



NEWS UPDATE 11-30-2015

→ Sound Transit to hold public meeting on Tacoma Link Expansion

Sound Transit will hold an open house on preliminary design plans for the expansion of Tacoma Link on Wednesday, **Dec. 2**, from 4:30- 7:30 p.m. at The Evergreen State College – Tacoma campus, 1210 6th Ave.

[Read More>>>](#)

→ Transportation news from PSRC

Tacoma voters approve two transportation measures Congratulations to Tacoma, whose [voters have approved](#) their first street improvements in 47 years! It was down to the wire for one piece of the package, which squeaked to approval by 22 votes. Tacoma voters join Seattle, Enumclaw and Community Transit in successfully passing transportation improvements in this past election.

People say the region is on the right track The election outcomes support what we're hearing from people across the region: transportation is the top priority and people generally see things in the region on the right track. Some work PSRC did with Forterra, King County and Amazon shows that when it comes to the quality of life in the region, [positives outweigh negatives 3 to 1](#). Fifty-two percent say their own community is headed in the right direction.

→ Senate Expected to Resume Negotiations on HUD Funding; December 11 Deadline Looms

After one day of debate on the Senate's FY 2016 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) appropriations bill, it was withdrawn on November 19 because of a controversial amendment relating to refugees that threatened to derail the passage of the bill. Congress must pass its appropriations bills or a new continuing resolution by December 11, when the current congressional resolution to fund all federal funded programs expires.

Negotiations between the House and Senate are underway on a new version of the bill. Although details of the negotiated bill have not yet been released, we understand that it will adhere to the higher spending caps, restore HOME Investment Partnerships Program funding to \$900 million, and provide an additional \$100 million for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) to restore funding levels to \$3 billion.

Now is the time to contact your representatives in the House and Senate and tell them how important HOME and CDBG are to your communities. Your advocacy efforts deserve credit but we must remain vigilant throughout the appropriations process.

→ Congress Considers Extending Low Income Housing Tax Credit, New Market Tax Credit

The House of Representatives, Senate and White House have begun negotiations on legislation to extend dozens of expired tax provisions, with the goal of passing a tax extenders bill by December 11. One of the main issues they are debating is whether and which tax extenders will be made permanent. Both provisions are critical to low-income families and communities, and have strong bipartisan support. Learn more about how you can support these programs in Enterprise's blog post. Now is the time to urge Congress to make minimum Low-Income Housing Tax Credit rates and the New Market Tax Credit permanent.

➔ HUD Adds New Component to Choice Neighborhoods Program

HUD is making up to \$10 million available to local communities through a new component of its Choice Neighborhoods program. Planning and action grants of up to \$2 million will help selected communities create locally driven plans to transform their struggling neighborhoods and implement early improvements. Until now, Choice Neighborhood planning grants could only be used to create a neighborhood transformation plan. Applications must be submitted through www.grants.gov by February 9.

➔ Proposed changes to Fair Housing Law

See below for a proposed amendment to federal fair housing regulations (taken from a CDBG memo to HUD staff). As a reminder, while the federal law has 7 protected classes, Tacoma's Fair Housing code exceeds the federal requirements and has the following 13 protected classes: Race, Color, Sex, Religion, Age, National Origin or Ancestry, Marital Status, Familial Status, Disability, Ancestry, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and honorably discharged Veteran/Military Status.

On October 21, HUD published proposed amendments to its fair housing regulations, intending to protect individuals who experience harassment in housing. The rule is available for public comment until December 21.

HUD proposes to amend its fair housing regulations to formalize standards for use in investigations and adjudications involving alleged harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status or disability under the Fair Housing Act. This proposed rule would define and provide illustrations of two types of harassment claims: (1) quid pro quo harassment, and (2) hostile environment harassment. Quid Pro Quo Harassment includes subjecting a person to an unwelcome request or demand and relating that to the person's housing. Hostile Environment Harassment includes subjecting a person to unwelcome conduct that is sufficiently severe or pervasive such that it interferes with or deprives the person the right to use and enjoy their home. The rule also clarifies the times when a housing provider can be held directly or vicariously liable under the Fair Housing Act for illegal harassment or other discriminatory housing practices. For more details about this rule, as well as instructions for submitting public comments, please visit <https://federalregister.gov/a/2015-26587>

➔ HUD SECRETARY ANNOUNCES NEW RULE MAKING PUBLIC HOUSING SMOKE-FREE

Proposed Rule Open for Public Comment for 60 Days [Jan 11, 2016]

WASHINGTON – Today, U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Julián Castro joined Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy in Alexandria, VA to announce a proposed rule to make the nation's public housing properties entirely smoke-free. HUD's proposed rule would require more than 3,100 public housing agencies (PHAs) across the country to implement smoke-free policies in their developments within 18 months of the final rule. [Read HUD's proposed rule.](#)

Under HUD's proposed rule, PHAs must implement a policy prohibiting lit tobacco products (cigarettes, cigars or pipes) in all living units, indoor common areas, administrative offices & all outdoor areas within 25 feet of housing & administrative office buildings. HUD is seeking public comment on this proposed rule for the next 60 days.

"We have a responsibility to protect public housing residents from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke, especially the elderly and children who suffer from asthma and other respiratory diseases," said HUD Secretary Julián Castro. "This proposed rule will help improve the health of more than 760,000 children and help public housing agencies save \$153 million every year in healthcare, repairs and preventable fires."

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), cigarette smoking kills 480,000 Americans

each year, making it the leading preventable cause of death in the United States. By reducing the public health risks associated with tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke, the proposed smoke-free rule will enhance the effectiveness of HUD's efforts to provide increased public health protection for residents of public housing. The rule will impact the more than 940,000 units that are currently smoke-free, including more than 500,000 units inhabited by elderly households.

"Everyone – no matter where they live – deserves a chance to grow up in a healthy, smoke-free home," said U.S. Surgeon General Vivek H. Murthy. "There is no safe level of secondhand smoke. So, when 58 million Americans – including 15 million children – are exposed to secondhand smoke, we have an obligation to act. That is what Secretary Castro is doing with this proposal."

Since 2009, HUD strongly encouraged Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) to adopt smoke-free policies in their buildings and common areas. During this time, more than 600 PHAs and tribally designated housing entities adopted smoke-free policies. Currently, there are nearly 1.2 million public housing units across the country. Through HUD's voluntary policy and local initiatives, more than 228,000 public housing units are already smoke-free. If finalized, the proposed smoke-free rule announced today would expand the impact to more 940,000 public housing units.

HUD's proposed smoke-free rule will also help reduce damage and maintenance costs associated with smoking. It is estimated that smoking causes over 100,000 fires each year, resulting in more than 500 death and close to half a billion dollars in direct property damage; additionally, smoking is the lead cause of fire related deaths in multifamily buildings. A 2014 CDC study estimated that prohibiting smoking in public housing would yield an annual cost savings of \$153 million, including \$94 million in secondhand smoke-related health care, \$43 million in renovation of smoking-permitted units, and \$16 million in smoking-related fire losses.

This proposed rule will be open for public comment for the next 60 days. Interested persons may submit comments electronically at www.regulations.gov. Comments may also be submitted by mail to the Regulations Divisions, Office of General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW, Room 10276, Washington, DC 20410.

→ HUD Pay for Success Permanent Supportive Housing Demonstration Grant

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=279652>

The purpose of the Department of Justice's (DOJ's) and Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) PFS Demonstration is to strengthen communities' ability to prevent and end homelessness and reduce avoidable incarceration by increasing the provision of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), a proven evidenced-based practice. The PFS Demonstration is an opportunity to equip communities with a new financing mechanism for funding PSH projects that will prevent returns to homelessness and reduce recidivism among the reentry population. The PFS Demonstration is also a valuable opportunity to test ways of achieving greater cost efficiency effectiveness in providing homelessness assistance while expanding communities' access to available funding for PSH.

Closing Date for Applications: Feb 12, 2016 Electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 11:59:59 pm ET, [8:59:59 pm PST] on the listed application due date.

→ Education of Homeless Children and Youth



MV powerpoint for
Pierce County.ppt

Washington State Requirements and Guidance for Education of Homeless Children and Youth

The McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth Assistance Act is a federal law that ensures immediate enrollment and educational stability for homeless children and youth. McKinney-Vento provides federal funding to states for the purpose of supporting district programs that serve homeless students.

Defining Homeless The [McKinney-Vento Act](#) defines homeless children as "individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence." The act provides examples of children who would fall under this definition:

- Children and youth sharing housing due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason
- Children and youth living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camp grounds due to lack of alternative accommodations
- Children and youth living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Children and youth abandoned in hospitals
- Children and youth awaiting foster care placement
- Children and youth whose primary nighttime residence is not ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation (e.g. park benches, etc)
- Children and youth living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations
- Migratory children and youth living in any of the above situations

Awaiting Foster Care Placement The McKinney-Vento Act draws a distinction between children & youth who are "in" foster care, & those who are "awaiting" foster care. Washington state defines "awaiting" foster care as the period of time between the initial placement of the child into state care & the 30-day shelter care hearing.

[OSPI Memorandum March 13, 2012: McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act and Awaiting Foster Care](#)

Enrollment and Transportation The McKinney-Vento Act requires schools to enroll homeless children and youth immediately, even if they lack normally required documents, such as immunization records or proof of residence. The act ensures that homeless children and youth have transportation to and from their school of origin if it is in the child's or youth's best interest. See WSSDA (Policy No. 3115) for more information.

Washington's Role The McKinney-Vento Act provides grant funding to states and, in return, states are bound by the terms of the act. Washington receives approximately \$950,000 in funding each year from the U.S. Department of Education to support the education of homeless students in school programs. This is the only money specifically designated for serving the educational needs of homeless students in Washington. OSPI, as the state educational agency, designates a statewide Education of Homeless Children and Youth Coordinator to review policies and create procedures, including dispute resolution procedures, to ensure that homeless children and youth are able to attend school.

School District Responsibilities Local school districts must designate a [homeless liaison](#) to ensure that homeless children and youth are identified and served. The liaison must [provide public notice](#) to homeless families (in the community and at school), and facilitate access to school services including transportation. School districts are also required to track their homeless students and report that data annually to OSPI.

For more information:

- [McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act](#)
- [All 50 State Coordinators](#)
- [Resources for Educators](#)
- [Issue Briefs](#)
- [National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth \(NAEHCY\)](#)
- [National Center for Homeless Education \(NCHE\)](#)
- [OSPI Title I Website](#)

➔ **Report on Project Homeless Connect**

On October 28th, 786 homeless individuals lined up outside the Tacoma Armory, seeking help and support at Project Homeless Connect. Some of the participants had been waiting in line all night long. As the Salvation Army truck pulled up to the curb side to provide warm coffee, snacks and breakfast to those who waited, this would be, for some, one of two meals we provided at the event that day. At 9:00am, the doors opened, and 100 volunteers and over 60 agencies waited to greet and serve each person with love, kindness and a smile.

Imagine being homeless and not knowing where to find support. Project Homeless Connect gives individuals a starting place on their journey back to stability. Access Point 4 housing, our county's centralized response for connecting homeless people to a place to live, screened 60 families for housing. Mental health and domestic violence counselors were there to answer questions and concerns that attendees had. Those without health insurance were signed up for Medicaid on the spot. After signing up, they could meet with five insurance carriers about their health care needs right then and there.

Over 210 people walked away with new haircuts provided by local barber students from BJ's Barber School. All participants accessed giveaways ranging from socks, shoes, and a jacket to good books for their enjoyment or for their children. Many homeless people need photo ID to connect to essential supports and benefits or drive to interviews, but they cannot afford the expense. The event provided more than \$2,000 in new ID's so people can now access resources.

Each of our 60+ providers is important to those that enter looking for services, but there is one incredible service at each event that provides immediate relief for attendees, and big smiles. Volunteer dentists, Pierce

County's dental van, and dental students from local colleges arrived at the event first and were the last to leave. These providers donated more than \$60,000.00 in dental services to those in need, but to people who received free dental work, PHC showed that "a smile is worth a million bucks" when it means pain relief and a fresh start.

What a difference one day can make. Project Homeless Connect is more than an event. PHC is a helping hand made up of partners, volunteers, funders, for the people in our community who need help the most.

Sound Outreach would like to thank the Gary E. Milgard Foundation, Pierce County Community Connections, The Employees Community Fund of Boeing Puget Sound, and all of our generous supporters who make this event possible. A special thank you goes to all of our volunteers and more than 60 community partners who provide so many essential services in one place, four times each year.

Our next Project Homeless Connect event is on Saturday, December 5. We will be in Lakewood for the first time, and are expecting hundreds of attendees. This special Christmas-themed event will feature stockings, toys, photos with Santa, and more. We are seeking toy donations, holiday wrapping paper, stockings, stocking stuffers, and donations for photo supplies to make it truly special for homeless families.

VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION

Questions? Email alanna@soundoutreach.org

In kind donations can be dropped off at: 1106 Martin Luther King Jr Way, Tacoma, WA 98405

➔ Pierce County Affordable Housing Preservation & Development Notice of Funds Available

Application Deadline Friday, December 4, 4:30 pm

www.piercecountywa.org/ccNOFA

➔ Habitat for Humanity update

Case Managers: If you have clients in Pierce County who may be interested in homeownership program, contact our office 253.627.5626. x115



Opportunity flyer-11.2015.pub



Swan Creek Lane Flyer 2-11.2015.pub



The Woods at Golden Given Flyer-11.2015.p

➔ News from Safe Streets

We will be holding a Safe Streets Academy this fall where inspired neighborhood leaders will be working with Safe Streets and University of Washington's School of Urban Studies with important geographic information data (GIS) in order to understand the resources and gaps that exist in their neighborhoods...[read more on our blog!](#)

➔ Help folks looking for Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets

Christmas food:

<http://www.resourcehouse.com/win211/Pierce/topics/PH-2950.1500/programs.aspx>

Holiday gifts/toys:

<http://www.resourcehouse.com/win211/Pierce/topics/PH-2950.3200/programs.aspx>

→ Building Changes Health Series

New brief highlights [changes related to health reform in Washington State](#) that housing and homeless providers should know about. Which housing and employment benefits are covered under the state's Medicaid waiver application? How will upcoming changes impact mental health and substance abuse treatment?

Building Changes just released a new brief in our health series, *Connecting the Dots Between Housing, Homelessness, and Health Care*. It's a roundup of several key issues related to health reform that housing providers should know about. Here's the link:

http://www.buildingchanges.org/images/documents/library/2015_HealthcareBrief_HealthReformRoundup.pdf

→ Events

Special Grant Training Opportunity!

SOUTH SOUND FUNDERS FORUM – DECEMBER 4

The 5th annual South Sound Funders Forum will be December 4, 8:00 – 11:30 AM, at the University of Puget Sound. Sponsored by the Puget Sound Grantwriters Association (PSGA), this event is an opportunity to learn about local foundations and funding organizations and how to apply for their grants. The cost is \$65 for non PSGA members, and includes breakfast. For more information and to register, go to www.grantwriters.org/events or contact PSGA at (206) 209-5274 or psga@grantwriters.org.

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](#)

2016 Housing & Homelessness Day

February 2, 2016 in Olympia

→ Income inequality may make the wealthy give less, researchers find



(Juan Barreto/Getty Images)

Wealthy people living in states with high levels of economic inequality tend to give less than those with moderate incomes, according to a recent study by researchers at the University of Toronto and Stanford University. The study found income inequality can result in "the belief that one is more important and deserving than others," said its authors. Center for the Study of Inequality Director Kim Weeden said that if greater inequality makes people less generous, philanthropists need to develop a system for giving that doesn't rely on altruism and generosity alone. [Bloomberg](#) (11-23)

→ Check out new TPCAHC website

Same address: www.tpcahc.org with new content and design.