



KCRHA

King County Regional Homelessness Authority

An overview of who we are and what we do.



THEORY OF CHANGE

Our Theory of Change

If we create a homeless response system that centers the voices of people with lived experience, then we will be able to meet needs and eliminate inequities, in order to end homelessness for all.

Purpose and Goals

UNIFY AND COORDINATE

The RHA will consolidate homelessness response for King County, the City of Seattle, and other cities that choose to participate, in order to ensure alignment and efficiency in the funding and administration of homeless policy and services.

RE-IMAGINE

Imagine what a system would look like if it was designed around what people need to thrive.

CO-CREATE

Together with customers, service providers, neighbors and partners, the RHA is co-creating a system with community input and feedback, better data, best practices, equity and social justice principles, for a more inclusive regional plan.

What We Do

Independent Government Agency

Contract and Funding Administrator

Performance Measures

Data Lead

The King County Regional Homelessness Authority ("RHA" or "the Authority") was created in 2019 by Seattle and King County—because it was time to do something different. The first CEO, Marc Dones (they/them pronouns), was hired in April 2021.

The RHA does not levy taxes, but is funded through the regular budget process of the city and county. We are not a direct service provider, and do not make referrals to shelter, housing, or services. The RHA does not build housing, but advocates for more affordable housing.

The Authority will unify and coordinate funding, policy, and homeless response services, including working with people in encampments and developing a menu of shelter and housing options that meet a variety of needs. The Authority will also be responsible for a comprehensive data system and setting performance standards.

Local CoC Agency

HMIS Lead

HUD NOFA Applicant

Coordinated Entry Lead

As required by the federal Department of Housing & Urban Development ("HUD"), the RHA is the local Continuum of Care ("CoC") Agency, previously held by All Home.

The RHA administers the Coordinated Entry triage system and the HMIS data system. Together with the CoC Advisory Board, RHA also leads the application process to HUD to secure federal funds for homelessness response.

Core Values

Shelter is NOT a Destination

Nobody should have to live outside, and nobody should have to live in a shelter long-term. Homeless shelters are meant to be a temporary, emergency stop on the way to a permanent place to live. A "Housing First" approach creates more affordable, safe and accessible housing options, opening up places for people to live in community and allowing them to move on from shelter, which then opens up more shelter spaces for people who are in crisis and living outside.

Racial Equity and Social Justice

Homelessness disproportionately harms people of color. The Authority uses an equity based decision making framework to proactively dismantle structural racism and advance equity.

Centering Lived Experience

The Authority is committed to centering the voices and insights of people who have lived experience of homelessness and housing instability.

Subregional Planning

39

Cities

150+

Organizations

7

Sub-Regions

In collaboration with all 39 cities including Seattle and over 150 organizations, the RHA has identified 7 sub-regions with distinct characteristics and needs.

Our team is mapping out what services are available in each subregion, where the gaps are, and what is needed to ensure that people who experience homelessness or housing instability don't have to travel to find services, but have appropriate supports in their own community.

Cities and sub-regions have the option of signing an administrative service agreement with the RHA, in order to further unify and coordinate services across King County.

KEY INITIATIVES

Key Initiatives

Peer Navigation

By Name List

Emergency Housing Vouchers

High Acuity Customers

Public System Coordination

Cross-Sector Collaboration

UNDERSTANDING UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS



APPROACH

Approach to the PIT in 2022

- Conduct a head count of unsheltered individuals.
- Conduct a count of people currently in shelters.
- Develop a qualitative data collection strategy with customers, providers, and human services staff.

PARTNERSHIP FOR ZERO

An Emergency Response to addressing
homelessness



RHA
King County Regional
Homelessness Authority

TREAT AN EMERGENCY LIKE AN EMERGENCY

7 years ago King County declared a state of emergency around homelessness. But very little has operationally changed.

Treating an emergency like an emergency means:

- Prioritizing and targeting resources to meet clear objectives.
- Making rapid and informed decisions about resource deployment.
- Coordinating efforts across organizations toward shared goals.

THE GOAL

CREATE A FUNCTIONAL ZERO SUB-SYSTEM IN SPECIFIC AREAS IN KING COUNTY

- Develop and deploy an emergency management approach to drive a coordinated crisis response to the homeless population living in a region.
- Create a sustainable infrastructure that can maintain functional zero in a defined space.

5 Phase Approach

1. Ramp Up: Development of a Unified Command Center
2. Development of a downtown By Name List
3. Case Planning and resource matching
4. Draw down through housing and longterm shelter exits
5. Hold steady

Phase 1:

Develop Unified
Command Center

Phase 2:

Develop By
Name List

Phase 3:

Case Planning and
Resource Matching

Phase 4:

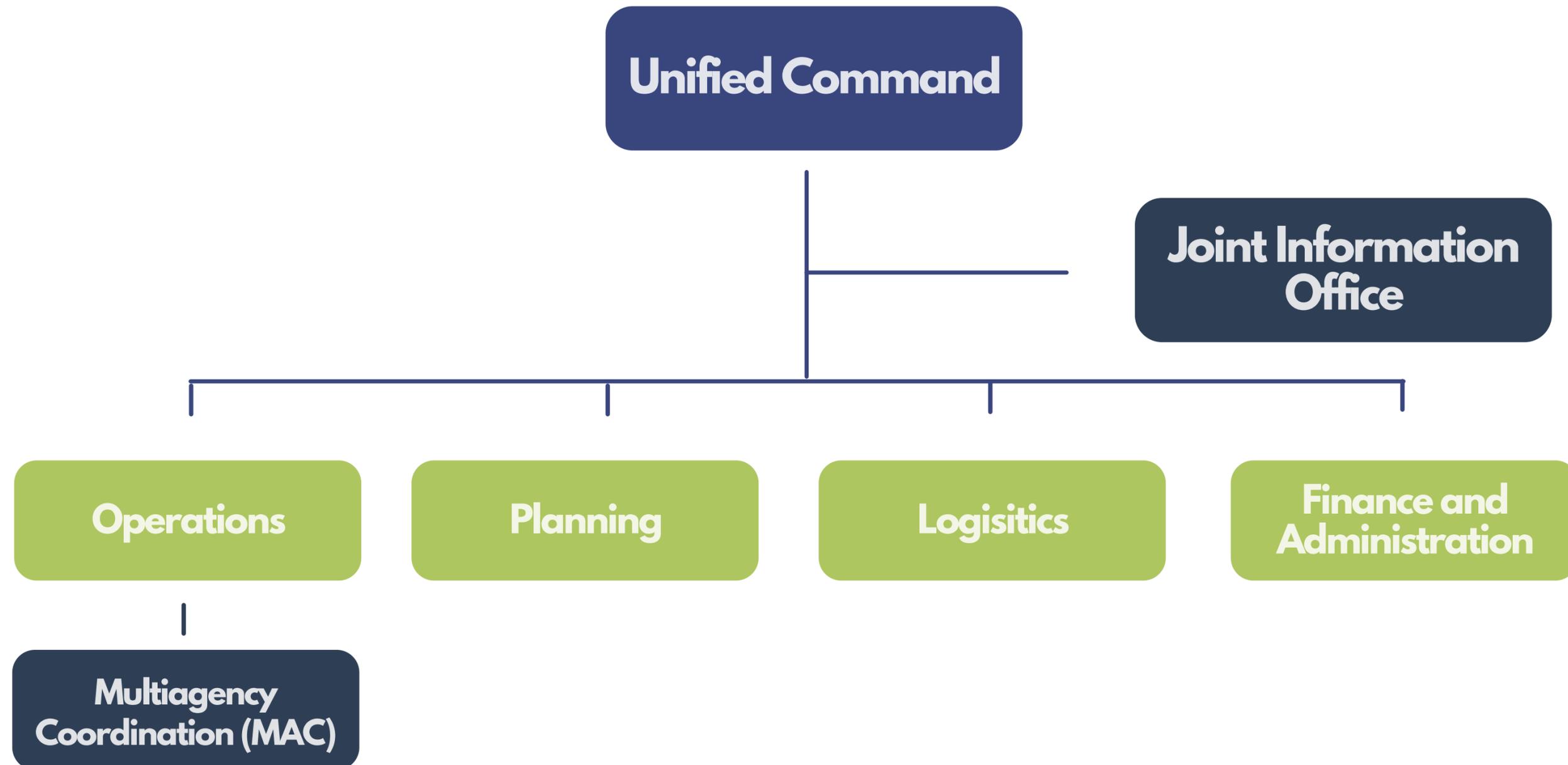
Draw Down

Phase 5:

Hold Steady



UNIFIED COMMAND CENTER



BENEFITS OF A UNIFIED COMMAND RESPONSE

- Replicability
- Scalability
- Clear and shared objectives
- Streamlined process for gathering, collecting and analyzing information to inform decisions
- Clear chains of command that increase efficiency and coordination
- Coordinated and intentional resource deployment

Maintaining Functional Zero

- Keep infrastructure in place
- Transition Navigator costs to sustainable funding mechanisms through accreditation of peers and supporting them via medicaid reimbursement under the 1115 waiver.
- Identify an ongoing funding source for the high acuity shelter through work with the County's Behavioral Health and Recovery Division.



WeArein





BACKGROUND

- + Established in 2019, **We Are In** is a coalition — including **business, philanthropy, advocates, service providers, and housed and unhoused King County residents** —uniting resources to end homelessness across King County and advocate for more affordable housing.



SEED FUNDERS

- + Ballmer Group
- + Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- + Raikes Foundation
- + Symetra
- + Microsoft
- + Schultz Family Foundation
- + Champion Foundation



ROLES

- + Public funds
- + Data infrastructure
- + Crisis response management



- + Private funds
- + Communication & advocacy
- + Catalytic system investments



VALUES

- + Cultivate and advance solutions to homelessness that are **racially-equitable, community-driven, and data-informed.**
- + If we create a homeless response system that **centers customer voice**, then we will be able to focus on responding to needs and **eliminating inequities**, in order to end homelessness for all.

(Theory of Change from the Regional Action Framework)



OUR WORK

- + **IMPACT INVESTMENTS:** Align investments for system transformation efforts using private capital to support innovative practices and to catalyze system change.
- + **ADVANCE THE REGIONAL ACTION FRAMEWORK:** Coordinate and align with the KCRHA to expand and preserve affordable and supportive housing stock while taking aggressive interim measures to decrease the number of people living unsheltered.
- + **ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATIONS:** Increase membership base and convene broad and diverse stakeholders to speak with a unified voice - including sharing successes.

Thank You

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