

# Community Input

## Longview-Kelso Consolidated Housing & Community Development Plan 2014-2018

A series of focus groups was conducted in January 2014 with area agencies to determine community needs around the topics of housing, homeless, and economic independence. These results are tabulated below under “Agency Input”. Three community input meetings held during February 2014 to gather citizen input into housing and community development needs in Longview and Kelso. These are summarized below.

### **1. What are the housing needs in our communities and neighborhoods?**

- Emergency shelter & transitional housing for homeless persons
- Affordable rental housing
- Fair housing education
- Rental assistance
- Security deposits
- Housing for people with disabilities
- Senior Housing
- Cottage housing for appropriate groups, e.g. seniors, special needs, ethnic preference, work/live units
- Homeowner maintenance program
- Down payment/closing cost assistance
- Weatherization improvements

### **2. What are the needs for public facilities in our communities?**

#### Highlands:

- Emergency Shelters & Transitional Housing – Highlands
- Neighborhood-based Health Clinic – Highlands
- Archie Anderson Park – Community Center

#### Community-wide:

- Emergency Shelters and transitional housing for homeless
- Covered basketball areas
- Restrooms with showers in parks

#### Kelso:

- Emergency Shelters for homeless

#### Agency Input:

- Community House - new community space
- Youth shelter
- Emergency Shelters Highlands Community Center – community building

- Habitat for Humanity location in Kelso

### **3. What are the needs for public improvements in our communities?**

#### Highlands:

- Street lighting throughout the neighborhood
- Sidewalk repair

#### Community-wide:

- Trails along dikes

#### Kelso:

- Crosswalk markings
- Community center – multi-purpose
- Sidewalk repairs

#### Agency Input:

##### Longview

- Water, sewer and sidewalk improvements along California Way and Industrial Way area
- County fairgrounds improvements (parking area) consistent with Fairgrounds Master Plan
- Parking along Civic Circle
- Downtown Longview streetscape projects - using arts as economic development tool
- Façade Improvement program
- Infrastructure for bicyclists and complete streets, citywide

##### Kelso

- Sidewalks, curbs and gutters in Kelso's residential areas
- Replacement of Kelso's aging water and sewer infrastructure
- Roadway improvements in Kelso
- Restroom facilities in downtown Kelso
- Senior center
- Community Center/central meeting place
- Curb cutouts for accessibility
- West Kelso area improvements
- South Kelso revitalization
- Façade Improvement Program for downtown

### **4. What are the needs for public services in our communities?**

#### Highlands Community Input:

- Mental health & addiction treatment
- After-school programs
- Job training & readiness programs

Community-wide:

- Mental health & addiction treatment
- Affordable childcare
- Transportation services
- Job readiness training
- Information coordination/dissemination to those who need it

Kelso:

- Mental health & addiction treatment
- Affordable childcare
- Job training

Agency Input:

- Increased public transit
- Assistance with housing search, mediation, communication between tenant and landlords
- Case management
- Food deserts for seniors, lack of neighborhood markets and transportation to markets
- Services to assist businesses for low cost entry; i.e. farmers markets, pop up shops, food trucks; legal infrastructure; land use capability
- Mentoring infrastructure
- Seniors- coordination of services between senior services, meal services, Project Read computer literacy for seniors, RSVP/SCORE- marketing of services
- Money Start curriculum for Older Adults/Vulnerable Adults
- Frail elderly- Additional support/respite for caregivers
- Caregiving to persons with disabilities (mental, physical, developmental, HIV/AIDS)
- Behavioral health services (mental health and addiction)