

Sky Valley Community Needs Assessment and Facilitated Program Development



Community Touches 353+



45 Key Informant Interviews were conducted with input from City Leadership, members of Community Human Services Advisory Board (CHSAB).



26 Provider Surveys were completed by community-based organizations, healthcare providers, and other service providers.



226 Resident Surveys or 103% of target of 220 statistically mirroring Sky Valley region.



5 Focus Groups were held with 56 total participants.

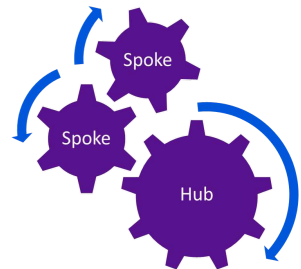


Two Community Forums are being offered, one in English and one in Spanish.

Charge:

To conduct a Community Needs Assessment for Human Services in the Sky Valley area including the city of Monroe, Snohomish, Sultan, Gold Bar, Index, and unincorporated Snohomish county. To develop a Regional Referral model of distributed funding and service delivery for Human Services in the Sky Valley in to which a resource-constrained environment.

Definition: The Regional Referral model, arranges services into a network of anchors. That provides a full array of services provided by local providers that offer limited services.



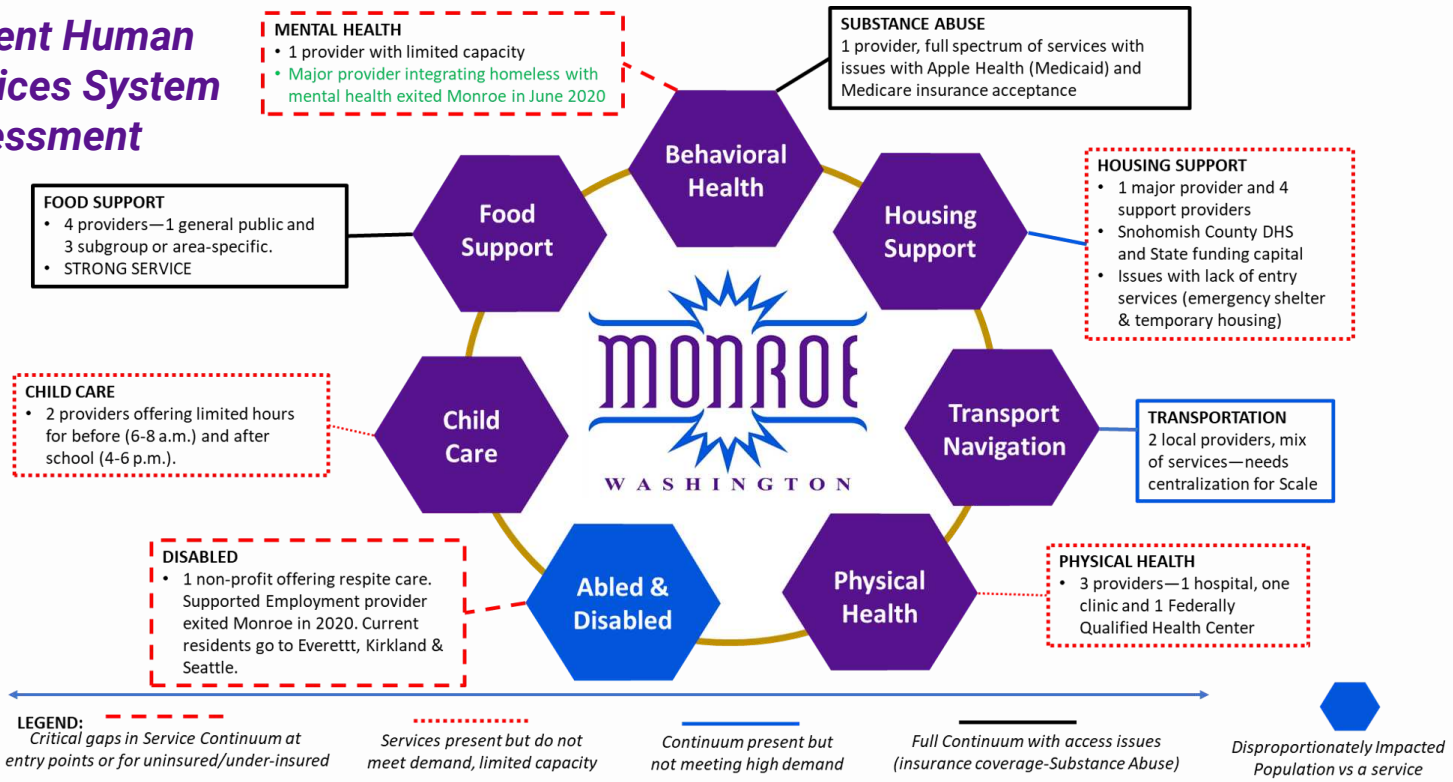
Regions in Sky Valley, Washington

The three regions of Sky Valley were defined since their current level of human services and demand varies. The total population of Sky Valley in 2019 was 58,154.

- East Sky Valley has subsistence services and depends on the City of Monroe for medium-level services.
- Central Sky Valley has medium-level services and travels to West Sky Valley or the Cities of Everett or Kirkland for higher acuity services.
- West Sky Valley uses the City of Everett's continuum.



Current Human Services System Assessment



Summary of Use-Need-Barrier-Gaps

SUMMARY OF RANKINGS OF USE, NEED, BARRIER & GAP FOR HUMAN SERVICES SKY VALLEY REGION, WASHINGTON (August 2021)	
TOP 5 USES OF HUMAN SERVICES	TOP 5 BARRIERS TO HUMAN SERVICES (‘Need Service and had Trouble Getting’)
1. Physical Health 2. Information & Referral 3. Child Care 4. Food Help 5. Behavioral Health	1. Mental Health 2. Housing Support 3. Substance Use Treatment 4. Transportation 5. Physical Health 6. Child Care
TOP 5 NEEDS FOR HUMAN SERVICES	TOP 5 GAPS TO HUMAN SERVICES (‘Need Service and Can’t Get’)
1. Mental Health 2. Physical Health 3. Information & Referral 4. Housing Support 5. Transportation 6. Substance Use treatment	1. Mental Health 2. Housing Support 3. Substance Use treatment 4. Transportation 5. Child Care 6. Legal Aid

Reasons offered for barriers (‘need service and had trouble getting’) include:

- 1) Mental Health – lack of treatment options at the entry-level of the continuum (counseling, case management) for low to moderate-income residents.
- 2) Housing Support – lack of housing options at the entry-level of the housing support continuum (homeless shelter, transitional housing). Low priority on homeless with children or families prioritized but not single adults.
- 3) Substance use treatment – a full continuum is available, but not accepting uninsured, under-insured and issues accepting Apple Health (Medicaid) or Medicare.
- 4) Transportation – cited as # 1 Gap in Resident Survey by rural clients in East or Upper Valley (Sultan, Gold Bar, Index). Provider Survey mentioned transportation as a critical issue given regular referrals to Everett, Kirkland, or even Seattle. Evening and weekend travel time can be over 2 hours one-way even if only 25-35 miles distant. “U.S. 2 and U.S. 522 are the two worst highways in Snohomish County.” – provider quote
- 5) Physical Health – lack a full spectrum of services due to critical staffing shortages, lack of prenatal service after 7 months, and perception that the local Federally Qualified Health Center doesn’t want their business.
- 6) Child Care – only options available to resident respondents are before & after school services. Comments were made that these restricted hours are not helpful (6-8 a.m. and 4-6 p.m.) and were not affordable even with extensive discounts.

EXAMPLE: HOUSING SUPPORT (#2 BARRIER AND #3 GOAL)

A Homeless Policy Advisory Committee (HPAC) was formed in November of 2019, with a report related to housing for low-income residents in Sky Valley, adopted by the City Council on February 25, 2020. In the housing category of the recommendations:

1. To establish temporary or transitional housing to serve the City of Monroe with space for RV or vehicles for overnight stays.
2. To establish a Housing Support Continuum for short, long-term, and alternative housing.
3. To increase alternative housing options that include men, youth, LGBTQI+, and families with pets.

Currently, the major housing provider is Housing Hope, a regional provider based in Everett. Housing support is provided by access to Section 8 or subsidized housing and through utility assistance. The major services missing in the continuum are at the beginning of the low-income Housing Continuum:

1. Emergency Shelters – Emergency housing for up to 90 days (3-months) of occupancy.
2. Transitional Housing - often used by the incarcerated/recently released or for substance use disorder clients with a national timeframe of 24 months or 2 years.

Controversy related to 'Housing First' or 'Harm Reduction' housing versus 'Sober or Clean Housing' exists nationwide.

THE HOUSING CONTINUUM



During the 360-degree review, Housing Support was identified at all steps of data collection:

PROFILES: Based on the Socioeconomic profile, residents in the Sky Valley area are cost-burdened (HUD definition of 30% or more of annual income go to housing—Sky Valley is 32%). The housing cost is higher in the Sky Valley than the U.S. average.

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS: The housing continuum was identified as barrier # 2 and Gap # 2.

FOCUS GROUPS: Housing Support has different meanings to subgroups:

- LatinX – Require safe and affordable housing.
- Seniors – Worried about maintaining and upkeep of housing. Even seniors with no mortgage are concerned about rising costs and the ability to find housing if they need to move due to physical infirmity.
- Homeless – Unable to secure housing.
- Youth – Concerned about housing if 'thrown out' due to LGBTQI+.

RESIDENT SURVEYS: 66 Residents responded 'chronically homeless', with 46 individuals reported being homeless in the last 30 days.

REGIONAL REFERRAL SYSTEM

Regional referral resources play a limited though important role in Housing Support.

Regional referral services are difficult by nature since residents are attached to the area in which they live or work for housing. The majority of housing support is delivered locally with capital funding from regional sources.

Potential regional services include:

1. Financial support tied to housing with related employment or work opportunities.
2. County or State-funded assistance with modifications to housing for the disabled.
3. County, State, or Federal fundings through Agencies for Aging for home repairs, upkeep, and maintenance for seniors or the disabled; and
4. Recently, housing support to aid with the COVID-19 pandemic and reduce evictions.

Local resources are critical for Housing Support.

Currently, the Sky Valley low to moderate-income housing stock include:

- East Sky Valley: 8 homeownership (Gold Bar), 11 homeless units (Sultan) with a future of 10 homeownership (Sultan)
- Central Sky Valley: 76 affordable rental units, 16 homeless units, and 81 homeownership units

Legend:

Homeless units: Emergency housing for homeless with children with wrap-around services affordable

rent: Units that are affordable for families with low incomes

Homeownership: Team building sweat-equity homeownership for low-income households

TYPE	EAST SKY VALLEY	CENTRAL SKY VALLEY
Homeless	11	16
Affordable Rent		76
Homeownership	8 + 10 future	50
	19 current + 10 future = 29	142

Present Housing Stock for Low-Income Residents:

1. Gold Bar – 8 homeownership sites
2. Sultan (Winter's Creek South) – 11 homeless units
3. Monroe (Woods Creek) – 8 affordable rent, 6 homeless units
4. Monroe (Sky Meadows East & Sky Meadows West) - 8 homeownership sites each = 16 units
5. Monroe (Marvin Gardens) – 14 homeownership sites
6. Monroe (Main Street) – 13 homeownership sites
7. Monroe (Family Village) – 10 homeless and 37 affordable rent
8. Monroe (Fairview apartments) – 31 affordable rent
9. Monroe (Hegger Short Plat) – 7 homeownership future plans for housing stock for low-income Sky Valley residents:
10. Sultan (Siegel Short Plats) – 10 homeownership