

MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &
Community Services

DATE: November 17, 2025
TO: Human Services Commission Members
FROM: Andrew Ndayambaje, Human Services Planner
Parks & Community Services
SUBJECT: Shelter Services Panel Presentation

Background

Panelists will present on the work of their organizations in providing services to individuals experiencing homelessness in local shelters. They will also discuss current needs, service gaps, and emerging challenges in the region.

According to the 2025 Bellevue Human Services Needs Update, homelessness continues to rise across Washington State and the Puget Sound region. In King County, more than 16,800 individuals were counted in 2024 as living in shelters, vehicles, or outdoors. Overall homelessness has increased by 26%, and chronic homelessness has risen by 78% since 2022.

Representatives from the following organizations will serve as panelists for this discussion:

- Dietra Clayton, Managing Executive Director at The Sophia Way

[The Sophia Way - The Sophia Way](#) provides shelter, support services and pathways to safe and stable housing to single adult women.

- Paul Lwali, Executive Director at Friends of Youth

[Friends of Youth | East King County, Greater Seattle, Kirkland WA | Nonprofit](#)- offers emergency shelters, foster care, residential treatment, and youth and family counseling, along with job and education support for young people and youth.

- Jose Medrano, Shelters Senior Manager at Porchlight

[PorchLight – Journey from the Outside In](#)-provides shelter, housing, and supportive services to men experiencing homelessness

- Veronica Rojas-Valdez, Division Director at Archdiocesan Housing Authority-Coordinated Care Agency

[New Bethlehem Programs | Catholic Community Services of Western Washington](#)-offers day center and shelter services for families experiencing homelessness