

King County Regional Homelessness Authority



Renton, June 2023



Theory of Change

If we create a homeless response system
that centers the voices of people with lived
experience,
Then we will be able to meet needs and
eliminate inequities,
In order to end homelessness for all.



How We Got Here



Background

2018- 2019

2020

2021

2022

2023

NIS Design & Inter-Local Agreement (ILA)

National Innovation Service engaged in 2018 to evaluate the system. KCRHA established December 2019 by ILA between Seattle and King County.

Administrative Start-Up & Global Pandemic

King County, Seattle, and Sound Cities set up governance structures for KCRHA; COVID-19 changed the landscape and responses to homelessness.

Hiring and Planning

CEO Marc Dones started in April 2021, focused on start-up & hired executive team. Started sub-regional planning in late June. Integrated data analysis finds 40,000+ people experiencing homelessness.

Implementation and Redesign

Transferring 268 contracts; Partnership for Zero & Systems Advocates; Severe weather planning; Qualitative research on unsheltered homelessness; Service redesign process.

Service Redesign Continues, Goal of Transformative Change



		City of Seattle	King County	RHA
INFRASTRUCTURE	Housing Capital and Development	✓	✓	✗
	CoC Funded Programs	✗	✗	✓
	Shelter			✓
PROGRAMS	Diversion	✗	✗	✓
	Rapid Re-Housing	✗	✗	✓
	Coordinated Entry	✗	✗	✓
	HMIS	✗	✗	✓
OTHER SERVICES	Outreach	✓	✗	✓
	Encampment Cleans	✓	✓	✗
	Behavioral Health and Crisis Response	✓	✓	✗



WE ARE

- A special jurisdiction government agency.
- An agency that receives and administers public funding.
- An administrator of programs and policies.
- A partner with public and private organizations.

WE ARE NOT

- The King County Department of Community and Human Services.
- The City of Seattle Human Services Department.
- A Public Development Association or Public Housing Authority.
- An agency that can levy taxes.



Progress to Date

- More Than 5,600 individuals, couples, and families **moved to Permanent Housing** in 2022
- Over **1,000 people engaged** throughout 2022: UUHP and Five-Year Plan
- Emergency Housing Vouchers: **100% utilization rate** and nearly twice the utilization rate of peer communities (over 1,400 households)
- Launching Re-procurement using our **equitable procurement** manual
- Ensured encampment resolutions are **focused on housing**
- Improved coordination and effectiveness of **severe weather response**

Five-Year Plan Process

- **Summer – Fall 2022:** Community Engagement Across King County
 - Workshops with sub-regions, systems, and sub-populations
- **Fall – Winter 2022:** Content Development with Community Review
 - South King City Staff weighed-in throughout process
- **January 2023:** First Release & Public Comment Period
 - City Staff Feedback
 - Provider Leadership Lunch and Learn & Feedback Sessions
- **February – March 2023:** Restructure
- **May – June 2023:** Plan unanimously approved by Implementation Board and Governing Committee

Scope & Scale of the Issue

- How Many People are Experiencing Homelessness?
- Who is Experiencing Homelessness?
 - Racial Disproportionality
 - Sub-populations and identities
- Limitations on Data
- Our Work in Memoriam

Ways to Count Homelessness

**Statistical
Projections**

**Administrative
Datasets**

**Annually versus a
moment in time**

Regardless of method, all numbers indicate that we do not have enough temporary housing/sheltering options for people.

Who is Experiencing Homelessness?

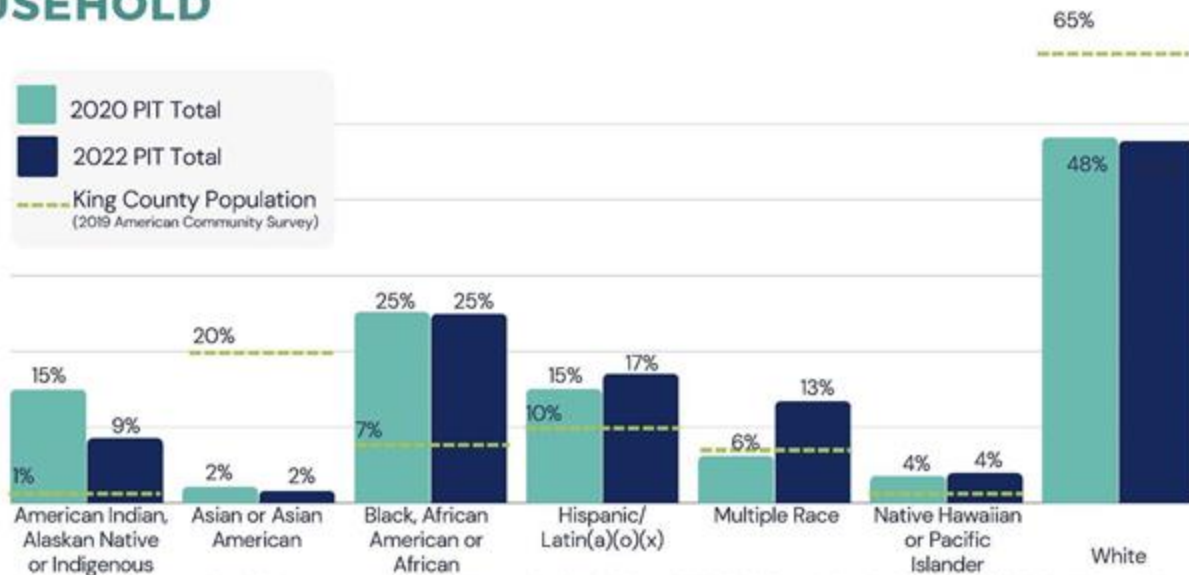
Emergency Shelter		
King County Sub-Region	Beds	% of Countywide
East	715	15.5%
North	143	3.1%
Seattle	3,009	65.3%
South	568	12.3%
Southeast	89	1.9%
Snoqualmie Valley	44	1.0%
Urban Unincorporated	41	0.9%
Total	4,609	100%

South King County has 10 Service Providers Offering Emergency Shelter

2 Emergency Shelters welcome drop-in guests

Who is Experiencing Homelessness?

RACE & ETHNICITY* OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD



*HUD requires submission of race and ethnicity as separate categories. Here, we have included households identifying as Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x) with the HUD-required race categories. Since these questions are asked separately, a respondent may identify as Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x) and in another category represented in this chart.



Our Work in Memoriam

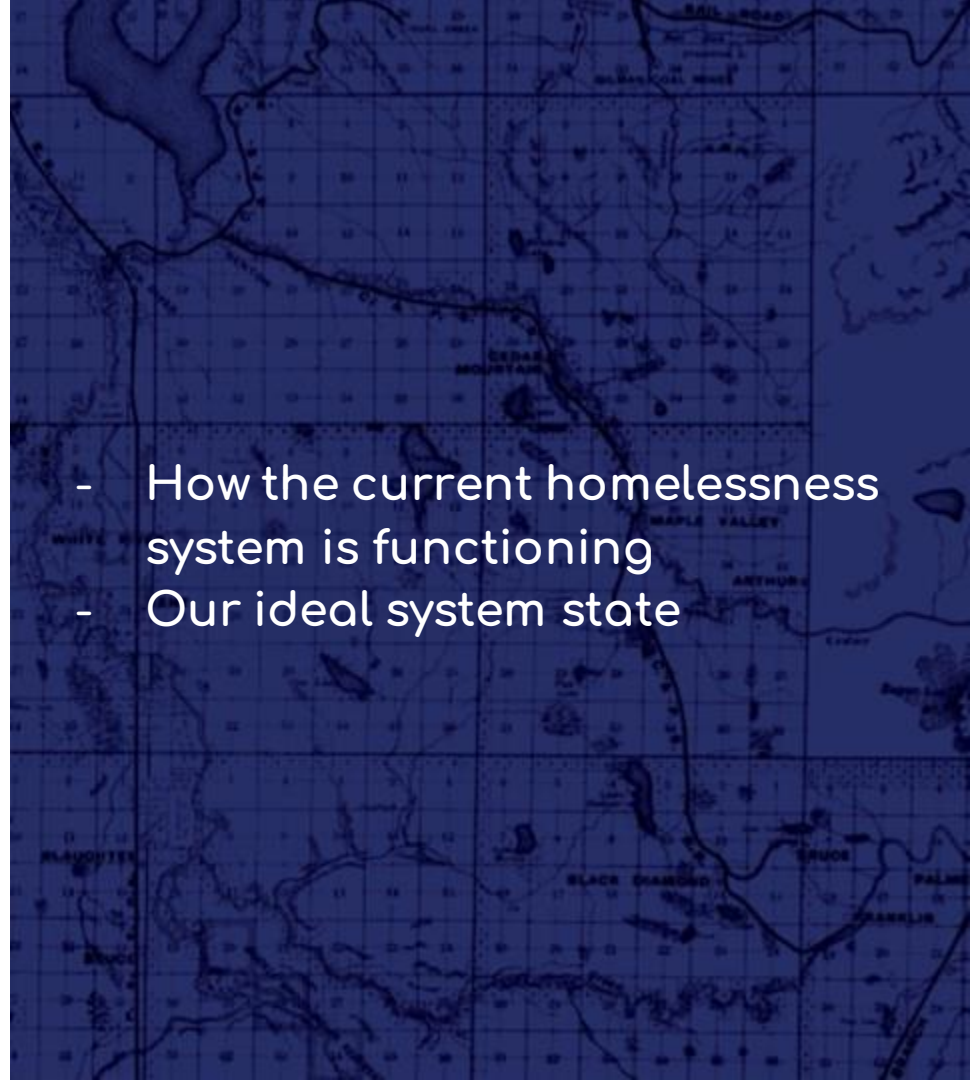
Number of Deaths of People Experiencing Homelessness



(Source: King County Medical Examiner's Office)

Current & Future State

- How the current homelessness system is functioning
- Our ideal system state



Current State Service Provider Organizations

- Staffing
- Wages
- Data/Reporting
- Funding
- Training
- Increased Acuity
- Overdose Deaths



Current State Network of Homeless Services

- Data Sharing Between Providers
- Referral pathways
- Sub-regional gaps
- Sub-population gaps
- How our programs are fairing
- How the system operates



Current State

System-to-System Connections

- Lack of collaboration and alignment
- Limited connective tissue between systems
- Data sharing and transparency
- Accountability and Role Clarity
- Coordination on funding sources



Ideal System State



Every service provider is able to adequately hire and retain trained staff that can carry out best practices when serving clients.



All service providers are coordinated through data, every sub-region has services, and all disproportionately impacted sub-populations are served.



No missed opportunities to intercept someone before becoming homeless.

Supportive transitions.

How We Get There

- One, Overall Goal
- Metrics of Success
- Activities Sequenced & Within Budget
- Funding Strategy Shift

A topographic map with contour lines and a grid, overlaid on a dark blue background. The map shows terrain features and some text labels like 'ALP', 'STATE', 'VT', and 'COUNTY'.

One, Overall Goal:

“Bring Unsheltered People Inside as Quickly as Possible to Prevent Death and Further Harm”

Metrics of Success

- Number of households accessing the homelessness response system
- Number of households entering the homelessness response system
- Number of households exiting the homelessness response system to permanent housing
- Number of households returning to homelessness after 6, 12, and 24 months from a permanent housing exit
- Number of temporary and permanent housing units in the system
- Throughput through temporary and permanent housing units in the system

Where possible, these measures will be broken down by:

- Household type: Single Adults, Families with Children and Youth and Young Adults
- Race & Ethnicity
- Program Type

Snapshot: Year One Priorities

Year 1 - Year 2

Key Actions	Topic Areas	Impact	Status
Develop a real-time bed availability tool inclusive of all types of shelter and emergency housing	Data Resource Availability	<i>Insight into real-time shelter vacancies will allow for greater enrollments into the shelter system at any given time which will improve our understanding of how many single adults, families and youth may be accessing the system.</i>	In-Motion
Partner with the behavioral health organizations to support connections to behavioral health services.	Behavioral Health Health Care High-Acuity System Connection Enhanced Care	<i>Establishing connections and providing smooth transitions for individuals to behavioral health supports enhances the quality of care, mitigates future needs for support, and increases the chances of success in permanent housing; ultimately reducing rates of return into homelessness and increasing throughput in homelessness programs.</i>	
Partner with King County Behavioral Health and Recovery Division and Public Health and Healthcare for the Homeless Network to improve communication, coordination, education, and information sharing across our homelessness response system for high acuity individuals.	Behavioral Health Health Care High-Acuity System Connection	<i>Partnerships across systems allows for efficient use of resources, better understanding of system processes, and increased ability to care for people quickly which can increase the chances of success in permanent housing, increase throughput in our system, and reduce returns to homelessness.</i>	In-Motion

Prioritization of Activities

Within Current Budget:

Table 1: Activities for Years 1-2 of plan

Table 2: Activities for Years 3-5 of plan

Go First Strategies for New Funding:

Table 3: Activities that would require new funding

Five Year Plan

The strategic roadmap to transform the homelessness response system

South King County Sub-Regional Implementation Plan

What does it mean to implement and act on these goals in South King County?

Key Components of Sub-Regional Plans

Rooted in equity & social justice principles, there are six key components:

- I. Overview/Introduction of Five-Year Plan**
- II. Engagement & Development Process**
- III. Sub-Regional Analytics**
- IV. Comprehensive Plan Alignment**
- V. Resources + Investments**
- VI. Key Actions & Timeline (30+ Activities to be tailored)**


Sub-Regional Implementation Plan: Approach

- From the Five-Year Plan, **30 activities will be tailored to each sub-region**
 - Identified in collaboration with service providers, community partners, and city human services staff
 - Some activities require either region-wide standardization or are KCRHA administrative tasks
- Action steps and timelines developed in partnership with SKC community

Subject Matter Working Groups

*(Examples: Cities/Jurisdictions; Service
Providers; LGBTQIA2S+; Native &
Indigenous; Families w/Children)*

230+ Individuals Identified Already



Will work on targeted initiative
areas to develop action steps
and timelines.

Sub-Regional Implementation Plan: *Example*

Activity: *Deploy an effective communications strategy to ensure the Ombuds Office is well-known and easily accessible, including the creation of centralized contact mechanisms (e.g., a hotline).*

This activity will be developed to include action steps and timeline appropriate for South King County.

Example Action Steps for South King County **could** look like:

1. Educate South King community on Ombuds office; identify stakeholders to convene; develop strategy.
2. Deploy - January 2025
3. Review & enhance - January 2026

Sub-Regional Implementation Plan: *Feedback*

- **What do you want to see in the Sub-Regional Implementation Plan?**
 - What should be built into the South King County Homelessness Response?
 - What is missing from the South King County Homelessness Response?
- **What level of guidance would you like to see in the plan?**
- **How would you as a council like to stay informed or involved?**
- **Which key stakeholders should we engage in the plan development process?**

Any other suggestions?

A topographic map of a region in King County, Washington, showing terrain contours, rivers, and various place names. The map is overlaid with a grid. The text is centered on the map.

Thank You

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