



Local government forum: Managing risks associated with homelessness (webinar series)

Updated 10-30-2020

Tuesday, November 10 | 1 – 3 pm

Part 1: Navigating the legal landscape of homelessness

Homelessness affects all cities and counties in the state of Washington, yet many leaders who must address it feel they lack a clear understanding of the legal risks and requirements.

- Learn about areas of risk in responding to homelessness
- Explore how to create a comprehensive approach to your response
- Gain perspective on how courts are viewing these issues
- Understand how COVID-19 and associated government orders add a new layer of risk

Session host:

Carol Wilmes, Member Pooling Programs Director, AWC

Presenters:

Peter B. King, Chief Executive Officer, AWC

Eric Johnson, Executive Director, WSAC

Jeffrey Myers, Attorney, Law, Lyman, Daniel, Kamerrer & Bogdanovich, P.S.

Shannon McClelland, Esq., Legislative & Policy Analyst, AWC

Michelle Luna-Green, Deputy Prosecutor, Pierce County

Honorable Alicia Burton, Judge, Pierce County Superior Court

Thursday, November 12 | 1 – 3 pm

Part 2: Myth busters

We'll compare common myths with what the data tells us in this fast-paced and interactive session. Our experts will save time at the end for additional questions.

- Dispel common misconceptions about why people are homeless
- Shed light on liability relating to safety and economic stability within the community
- Explore obligations of cities and counties to take care of the homeless population within their communities

Session hosts:

Patti Crane, Member Services Manager, WCIA

Erin Konrady, Senior Membership Specialist, WCRP

Presenters:

Jeffrey Myers, Attorney, Law, Lyman, Daniel, Kamerrer & Bogdanovich, P.S.

Shannon McClelland, Esq., Legislative & Policy Analyst, AWC

Tod Gunther, Councilmember, Orting

Randy Johnson, Commissioner, Clallam County

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Friday, November 13 | 1 – 3 pm

Part 3: Governing from beneath a bridge

1 – 1:45 pm

We’ve all watched the news and seen the tents. But how does it actually feel to live on the streets? And what lessons can we learn through a first-hand account?

Come hear the remarkable story of one of our own – a two-term city councilmember – who landed on the streets while in office. By day he slept beneath a bridge and panhandled alongside freeways. By night he governed one of the top 100 cities in Washington. This is a perspective we’ve rarely heard.

Session hosts:

Tonia Sugarman, Member Services Director, AWC

Derek Anderson, Communications and Member Services Director, WSAC

Presenter:

Tod Gunther, Councilmember, Orting

Connecting local, regional, and state resources

1:45 – 3 pm

We’ll close with invited panelists who will share various perspectives and offer resources to help you develop your own unique response to homelessness in your community.

- Examine our own assumptions about those living on the streets
- Explore how city leaders can help solve this crisis
- Learn to address homelessness from both human and policy angles
- Be ready to be challenged, touched, and inspired to grow
- Discover best practices from a panel offering local, regional, and state resources

Moderator:

Steve Butler, Planning and Policy Manager, MRSC

Panelists:

Kayla Schott-Bresler, Deputy County Administrator, Skagit County

Amy Buckler, Strategic Projects Manager, Olympia

Brad Gerber, Tiny House Special Projects Manager, Low Income Housing Institute

AWC = Association of Washington Cities
 MRSC = Municipal Research and Services Center
 WCIA = Washington Cities Insurance Authority
 WCRP = Washington Counties Risk Pool
 WSAC = Washington State Association of Counties