

News Release  
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## **Community Action Council Does Not Renew Contracts with Thurston County Citing Concerns About County’s Management of Provider Agreements**

Today, Community Action Council of Lewis, Mason and Thurston Counties announced its decision not to renew the remaining Housing contracts with Thurston County. For more than a decade, the non-profit CAC has successfully provided housing services to thousands of clients throughout the county. In just the last two years, CAC has been able to help more than 13,000 individuals in Thurston County with rental assistance amounting to \$31,000,000. Despite a strong desire to continue assisting the vulnerable populations of Thurston County, CAC has concluded that continuing a relationship with the county could hurt its ability to serve clients in other counties and throughout the region.

“This decision by our board and organization was not made lightly, especially with our desire to carry out our mission in every county where we have a presence,” shared CACLMT CEO Kirsten York. “However, the actions of Thurston County officials in recent months have demonstrated a misalignment of values – CAC puts the safety, security, and wellness of our clients first, providing services to our community with integrity, honesty, and ethics.”

CACLMT has [documented its concerns](#) about Thurston County’s handling of rental assistance changes over the last four months. Thurston County’s decision to shift clients away from CAC temporarily in February delayed payments to hundreds of clients, some of whom still have not been paid by Live Stories, the Seattle-based for-profit corporation that Thurston County contracted with.

In addition to concerns about Thurston County’s handling of rental assistance changes, CAC has repeatedly been faced with the task of correcting misinformation that Thurston County officials have shared with the public. This misinformation has done irreparable harm to CAC’s reputation and left other providers questioning how Thurston County handles monitoring of its assistance programs. Multiple efforts have been made to clarify and come to agreements with Thurston County officials on how to move forward, however the County has been resistant to reasonable negotiations, resulting in harm to the organization and the community.

“During the disputed monitoring process, Thurston County officials have repeatedly changed contracts without negotiations or consultation with CAC, making it impossible to continue working with them in good faith,” added CAC Board Chair T. Walton. “Thurston County has made it clear that being collaborative partners with organizations that serve vulnerable clients is not their priority.”

CACLMT has outstanding fiscal capacity and has received [high marks in auditing](#). Repeated claims from Thurston County officials about 5 instances of so-called “fraud” have been rebuked

by CAC through clear and specific evidence that all policies and protocols were followed to provide benefits to applicants. Thurston County has failed to produce evidence to CAC or the public that any fraud exists. CAC is currently undergoing another independent audit which has found no evidence of any kind of fraudulent payments to their clients.

“It’s unfortunate these circumstances have led to the deteriorating relationship between Thurston County and CAC,” said York. “However, CAC still looks forward to serving the communities of Lewis, Mason & Thurston Counties with the resources and services available through our organization.”

Hard-coded links.

“documented its concerns” <https://caclmt.org/timeline/>

“high marks in auditing” <https://caclmt.org/year-in-review/>