

# Housing is the key to solving homelessness.

King County Housing Authority (KCHA) is a partner in prevention, advocacy, services that create economic opportunities, and—our primary mission—access to high-quality affordable housing.



## Homelessness-focused policies and programs

In 2010, KCHA became one of the first housing authorities in the nation to establish a team dedicated to addressing homelessness, underscoring our commitment to supporting the most vulnerable in our community. Over the years, these efforts have become integral for us, weaving into nearly everything we do—today, they support nearly 6,300 households, including veterans, families, people fleeing domestic violence and young adults exiting foster care.

### Reducing barriers to entry

KCHA gives waitlist preferences to people experiencing homelessness for both public housing and Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV). We have reduced admissions criteria across all programs and work with community partners to assist people who are involved with the legal system, facing health care challenges and who have poor or limited rental history.

### Implementing “move-on” strategies

KCHA has incorporated strategies for residents with disabilities who no longer need support services to remain stably housed but still require affordable housing due to their fixed income. This approach increases the availability of permanent supportive housing for people who need it most, and ensures that people exiting permanent supportive housing have access to stable and affordable housing options.

### Increasing housing subsidies

KCHA has increased the number of federally funded special purpose vouchers that can be used in the private market. Working with other systems of care and nonprofits, we have secured more than 2,000 new HCVs, for more than \$33 million in annual federal rent assistance. In total, we administer more than 4,700 vouchers dedicated to people experiencing homelessness.

### Dedicating units to address homelessness

KCHA collaborates with nonprofit partners to develop service-enriched and supportive housing, more than 1,100 units valued at over \$16 million annually in federal voucher subsidies. Residents are referred through the regional coordinated entry system, survivors of domestic violence, and people reentering the community from other systems of care. Federal vouchers, combined with private and public funding, unlock millions of dollars necessary to create supportive housing for people who would otherwise not have access.



## Innovating to meet emergent needs

Using our Moving to Work flexibilities, KCHA creates innovative programs that are tailored to meet the diverse needs of the unhoused population. These programs currently support more than 350 households.



### 🏠 Sponsor-based supportive housing

This program is available to people experiencing chronic homelessness and people exiting institutional settings, such as Western State Hospital. Residents can sublet units from a sponsor and are given access to recovery-oriented services.

### 🏠 Short-term rental assistance

These programs support academic stability for students and housing stability for the family. The Student and Family Stability Initiative (SFSI) rapidly rehouses families experiencing homelessness with school-aged children enrolled in the Highline and Tukwila School Districts.

### 🏠 Support for veterans

In 2021, KCHA launched a partnership with the King County Veterans Program to provide veterans experiencing homelessness with Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers and supportive services under the Collaborative Case Management (CCM) program.

### 🏠 Time-limited housing supports

KCHA promotes economic self-sufficiency with innovations like the While In School Housing (WISH) program, a time-limited Housing Choice Voucher program and partnership with Highline College. It supports students experiencing homelessness until they graduate, plus six months post-graduation.

# Affordable housing as homelessness prevention

KCHA uses evidence-based strategies to prevent homelessness before it starts: increasing affordable housing stock, subsidizing housing and providing permanent supportive housing. By addressing needs across the affordable-housing continuum, we help prevent displacement and ensure that families, older adults, people with disabilities, and people with low incomes do not fall into homelessness.

## Additional strategies to improve long-term outcomes and prevent homelessness:

### Workforce housing

KCHA owns over 8,000 units of workforce housing, financed through Low-Income Housing Tax Credits and tax-exempt bonds that are targeted to households earning between 30% and 80% of Area Median Income. 21% of these units are occupied by households with Housing Choice Vouchers.

### Holistic approaches

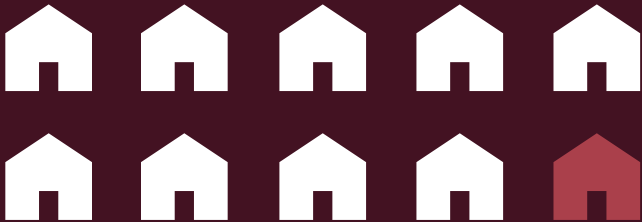
Stable housing supports residents' long-term health, education, and economic outcomes. We work with partners to support a range of strategies that help residents achieve their goals and prevent intergenerational poverty, from early learning and after-school programming to centralized health services and workforce counseling.

### Eviction prevention

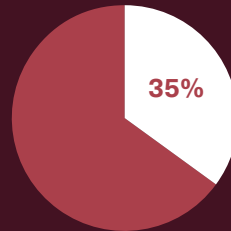
Through its Resident Services department, KCHA has dedicated staff to deliver support services and resources to prevent people from falling into homelessness.



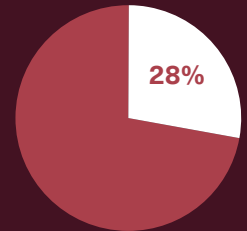
## Households in KCHA's federally subsidized housing:



90% are extremely low-income, making below 30% of the area median income.



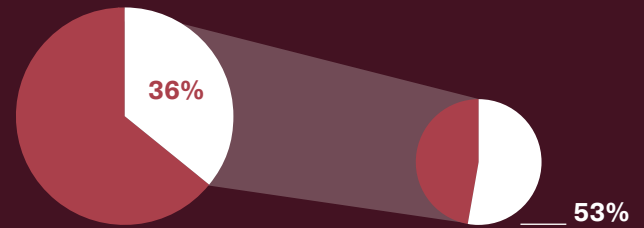
35% are older adults.



28% are non-elderly adults with disabilities.

# \$14,491

is the median annual income of households entering these programs.



36% are households with children.

53% of those are single-adult households.

## Households entering KCHA programs (2023):

People of color are at higher risk of experiencing homelessness due to historical and structural racism.



64% of all entering households transitioned to KCHA directly from homelessness.





Every community has a responsibility to prevent homelessness and provide pathways to **stability**, **dignity**, and **hope**.

Contact us for more information.

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