



King County | Office of the Executive

Executive Girmay Zahilay

Chinook Building, CNK-EX-0800
401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98104-2391

August 14, 2026

The Honorable Sarah Perry
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Perry:

In accordance with Ordinance 19572, Ordinance 19783, and the Crisis Care Centers (CCC) Levy Implementation Plan 2024-2032, this letter summarizes the CCC Levy's 2025 online annual report, which is available here: <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dchs/human-social-services/community-funded-initiatives/crisis-care-centers-levy/annual-report>. Accompanying this letter is a Motion that, if enacted, would acknowledge receipt of the summary letter and completion of the online annual report requirement.

Reporting Requirements

The online annual report and this letter summarize the activities of the CCC Levy Initiative through the end of 2025 and fulfill the Initiative's annual reporting requirements per Ordinance 19572. Specifically, it includes summaries of the accomplishments of the expenditure of CCC Levy sales tax proceeds in 2025 as well as financial information and geographic distribution data. On August 6, 2026, the Behavioral Health Advisory Board reviewed and certified the online annual report.

The online annual report includes an overview of accomplishments, highlighting major milestones, service delivery innovations, and progress in improving behavioral health crisis care across King County. It also includes a review of fiscal and performance management, explaining expenditure alongside measurable impacts stemming from Levy funding. The report further provides details on the expenditure of Levy proceeds by crisis response zone (CRZ), strategy, and Levy purpose by King County ZIP code, and summarizes the geographic distribution of CCC Levy funding and distribution of individuals served across King County. This information is presented in greater depth within the online report. The online report also includes other information such as updates on Crisis Care Center siting, operator selection, and contracting; facility utilization;

transportation data; and updates on other Levy-funded strategies including but not limited to mobile crisis investments, residential treatment, and workforce programming. A crosswalk of how the report addresses each reporting requirement is also included in the online report.

Overview of Accomplishments and Progress

In 2025, King County continued to implement the CCC Levy, making it possible for more people to access crisis care services in King County than ever before. Amid a shifting local, state, and federal landscape, King County built on a strong foundation of early investments and program start up from 2024 by working diligently in 2025, the first full year of Levy implementation, to expand and launch new programs across Levy strategies. The Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) drove measurable progress by establishing Crisis Care Centers and residential treatment facilities, strengthening the behavioral health workforce, and bringing more low-barrier crisis services online. Community engagement was a priority across all CCC Levy activities, to inform implementation and to hear from community members about what is working and what needs improvement. In total, DCHS invested about \$64 million in 2025 across Levy strategies.

Key 2025 accomplishments across levy strategies include:

- **Strategy 1: Create and Operate Five Crisis Care Centers:** The first Regional Crisis Care Center in Kirkland, the North CRZ, began operating, and the County purchased a site and selected an operator for the Crisis Care Center in the Central CRZ.
- **Strategy 2: Restore, Expand, and Sustain Residential Treatment Capacity:** Awarded capital funds to support residential treatment capacity.
- **Strategy 3: Strengthen the Community Behavioral Health Workforce:** Invested across three initiatives to strengthen the behavioral health workforce.
- **Strategy 4: Early Crisis Response Investments:** Continued to expand crisis response capacity with ongoing early investments including mobile crisis service expansion for both youth and adults.
- **Strategy 5: Capacity Building and Technical Assistance:** Funded capacity building and technical assistance contracts with three consultant agencies.
- **Strategy 6: Evaluation and Performance Management:** Measured, analyzed, and reported on the impact of the CCC Levy to inform quality improvement initiatives and for reporting purposes.
- **Strategy 7: CCC Levy Administration:** Promoted accountability to the community through community engagement and quality assurance initiatives.
- **Strategy 8: CCC Levy Reserves:** Maintained the Levy fund reserve requirement.

The CCC Levy Implementation Plan prioritizes community engagement to inform implementation, and to engage community around Crisis Care Center openings and new available services. In 2025, DCHS participated in over 100 community engagement activities, with an emphasis on interacting with populations experiencing behavioral health inequities.

Fiscal and Performance Measurement

Financial Expenditures

In 2025, DCHS implemented and refined financial systems and internal capacity needed to oversee the CCC Levy and meet long-term goals. The CCC Levy's 2025 budget was \$122.1 million, while actual spending totaled \$64 million. The online annual report includes a detailed table of actual levy expenditures in 2025. The difference between budgeted amounts and expenditure was primarily due to capital project spending timelines extending beyond 2025 in two Levy strategies.

Strategy 1, Create and Operate Five Crisis Care Centers, had a budget of \$59.9 million in 2025, and \$40 million was spent. The \$19.9 million difference reflects deferred expenditures for Crisis Care Center capital projects. As future Crisis Care Center locations and related capital projects are identified, the budgeted capital costs for renovation and conversion will be expended.

Strategy 2, Restore, Expand, and Sustain Residential Treatment Capacity, used its 2025 budget of \$33.3 million to secure \$35.9 million in awards, with \$1.7 million expended. Capital activities often face longer timelines for expenditure due to issues such as siting, construction limitations, and decision-making across multiple levels of government. As more Residential Treatment Facilities come online and capital awardees draw down funds, annual funding is expected to more closely match budgeted amounts.

Performance Measurement

In 2025, performance measurement efforts continued building the evaluation and performance measurement framework outlined in the CCC Levy Implementation Plan. DCHS continued partnering with providers in 2025 to establish data collection and performance measures, including with Crisis Care Center operators, mobile crisis service providers, and behavioral health workforce programs. Community input also helped identify measures of success that are important to the community, such as an emphasis on documenting demographic data to identify potential disparities and to measure equity impacts on the effectiveness of services.

DCHS will continue refining the performance measurement evaluation framework to meet other requirements in future annual reports, such as consultation with cities and the Sound Cities Association about year-over-year comparisons and aligning CCC Levy performance measurement and reporting with other dedicated human services funding initiatives.

Geographic Distribution

Distribution of Expenditures by ZIP Code

In 2025, CCC Levy investments continued to support the entire county, with some programmatic investments connected to specific facilities or service areas. For example, investments in strengthening the behavioral health workforce, mobile crisis response, and overdose prevention supplies and resources were available to the entire county. For several programs, including establishing a network of regional Crisis Care Centers, DCHS awarded Levy funds to projects in specific locations, which provide services to county residents regardless of where they live. More

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information on the distribution of expenditures, including data for each ZIP Code or CRZ by purpose, strategy, and CCC Levy activity, is available through the online annual report.

Distribution of Individuals Served

In 2025, CCC Levy funded programs served people across the entire county. Specifically, 6,697 people who live across the four CRZs received Levy-funded crisis care from a Crisis Care Center or mobile crisis services. The majority of these people lived in the Central and South CRZs, which have the largest total population. The online annual report contains comprehensive data on the geographic distribution of individuals served.

Looking Ahead

In its second year of implementation, the CCC Levy helped more people access crisis care services in King County than ever before. The County contracted and began promoting the first regional Crisis Care Center, awarded critical funding for residential treatment, and expanded mobile crisis response services. Procurements for additional Crisis Care Center operators and investments in the behavioral health workforce in 2025 also advanced the paramount and supporting purposes of the Levy. As DCHS continues to focus on meeting the goals of the CCC Levy Implementation Plan in partnership with providers and community members, the CCC Levy is well positioned to continue building and operating a behavioral health crisis system that offers timely, compassionate, and effective care to all residents and is a key component of the effort to Break the Cycle.

If your staff have any questions about this report, please contact Dr. Susan McLaughlin, Director, Department of Community and Human Services, at 206-477-9309.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Girmay Zahilay', with a stylized flourish at the end.

for

Girmay Zahilay
King County Executive

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Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff

Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

Karan Gill, Deputy Executive, Office of the Executive

Jasmin Weaver, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Hyeok Kim, Chief Operating Officer, Office of the Executive

Sierra Howlett Browne, Director of Government Relations, Office of the Executive

Garrett Holbrook, Council Relations Manager, Office of the Executive

Dr. Susan McLaughlin, Director, Department of Community and Human Services