North King County Interlocal Agreement

PROGRESS REPORT

September 2024

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Background

This report provides a summary of accomplishments and areas for continued improvement related to homeless services that have been yielded through the North King County Interlocal Agreement (NKC ILA). The NKC ILA between the cities of Bothell, Kenmore, Lake Forest Park, Shoreline, Woodinville, and King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA) formalized intergovernmental coordination to address the issue of homelessness in the North King County subregion.

As a primary subscribing partner, KCRHA supports the creation and implementation of solutions to homelessness within the boundaries of partner cities. Through leadership, advocacy, reporting, planning and funding administration, KCRHA works alongside partner cities to significantly decrease the incidence of homelessness in the North King subregion.
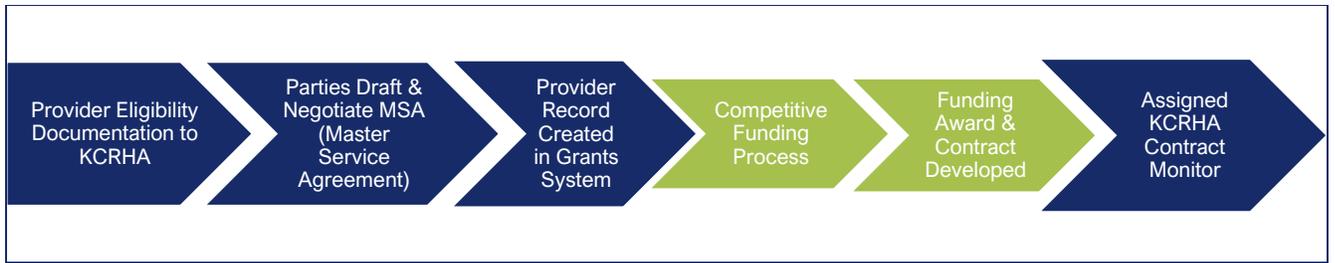
The initial term of this agreement is in effect from January 1st, 2023, through December 31st, 2026. After the initial term, the agreement shall automatically renew each December 31st for one-year extensions, unless terminated earlier by participating parties. Conditions of withdrawal and termination are identified in Article VIII of the ILA.

FUNDING ADMINISTRATION– PROCESS OVERVIEW

In Q1 of 2023, KCRHA assumed responsibility to administer funding for homelessness services from the five North King County cities. This funding was awarded to six nonprofit organizations that serve people experiencing homelessness in and around the subregion. Five of the six awarded organizations had pre-existing contractual relationships with KCRHA allowing city investments to be folded into 2023 and 2024 service contracts and eliminating the need to complete a grants management system onboarding process.

One organization, Hopelink, was a new contractual partner for KCRHA. The process outlined in **blue** within the following figure was completed with Hopelink to bring the agency into the KCRHA grants management system and ensure funding could be administered for services rendered. The additional items in **green** represent the typical process new agencies would advance through, outside of this ILA scenario, in competing for and securing funding from KCRHA for a specific program. Hopelink was able to skip the steps in green.

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Areas for Improvement – Funding Administration

To continue improving overall system function and outcomes for people experiencing homelessness in North King County, the following administrative actions have been identified.

- **Adopt a new grants management system with a focus on ease of user access.**
  Status: In Progress | Slated to be completed in 2024.

- **Ensure all contracted partners can access timely technical assistance with contracts and invoicing.**
  Status: In Progress | Timeline (ongoing)

- **Engage North King County providers and city partners in systemwide procurement planning processes**.
  Status: In Progress | Timeline (ongoing)

- **Widen North King County provider pool through proactive outreach and support for submission of minimum eligibility requirements.**
  Status: In Progress |Timeline (ongoing)

SUBREGIONAL INVESTMENTS – NORTH KING CITIES

City human services investments are determined through a comprehensive budgeting process. The NKC ILA resulted in city homelessness response investments being conveyed to KCRHA for administration to the awarded agencies. As primary subscribing partner, KCRHA completes a funding analysis to develop funding recommendations for city consideration in the upcoming calendar year. In total, North King County cities awarded $315,661 in 2023, and $265,161 in 2024 to homeless service providers.

It is important to note that per the ILA, funding administered by KCRHA on behalf of North King County Cities must support programs which serve those experiencing homelessness in the North King County subregion. Further, the ILA outlines a minimum investment of $1.20/capita from each partnering jurisdiction per year.

City investments into homelessness response programs are detailed in the tables below. These represent the total funding KCRHA administered on behalf of the North King County Cities in both 2023 and 2024.

2023 City Funding Awards Homelessness Response Programs					
Provider Agency	Bothell	Kenmore	Lake Forest Park	Shoreline	Woodinville
Friends of Youth	$8,000				$30,000
Hopelink	$20,000	$3,000		$25,750	
Lake City Partners Ending Homelessness	$6,000	$5,000		$70,067	
Mary's Place		$30,000			$5,000
Porchlight	$8,000				$28,000
The Sophia Way	$10,000				
Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle	$8,000	$7,000	$16,344	$25,000	$3,500
TOTAL	$60,000	$52,000	$16,344	$125,817	$61,500

2024 City Funding Awards Homelessness Response Programs					
Provider Agency	Bothell	Kenmore	Lake Forest Park	Shoreline	Woodinville
Porchlight	$8,000				$28,000
Friends of Youth	$8,000				$30,000
Hopelink	$20,000	$3,000		$25,750	
Lake City Partners Ending Homelessness	$6,000	$5,000		$70,067	
Mary's Place		$30,000		$5,000	
The Sophia Way	$10,000				
Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle			$16,344	$25,000	
TOTAL	$52,000	$38,000	$16,344	$125,817	$58,000

SUBREGIONAL INVESTMENTS - KCRHA

As a result of the ILA between the City of Seattle and King County which established KCRHA, the agency assumed administrative responsibility for the bulk of homelessness investments from both governments in 2022. Service contracts were migrated to the KCRHA grants management system and underwent annual renewals which included wage inflation adjustments each year

since. A comprehensive recompetition of funding is currently being developed to ensure programs offering the highest quality of service are both sustained and increased in the countywide homelessness response system.

KCRHA investments into programs operating in and around the North King County subregion in 2023 and 2024 are included in the table below. Of note, multiple programs within the table below serve households across King County and not solely in the North King County subregion.

2023 & 2024 KCRHA Funding Awards			
Provider Agency	**2023**	**2024**	**Total Programs**
Friends of Youth *	$407,120	$378,524	5
Lake City Partners Ending Homelessness	$2,270,164	$2,490,256	2
Mary's Place *	$1,417,164	$1,339,718	4
Porchlight*	$809,267	$819,419	4
The Sophia Way	$421,656	$450,045	3
Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle	$50,000	0	1
TOTAL	**$5,375,371**	**$5,477,962**	**19**
*Countywide Program(s) Included			

Areas For Improvement – Subregional Investments

To continue improving overall system health and outcomes for people experiencing homelessness in North King County, the following actions have been identified.

- **Incorporate subregional analysis of program performance and existing gaps in services within procurement of countywide homelessness response system.**
  Status: In Progress | Timeline ongoing

- **Sustain and increase funding for programs serving North King County households.**
  Status: In Progress | Timeline ongoing

- **Implement additional programs to meet demonstrated needs in the community.**
  Status: In Progress | Timeline ongoing

- **Seek additional funding opportunities for ongoing program support. Ensure funding cliffs are proactively navigated to reduce impact on existing programs.**
  Status: In Progress | Timeline ongoing

DATA SOURCE – OVERVIEW

As the lead agency for the King County Continuum of Care (CoC), KCRHA collects and manages data through multiple systems as required by the US Housing & Urban Development Department (HUD). An introduction to those data systems and approaches can be found below.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Information technology system used to collect client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals, families, and persons at risk of homelessness. As the lead agency of the King County Continuum of Care, KCRHA administers HMIS in accordance with HUD data standards, which are updated annually.

Programs that receive funding from KCRHA must track client enrollments, exits, and basic demographic information within the HMIS system. As clients may enroll in multiple programs throughout their engagement with the service system (e.g. Day Center and Emergency Shelter) both "total enrollments" and "unique clients" are tracked in HMIS. Intake, status, and exit forms can be found here: https://kingcounty.bitfocus.com/kc-client-forms-0

Unsheltered Point in Time Count (PIT) Required every other year by HUD, the Unsheltered PIT is a count of those who are experiencing unsheltered homelessness within in Continuum of Care's territory during a set period. HUD collects PIT count data from all Continuums of Care nationwide and uses these findings to guide system planning and to ensure federal funds are effectively deployed to address the local homelessness conditions.

Sheltered Point in Time Count (PIT) Conducted annually and required by HUD, the sheltered PIT is a count of all households who stay in temporary locations that indicate homelessness on the night of data collection. These temporary housing locations include emergency shelter (ES), Safe Havens (SH), and Transitional Housing (TH). It is important to note that ES includes a wide variety of shelter types, including enhanced shelter, emergency housing, tiny house villages, and motel vouchers. Additional information can be found on the HUD website: https://www.hudexchange.info/

Housing Inventory Count (HIC) The HIC is a count of all beds or service units available in the homeless response system on the date of data collection. This includes the temporary housing locations listed above for the PIT, and homeless housing programs. These housing programs include Rapid Rehousing (RRH), Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), and Other Permanent Housing (OPH). OPH includes programs such as Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH), and Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV). Additional information and HIC reports can be found

on the HUD website: https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/coc-housing-inventory-count-reports/

DATA REPORTING – NORTH KING COUNTY

2023 Housing Inventory Count & Sheltered Point in Time Count

The 2023 HIC and Sheltered PIT were conducted on January 26th, 2023. A brief survey was sent to the lead staff of more than 500 programs operating across King County looking at available beds and utilization rates on the night of data collection. Having an established partnership with KCRHA (existing contract and/or HMIS participation) was not a prerequisite for completing the survey.

The following tables include 2023 temporary and permanent housing beds and utilization rates for programs operated throughout King County and within the North King County subregion.

2023 Temporary Housing for People Experiencing Homelessness				
Housing Type	Total Beds Countywide (HIC)	Utilization Countywide (PIT)	Total Beds North King County (HIC)	Utilization North King County (PIT)
Emergency Shelter	5,344	91%	143	96%
Transitional Housing	1,895	80%	102	62%
Total	7,315	88%	245	79%

2023 Permanent Housing for People Experiencing Homelessness				
Housing Type	Total Beds Countywide (HIC)	Utilization Countywide (PIT)	Total Beds North King County (HIC)	Utilization North King County (PIT)
Permanent Supportive Housing	7,330	92%	95	83%
Total	7,330	92%	95	83%

2024 Housing Inventory Count & Sheltered Point in Time Count

The 2024 HIC and Sheltered PIT were conducted on January 25th, 2024. The process mirrored the approach used in previous years. The following tables include 2024 temporary and

permanent housing beds and utilization rates for programs operated throughout King County and within the North King County subregion.

2024 Temporary Housing for People Experiencing Homelessness				
Housing Type	Total Beds Countywide (HIC)	Utilization Countywide (PIT)	Total Beds North King County (HIC)	Utilization North King County (PIT)
Emergency Shelter	6,248	90%	143	96%
Transitional Housing	1,896	82%	55	100%
Total	**8,144**	**86%**	**198**	**98%**

2024 Permanent Housing for People Experiencing Homelessness				
Housing Type	Total Beds Countywide (HIC)	Utilization Countywide (PIT)	Total Beds North King County (HIC)	Utilization North King County (PIT)
Permanent Supportive Housing	7,768	91%	180	96%
Total	**7,768**	**91%**	**180**	**96%**

2024 Unsheltered Point in Time Count

KCRHA received approval from HUD to conduct the 2024 unsheltered count using a methodology called Respondent Driven Sampling (RDS). This methodology is consistent with the 2022 PIT Count. RDS has been shown to be effective in reaching people who are not already connected to services, providing a data point that supplements client data in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and other systems. This methodology has a strong track record for producing high-quality demographic and population estimates, confirmed by numerous studies by academic researchers and the World Health Organization.

For the 2024 unsheltered PIT, KCRHA gathered data from January 22 – February 2, 2024, and then worked with an expert statistician at the University of Washington to advise on sampling design and statistical modeling. A comprehensive report on the findings from the 2024 Unsheltered PIT which provides subregional data readouts, is anticipated to be published in late 2024. More information on the 2024 Unsheltered PIT can be found here: https://kcrha.org/data-overview/king-county-point-in-time-count/

Homeless System Data – North King County

Homeless system performance data is regularly exported from the HMIS to inform planning efforts, address service "bottlenecks", and provide insights on overall system function. Information on where people experiencing homelessness ultimately access services and what type of services those are, can be gleaned through HMIS data. All data entries are reported by provider staff at each participating program and exported from HMIS.

Program performance is reported to HMIS using the following "Outcomes":

> **Unique Clients:** Disaggregated number of households who enrolled in the program model during that calendar year. Often households enroll in one or more programs concurrently (i.e. day center and shelter).
> **Exits to Permanent Housing (Exits to PH)**: Total number of households who exited the program model into a permanent housing destination.
> **Returns to Homelessness (Returns)**: Total number of households exited from a homelessness program to permanent housing and re-enrolled in a homelessness program within one calendar year.

Upon intake, service providers capture "city of last residence" responses from program participants. The table below includes HMIS data reported from January 1st, 2024 – August 27th, 2024, for all clients who indicated one of the five North King County jurisdictions as their "city of last residence" upon intake. Programs operating across the county are included in this data set. Further disaggregation to identify the specific jurisdiction in which a client(s) received services can be conveyed upon request.

Program Type (Countywide)	Unique Clients	Exits to PH	Returns
Homelessness Prevention	169	107	0
Street Outreach	138	7	0
Emergency Shelter *Intake/Exit*	122	21	2
Rapid Re-Housing	51	13	1
Day Center	51	2	0
Other *Case Management, Safe Parking, Employment Program, etc.*	58	8	0
Transitional Housing	21	5	0
Emergency Shelter *Drop-in*	17	1	0
Safe Haven	3	3	0
TOTAL	**630**	**167**	**3**

Performance outcomes for programs which receive funding to serve the North King County homeless population are reported in HMIS. Performance data has been isolated by program

models (emergency shelter, transitional housing, and street outreach). The table below includes HMIS performance outcomes data reported from January 1st, 2024 – August 27th, 2024

2024 North King County Program Outcomes		
Program Type	Unique Enrollments	Exits to PH
Emergency Shelter Intake & Exit	220	56
Transitional Housing	22	0
Outreach	118	31
TOTAL	242	87

Areas for Improvement - Data

To continue improving overall system function and outcomes for people experiencing homelessness in North King County, the following data collection, management, and reporting actions have been identified.

- **Implement dynamic inventory management process within HMIS to ensure available beds and units may be directly referred to by providers.**
  Status: Complete & Monitoring | Timeline Ongoing

- **Proactive monitoring and engagement of all programs with a focus on identifying and providing support for those that are not meeting performance targets.**
  Status: In Progress | Timeline Ongoing

NORTH KING COUNTY SUBREGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Five-Year Strategic Plan was unanimously approved by the KCRHA Governing Committee in June, 2023. The plan includes more than 75 actions focused on stabilizing and enhancing the homelessness response system via direct intervention at three tiers: individual service provider agencies, network of providers, and system-to-system connections.

To ensure the local landscape of services, stakeholders, opportunities, and gaps are tailored into implementation of the Five-Year Strategic plan, subregional plans are currently under development. The actions outlined in the areas of improvement section of this report will be included in the North King County Subregional Plan. Final drafts of the subregional plans are anticipated in Q4 of 2024.

SEVERE WEATHER RESPONSE

To address the need for a professionally staffed severe weather shelter in North King County partners invested a total of $109,844 into a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process, which launched in September 2023. Proposals were reviewed and scored by a panel of raters with connection and familiarity to the North King subregion. The proposal received from Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle was awarded the highest score and a contract to provide severe weather shelter services was executed. Implementation of the program was originally slated for November 1st, 2023. Due to challenges around site identification, the shelter stand-up was delayed and ultimately came online in January 2024. St Dunstan's Episcopal Church in Shoreline hosted the shelter in 2024 and has agreed to continue this partnership in the upcoming winter season.

The shelter program activated in response to Tier 2 and Tier 3 weather conditions defined by KCRHA and in accordance with National Weather Service guidelines. More information on severe weather activation thresholds can be found on the KCRHA website: https://kcrha.org/resources/severe-weather-shelter/

In addition to a warm bed for the night, all guests of the shelter were offered referrals to supportive services, supplies, meals, and transportation by the Urban League team. Two guests ultimately secured housing through the provision of move-in assistance which Urban League was able to connect the guests to. From January 1st- March 31st, 2024, the severe weather conditions led to the shelter opening for 15 nights. A total of 155 guests were served during those weather activations.

Urban League has continued to serve the North King County community during the summer months through operation of a cooling canopy, outreach to people living unsheltered, and supply distribution. The organization will also continue to operate the severe weather shelter at St Dunstan's for the upcoming winter season.

Areas for Improvement – Severe Weather Response

- **Proactively identify and engage potential host sites and constituencies for upcoming winter weather activations.**
  Status: Not Started | Timeline Q4 2025

- **Pursue "seasonal shelter" which remains open for a set period during the winter months to ensure continuity for the population seeking shelter.**
  Status: Not Started | Timeline Q4 2025

- **Establish a transportation partnership to support a shuttle service for people seeking shelter from across the subregion.**
  Status: In Progress | Timeline Q1 2025