

**Snohomish County****Human Services**

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**MEMORANDUM**

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Date: April 29, 2024

To: Jared Mead, Chair, Snohomish County Council

From: <sup>JA</sup> Jackie Anderson, Division Manager, Housing & Community Services

**Re: Final 2024 Annual Action Plan and Public Comment, ECAF #2024-0702**

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This memo is to transmit a public comment received on the Draft 2024 Annual Action Plan during the 30-day public review and comment period, to provide staff response and recommendation regarding the public comment, to explain changes from the draft plan, and to transmit the final plan.

Human Services Department staff have reviewed the comment and provided a response and recommendation for the comment for consideration, which is attached.

In summary, the comment expressed a need in the community to:

- Ask that a portion of the housing grants be set aside to assist with manufactured home lot rent, to keep seniors in their very modest homes instead forcing them to seek government housing.

The Final 2024 Annual Action Plan includes the following changes from the draft plan:

Edits were made to the narrative to summarize the comment received on the draft plan and response, to add responses to public comments received prior to the 30-day comment period, to make minor language edits, to add addition HOME Program Income, and to correct any grammatical or typographical errors.

The expected resources available for the draft and final 2024 Action Plan are estimated HOME, CDBG and ESG allocations. HUD will not accept an Action Plan with estimated funding. Actual funding awards will not be known until after federal appropriations are made. If actual allocations exceed, or are less than, the estimated allocations, approved estimated funding awards for projects will be increased or reduced, in accordance with the PAB recommendations to the County Council. Details of the PAB recommendations are listed in the 2024 Action Plan in AP-15: Expected Resources beginning on page 48.

Attachments: Final Public Comment  
Final 2024 Annual Action Plan (one final copy and one redlined copy)

cc: Lacy Harper, Executive Director, with Attachment (one redlined copy)  
Mary Jane Brell Vujovic, Director, HSD, with Attachment (one redlined copy)

## Final Public Comment

### 2024 Annual Action Plan

**30 Day Public Comment Period - March 26, 2024, through April 25, 2024**

Resident Comment	HSD Response
<p>Gerardine &amp; Joachim Yakovleff</p> <p>I read in the newspaper that comments were being accepted for draft plans to use a block grant for affordable housing and community development. I want to offer my comment and request.</p> <p>As the Snohomish County community seeks to spend millions of dollars building new affordable housing for Seniors and other fixed income residents – these same residents are rapidly being priced out of the last model of affordable housing designed for them – mobile home parks. I am requesting that the committee consider setting aside a portion of the grants for assisting these residents with their lot rents in order for them to remain housed – as we are in serious danger of becoming homeless.</p> <p>Rapid and excessive rent increases have caused many working families to be spiraling into homelessness. So too have retired couples, even with sound financial planning to live on their savings and fixed income.</p> <p>We are a senior couple; my husband is a 100 percent disabled Vietnam Veteran with Agent Orange derived cancer. In 2022, we moved from Island County to</p> <p>Marysville, in Snohomish County, to be closer to our children and his medical services. Knowing my income would be greatly reduced when my husband</p>	<p>Snohomish County thanks Gerardine for her comments and recommendations.</p> <p>Snohomish County is aware of the struggles that homeowners in mobile home parks are experiencing with the continued increases in the cost of rents, especially for households living on fixed incomes, and is committed to working toward a solution.</p>

passed, we sought the most affordable housing for reduced income/fixed income seniors that we could find. We purchased a very modest manufactured home in a 55+ senior community, Glenwood Mobile Home Estates – where you lease the lot the mobile home is on.

In summer of 2022, when we first purchased our lot, the rent was \$657.00 per month plus utilities (@\$100 more). Calculating even a ten percent rent increase, we knew I could afford this housing on my own. In September 2022, we were informed that our lot rent would increase Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> not by ten percent – but to a gasping \$1175! Barely six months later we were again informed that the rent would increase to \$1275; and now we are notified it will increase again to \$1350.00. This amounts to more than a 200 percent rent increase in two years. While the government is seeking new avenues to affordable, the last bastion of affordable housing has been destroyed. Many of my neighbors in Glenwood are no longer able to afford their lot rents, they now seek government supplemented housing, food banks, and forgoing medical care, taking only life-saving medications. Again, I ask that a portion of the housing grants be set aside to assist with manufactured home lot rent, to keep seniors in their very modest homes instead forcing them to seek government housing.

It would also be a boon to have the government step-in to stop greedy, investment groups – a.k.a. landlords from pillaging mobile home parks in Washington State.