

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



OUR MISSION

Council for the Homeless is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide community leadership, compelling advocacy, and practical solutions to **prevent and end homelessness** in Clark County, Washington.



From the Chief Executive Officer

Looking back on 2024, it's hard to believe how quickly 2025 arrived — and with it, so much uncertainty. Many conversations I've had

recently with leaders and partners focused on how we'll survive the turmoil of funding cuts that impact the nonprofit sector across Clark County, WA. Some people are scared; others are confused, but all of us are uncertain about what the future holds. Despite it all, I remain hopeful. Our incredible staff, board of directors, and partners made real progress last year. I'm excited to share two highlights that mean a great deal to me.

Our new home

In April 2024, Council for the Homeless purchased a building that has become the new office for our staff and services. We have always operated out of multiple locations, which was difficult for the people we serve. Our new location allows us to assist the community more effectively.

A clear direction

Our board of directors updated the agency's strategic plan, identifying four key priorities:

Engage the community: Provide data, analysis, and education opportunities to drive community engagement for impactful advocacy and effective solutions to homelessness.

Prevent evictions: Combat homelessness by reducing evictions and ensuring individuals have access to housing that meets their specific needs.

Cultivate our people and culture: Ensure a healthy staff culture and well-trained workforce to maximize their impact with the people they serve.

Grow funding to meet the need: Secure and steward funding for the organization's growth and infrastructure to meet the increased demand for services.

Looking ahead

Council for the Homeless is committed to standing firm and showing up for our community. This includes the people who need our assistance, our culturally specific partner agencies, and our public and private partnerships. What does this look like for the coming year?

Telling more stories of impact: Thanks to a grant from the Murdock Trust, we will grow our capacity to share more stories of transformation, collaboration, and all that is possible when the community works together to end homelessness.

Hiring and equipping staff to lead important work: We look forward to filling key positions to lead our work on family homelessness, eviction prevention, and writing the next Homeless Action Plan for our community.

Hope and optimism for the future

Council for the Homeless and our community have demonstrated many times that we are resilient and responsible. Homelessness is complex, and we'll keep adapting, innovating, and collaborating so people get what they need to move forward. To be completely transparent, our most vulnerable neighbors are under attack. I worry deeply for Black and BIPOC communities, women, children, LGBTQIA+ folks, immigrants, seniors, and our undocumented community. People often ask, "What are you going to do?" For a while, my honest answer was, "I don't know." That uncertainty didn't sit well with me. Recently, we received the gift of reflection, and with it came clarity. We will not give up. We will show up for what is right, for justice, and for our community. There is a growing momentum of spirit and with your support, together we will find solutions to homelessness and build a future where homelessness is no longer a barrier to opportunity.

Peace and gratitude,


Sesany Fennie-Jones

Council for the Homeless fills a unique role in the community. We directly assist people in need of a safe and stable home, and we lead and support a community of service providers and stakeholders who together make up the Homeless Response System serving people countywide. Our work benefits the entire community by educating people about solutions to homelessness and ways to engage in creating a livable community.

Helping People

- 317 people living in tents, encampments, cars, trailers without running water were moved into stable housing.
- 80 households entered a Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program in 2024.
- Of the people entering a PSH program in 2023, 88% have remained successfully housed for one year.
- 212 households ended their homelessness and secured a new home through CFTH coaching and one-time financial assistance known as Diversion.
- CFTH provided 967 motel vouchers to help households in need of urgent protection from severe weather, assistance fleeing domestic violence and help in critical situations.
- The Housing Hotline received over 60,000 calls in 2024 from people needing shelter, housing assistance, and resource navigation.



- Supported HomeShare Clark County in launching their program connecting elderly people to renters with space bedrooms.
- Facilitated workgroups with our partners to gather real-time data and collaborate to reduce Veteran, youth, and chronic homelessness.
- Managed a shared response to severe winter and summer weather. Fifteen partner organizations collaborated to provide winter day shelter and overnight shelter to 717 people. Partners also placed four hot weather misting stations countywide, and collected and distributed emergency supplies to people exposed to the elements.

Helping the Community



- CFTH was a subject matter expert in the media 36 times speaking to topics including affordable housing and stability, homeless outreach and supportive services, as well as shelter capacity, winter preparedness, and severe weather alerts.
- Accompanied community members journeying to Olympia to advocate for rent stabilization as part of Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Day 2024
- Published the 2023 Homeless System Number Report, delivering a full year of data on services, client demographics, and dashboards illustrating program effectiveness.

Helping Providers

- Coordinated efforts among 8 outreach teams to cover more geography and leverage resources.
- Onboarded eight additional agencies to enter homeless services data into HMIS, increasing the total to 54.



From Living in Their Car to Finding Safety in a New Home

In Spring 2024, a family of three—single mom Nia and her two school-aged children—had been living in their vehicle for more than half a year, facing the daily challenges of life without stable housing.

“Living in our car was one of the most difficult experiences of my life,” Nia shared. “It was a constant balance between survival and trying to maintain some sense of normalcy for my children. There were nights I didn’t sleep at all, worried about our safety or where we’d park next. I tried to shield my kids from as much of the hardship as I could, but they knew.”

Despite the uncertainty, she stayed committed to her job and the routines that gave her children a sense of structure. “Every morning, I’d wake up extra early to find a place where we could wash up before dropping them off at school. Then, I’d go to work and pretend everything was okay, even when it wasn’t.”

Then she got a break: a pay raise at her job. That allowed her to explore other options and take action toward a better future for her family.

She contacted the Council for the Homeless, initially seeking advice, not immediate assistance. After being screened, she was connected with a housing specialist who offered one-time financial assistance and coaching. Nia’s family still faced significant barriers: no rental history and poor credit. But with support from the housing specialist, Nia worked diligently over the next couple of months to overcome these obstacles.

Then, another break. A private landlord stepped up and offered the family a two-bedroom home with little to no restrictions. The partnership with



the landlord was key to ensuring Nia’s family had access to housing despite their challenges. The housing specialist worked with the family and the landlord to finalize the details. Within days, the family moved into their new home.

“The day we got the keys...I cried,” she said. “It didn’t feel real at first. My kids ran

through the empty rooms, picking their spaces, laughing louder than I had heard in months. That broke me in the best way possible. We were finally safe. Finally, home.”

As 2024 ended, Nia and her family continued to maintain their housing independently. The support they received was not just about finding a home—it was about providing tools for long-term stability and independence.

“Our new home is more than just a roof over our heads—it’s a place where my kids can be kids again. They have space to breathe, to learn, to dream,” Nia said.

Today, Nia’s family is thriving. They remain in contact with their housing specialist, who continues to cheer them on in their journey.

“My children have changed since we moved in,” she said. “They smile more. They sleep better. They have friends over and talk about their futures. That’s the biggest gift of all—seeing hope come back into their eyes.”

The journey of Nia’s family highlights the power of collaboration, resilience, and the belief that, with the right support, families can overcome the toughest obstacles to achieve stability.

“ The day we got the keys, I cried.
We were finally safe, finally, home. ”

— Nia

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

John Kendrick, President
Louise Nieto, Vice President
Beth Cook, Secretary
Ralph Parker, Treasurer

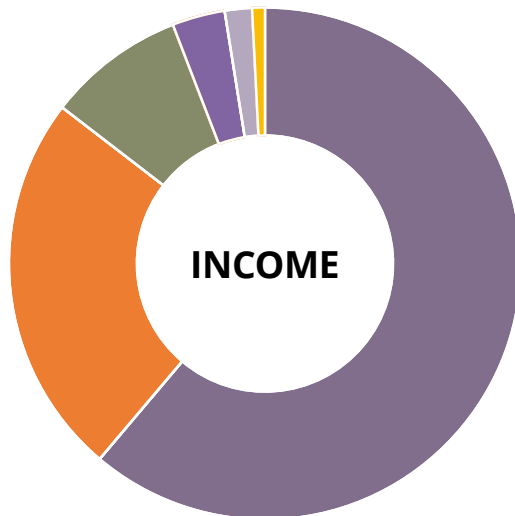
MEMBERS

Dorothy Chongkit
Chris Gibbons
Matthew Parsons
Chery Pfaff
Beryl Robison
Rep. Monica Stonier

2024 EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

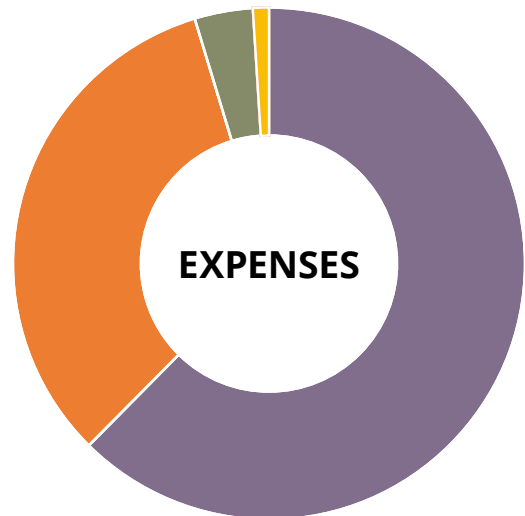
Sesany Fennie-Jones
Chief Executive Director
Sunny Wonder
Chief Operating Officer
Charlene Welch
Chief Advancement Officer
Dale Whitley
Chief Systems Officer
Beth Oliver
Interim Chief Financial Officer

2024 FINANCIALS



INCOME BASED ON ACTUALS

61%	Public Grants	\$6,131,852
24%	Foundations	\$2,432,267
9%	Individuals	\$872,107
3%	Investment Income	\$334,186
2%	Other Income	\$172,161
1%	In kind	\$80,758
Total income		\$10,023,331



EXPENSES BASED ON ACTUALS

62%	Client Assistance	\$5,072,188
33%	Facility & Administration	\$2,672,494
4%	Leadership, Equity, Advocacy	\$298,902
1%	Other Expenses	\$81,745
Total expenses		\$8,125,329

These 2024 finance details are unaudited.