



## King County | Office of the Executive

**Executive Girmay Zahilay**

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

June 15, 2026

The Honorable Sarah Perry  
Chair, King County Council  
Room 1200  
COURTHOUSE

Dear Councilmember Perry:

This letter transmits the 2025 Health Through Housing Annual Report, as required by King County Code 2A.300.200, and an accompanying proposed Motion that would, if enacted, acknowledge receipt of the report.

This annual report summarizes the activities of the Health Through Housing (HTH) initiative through the end of 2025 and fulfills the initiative's annual reporting requirements. Specifically, it includes summaries of the accomplishments and effectiveness of the expenditure of HTH sales tax proceeds in 2025 as well as financial information including but not limited to the allocation of proceeds by jurisdiction. On May 21, 2026, the HTH Advisory Committee reviewed and certified this report and the HTH Dashboard, including certifying that the dashboard is updated with 2025 calendar year data.

This report also summarizes the significant additional annual data reporting provided in HTH's online dashboard, as called for by the Initial Health Through Housing Implementation Plan 2022-2028 as adopted by Ordinance 19366. This tool, which also adds context about HTH's process, outcomes, and community-wide impact, enables community members and policymakers to learn more about HTH locations that are open and the other properties that are at various stages of preparation for operations. County staff and residents can visit the online HTH dashboard at [www.kingcounty.gov/hthdashboard](http://www.kingcounty.gov/hthdashboard) for additional information about the HTH initiative.

HTH increases housing capacity for residents with the highest needs, who are experiencing or at risk of chronic homelessness, by repurposing hotels and apartments and expediting financing of other newly constructed buildings throughout the County. HTH ended the year with 1,423 housing units secured and 1,054 units open across 14 sites. In 2025, HTH opened three sites to residents and finished major construction work at its Kirkland site, which started moving in residents in January 2026.

Of these newly opened buildings, the Kirkland and Federal Way sites each represent one of the first PSH buildings to open in their respective cities, illustrating the initiative's success using a regional approach to

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reduce chronic homelessness. While HTH has faced significant challenges that have impacted the pace at which the initiative is achieving its paramount goal of securing and opening 1,600 units, HTH has made steady progress securing and opening supportive housing across King County.

After four years of operation, the HTH initiative has ended homelessness for over 1,400 King County residents, improved the health and wellbeing of residents, and reduced the use of local emergency departments, hospitals, and jails.

Recent analysis by DCHS shows that after two years of living in a HTH unit:

- residents' total number of inpatient hospital care stays decreases by 41 percent,
- their total number of emergency department visits drops by 39 percent, and
- residents experience a 24 percent decrease in jail bookings.

Other 2025 highlights include:

- HTH continued providing a broad range of services and supports to residents, with almost all 1,380 HTH residents served in 2025 having access to at least one type of onsite health service.
- HTH made progress addressing racial and ethnic disproportionality among the homeless population, including opening three sites that are operated by organizations run by and for BIPOC communities.
- HTH achieved positive housing stability outcomes among its PSH residents, with 93 percent of PSH residents maintaining their housing or moving to another permanent housing destination.
- HTH achieved continued success housing individuals with ties to the city in which their HTH building is located, with 98 percent of HTH residents reporting existing ties to the communities where they reside at move in.
- HTH sites maintained high occupancy rates in 2025, with buildings ending the year with an average occupancy rate of 92 percent.

While HTH has not yet reached its paramount goal of securing and opening 1,600 units, financial conditions have changed dramatically since the Plan's adoption, creating new barriers to expanding the HTH portfolio. Recent economic changes have significantly impacted both the cost of acquiring new properties and the cost of renovating and maintaining existing HTH buildings. Additionally, emerging shifts in global trade policy and tariff measures create significant uncertainty regarding future construction costs and future HTH sales tax revenue.

Additionally, in 2025, the King County Facilities Management Division (FMD) determined that many of its acquired HTH buildings required significant, unexpected, and costly repair work. Because HTH is facing both higher-than-expected costs and significant uncertainty regarding future revenue, DCHS has paused efforts to secure additional HTH units. This adjustment reflects DCHS' efforts to prudently manage HTH's limited resources not only to create new housing units, but also to operate those units on an ongoing basis with housing-related services, consistent with the initiative's paramount goal as articulated in Ordinance 19236 and the Plan.

DCHS intends to continue to closely monitor these trends and will secure additional units once financial conditions permit. HTH is also working with FMD to comprehensively assess long-term maintenance and capital improvements needed across its current portfolio, enable HTH to continue to provide high-quality, safe housing to its residents.

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Despite these challenges, the HTH initiative is the fastest and most regional expansion of supportive housing that King County has ever implemented. It is a powerful component of our regional strategy to break the cycle of homelessness, addiction, and trauma. I look forward to continuing to report on the initiative's progress, and my staff will keep working to overcome these challenges as they bring more people inside.

I am grateful to the cities, providers, neighbors, and other community partners that have worked alongside King County and the HTH initiative to welcome these new homes for people experiencing chronic homelessness. We can turn the tide on this regional crisis by taking unified action across the county through smart, sustainable, evidence-based strategies that will serve thousands of people over decades.

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

Sincerely,



for

Girmay Zahilay  
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers  
ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff, King County Council  
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