



## King County | Office of the Executive

### Executive Girmay Zahilay

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

April 7, 2026

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

Dear Councilmember Perry,

This letter transmits the King County Youth Diversion and Intervention Program Report required by the 2026-2027 Biennial Budget Ordinance 20023.

As required, the enclosed report includes:

- A description of the proposed King County Youth Diversion and Intervention (KCYDI) program guiding principles and outcome goals;
- A description of the framework or model to be utilized for program implementation, evaluation, and reporting;
- A description of how the proposed program was informed by input from stakeholders including the Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO), the King County Superior Court (KCSC), and community partners, as well as prior experience with the Restorative Community Pathways program (RCP);
- A status update regarding the program's implementation timeline; and
- A cost estimate for broadening program eligibility to provide felony diversion to youth.

The KCYDI program brings community and County system partners together to provide a collective response to youth under 18 who have had an encounter with law enforcement. It builds off of Restorative Community Pathways (RCP), King County's community-based diversion for youth under the age of 18 and community members who have experienced harm. The proposed KCYDI program includes changes to RCP set forth in Executive Shannon Braddock's October 2025 letter to the Council responding to Ordinance 19861. DCHS designed KCYDI with input from current RCP community partners, the PAO, KCSC, as well as from four years' experience with the RCP programming, and the independent evaluation of RCP conducted by Impact Justice.

KCYDI program implementation includes effective model elements from RCP. These elements, such as working with a consortium of community-based organizations to provide culturally responsive services and providing wraparound services through KCYDI community navigators, help ensure that service lengths are flexible to respond to the needs of participants. Services and restitution funds for community members who have experienced harm are also included.

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Through the forthcoming KCYDI RFP, DCHS intends to introduce changes to KCYDI that include DCHS staffing the referral manager role, enhanced data collection and reporting on school and education engagement, increased services to support youth to re-engage in school, and youth voice that informs program improvements rather than serve as primary decision-makers.

DCHS intends to collect selected measures quarterly and use them to summarize program implementation and related outcomes. DCHS will share quarterly KCYDI reports with KCYDI community partners, PAO, King County Department of Public Defense, KCSC, and on its public-facing [website](#).

DCHS plans to launch the request for proposals for KCYDI community providers in April 2026, and to finalize contracting and transition from RCP to KCYDI in the third and fourth quarters of 2026. DCHS and community partners intend to formally launch KCYDI operations in January 2027.

I look forward to continuing this important work supporting the health and well-being of King County youth and their communities partnership with PAO and KCYDI community providers.

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  
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