



Washington County

Encampment Management Program



Washington County Encampment Management Program



- **Response to rise of encampments** in Washington County
- **One-year program** to improve encampment management and coordinate across jurisdictional boundaries
- **Ensure health and safety** for campers and surrounding community
- Align with **CDC COVID-19 guidance**:
 - If individual housing not available, allow shelter in place
 - Encourage social/physical distancing
 - Improve sanitation in encampments
 - Provide portable toilets if needed
- Align with **Martin v. Boise** ruling
 - Cannot enforce no camping laws without enough shelter beds
 - Washington County lacks shelter capacity



Program Elements



- **Centralized point of contact**
- **Periodic scored assessments** of health and safety risks
- **Sanitation and waste management**
- **Regular meetings** between participating agencies
- **Dedicated Sheriff's Office outreach (HOPE) deputy**
- **Incorporates trauma informed care considerations**



How it Works



- Encampment report received
- Field assessment team and outreach providers notified
- Risk assessment completed
- Recommendation made based on assessed risk score
 - Under 50
 - Recommendation to support with sanitation, hygiene and waste removal. Reassess at regular intervals.
 - Between 50 and 75
 - Provide two-week grace period and reassess.
 - Over 75, or over 50 after grace period
 - Recommendation to remove and clean encampment.
- Monitor and assess regularly (goal of every two weeks)



Risk Assessment Criteria



Criteria	Weight	Scoring Rubric
Reported Crimes	20	Scored by Sheriff's Office staff based on reported crimes at encampment and severity of said crimes.
Seasonal Risks	15	Based on seasonal risk factors including fire risks in summer and flooding risks in winter.
Nuisance Impacts	15	Based on amount of trash and debris at encampment and whether it is contained to bags.
Environmental Impact	15	Based on impacts to natural areas, waterways, and remediation requirements.
Conspicuous Drug Use/Paraphernalia	10	Based on presence of conspicuous drug use, namely uncontained needles.
Size of Camp	10	Based on number of structures (tents, tarp structures, cars, RVs) present.
Restricts ADA Access	5	Based on whether ADA access is blocked by encampment.
Blocking Access	5	Based on whether access or use of site is blocked by encampment.
Limits Maintenance	5	Based on whether maintenance activities are limited by encampment.



Risk Assessment Criteria Update



- **Opportunity to update risk assessment criteria**
- **Some considerations:**
 - Objective and observable
 - Differences between encampments in green spaces vs. urban settings
 - Acknowledge inability to remove/manage individuals
 - Focus on healthy and safe conditions on publicly owned/managed property
- **Some opportunities:**
 - Learn from outreach provider experience
 - Incorporate camper feedback and input
 - Improve collaboration and transparency



Questions



Josh Legere

Encampment Management
Program Coordinator

Josh_Legere@co.washington.or.us