



NEWS UPDATE 09-24-2015



→ RSVP: connie@tpcahc.org

→ Nominate a person, organization, or group for an Affordable Housing Award in: Advocacy, Community Impact, Innovation, or Sustainability

<http://www.affordablehousingconsortium.org/client/assets/files/events/2015%20Award%20Nomination%20FORM.pdf>

→ Sponsor our 5th Annual Excellence in Affordable Housing Awards Celebration contact connie@tpcahc.org for sponsorship levels & benefits

→ AHC Annual Candidate Forum playback times on Pierce County TV

Tuesdays at 8:30 pm

Watch Live: <http://www.piercecountytv.org/live>

Fridays at 3:00 pm

Sundays at 12:30 pm

Runs through Nov. 1

→ Supportive housing Medicaid update

The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) completed a preliminary review of Washington's 1115 waiver application earlier this month and opened a 30 day federal comment period beginning on September 9. The [final 1115 application](#) includes a strong supportive housing Medicaid benefit proposal that incorporates much of the feedback received during the state's public comment period in August.

Now, we need to urge CMS to accept this proposal in order for a supportive housing Medicaid benefit to be created. Please consider submitting a letter of support to CMS to show that there is strong support for a supportive housing benefit in Washington. **All public comments to CMS must be submitted by Friday, October 9, 2015 at 11:00 PM.** We have comment submission instructions and a letter template that [you can download at this website](#). Note that this is a new public comment period, so if you submitted comments to the state, you'll need to submit a second set of comments to the federal government.

➔ **Protections for residential mortgage borrowers in Tacoma & Pierce County**

Columbia Legal Services is interested to determine what legal representation or advocacy in Tacoma and Pierce County would be useful concerning residential mortgage lending practices, predatory loan and credit products, loan modification scams, forensic audit scams and foreclosures. Below I describe in some more detail what Columbia Legal Services has to offer. Bruce Neas of Columbia Legal Services would like to hear from anyone with suggestions. Bruce is among the state's leading experts on these topics. He has helped lead the effort in the state legislature to enhance protections for residential mortgage borrowers. If you have suggestions for Bruce please contact him directly at:

Bruce D. Neas, Attorney
Columbia Legal Services
711 Capitol Way S., Suite 304 | Olympia, WA 98501 | (360) 943-6260 Ext. 215
bruce.neas@columbialegal.org

Columbia Legal Services' resources:

Columbia Legal Services (CLS) received money from the National Mortgage Settlement to represent homeowners in preventing foreclosures or ameliorating the effects of the foreclosure crisis. This money was sufficient for CLS to ramp up a foreclosure project with 3 full-time attorneys for a 4 year period. During the first 2 years of the grant, CLS concentrated on those issues that would benefit the most homeowners by focusing on systemic litigation to enhance protections in the Deed of Trust Act and the 2011 Foreclosure Fairness Act. In late June, CLS argued two foreclosure cases in the Washington Supreme Court. A win in these cases will benefit thousands of Washington homeowners.

Foreclosure numbers are dropping; however, the impacts will reverberate for years, if not decades. The loss of equity, the loss of a home, and community are immeasurable. Communities of color were, of course, hardest hit during the foreclosure crisis. **Pierce County/Tacoma was "ground zero" for foreclosures in Washington.** CLS's funds to do this work, while restricted to foreclosure-like issues, can also be used to investigate and litigate issues relating to credit, lending practices, and other situations relating to the foreclosure crisis. Tenants affected by the foreclosure crisis could also be assisted. For example, one issue of interest in is whether those homeowners who were foreclosed upon have had difficulty finding rentals, or have been unfairly excluded from the rental market due to an unlawful detainer on their tenant record.

Because CLS only recently concluded the two Supreme Court cases as well as two other class actions that have either settled or are about to be settled, it is on the lookout for significant cases, especially in the hardest hit areas. The most recent United States Supreme Court case regarding housing discrimination and disparate impact has also invigorated reasons to look for a potential case dealing with racial/economic justice implications in the foreclosure crisis. While some claims relating to predatory lending practices may now be barred by the statute of limitations, CLS is hearing on the national front that predatory products, loan modification scams, forensic audit scams, and other devices to exploit the most vulnerable are still going on.

CLS seeks to work with community members and leaders to understand what the foreclosure impacts have been in Tacoma and Pierce County, what people are now seeing, and how they think CLS can be helpful.

Link to a news article reporting that the Department of Justice is still finding racially discriminatory mortgage lending practices around the country: <http://www.nationalmortgagenews.com/news/compliance/doj-cfpb-officials-warn-more-redlining-cases-on-way-1060564-1.html>

➔ **City of Tacoma: Access to Information on Paid Leave**

Whether you're an employer or a worker, the City's goal is to provide easy and efficient access to the information you need on Paid Leave. To help forward this goal, the Paid Leave webpage got a major makeover over the last week. The intuitive new layout is intended to help you jump quickly from the [Paid Leave Webpage](#) to the most helpful and

relevant information for you. While existing tools like the [Premium Pay Program Application](#) are now easier to locate, new tools and information have also been added to the website:

- Paid Leave [Quick Reference Guide](#): An index of Paid Leave topics and where they can be found within the Ordinance and the Rules.
- An [Online Inquiry Form](#): Submit requests for training, paid leave questions, or reports of violations 24/7.
- Translated [Workplace Notices](#): Information is now available for those who speak Cambodian, Korean, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

TRAINING & PRESENTATIONS OFFERED

We aren't relying on just the website to get the word out about paid leave. Presentations and trainings are being scheduled now. Onsite presentations can be tailored to fit the needs of business associations, labor groups, community groups, workplaces, service providers, human resources teams, and others. You can schedule a presentation or training using the [Online Inquiry Form](#) or by calling (253) 591-5306. One-on-one support is available now to help employers with any questions they may have as they prepare to implement Paid Leave, and brochures, flyers, and other educational materials will be available this fall.

Contact Us: paidleave@cityoftacoma.org or (253) 591-5306

www.cityoftacoma.org/paidleave

→ Tacoma Mall Stakeholders

The City of Tacoma's Planning and Development Services Department is hosting a series of public events for the Tacoma Mall Neighborhood Subarea Plan. We hope to hear from you and to see you soon.

- Final presentation of concepts and scenarios: Thursday, Sept. 24, from 5:30 – 7 p.m.

For more information, visit tacomamallneighborhood.com or contact project staff Elliott Barnett at (253) 591-5389, Molly Harris at (253) 591-5383 or email tacmallneighborhood@cityoftacoma.org.

→ Partnership between Many Lights Foundation and THA

Many Lights is a mission-driven organization dedicated to building Hope Lights, a multigenerational neighborhood where children from foster and kinship care find forever families, adoptive and relative caregivers have access to services to help them raise their kids, and seniors live with meaning and purpose by giving back to youth and families. It is also a network of support for foster children, adoptive families, and seniors. This is great news and yet another milestone in our progress.

This innovative concept is based on a proven model and is established on the principle that a community of caring and connected individuals can heal and enrich each other's lives. Rather than relying solely on outside services, the community itself is part of the solution. Staff, volunteers, and social service partners help guide the community in forming healthy, supportive relationships.

Planned to encourage communication and community interaction, Hope Lights is a unique and cooperative multigenerational neighborhood with 40 affordable residences for adults over 55 years of age and 12 homes for kinship and those families adopting children from foster care. It will include a community center, counseling and tutoring spaces, library and computer rooms, plus gardens and play areas. Universal design principles and green building technologies are incorporated into all design.

Community events and programs will be focused in four main areas: education, recreation, arts and culture, and health and well-being.

→ EVENTS

MDC Annual Breakfast

September 29 Hotel Murano Bicentennial Pavilion

Doors open 7 am

Program begins at 7:30 am

Tickets are free

Bellwether Housing: Closer to Home Breakfast

Thursday, October 8 Grand Lobby at Benaroya Hall – Seattle

7:30 - 8:00 a.m. networking & registration

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. program

The suggested donation amount is \$200.

RSVP: To participate as a Table Captain (table seats 10) or to register for the event, please contact events@bellwetherhousing.org or 206-957-2700

Project Homeless Connect

October 28, 2015, Tacoma Armory

715 S 11th St. Tacoma, WA 98405

If any agency would like to attend the event they can visit www.pchomelessconnect.com to reserve a spot.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Alanna Rodgers, Director of Community Relations, alanna@soundoutreach.org - 253.593.2111

→ Statewide Homeownership Affinity Group at Housing Washington Conference

Spokane Convention Center

Tuesday October 6th 10:05am - 11:00am

Room 206D

Please feel free to share this meeting invitation with other homeownership folks!

Note:

We will not have time for any lengthy discussions - So this will be a briefing session. For those that are interested in having further discussions on any of the topics - there is a plan for follow up meetings at another time.

Karen Carlson-Bunce - Program Administrator - Homeownership Division

Washington State Housing Finance Commission

1000 2nd Ave #2700 Seattle, Wa 98104

206-287-4413 direct 1-800-767-4663

Karen.Carlson-Bunce@wshfc.org <<mailto:Karen.Carlson-Bunce@wshfc.org>>

→ TPC Health Department invitation to Community Partners

We welcome you to join us in this event to learn about health disparities in Pierce County and how your organization can help improve health outcomes. Come be a part of improving health in Pierce County! Please share this invitation with other partners who have a role in community and health.

WHAT: *Pierce County Community Action Summit on Health Transformation Disparities, Determinants, & Transforming Health*

WHEN: Wednesday, October 7th, 7:30AM-12:00PM

WHERE: Clover Park Technical College, McGavick Conference Center

WHY:

- Learn about the population's health in Pierce County
- Hear multiple perspectives on the challenges facing community health and our opportunities for transformation
- Join in conversations with diverse sectors on how we can collectively improve the health of Pierce County residents through innovative efforts
- Learn how to be a part of continued conversation and action, whether that be for individual organizations, sectors, related to issues of health equity or with the emerging Accountable Community of Health

To register please follow this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pierce-county-community-action-summit-on-health-transformation-disparities-determinants-and-registration-18544727780>

WHO should attend? Organizations involved in:

- Housing
- Education
- Transportation
- Food
- Healthcare
- Early Childhood
- Long-term Care
- Health Equity
- Strengthening Families
- Business
- Faith
- Economic Development
- Labor
- Community Health & Social Services
- Built Environment
- Philanthropy
- Public Safety

Event Contacts

Laura Johnson, MPH, Health Promotion Coordinator III- Administrative Services Division
Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department lajohnson@tpchd.org 253.677.5661

Craig Nolte, Regional Manager, Community Development
Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco craig.nolte@sf.frb.org 206.396.2192

Laurie Jinkins, Director of Organizational Initiatives
Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department ljinkins@tpchd.org 253.798.3518



Tacoma Armory
715 S 11th St. Tacoma, WA 98405
Wednesday, October 28, 2015
Doors open 9:00^{am} - 2:00^{pm}

FREE SERVICES AVAILABLE:



Health Insurance Enrollment, Medical, Dental, Wellness Exams,
Vaccines, Vision Resources



Access Point 4 Housing, Free Tax Preparation, Career
Building Services.



Community Resources, Haircuts, Veterans
Services, Benefit Enrollment



Lunch, Refreshments, Give-a-ways,
and much more!



WANT TO KNOW MORE?

alanna@southsoundoutreach.org - 253.593.2111
www.pchomelessconnect.com

➔ Budget Matters Policy Summit

December 9 conversation on how to advance racial equity in policymaking, *with keynote speaker Patrisse Cullors and a panel moderated by Celinda Lake*

Register: [#BudgetMatters2015](https://www.budgetmatters2015.org) Early Bird Online or Mail in Registration until 10-31

➔ Critical Time Intervention

If you are working with people who are transitioning into housing and the community, Critical Time Intervention (CTI) is proven to help. To learn more about CTI or if you are considering it as a model for your agency, join us for this unique online instructor led course and share your experience with t3's learning community. During the course, you will learn the principles of, evidence for, and phases of CTI. We will also discuss how to make community linkages and ways to bring CTI and/or CTI principles into your agency.

Course Dates: Thursdays, October 1-22, 2015

Click to Register

Time: 1:00-2:30 PM ET

Type: Live instructor Online

CE credit: 10 hours

To learn more about the course and the instructors, click http://us.thinkt3.com/courses-offerings/understanding-critical-time-intervention?utm_campaign=Fall+2015&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=22032500&hsenc=p2ANqtz-_2uSWvWJGpWOCXyhu2yWfKuvoWLOgYlzLN32gnaVST57kQ4SFPjdwvmvMUGFiiutPwrr68mK5p0AWrnASaOC0JthIA34A&hsmi=22032500

We look forward to meeting you online!

→ 2015 Homeless Point in Time Report – Pierce County



2015 Homeless Point
in Time Report.pdf

→ Get ready for the ‘silver tidal wave’

As the number of Americans 65+ increases exponentially, housing and services that meet their special needs are in high demand.

In this issue of NeighborWorks Works, we explore what the data show about senior housing trends, what nonprofits can do to help older Americans avoid institutionalization and one unique program that builds bridges across age groups.

By 2060,
there will be
about 98 million
persons age 65+,
more than twice their
number in 2013

→ Why Americans are spending more and more on rent

The affordable housing crisis many renters face today in the U.S. feels like a product of this particular moment. The homeownership rate has [tumbled since the housing bubble](#), pushing more and more people into rentals. Thanks to the recession, new construction hasn't kept pace with population growth. The weak economy has meanwhile made it hard for families to cover their rent.

Ready story:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonkblog/wp/2015/09/22/why-americans-are-spending-more-and-more-on-rent/>