



## Approach to encampments

The Community Work Group found encampments to be the hardest issue. During the process, community members expressed deeply held values and beliefs about how these should be approached, and agreement was hard to come by.

Ultimately the Work Group agreed the goal is that people should not have to live outside because there should be safer options and because encampments are not a long-term solution for Olympia due to their overall impact on the community. The Work Group identified four strategies that work toward this goal:

### 1.3: Expand temporary shelter or other supported site capacity to transition people out of encampments

This is recognizing that although the ultimate goal is to connect people to permanent housing solutions, housing will not come on-line fast enough to meet the need. In the short and mid-term more regional shelter options are needed. There is widespread agreement among Olympians that additional shelter should not be located in Downtown, and they would like to see other locations within the county considered.

### 1.4: Provide interim oversight and support for existing encampments

This is recognizing that encampments are not going to disappear overnight, meanwhile there are people suffering in camps and they should not be ignored. Impact of camps on the environment and surrounding neighborhood should also be addressed. The Work Group agreed the most important aspect of support is expanding the ability of trauma informed outreach workers to build relationships and try to connect campers to services. Other types of potential support, like garbage and porta-potties, were brought up. The City has more work to do to identify what appropriate stewardship and support from the City looks like.

### 1.5: Follow a fair and orderly process for removing encampments

This is recognizing that some camps will need to be removed. In doing so, the City should be transparent about why, when and how this will be done. Steps should be taken to minimize re-traumatization during camp removal.

### 3.4: Prevent and remove new encampments before they establish.

This is recognizing there are many strategies in this plan that reflect the public's support for investing in housing and services to help people experiencing homelessness. At the same time the Work Group heard the public is feeling overwhelmed. There are questions about how much Olympia as a small community can do, and desire for other jurisdictions to stand up because Olympia can't take it all on alone. Olympians want to see public property managed for its intended use, and assistance for private property owners with encampment activity.

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