

# TOOELE LOCAL HOMELESS COUNCIL

## UNIQUE ISSUES, LOCAL GOALS/AREAS OF FOCUS

Chair: Ed Hansen

Co-Chair: Christy Johnson

Chair Designee: Christy Johnson



Tooele LHC is still experiencing growing pains. I am pleased to report that Tooele County Human Services Department has been very involved in our LHC and with our strategic plan. Our LHC will be presenting our plan to county council for their approval and support. This is a huge step in education and engagement of elected officials. In the past getting buy in from elected officials has been a struggle. Their involvement with our LHC has been minimal. Members of our LHC have invited elected officials to attend our meetings, tour homeless service providers operations and they don't even have the courtesy to respond to invites. The message they send by not responding is that they simply don't care or value the importance of the LHC.

### UNIQUE ISSUES

- The implementation of the first year of codified Code Blue alerts and shelters
- A massive increase in family homelessness, especially with new American and asylum seeking families
- The lack of affordable housing is keeping people homeless longer and leading to an increase in first time homelessness

### LOCAL GOALS AND AREAS OF FOCUS

- Filling the operational funding gap in the core services in our LHC, especially the Homeless Resource Centers
  - The proposal included in the Gov.'s 2024 budget will help fill the gap on a 3 year grant term is a huge success for the LHC
- Annual Winter Response planning for our County
  - More beds than ever have been brought online this year, but the LHC would like to not have to ramp up and ramp down each year
- Finding and building housing solutions for unique needs populations
  - The creation of the Medically Vulnerable Populations housing program and the Richmond Flats affordable housing project

### COC ALIGNMENT/INVOLVEMENT

The Co-Chair serves as the secretary for the Balance of State.

**BALANCE OF STATE CONTINUUM OF CARE**