

Snohomish County Executive
AARON REARDON



Priorities in Action



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday, May 14, 2010

www.snoco.org

 **Join Aaron Reardon for budget conversation**

This week, I hosted four “community conversations” to collect public input on 2011 budget priorities.

Monday, May 17, I will hold the fifth meeting of this series, 6-8 p.m. at the Snohomish County Campus, 3000 Rockefeller Ave. This round of meetings has taken us to each council district, including Arlington, Lynnwood, Mill Creek and Monroe.

Snohomish County must become leaner to manage a continued decrease in revenues, but our constituents should be the ones that lead the discussion as to what services should be protected, eliminated or essential to their quality of life.

Monday’s meeting will be similar to the first four, featuring a brief overview of the current financial crisis impacting Snohomish County followed by an opportunity for community comment on what services residents believe are important.

If you can’t make it, I still want to hear from you. By the month’s end, we plan to have the same survey we’ve taken to the public online and available for each of you. Stay tuned to this newsletter for updates on when that survey, and results from our public meetings, will be available.

Aaron

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How are we doing?



Executive Reardon explains the County budget breakdown to a room full of interested citizens in Arlington on Tuesday evening.

County distributes funding to end homelessness

Snohomish County recently awarded more than \$1.5 million to 22 projects designed to help end homelessness.

This is the fourth year of distributing Ending Homelessness funds, which are collected from local document recording fees under state legislation. Ending Homelessness funds are used to support agencies that are working within the goals of Snohomish County's 10-year affordable housing plan "Everyone at Home Now."

"These projects put us closer to our goal of ending homelessness in Snohomish County," said County Executive Aaron Reardon. "They are innovative and successfully show our dedication to eliminating this very real problem."

Projects selected will continue to advance the county effort to reduce homelessness through innovative programs and best practices models. While 19 projects selected this year have received program funding in the past, three new projects also were chosen.

The Interfaith Family Shelter project offers case management to assist shelter families develop their unique self-sufficiency action plans, leading to stable housing and adequate income within four months. Snohomish County Legal Services will expand their assistance to low-income Snohomish County residents facing housing crises, including pending eviction proceedings, foreclosure and homelessness.

Finally, Bridgeways Supportive Housing Program will find new ways to lessen the duration and experience of homelessness for people with mental illness in Snohomish County. Clients are initially housed

Did you know that you can track how well the County is meeting its performance goals?

The SnoStat system tracks how well the County is delivering services, the costs of those services, and the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery.

Simply visit our [SnoStat website](#).

Contact me:

3000 Rockefeller Ave.
M/S #407
Everett, WA 98201

Phone: 425.388.3460
Fax: 425.388.3434

Or, [send me an email](#).

Sincerely,

Aaron Reardon

at Sparrow House, and most will then be moved into permanent housing.

The other 19 projects have been very successful in providing a range of permanent and supportive housing, eviction assistance and supportive services for vulnerable families in Snohomish County.

For more information on the program and funding, contact Dean Weitenhagen, supervisor of the Office of Housing, Homelessness & Community Development, at 425-388-3267.

County's solar project under construction

Snohomish County began installing solar panels this week at its campus in Everett. The solar panels will supply electricity to the parking garage for the county's future fleet of electric cars.

Nearly 100 panels, manufactured in Snohomish County by Arlington-based Silicon Energy, are being placed atop the county's Administration West building, covering as much as 80 percent of the roof. Solis Electric, another local firm, is completing the installation.

"This project demonstrates the county's commitment to supporting the development of green jobs locally," said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. "It also shows our willingness to save energy and reduce greenhouse gases at county facilities."

About \$450,000 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will pay for the installation of the solar panels and vehicle-charging stations in the garage. Snohomish County currently owns two electric vehicles but will purchase about a dozen more within the next 12 to 18 months.

The solar project – supported with incentives through the Snohomish County PUD's Solar Express program – is part of a comprehensive program to save energy and reduce greenhouse gases at county facilities.

Once operational, the panels are expected to generate roughly 16,000 kilowatt hours annually, reducing grid-supplied electricity at the downtown campus. The power produced by the solar panels will be connected to the building's electrical system, replacing some of the electricity used at the Snohomish County Administration Building.

Among the largest solar systems in Snohomish County, the solar project will prevent 21,000 pounds of CO2 annually.

Installation should be finished in about a month.



Families can apply in June for Early Head Start

Beginning in June, the North Snohomish County Early Head Start program will accept applications to fill 82 openings.

The program will provide child development and family support services to eligible families living in Sultan, Granite Falls, Arlington and Marysville.

Snohomish County is one of three Head Start programs in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska to be awarded an Early Head Start grant by the national Office of Head Start. The county will receive \$2.45 million in federal stimulus funds during the next two years.

“The inclusion of Early Head Start in our county services provides an

opportunity to bring public health, early intervention, housing assistance and a comprehensive early childhood education program to eligible families,” Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon said. “This furthers our commitment to the children of Snohomish County, who will become tomorrow’s workforce and leaders.”

The following year-round services are offered free to eligible families as part of the Early Head Start program:

- weekly home visits with play-and-learn group socializations;
- developmental screenings and assessments;
- health, nutrition and mental-health referrals;
- family goal-planning;
- parent education and leadership opportunities.

One benefit of the program is that it provides services to infants, toddlers and pregnant women prior to their likely enrollment in the county run Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), which serves about 1,000 preschool students.

Much like ECEAP, the Early Head Start program provides family-centered services for low-income families and is designed to promote the development of the children while helping parents fulfill their roles and move toward self-sufficiency.

For more information on the North Snohomish County Early Head Start or how to apply, contact Program Director Joe Varano at 425-388-7251 or joe.varano@snoco.org.

County director shares local homelessness efforts with D.C.

Snohomish County Human Services Director Ken Stark was among a group of 12 people from Snohomish, King and Pierce counties who recently traveled to Washington, D.C., in support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation’s work to end homelessness.

The group met with key federal agency managers as well as Congressional staff from the offices of Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell as well as Congressman Jim McDermott. The focus of the trip was to share the innovative work the three counties are doing to reduce family homelessness as part of a public-private partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Washington state. The project is part of the Washington Families Fund and is called “Investing in Families.”

“Such meetings can be instrumental in eliminating barriers to better

working relationships and more efficient and effective use of funding,” said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon, who is the lead in Snohomish County as it relates to the “Investing in Families” initiative.

Reardon reiterated his commitment to the program last year when he joined county executives from King and Pierce counties as well as the governor and signed an agreement to work together.

One of the messages provided to federal agencies – including the Departments of Labor, Housing and Urban Development; Health and Human Services; the U.S Interagency Council on Homelessness; and, the Office of Urban Affairs/Domestic Policy Council – was that governments and local agencies must better coordinate efforts to reduce family homelessness.

Local, state and federal governments in collaboration with the private sector must work together and need to create more flexibility with existing resources so that they can be used to meet the needs of low-income families in accessing housing and moving toward self sufficiency.

“We can find ways to better utilize funding and resources for ending homelessness,” Stark said. “Without concerted efforts at all levels, chronic homelessness will never disappear.”

Trip expenses courtesy of The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read my electronic newsletter.

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You may also contact me directly by phone at 425.388.3460.