



King County

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September 30, 2025

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

Dear Councilmember Zahilay:

In accordance with Ordinance 19604 and the 2024-2029 Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy (VSHSL) Implementation Plan adopted by Ordinance 19719, this letter transmits the summary of the 2024 VSHSL online annual report that is available at <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dchs/human-social-services/community-funded-initiatives/veterans-seniors-human-services-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 2024 VSHSL annual report and this letter summarize the activities of the VSHSL through the end of 2024 and fulfill annual reporting requirements of Ordinance 19604. Specifically, it includes summaries of accomplishments and performance, as well as financial information and geographic distribution data. DCHS consulted with and provided a preview of the online annual report to the VSHSL Advisory Board on August 21, 2025.

Prior VSHSL Annual Reports have been digitized and can be found on the VSHSL reports and planning documents website at <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dchs/human-social-services/community-funded-initiatives/veterans-seniors-human-services-levy/plans-reports>. In addition to this summary letter and the online VSHSL annual report, the VSHSL interactive dashboard offers customizable data views at <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dchs/human-social-services/community-funded-initiatives/veterans-seniors-human-services-levy/dashboard>.

Background: The VSHSL is a voter-approved property tax measure funding health and human services investments across King County. VSHSL-funded investments are designed to support

three priority populations: veterans, military servicemembers, and their respective families; seniors and their caregivers, and resilient communities, defined in the Levy Implementation Plan as persons or communities susceptible to reduced health, housing, financial, or social stability outcomes due to systemic and historical exposure to trauma, violence, poverty, isolation, bias, racism, stigma, discrimination, disability, or chronic illness.

VSHSL-funded investments support the three priority populations in five key result areas: housing stability, healthy living, financial stability, social engagement, and service system access and improvement. DCHS partners with community organizations to design and deliver programming and services for each VSHSL-funded strategy, focusing on the three priority populations above.

Overview of Accomplishments, Progress, and Performance: In the first year of the 2024-2029 VSHSL, Levy programs increased access to stable housing, mental-health supports, financial stability, and social connections, as well as improved access to critical services across the Levy's three priority populations.

VSHSL 2024 highlights include:

- Positively impacted on the lives of more than 63,000 King County residents, including:
 - 7,692 veterans, military servicemembers, and their respective families;
 - 43,800 seniors and their caregivers, and
 - 7,373 members of resilient communities.
- Released 26 procurements for 26 VSHSL strategies.
- Partnered with 208 community providers to provide equitable access to VSHSL-funded services.
- Launched the Levy's new Resource Access Team to help increase access to services across King County with a focus on unincorporated areas. The Resource Access Team combines a mobile outreach component, direct emergency supports, a centralized virtual contact center, and an interactive resource database, allowing residents to access referrals and services in real time.
- Launched the Blaine Veterans Center, King County's first all-veteran, 24/7 enhanced shelter.
- Launched the nation's first transitional housing program for LGBTQ+ veterans, Q'mmunity House, which offers gender-affirming care, holistic case management, and direct pathways to permanent housing.

Program Performance Highlights

- Veterans, Military Servicemembers, and Their Families
 - Through the King County Veterans Program (KCVP), 3,000 individuals received dedicated support, including 1,921 who benefited from financial assistance.
 - The Levy helped secure 84 new permanent housing placements for veteran households experiencing homelessness and expedited 195 enrollments into one-to-one counseling and free mental health services.
- Seniors and Their Caregivers

- The VSHSL provided mobile medical outreach and services to 394 seniors and supported 1,156 seniors to remain stably housed through culturally and geographically specific Senior Village programming.
 - The Levy supported 586 new enrollments for benefits such as unemployment, Social Security, and health insurance coverage.
 - Senior centers played a vital role, with 39,516 seniors participating in the VSHSL's social engagement programs, congregate dining, health promotion, and resource navigation.
 - 163 seniors received home visits that included behavioral health assessments and connections to essential pre-crisis resources through the Geriatric Regional Assessment Team.
- Resilient Communities
 - The VSHSL connected 1,141 people to domestic violence services.
 - The Levy provided housing counseling and foreclosure prevention to 104 households, and assisting 1,196 individuals with applying for government benefits or appealing denied applications.
 - The Levy also supported 544 individuals with disabilities through workshops and trainings on employment skills and civic engagement.
 - In addition, 4,363 community members participated in education on violence prevention, helping to strengthen safety and resilience across the region.

Fiscal Management: In 2024, the first year of implementation under the renewed 2024-2029 VSHSL, DCHS focused on maintaining continuity of services while launching new and updated programs. Approximately \$48.9 million in Levy resources were deployed in 2024 to direct services and community-based programs promoting housing stability, healthy living, and equitable access to care.

DCHS plans to invest some resources available in 2024 in future years. As described further in the online annual report, this includes:

- \$20 million for veteran housing acquisition, which was postponed until a final site is purchased.
- \$8 million for workforce stabilization, which was rescheduled for 2025 to procure strategies and finalize new contracts, stabilize VSHSL program leadership, and finalize program design.
- Several additional strategies completed contracting in the final quarter of 2024, but invoicing and disbursement of funds did not begin until 2025.

At the end of 2024, 84 percent of VSHSL strategies were active, enabling VSHSL to ramp up investments in 2025. At the time of this letter's drafting, 93 percent of strategies were active.

VSHSL Geographic Distribution: Following the passage of the 2024-2029 VSHSL, DCHS expanded its data collection efforts to better understand where services are delivered and how residents access them. Analyzed data show a flexible and adaptive service network with

approximately 81 percent of partners reporting conducting in-office appointments, 67 percent offering services remotely or by phone, and 64 percent engaging with clients in their homes or at other community-based locations. When mapped by ZIP Code, the data show a concentration of offices within the inner suburbs of King County, with significantly fewer brick-and-mortar sites present in rural, southeast, and northeast areas. Maps available in the online annual report show expenditures by where office-based providers are located and expenditures based on participants' residences, including the option to filter by result area.

Maps in the online annual report also show the distribution of participants for each ZIP Code and result area. Levy investments include accessible points of service across the nine Council districts and amplification of investments addressing historic disparities in low-income communities and communities of color. In general, ZIP Codes with the highest concentrations of VSHSL participants typically have larger adult populations, higher opportunity scores, or both. Detailed data on the number of participants for each ZIP Code and result area can be accessed through the VSHSL dashboard.

VSHSL programming includes growing efforts to expand reach through mobile and virtual services, while underscoring geographic service disparities. To begin addressing these gaps, DCHS modified the VSHSL's approach to procurement design and service funding to increase access for residents of all nine council districts, including a new requirement for applicants to identify their geographic location and areas of in-person service and outreach. Because service delivery did not begin for many of those procurements until 2025, the dataset available for 2024 annual reporting does not yet reflect these improvements. Enhanced geographic data is expected to be available starting with 2025 annual reporting.

Conclusion: The VSHSL is a cornerstone of the County's commitment to advance equity and improve outcomes for veterans, seniors, and resilient communities. In 2025, as the VSHSL enters its second year of implementation, DCHS intends to focus on improving equitable geographic coverage of VSHSL services, launching countywide procurements that support workforce stabilization and technical assistance, and expanding the reach of the VSHSL-funded Resource Access Team to better serve unincorporated areas of King County. DCHS plans to strengthen the effectiveness of VSHSL strategies through increased application of evidence-based practices, collaboration with other jurisdictions and human services partners, and continued engagement with communities to co-create solutions that reflect community preferences and lived experiences, and to educate nonprofits in underserved areas on VSHSL funding opportunities.

The Honorable Girmay Zahilay
September 30, 2025
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If your staff have any questions, please contact Kelly Rider, Director, Department of Community and Human Services, at 206-263-5780.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shannon Braddock".

for

Shannon Braddock
King County Executive

cc: King County Councilmembers
 ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff, King County Council
 Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council
Karan Gill, Deputy Executive, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Stephanie Pure, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive
Kelly Rider, Director, Department of Community and Human Services