

Federal Assistance Helps 42,700 in King County

The King County Housing Authority (KCHA) provides rental assistance and quality, affordable housing—both federally subsidized and non-subsidized—in 37 cities and unincorporated King County (excluding Seattle and Renton). As the cost of living continues to rise, the number of families needing rental assistance is also increasing.



Who Receives Federal Rental Assistance?

Nearly 42,700 people in KCHA's service area rely on federal rental assistance. Of households served:

- 🏠 51% include someone with a disability
- 🏠 36% include seniors
- 🏠 36% include children

Seniors are the fastest growing population needing rental assistance as the Baby Boom generation ages.

Veterans rely on rental assistance, with **more than 900 veteran households** leasing a unit through a federally funded voucher.

Nearly 70% of households receiving new housing assistance were homeless or at risk of homelessness before coming to KCHA.

How Federal Rental Assistance Works

Using funds appropriated by Congress for programs directed by the US Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), KCHA supports 18,400+ households:

🏠 Housing Choice (Section 8) Vouchers

70% of households

- Families rent from private landlords in a unit that meets KCHA requirements
- Tenants pay approximately 30% of their income to the landlord
- KCHA pays the remainder to the landlord up to a fair market rent, approved by KCHA

🏠 Subsidized Housing

14% of households

- Buildings are owned and managed by KCHA
- Tenants pay approximately 30% of their income to KCHA

🏠 Project-Based Vouchers

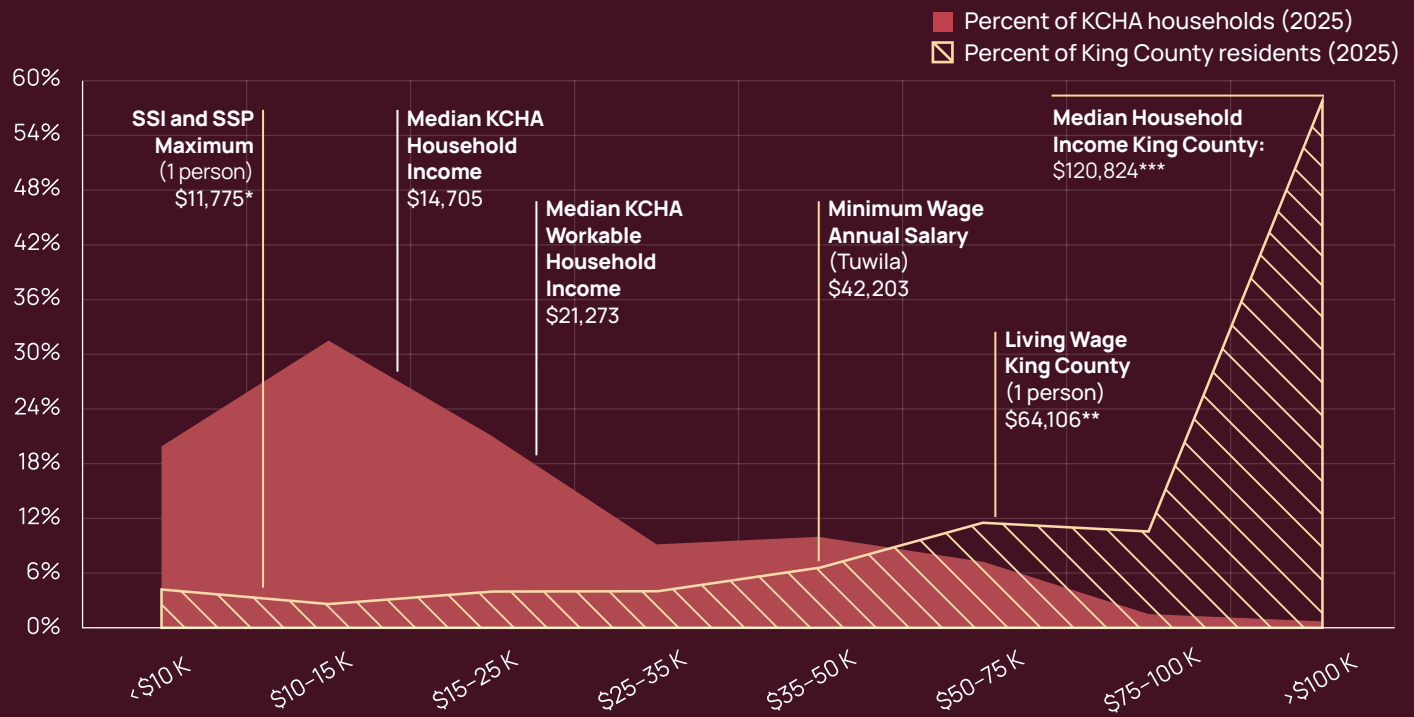
16% of households

- Assistance is tied to a specific unit in a building owned or managed by a nonprofit or private housing provider
- Can help finance new construction by guaranteeing future rent
- One-third of KCHA's Project-Based Vouchers are for Permanent Supportive Housing serving people with complex needs
- Tenants pay approximately 30% of their income to the landlord and KCHA pays the remainder

About 6% of households leave assistance annually, most often due to aging, health issues, or moving in with family.

Annual household income is far below the cost of living.

Even with a full-time job, wages and incomes aren't keeping up with rising rents and the cost of essentials like groceries, transportation, child care, and health care.



Data sources: *WA State limits: <https://elderlawgroupwa.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/SSI-SSP Standards-January-2024.pdf>
 **MIT Living Wage Calculator: <https://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/53033>
 ***US Census ACS, table S1901, 2023 1-yr estimates

Support Services

KCHA has programs and partnerships for support services, including:

- 🏠 **Coordinators to help** connect tenants to food, health care, job training, digital literacy, and adult education
- 🏠 **Paths to self-sufficiency** through fixing credit and saving towards financial goals
- 🏠 **Out-of-School Time programs** for children and youth

Workforce Housing

KCHA also owns 9,400 units of non-subsidized workforce housing, making it King County's largest provider of affordable housing for people earning up to 130% of the Area Median Income (AMI).

These properties accept Housing Choice Vouchers and offer stable and affordable rent for moderate income families. Market rents from workforce housing allow KCHA to create additional affordable units.

