



King County

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July 11, 2024

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

Dear Councilmember Upthegrove:

This letter transmits the 2023 Health Through Housing Annual Report, as required by KCC 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 2023 and fulfills the initiative's annual reporting requirements. The report includes summaries of the accomplishments and reports on the effectiveness of the expenditure of HTH sales tax proceeds in 2023, and provides financial information including, but not limited to, the allocation of proceeds by jurisdiction. On May 16, 2024, the HTH Advisory Committee reviewed and certified this report and the HTH Dashboard, including certifying that the dashboard is updated with 2023 calendar year data.¹

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. The dashboard, which also provides 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. I encourage County staff and residents to visit the online HTH dashboard at www.kingcounty.gov/hthdashboard for additional, in-depth, and updated 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 and acquiring hotels and apartments and expediting financing of other newly constructed buildings throughout the County. To date,

¹ Initial Health Through Housing Implementation Plan. [[LINK](#)]

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1,495 housing units have been acquired, with 1,358 units currently in operation. Further progress depends on collaboration with host jurisdictions, neighboring communities, and community-based supportive housing operators.

In its second year of operation in 2023, HTH focused on moving residents into units, providing housing for 911 people who would otherwise be at high risk of sleeping outside or in shelters. HTH also expanded mobile behavioral health response teams to serve seven HTH buildings. These teams provide crisis behavioral health services to HTH residents, increasing their ability to remain stably housed.

In 2023, HTH also worked through pre-occupancy processes to license, permit, seek changes of use, and initiate major construction work at acquired properties in Federal Way, Kirkland, and in Seattle's Capitol Hill neighborhood. HTH also added or expanded operations-only agreements to serve residents in North Seattle and Burien.

The HTH initiative is the fastest regional expansion of supportive housing that King County has implemented, with hundreds of people already housed, new partnerships established, enhanced health and wellness services launched, and several more sites being readied for residents. Some HTH locations have moved slower than initially anticipated, with staffing shortages, capital repairs, permitting, and other necessary agreements with some cities taking longer than originally anticipated. I remain confident that HTH is a powerful component of our regional strategy to address the crises of affordable housing and chronic homelessness. 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.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Kelly Rider, Acting Director, Department of Community and Human Services, at 206-263-5780.

Sincerely,



for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Shannon Braddock, Deputy County Executive, Office of the Executive

Karan Gill, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Penny Lipsou, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

Kelly Rider, Acting Director, Department of Community and Human Services