



**King County**

**Veterans, Seniors & Human Services Levy**

# **Renewal Overview**

**July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Rod Dembowski, King County Councilmember  
&  
Kelly Rider, Deputy Director of the King County  
Department of Community & Human Services**

# Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy (VSHSL)

Voter approved x3 since 2005.

Added Seniors in 2017.

Current VSHSL expires at end of 2023.

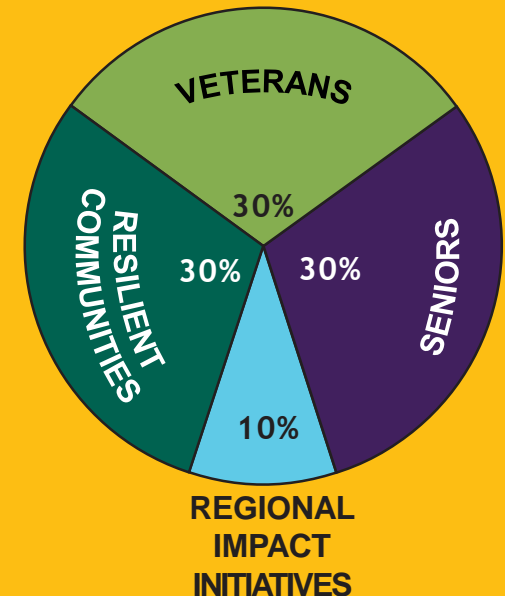
King County voters will consider  
renewing the levy for 2024-2029 on  
the August 2023 ballot.

10¢  
+ 1.9¢  
per \$1,000 of  
assessed value

\$83/yr  
+ \$17/yr

for the County's median  
home value

\$564  
million  
over six years  
(2024-2029)



# About the VSHSL

Six-year property tax levy lid lift

## Four funding areas

1. Veterans, servicemembers and their families
2. Older adults and their caregivers
3. Other resilient communities

**NEW** Regional impact initiatives that affect all three populations

## Five result areas:





**185,000+** since 2018,  
*including*  
**27,000+** veterans,  
and **100,000+** seniors



**300+** programs  
led by **150+**  
community-based  
organizations

Broad impact for tens of thousands of our neighbors  
every year since last renewed



- Built 1200 units of affordable housing and 198 shelter beds
- Contributed to a 40% reduction in veteran homelessness



Funded 39 senior centers across the county



Partners used the VSHSL to pivot and adapt services and programming throughout the COVID-19 pandemic

- Helped more than 260 veterans, servicemembers, and family members access more than 15,000 mental health counseling sessions



- **DVHopeline**, a countywide, 24-hour, multi-lingual, multi-modal domestic violence hotline, launches.

- First-in-the-nation pilot program houses homeless veterans. **Collaborative Case Management** blends rental assistance with supportive services to help veterans secure stable housing.



- Funded 55 agencies with 675 bonuses to hire and retain critical human services staff at a time of high turnover and vacancies
- Funded mobile advocacy services for more than 1,200 survivors of gender-based violence



# Measuring VSHSL Impact



Housing  
Stability

80% of VSHSL Housing Stability program outcomes showed positive housing results (such as remaining housed or finding permanent housing).



Financial  
Stability

66% of VSHSL Financial Stability program outcomes showed increases in financial security through employment obtainment, education enrollment, public benefit/veteran assistance, or other progress on financial goals.



Healthy  
Living

76% of VSHSL Healthy Living program outcomes showed improved health and well-being.

*Note: Participant duplication may occur for those enrolled in multiple years of programming.*

# Measuring VSHSL Impact



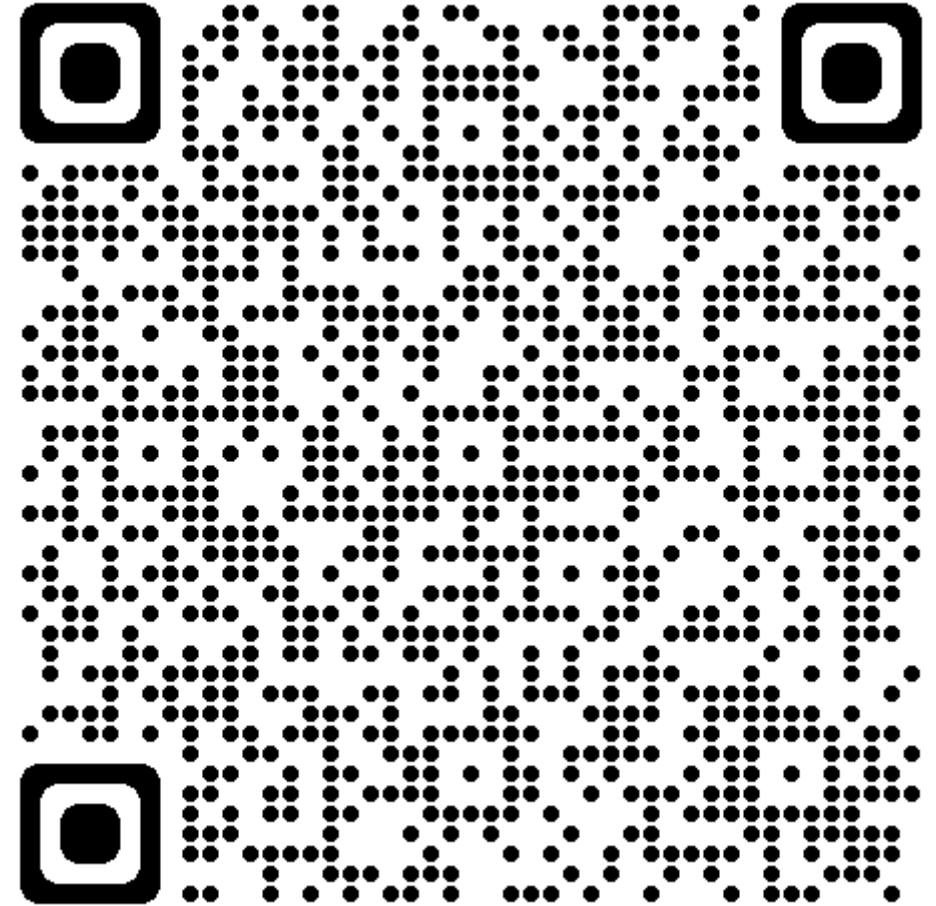
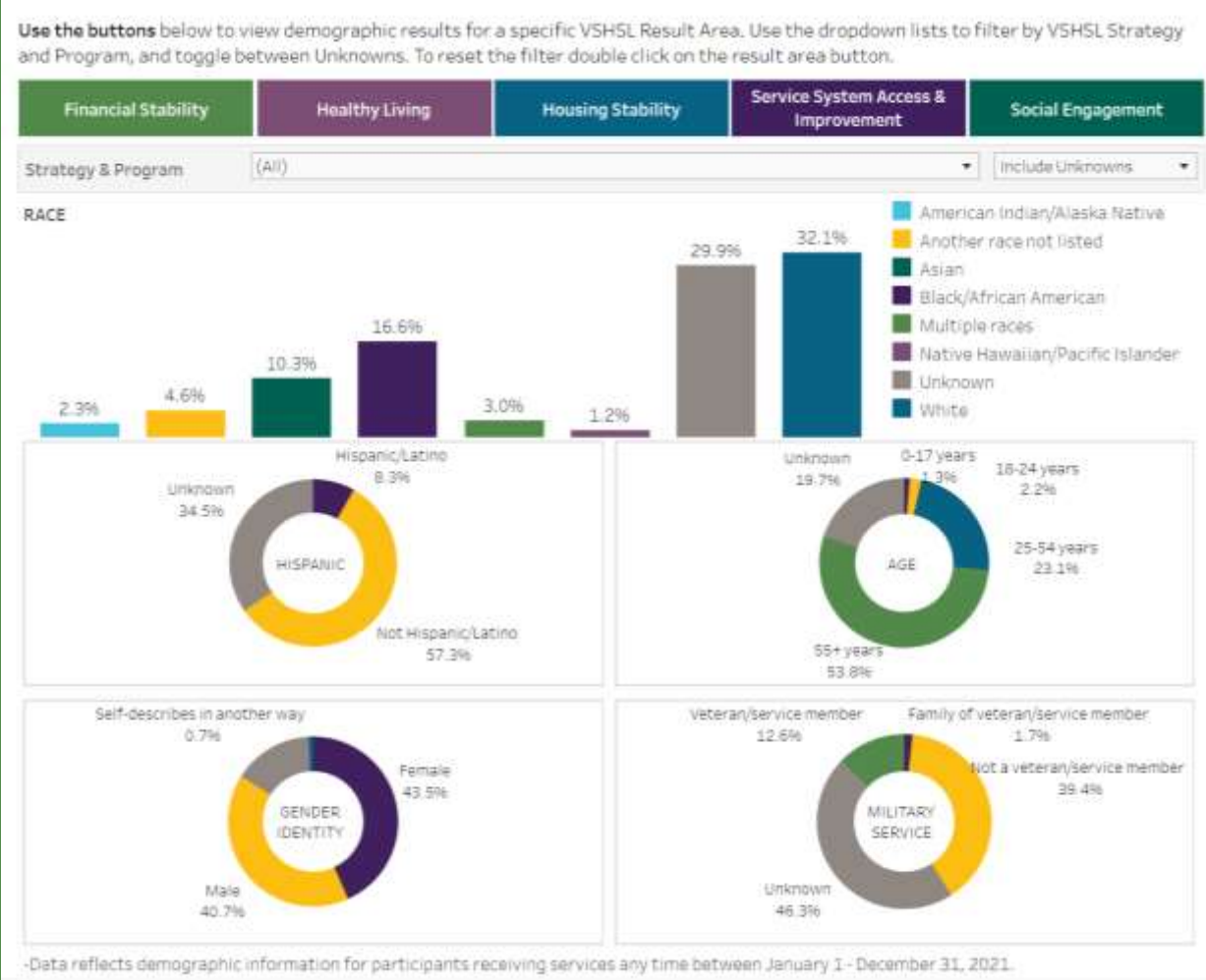
57% of VSHSL Social Engagement program outcomes showed reduced isolation through increased feelings of connection or increased engagement in community.



78% of VSHSL Service System Access and Improvement program outcomes showed connection to services through referral or direct service and 66% of VSHSL Gender-Based Violence program outcomes showed survivors made progress or met their self-defined goals each year.



# Interactive Financial Data and Performance Reporting are Publicly Available Online



# VSHSL Impact in North King County

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- ▶ Contributed to **130 units** new affordable and supportive housing
- ▶ Created a new service access point for north-end residents by moving King County Veteran Program to Northgate
- ▶ Expanded reach of senior services through innovative senior center partnerships
  - Kenmore Senior Center, Northshore Senior Center, and Peter Kirk Community Center hub partnership
  - Indian American Community Services hosts pop-up community centers

# VSHSL Renewal

## Community Engagement

March 2022 – June 2023



- **20** community conversations
- **20** focus groups/  
listening sessions
- **15+** informational presentations
- **10** open houses
- **2** Summits

# If renewed, the VSHSL would:



- Fund permanent supportive housing, including veteran-specific housing
- Keep reducing veteran homelessness (40% reduction since 2018)



- Expand investments in the human services workforce



- Double current funding for senior centers

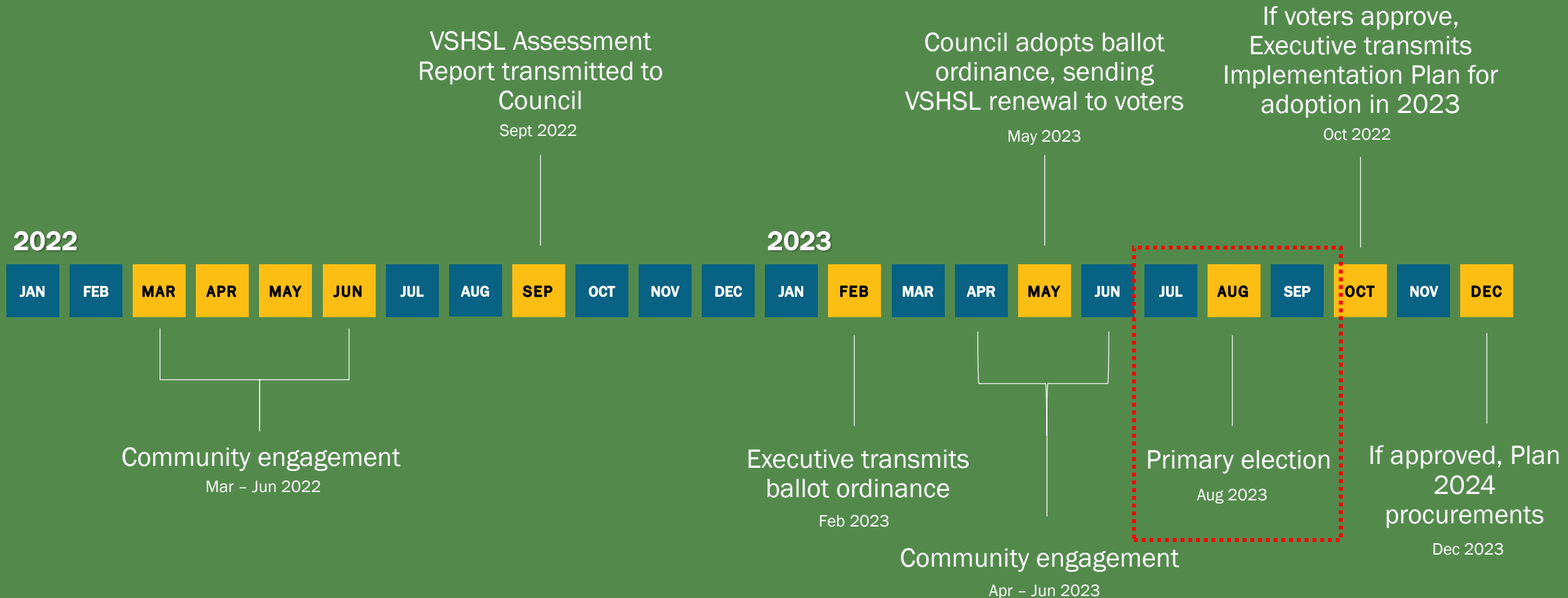


- Maintain access to counseling and mental health supports for veterans and seniors



- Deepen community-centered programming for survivors of gender-based violence

# VSHSL Renewal Timeline





# *Questions?*

Learn more at: [bit.ly/VSHSLonepager](https://bit.ly/VSHSLonepager)



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