or Complex.

Moving from Program Investments to System Improvements

Mayor Wilson's broader homelessness strategy envisions systemwide improvements across homelessness prevention, homelessness response, and housing programs, focused on service-matching, connections to housing, and flexibility across programs to ensure people are matched with services that meet their needs. Overview diagram of Seattle's homelessness ecosystem on next page.

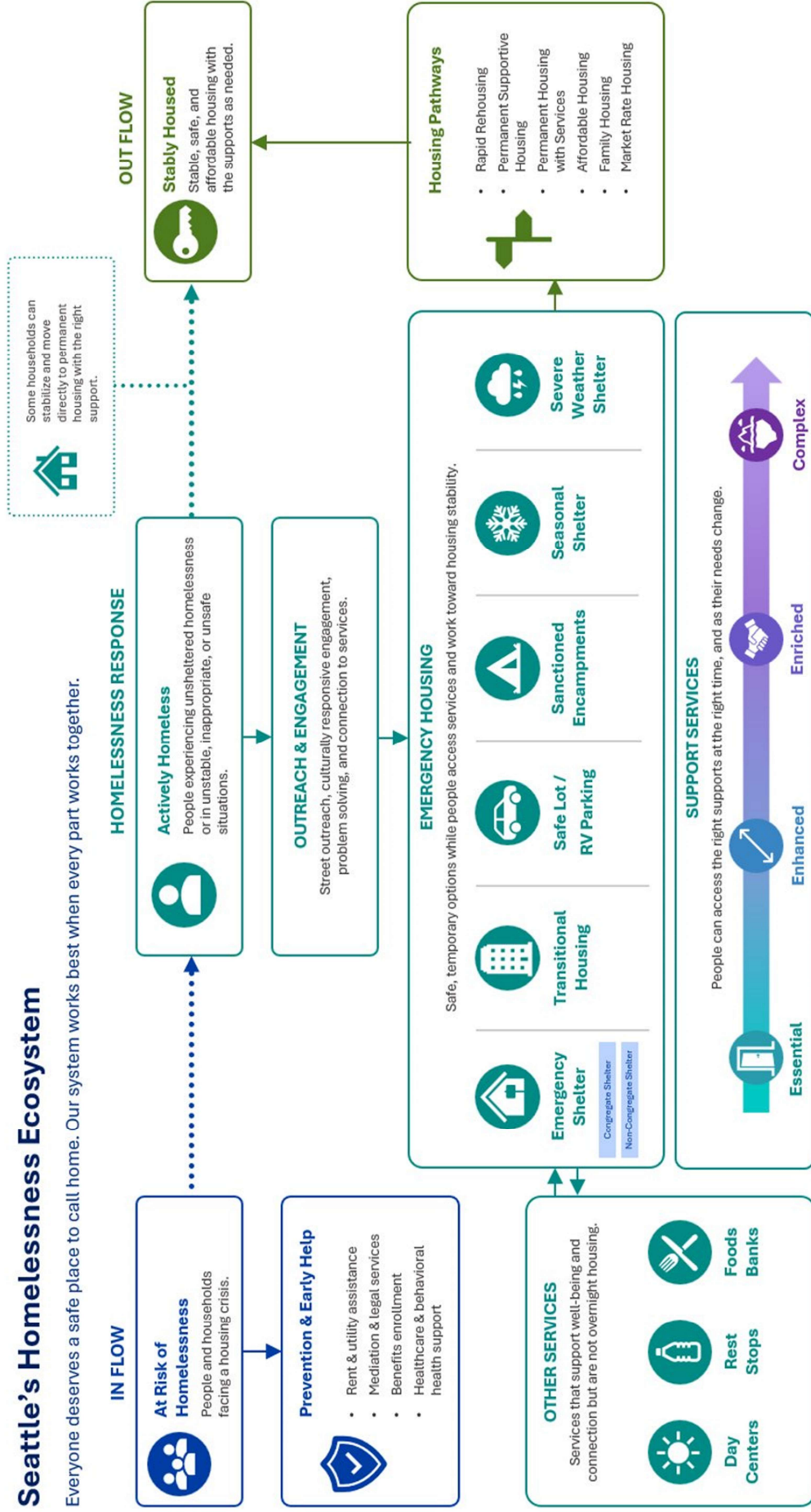
1. **Dual focus on shelter expansion within overall system improvement efforts** by maintaining a balanced portfolio across Essential, Enhanced, Enriched, and Complex models, as we transition City investments back to the Human Service Department and continue regional discussions on homelessness.
2. **Accelerate shelter openings through streamlined site selection and permitting** by continuing early coordination across City teams to identify and resolve issues quickly throughout the entire project development cycle, shortening the timeline for bringing new emergency housing sites online.
3. **Early access to assistance** providing \$11.2M in 2027 to help 2,000 residents who are at risk remain housed and launching a centralized online application process to simplify the process for those in need of assistance.
4. **Streamline and accelerate referrals through district outreach teams**, to ensure neighborhoods see direct, positive impacts from new shelters opening, expand service-matching efforts via District Outreach teams and the Unified Care Team, while prioritizing referrals from neighborhoods hosting shelters.
5. **Strengthen the broader housing system** by accelerating housing production, preserving existing affordable housing, and preventing displacement, building on existing efforts already underway and infusing new urgency through the Housing Production Task Force and protecting critical resources such as supportive housing.



Seattle

Seattle's Homelessness Ecosystem

Everyone deserves a safe place to call home. Our system works best when every part works together.



FOUNDATION: HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

Increasing the supply of affordable housing is critical to preventing homelessness and creating last exits.