

NEWS RELEASE

April 15, 2008

MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**411 NORTH 5TH ST
SHELTON, WA 98584**

TO: KMAS, KRXV, SHELTON-MASON COUNTY JOURNAL, THE OLYMPIAN, SHELTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, NORTH MASON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CITY OF SHELTON, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE SUN

RE: Expansion of Case Management Rental Assistance Pilot Project

As part of the Mason County Homeless Prevention Plan, Mason County received a 36-month grant in the amount of \$491,400 from Community Trade and Economic Development to expand its successful Rental Assistance Pilot Project. The Case Management Rental Assistance Pilot project was developed and implemented by members of the Mason County Housing Coalition. This pilot project focused on preventing homelessness for families and individuals who are participating in existing case managed service programs such as Readiness to Learn, First Steps, Nurse-Family Partnership and Head Start.

In the pilot project, families were able to preserve existing housing at an average cost of \$465/family. The cost savings to the case management system was over \$700/client. The exceptional outcomes of the pilot project resulted in the successful CTED Housing Grant Assistance Program grant. The expanded program will be administered by Mason County Shelter

Case Managers who are interested in learning more about how this program might help them support their clients, should contact Carolyn at the Mason County Shelter, 427-6919.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Mason County Homeless Plan are welcome to join the Mason County Housing Coalition; they meet the fourth Thursday of every month from 10:30-12:00 at Community Action Council (807 Railroad, Shelton).

Tim Sheldon
Chair

Lynda Ring Erickson
Commissioner

Ross Gallagher
Commissioner