

Milestones	Description
	1983 - 2005
First federal task force on homelessness created	Due to an overwhelming demand from communities around the country that a national acknowledgement and response to the issue of homelessness be developed, the first federal task force on homelessness was created.
The HUD McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act passed	This Act was created to address the specific housing and supportive service needs of the country's homeless families and individuals. Communities are awarded funds competitively and require the development of a "Continuum of Care" system in the community where assistance is being sought. A continuum of care system is designed to address the critical problem of homelessness through a coordinated community-based process of identifying needs and building a system to address those needs.
HUD requires communities to submit a single application	US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) began to require communities to submit a single application for McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants in order to streamline the funding application process, encourage coordination of housing and service providers on a local level, and promote the development of Continuums of Care (CoCs).
HUD Awards Yakima County CoC SHP Dollars	Currently it is unknown when the original Yakima Continuum of Care Committee, the previous name of the Homeless Network of Yakima County, received funds, but it was awarded funds as early as 2000.
The first Ten-Year Plans	The National Alliance to End Homelessness released <i>A Plan, Not a Dream: How to End Homelessness in Ten Years</i> . Drawing on research and innovative programs from around the country, the plan outlined key strategies in addressing the issue locally, which cumulatively can address the issue nationally.
Affordable Housing for All surcharge created (SHB 2060)	Known as the 2060 Fee, this \$10 surcharge was to be used to provide housing and shelter, operations and maintenance for affordable housing programs serving extremely low-income people and related programs.
Yakima Continuum of Care Committee is expanded into the Homeless Network of Yakima County	Tim Sullivan of United Way of Yakima County, Steve Hill of Yakima County, Rhonda Hauff of Yakima Neighborhood Health Services, Beth Dannhardt of Triumph Treatment Services, and Bill Cobabe of the City of Yakima - Office of Neighborhood Development Services met to discuss their concerns about the lack of representation on the current committee and invited additional partners to the table. At a meeting on February 25, 2004, the Continuum adopted newly created membership guidelines, elected new co-chairs, created several committees, and approved a new name, the Homeless Network of Yakima County.
First Homeless Memorial	The first Homeless Memorial Vigil was held recognizing those who had died while being homeless. This event is now managed by Yakima Neighborhood Health Services since 2014.
	2006
Homelessness Housing and Assistance Act passes (HB 2163)	Known as 2163 Fee, this \$10 surcharge was to be used to support activities related to creating and implementing state and local plans to end homelessness with goal of reducing homelessness by 50% by 2015.
Local 10-Year Plan Adopted	The Homeless Network of Yakima County was among the first organizations in Washington State to produce a 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness and Reduce Overall Homelessness by 50%.
State 10-Year Plan Adopted	Soon after the development of the Ten-year Plan to End Homelessness in Yakima County, Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic

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	Development (now the Department of Commerce) published the Washington State Ten-Year Plan.
First Point in Time Count Conducted	Over 100 volunteers counted 1,200 individuals who were homeless in Yakima County. Note – this included couch surfers and those in Permanent Supportive Housing.
Yakima County Department of Human Services is awarded HUD McKinney Funds	Yakima County, as a Collaborative Applicant representing multiple agencies, submits an annual application to HUD that supports multiple ongoing projects. Yakima County, guided by the Homeless Network of Yakima County, applies to fund 5 existing and 2 new local projects which they are awarded.
County Commissioners appoint Network as Governing Body	With the approval of the Homelessness Housing and Assistance Act plus the release of funds associated with the Affordable Housing for All surcharge, the Board of County Commissioners appoints the Homeless Network of Yakima County to be the governing body of those funds (2163 and 2060). This body was staffed by the Yakima County Department of Human Services.
HMIS is Implemented	The county-wide Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is implemented for the first time.
First Extreme Weather Shelter	Funded with 2163 funds, the first extreme weather shelter opens in the City of Yakima.
Neighborhood Connections	The Homeless Network of Yakima County supports the opening of Neighborhood Connections – Health Care for the Homeless Medical/Dental Clinic
	2007
The first homeless resource center is opened	The 107 House, operated by La Casa Hogar, is opened to provide centralized resources for the City of Yakima’s homeless population. This is later transferred to Yakima Neighborhood Health Services.
Expansion of Point-in-Time	The Point-in-Time count is expanded to cover the entire County.
Noah’s Ark Opens	Generating Hope opens up the first Low-Barrier Emergency Shelter in Yakima County in Wapato.
	2008
Washington Families Fund	The first of many Washington Families Fund grant is awarded – the Homeless Network of Yakima County dedicates almost a million dollars over 10 years to match the grant amount with Network members who were a part of the grant providing another 1-1 match in housing and services.
Homeless Grant Assistance Program (HGAP) awarded	HGAP was first launched in 2006 to provide grants to Washington State counties for innovative projects that reduce homelessness and demonstrate systems change by integrating criminal justice, social service, health, and other state and local systems.
Yakima County Veteran’s Services starts	This program sought to provide basic information, referral, and advocacy so every returning Veteran and their family are provided with the support they need and deserve for their service to our county.
	2009
Rod’s House Opens	Born out of the Homeless Youth Committee of the Network, Rod’s House finally opens with an outpouring of support from local business and community members.

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American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) passes	The Act includes \$1.5 billion for a Homelessness Prevention Fund. Funding for this program is called the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP). The HPRP stimulus funding that was provided to Yakima County through the Washington State Department of Commerce was intended to provide both prevention and rapid re-housing to persons who are homeless or a risk of homelessness over a three-year period. The Network agreed to continue the HPRP service model with local filling fee revenue and expanded the program further in 2012 with the Washington State Consolidated Grant Program which incorporates the HPRP model.
Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transitions to Housing Act of 2009 (HEARTH Act) is in enacted	The HEARTH Act primarily amends Title IV of McKinney-Vento Act by consolidating the separate homeless assistance programs carried out under that title into a single program with specific eligible activities. It also codifies the continuum of care planning process as a required and integral local function necessary to generate the local strategies for ending homelessness. Most importantly, it establishes a federal goal of ensuring that individuals and families who become homeless return to permanent housing within 30 days. This Act goes into effect in 2012.
	2010
National 10-Year Plan Adopted	The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness published Opening Doors – Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness.
The Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) is funded	This program is funded by the HEARTH Act. The purpose of these funds is to provide homelessness prevention assistance to households who would otherwise become homeless and to aid rapidly re-house persons who are experiencing homelessness.
Homeless Hygiene Center Opens	Triumph Treatment Services opens the Homeless Hygiene Center to address the needs of the community.
	2011
The first Project Homeless Connect Event is held	After tours this evidence-based model around the state, The Homeless Network of Yakima County held the first event in conjunction with the 8th Annual Point in Time Survey, the first Project Homeless Connect event was held in Yakima. Project Homeless Connect is a national model used to by communities to remedy the homelessness of their neighbors by holding a one-day, one-stop event that links people experiencing homelessness with a broad range of needed services such as housing, employment, health care, dental care, mental health care, and benefits. PHC is not an information fair, but instead engages homeless people directly with services businesses, universities, and community volunteers the opportunity to be directly involved in helping individuals and families make significant steps towards ending their homelessness.
The Yakima County Housing Needs Assessment 2011 was completed	The Homeless Network of Yakima County Affordable Housing Committee was comprised of multiple service providers, housing developers, mental health housing organizations, and members of the community who were associated with the development, management, and access to affordable housing in the County. They assisted in determining gaps in the housing continuum of care and make recommendations to the Executive Committee on how to best close those gaps in relation to the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Yakima County.
The Yakima County Service Needs	The Homeless Network of Yakima County Self-Sufficiency Committee was comprised of multiple service providers and members of the community who were

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Assessment 2011 was completed	associated with addressing the need for prevention and services around the most basic of needs in Yakima County. The committee assisted in determining gaps in emergency services in the continuum of care and make recommendations to the Executive Committee on how to best close those gaps in relation to the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Yakima County.
Consolidated Homeless Grant Program formed with the passing of House Bill 2082	This bill terminated the Disability Lifeline Program and created the Consolidated Homeless Grant Program (CHG). The Yakima County Department of Human Services becomes the lead grantee and works with the Homeless Network of Yakima County to develop strategies that meet both the current needs and future needs of the County's homeless population.
Homeless Respite Program opens	Yakima Neighborhood Health opens the county's first Homeless Medical Respite program. The National Healthcare for the Homeless Council defines medical respite care as acute and post-acute medical care for homeless persons who are too ill or frail to recover from a physical illness or injury on the streets but are not ill enough to be in a hospital. Unlike "respite" for caregivers, "medical respite" is short-term residential care that allows homeless individuals the opportunity to rest in a safe environment while accessing medical care and other supportive services.
2012	
HEARTH Act goes into effect	The changes established by this Act impacted the Homeless Network organizational structure as well as the type of housing and services Yakima County can support with Federal HUD funds under the local Continuum of Care model. All current HUD McKinney projects will eventually fall under one grant and current and future providers will be able to expand their housing and services to provide both prevention and rapid re-housing support for more than just homeless individuals but also families and youth.
Local Ten-Year Plan replaced with 5-Year Plan	Due to the shifting landscape with the creation of Consolidated Homeless Grant Program, the changes dictated by the HEARTH Act, and the development of a National Ten-Year Plan, the Network decided to update the ten-year plan to better align with state and national initiatives.
Annual McKinney Application includes new strategies	The new Five-Year Plan documented the realignment of local strategies based on 5 years of implementation in the community and newly developed Federal and State strategies to end homelessness. It also included the newly required Written Standards dictated by the HEARTH Act and CoC Program interim rule that needed to be included in the annual application.
2013	
ALPHA Team Mobilizes	The Alpha Team (or A-Team) is a dedicated group of homeless or formerly homeless advocates and peer-mentors.
HMIS Data Quality Committee	The HMIS Data Quality Committee was reformed to review current HMIS data entry outcomes and make recommendations to improve data quality and set accountability standards. The committee analyzed performance data and made recommendations for improving outcomes at the Network and agency levels (Network used recommendations to develop strategies)
Affordable Housing Committee	In order to better align with the State and National Plans, the Homeless Network restructured adding an Affordable Housing Committee to address the looming housing crisis. Projects were funded with Network managed 2060 Funds and HOME dollars.
2014	

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Community Compassion Awards	Network holds the first annual Community Compassion Awards – the first year winners include: Toppenish Food Bank as one of the original sites for the PIT Count that started in 2006, Yakima Federal Savings and Loan was a financial sponsor of the Project Homeless Connect Event since the 1st event in 2009, Daniel Espinoza from Sunrise Outreach Center who was essential in keeping the soup and sandwich ministry going, and Elite Academy students and owner/operator Kim Aills who performed hundreds of haircuts at the PHC event each year.
The Depot Opens	107 House moved to the old Grey Hound station on Yakima Ave & 6th and is called “The Depot.” This program is now managed by Yakima Neighborhood Health Services. The new location provides more space to add services and staff and is only two blocks down from its original location.
Permanent Shelter Project	Much of this year was spent developing the multi-agency partnership to develop a Permanent Shelter with transitional housing options and on-site services in the model of Children’s Village. Towards the end the year, when close to purchasing the property, the Network was informed the proposed location in downtown Yakima was no longer viable for City or County support. Soon after the City of Yakima passed an emergency moratorium on shelters in specific zoning areas.
2015	
Relocation of Homeless and Housing Programs	In the Summer of 2015, the Yakima County Commissioners voted to move the housing and homeless programs to the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments.
Department of Human Services Closes	The Department of Human Services closes.
Anti-Camping Ordinance	The Yakima County 2012 Anti-Camping Ordinance is enforced resulting in sweeps along the river driving people into town. The begin to congregate on 6th Street and Chestnut.
HPPC is Created	After not convening the Network for most of the year, staff is pulled from the Homeless Network of Yakima County and the new administrator, YVCOG, creates a new regulatory Body – the Homeless Planning and Policy Council.
2016	
Community Support	With the removal of staff support from the Network – various agencies and community volunteers staffed the Homeless Network of Yakima and res-instated monthly meetings in September. The Network continues to meet without staff support and eventually retains a Pro Bono director.
2017	
Youth Coalition Forms	In response to the new Office of Runaway and Homeless Youth, the coalition formed to address issues related to minors and young adults. With the leadership of Representative Norm Johnson, the committee is working on removing barriers to housing underage youth.
Young Adult Extreme Winter Weather Shelter	Discussion around there no longer being an extreme weather shelter option for young adults prompted the Youth Coalition to begins development of an Extreme Winter Weather Shelter dedicated to serving young adults 18-24. The shelter opened 6 weeks later and was community funded and community managed.
Infrastructure Support from United Way of Central Washington	The United Way of Central Washington granted the Homeless Network of Yakima County a grant to assist with infrastructure support over the next two years.

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WHLIHA Legislative Forum	The Homeless Network of Yakima County hosted the Washington State Low-Income Housing Alliance to hold a Legislative Forum and listening session to ensure local issues are addressed on the state level.
2018	
We became an Anchor Community	The Youth Coalition in partnership with multiple members applied for and was selected by A Way Home Washington to be an Anchor Community – 1 of 4 in the state to work towards functional zero for youth and young adult homelessness.
Raised funds and recruited volunteers for the YAEWWS	With the assistance of Network members, raised the operating funds necessary for the Young Adult Extreme Winter Weather Shelter. The Network also identified, trained, and managed 54 volunteers who donated 2,253 hours to manage the shelter.
Opened our public office	Opened our first office space in partnership with OIC of Washington allowing for the storage of supplies related to the shelter and space for the director.
2019	
Shelter transferred to Rod's House	In year 2 of managing the shelter, we raised \$40,000 for operations and managed 112 volunteers providing 4,252 hours to the project. The Network transferred the Shelter to Rod's House to ensure we were not competing for funds for their new capital campaign to build a permanent shelter for youth and young adults.
Create a Donation Processing Center	Leveraged the warehouse space provided by OIC of Washington to create a donation processing center for the community. This project leveraged technology to track donations, keep a live inventory, and provide accountability to the donors. Case Managers were able to see current inventory and outfit newly housed clients and there ongoing operations. Until its closure due to COVID, the project collected and distributed 51,509 items to 27 providers and community members in need.
Our Community Collaboration Recognized	After responding to the Group Health Foundation call for presentations from those working to engage place- and identity-based communities to improve health and health equity. The Network was given an award for our involvement of the community – both the Homeless Community and members of the public, for the design of the YAEWWS.
2020	
COVID	In March of 2020, news of COVID-19 prompted the suspense of the Donation Processing Center since much was still being learned about how the virus was spread. This eventually led to the final distribution of remaining items and the closing of the office.
Assisted in COVID Response	Utilizing the processes developed for the Donation Processing Center, the Network partnered with United Way of Central Washington and the Yakima Valley Community Foundation is collecting and distributing 35,925 items to community partners including food, PPE, paper products and cleaning supplies.
Started the IRIS Program	With a grant from the Yakima Valley Community Foundation, created a three-year program to address barriers to housing for individuals with serious mental health needs. This program was later woven in with the Coordinated Entry meetings and handed off to Yakima County in 2022.
2021	
Organization Redesign	With the reinstatement of the Yakima County Department of Human Services in 2019, and the new Yakima County Homeless Coalition, the Network held a retreat to ensure there was no duplication of effort between the two organizations. This

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	included a focus on the strategies identified in our mission including Advocacy, Public Awareness, and Public Policy.
Identified our first Advocacy Project	After multiple planning meetings, research, and a survey of the community – the Advocacy Committee selected the Portland Loo as their first project – ensuring a public restroom for those who previously did not have access.
Engaged the Community and Supported Outreach Workers	While the Network no longer had a Warehouse space available, the Public Awareness Committee was able to have several smaller campaigns to collect supplies to be distributed by Outreach workers to those sleeping outside. To date this group has collected and distributed 13,821 items such as sleeping bags, handwarmers, bottled water, socks and more. This was made possible with partnerships with Yakima Valley Libraries, Starbucks, and the Yakima Herald Republic not to mention our very generous community.
	2022
JumpStart!	Thanks to a grant from the Yakima Valley Community Foundation, the Homeless Network of Yakima County became a Network for Good JumpStart participant to expand our ongoing sustainability and to fund the Portland Loo project.
Last year of PIT	2022 marked the last year the Network managed the Yakima County Point in Time Count which it had done since 2005 with the exception of two years when it was contracted out. Moving forward this project will be conducted solely by the Yakima County Department of Human Services.