

# COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES



City of Lynden ~ Ordinance 1654

## HOMELESSNESS IN WASHINGTON STATE

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has reported that the State has seen a 6.2% rise in homelessness between 2019 and 2020.

The 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report indicated a 20% increase in family homelessness during this same time period.



## STATE ACTION ON HOMELESSNESS

As the issue of homelessness has risen to crisis levels in some communities, the State of Washington has responded on multiple fronts.

In May of 2021 House Bill 1220 (E2SHB 1220) was passed as a means of motivating cities to actively address support services for homelessness. Specifically, it prohibits municipalities from using zoning code to create barriers to the establishment of community residential facilities such as indoor emergency housing, transitional and permanent supportive housing.

Frequently used Terms:

### **Transitional Housing:**

A facility that provides temporary housing and supportive services to persons experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness for up to 24 months. Its purpose is to facilitate movement of such persons into independent living and permanent housing.

### **Emergency Housing (Indoor or Outdoor):**

Temporary indoor or outdoor accommodations for individuals or family who are currently homeless or displaced by natural disaster. Such facilities are intended to address basic health, food, clothing, and personal hygiene needs.

### **Permanent Supportive Housing:**

Subsidized housing that is leased with no limit on length of stay. It prioritizes people who need comprehensive support services to retain tenancy and utilities admissions practices designed to lower barriers to entry.

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*“A city shall not prohibit transitional housing or permanent supportive housing in any zones in which residential dwelling units or hotels are allowed.” -E2SHB 1220*

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**Questions? Contact Us**

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**OTHER FACILITIES ADDRESSED BY ORD 1654**

**Residential Reentry Facility:**

A type of Transitional Housing that provides temporary living accommodations for juveniles or adults exiting correctional facilities. These facilities are meant to provide housing until residents can move on to permanent housing.

**Group Home:**

A community-based, cooperative residential facility that typically serves five to twelve individual and may provide 24-hour support services. These facilities are a type of Permanent Supportive Housing.

**Adult Care Facilities:**

A residential home that provides special care, room, and board to 2 to 8 adults who need assistance with basic personal care. These facilities are regulated by the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services. They are a form of Permanent Supportive Housing.

**CITY OF LYNDEN REGULATIONS**

Ordinance 1654 proposes to create a framework by which the City has a better understanding of how many residential facilities are within the City and what sort of services they are offer to the community.

The City will be creating a registry of facilities so that the community and emergency services are aware of the presence and the potential for additional support services. Lynden will also be working with other cities in Whatcom County to understand the need and availability for supportive housing and associated services. The proposed Ordinance also proposes to maintain a 500 foot buffer around K-12 educational uses in the City and a 300 foot spacing between facilities.

**WHAT IS A HOUSEHOLD?**

In support of creative housing solutions as cooperative or boarding houses, the State has also prohibited cities from defining the character of a household, that is, how many unrelated adults were considered a “family”. Traditionally this number has been limited to 5 or 6 unrelated adults living in a single dwelling unit.

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**NEXT STEPS:**

**January – February 2023: State of Washington Department of Commerce Review**

**March 2023: City Council review and decision on Ordinance 1654**

**March 15, 2023: Expiration of interim zoning ordinance established by Ord 1661.**