



City of Auburn, Washington

LOCAL RESPONSE *to* HOMELESSNESS



Photo: Auburn Community Court Graduation Ceremony

The Auburn Model

Auburn is a city of about 90,000 located in South King County. Even with all the investment in reducing homeless in King County, South King County cities remain somewhat of an afterthought when it comes to funding and resources. While this has historically been a barrier, Auburn has chosen to self-fund a local wrap around homeless response - coupled with local and regional partnerships. This has proven effective and stands as a model within the region that cities outside of Seattle can stand up services to address homelessness in their communities.

Much of what we have assembled relies on good faith partnerships for which we are grateful. Our desire is to expand and make sustainable our programs with the goal to not need them in the future.

Our model in Auburn relies on four ideals that are proving effective and are modeled in other communities:



In the field outreach

Consolidate efforts and align missions. Bring outreach work into the city government and pay people livable wages. Less turnover means better outcomes.



Stop the flow

Implement programs that intervene before eviction occurs, offering support in exchange for participation. Lessen the inflow of new homelessness cases.



Treat shelters as transitional

Channel resources into shelters, improve conditions, and increase staff compensation to curtail turnover. Make shelters spaces of growth and transition.



Integrate essential services

Integrate essential services within shelters. Empower individuals to access health care, employment resources, and social services without stepping outside.

Auburn's Core Values on Homelessness

In Auburn, we center our work on compassion, accountability and community. We believe that we should have a multifaceted tool box to help people on our streets. We do not believe in compassion without accountability. We will not involve ourselves in contributing to their demise by leaving them to suffer. We want all our residents to live in healthy and safe environments. We hold people accountable and expect them to participate in society. We believe in the value of people.



COMPASSION

We care about you and your well-being and we want to help you heal holistically. We believe you deserve better.



ACCOUNTABILITY

We will walk alongside you to break down barriers and we expect that you will also be doing the work to improve your situation.



COMMUNITY

We want you in Auburn, we want you to participate, and we want you to be part of our community, but you can't just come to Auburn and continue being homeless.



ABOUT AUBURN

Mayor
Nancy Backus

Population
88,820

Incorporated
1891

Government
Mayor/Council

Counties
King, Pierce

HUMAN SERVICES

Director
Kent Hay

City Funded Homeless Services

Weekday in the field outreach and case management

24/7 shelter

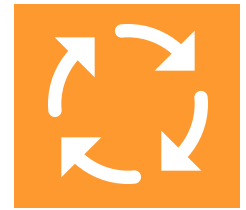
Community Court

Resource Center

Clean & Sober Transitional Housing Program

Encampment Clean Up

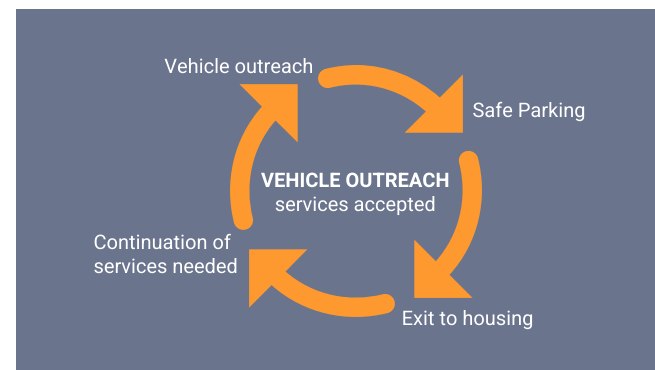
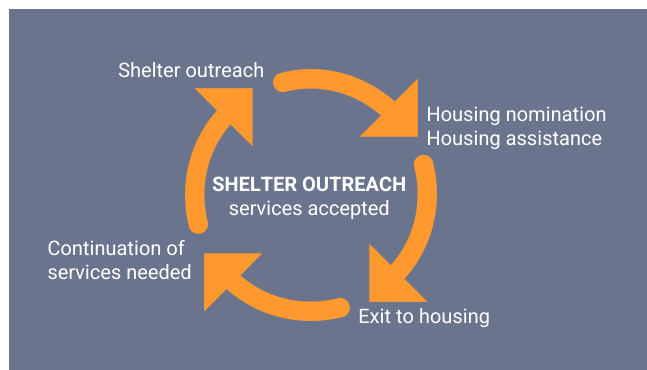
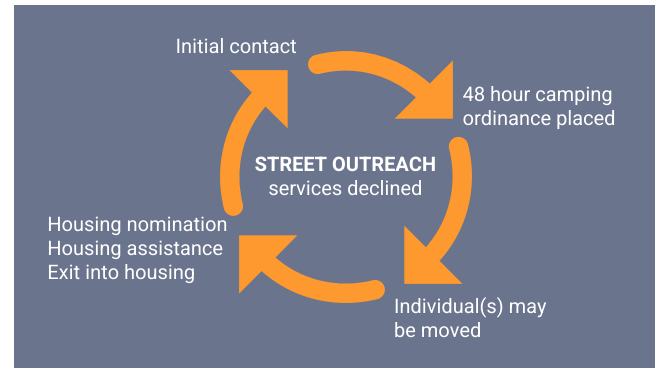
Cycle of Outreach Care



The City of Auburn's model is to operate as a full-service agency for our unhoused residents. We will help them navigate the bureaucracy and multitude of options available to them in order to move inside, get healthy and thrive in our community. This means our care model is not linear but circular.

We believe in a continuum of care. When someone successfully enters permanent supportive housing, we are still working with them to ensure long term housing stability.

There are four basic outreach models that we employ on our streets and in our shelter.



Outreach Worker Resources

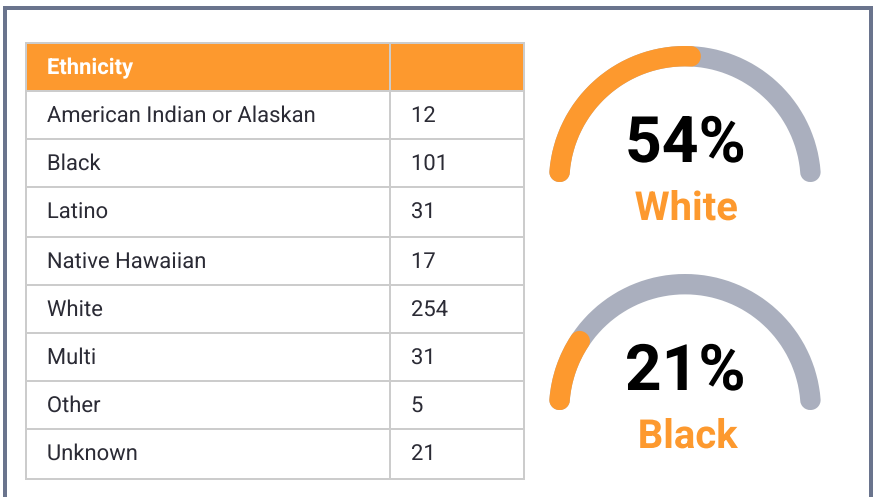
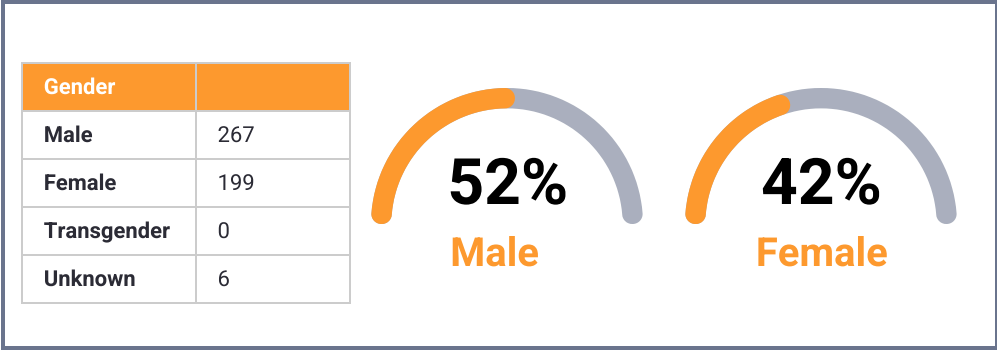
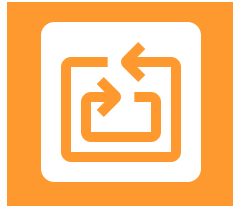
The City of Auburn model relies heavily on in person, in the field outreach. We go to where the people are - on our streets, in our parks, wooded areas and rivers and meet them there and start the process of walking alongside them to come to the table to participate in positive change. Auburn has most of the resources necessary to help people out of their situation.

We do not give out blankets, tents or food. Nor do we give people a number to call or the address of an agency to find. We meet them where they are and walk with them through the process. With today's technology most of the initial work can be done in the field.

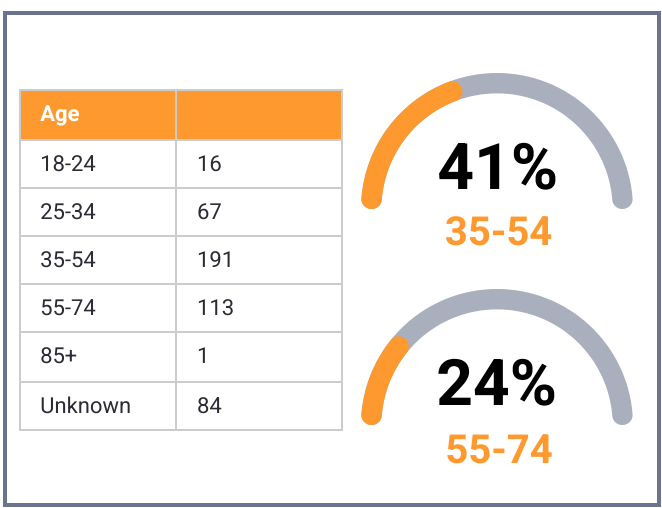
Each of our three full time outreach workers are equipped with:


- City-issued laptop
- Mi-Fi hotspot
- Police radio
- Department of Social and Health Services Partnership Access
- City-issued vehicle
- Purchasing Card (For immediate assistance needs such as identification replacement, transportation, etc.)


2024 Auburn Client Outcomes





	Contacts	Hours
January	87	62
February	144	138
March	126	127.8
April	172	163
May	114	134.5
June	96	114.25
July	130	140.25
August	92	84.15
September	95	97
October	124	96.75
November	119	119
December	67	71



 **1,366**
Total contacts

 **1,347**
Total outreach hours

 **472**
Unsheltered people

 **205**
People housed



Partnerships and Funding



Key Partnerships

Doing this work would be impossible without key partnerships and community support. Our current partners in Auburn are:

- The Auburn Food Bank
- Ray of Hope Day Shelter and Sundown Night Shelter (operated by The Auburn Food Bank)
- HealthPoint
- Salvation Army Street Level Team
- Africatown
- DSHS
- Housing Connector
- WeCare Daily Clinics
- A Walk To Freedom
- Alcohols and Addicts helping Alcoholics and Addicts (AAHAA transitional housing)
- Elijah's Hope
- Vine Maple Place

Funding

Auburn's path towards directly addressing and funding homelessness formally began in 2011 when the City's first extreme weather overnight shelter opened as we saw our homeless population begin to rise. Since then, the City has continued to respond to the growing need with urgency and intention. The majority of our efforts have been accomplished with local general fund dollars, key local partnerships, and supplemented with some state and federal funds.

Function	Expenditures*	Source	Notes
Salaries and Benefits	\$360,000 (a)	Local/General Fund	3 full time employees
Shelter Services (provider contracts)	\$275,000 (a)	Local/General Fund	1 provider for 24/7 operations
Lease for resource center	\$480,000 (a)	Local/General Fund	23,000 sq. ft. facility with consolidated resources**
Resource center expenses	\$62,000 (a)	Local/General Fund	Maintenance and operation of resource center
Miscellaneous	\$5,000 (a)	Local/General Fund	Urgent small expenses (ID replacement, transportation, etc.)
Sober housing subsidy program	\$1,000,000 (o)	Federal/ARPA	Housing subsidy for up to three years
Sober housing subsidy program	\$33,000 (o)	State/Opioid Settlement	Housing subsidy for up to three years
Purchase building for resource center	\$1.5M (o)	State Legislature	Lease dollars transitioned to building needs
Purchase building for resource center	\$3,725M (o)	Local/General Fund	Lease dollars transitioned to building needs
Purchase building for resource center	\$1M (o)	REET2	Lease dollars transitioned to building needs

*Expenditure amounts are approximate | (a) = annual expenditures (o) = one time

**Transitioned to purchased building needs

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