

North Star Project Update

Sedro-Woolley City Council Meeting

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Introduction to North Star Project

- Joint effort between Skagit County and the cities of Burlington, Mount Vernon, Anacortes, and Sedro-Woolley to better align resources and services to address the complex behavioral health and homelessness challenges in our community.
 - Phase 1: Develop a shared North Star vision
 - Phase 2 (*currently underway*): Implementation of North Star framework, including governance, roles, and resources
- Guided by Guiding Principles and Vital Conditions using three interdependent tracks



Vital Conditions

Emphasis on
**Building
Belonging and
Civic Muscle**
to promote a
thriving, healthy
life for all.



Priority Populations

- Guiding Principle 8
 - *We will dedicate resources and funding to populations with the greatest need.*
- Chronically homeless *and* suffer from a disabling condition (substance use disorder, serious mental illness, complex medical problems, severe trauma)



2023 Project Work Plan Goals

- Implement a **care coordination platform** to improve efficiency of providers.
- Develop a shared, multi-year, **county-wide housing agenda** to increase the supply, quality, and diversity of housing.
 - Create a county-wide housing development pipeline.
 - Strengthen and leverage existing housing efforts.
 - Develop a shared housing plan.
 - Host a Housing Summit.
- Create an **action plan** to address gaps within behavioral health and recovery-oriented services.



2023 Project Work Plan

Processes

- Develop and mobilize a **Care Management Taskforce** to serve the priority population.
- Establish and implement a **policy and funding framework** across jurisdictions that align with North Star framework, priorities, and target population.
- Develop and launch a **county-wide well-being survey** to establish a baseline and plan for investing in areas and populations of greatest need.



Homeless Housing Funding NOFA

Annual process to select programs for funding

Sources:

- Document Recording Fee Revenue
- State Housing & Essential Needs (HEN)
- State Consolidated Homeless Grant (CHG)
- 1/10th Behavioral Health Sales Tax



Programs Funded through NOFA

Services Eligible for Funding

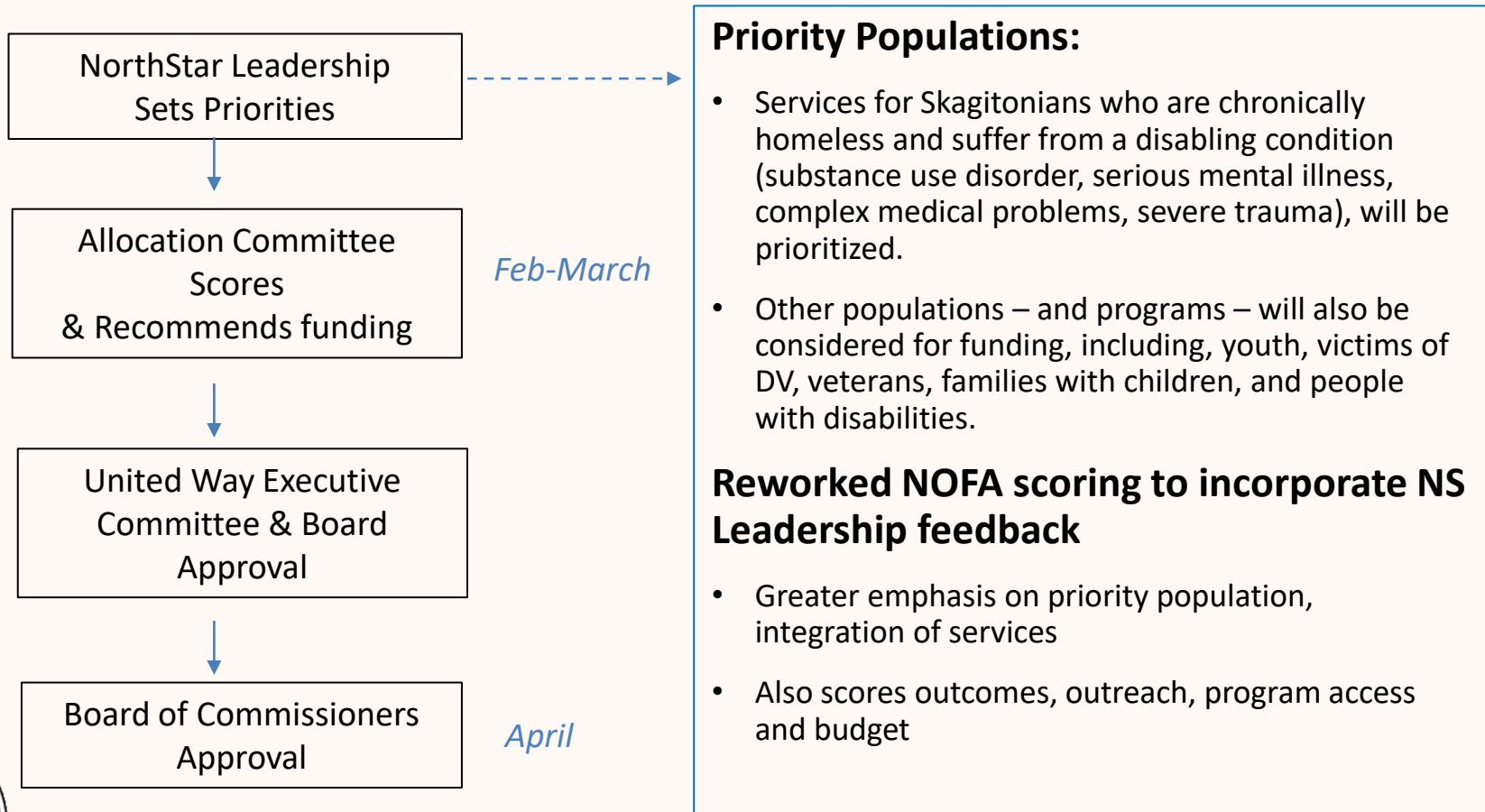
- Diversion
- Shelter
- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Rental Assistance
- Case Management
- Coordinated Entry & Assessment*

Agencies/Programs Currently Funded

- Community Action of Skagit County (5 categories)
- Family Promise
- Northwest Youth Services (2 categories)
- Anacortes Family Center
- Skagit DVSAS
- Housing Authority of Skagit County
- YMCA – Oasis
- Compass Health
- Samish Indian Nation



Funding Process & Prioritization



NOFA Funding Picture

Funding Source	Original 2022-23 budget	Revised 2022-23 budget	2023-2024 NOFA Budget
Local Document Recording Fees	\$1,439,800	\$839,800	\$648,000
Behavioral Health Sales Tax	\$93,000	\$93,000	\$93,000
CHG & HEN	\$1,044,465	\$1,044,465	\$792,708*
County ARPA	-	\$600,000	-
Total	\$2,577,265	\$2,577,265	\$1,533,708

Document recording fees down ~50% year-to-year; County BoCC approved ARPA to fill 2022-23 budget

*At urging of Leadership Group, Coordinated Entry will be bid separately; \$ pulled out of NOFA



Request to Collaborate on Funding

- Partner on collaborative NOFA funding: 40% of City 1590 funds (~\$100k/year) can be used provide housing services
- Other discussions with jurisdictions for 1590:
 - Skagit County: operating funds for Martha's Place PSH
 - Mount Vernon: Co-Response program & requested funding for Martha's Place
 - Burlington: not yet allocated
 - Anacortes: allocated to new projects via levy
- Other connections/collaboration with North Star:
 - Opioid Settlement
 - Development Pipeline Opportunities



Mechanics of Co-Funding

- **Option 1:** pool and allocate 1590 funding through County NOFA
- **Option 2:** collaborative funding where city directs funding and contracts with agencies



Thank you!

To stay up to date on the project, visit our dedicated North Star webpage here:

www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/Health/NorthStarProject.htm.

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