

Presenter Template

Snohomish County Affordable Housing Task Force Meeting 3 June 20, 2019, 4-6 PM

PRESENTATION: Potential Solutions: How can County, Local and Tribal Governments Help Advance Housing Affordability?

Each Presenter will have 5 minutes to speak. Each presenter is asked to:

(1) address the following four questions, and

(2) complete this template and submit it electronically to Alessandra Durham

(Alessandra.Durham@co.snohomish.wa.us) (Phone: 425-388-3290) by Noon, MONDAY JUNE 3 so it can be included in the meeting materials. The responses should be in summary format (no longer than 2 pages). You may append articles or weblinks as additional information. Thank you!

Presenter Name: Fred Safstrom

Title: CEO

Agency/Business Name: Housing Hope and HopeWorks

Question 1: What is your Agency/Business's role in addressing housing supply in Snohomish County? (your mission, priority goals, market role, etc.)

Our mission to create affordable housing opportunities and provide services addressing the core issues leading to the poverty that sometimes results in homelessness. We are the leading affordable housing developer, operator and services provider in Snohomish County for households at or below 50% AMI and especially those below 30% AMI or homeless. We help households to identify, pursue and accomplish career pathways that result in living wage jobs.

Question 2: What are the most significant challenges your agency/business faces in developing housing?

Funding for project development and services program. Public support for services falls far short of the need and very strong present support from the Everett Housing Authority and Housing Authority of Snohomish County is challenged by caps on project-based section 8 vouchers.

Question 3: What are the 3-5 most important things that County, cities or Tribes could do to help increase housing affordability in Snohomish County?

The supply of housing is outstripped by demand from in-migration to Snohomish County. This is making a high-cost housing market all the more unaffordable. The highest profit margin for private developers is higher-end housing – so that is what is presently being developed. Any incentives for builders to create housing targeted to households at 50% to 120% of AMI would help. More resources to assist non-profit developers to create housing for 50% and below AMI is needed. The passage of a local housing levy is a critical component for this solution.

Question 4: Offer 1 example of a successful partnership with the County, a City or Tribal government in support of affordable housing (attach additional materials if desired)

Snohomish County has recently provided critical funding support for the creation of HopeWorks Station II now under construction on Broadway in Everett. This project will provide 65 units of affordable housing in a workforce training environment designed to assist these households to exit poverty and attain prosperity.