



## King County

### Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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December 29, 2023

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

Dear Councilmember Upthegrove:

I am pleased to transmit the Crisis Care Centers Levy Implementation Plan 2024-2032 as required by Ordinance 19572, and three proposed Ordinances that would, if enacted, adopt the Levy's implementation plan, establish its advisory body, and provide appropriation authority for Levy expenditures in 2024. Approval of this proposed legislation would transform the region's behavioral health crisis response system through the creation of a network of five crisis care centers throughout the region; restore the region's flagging mental health residential facilities; and reinforce the workforce upon whom tens of thousands of King County residents depend for their behavioral health.

Specifically, my plan prioritizes three investments and outcomes for the 2024-2032 Crisis Care Centers (CCC) Levy:

- **Crisis Care Centers:** Establish and operate a regional network of five crisis care centers in King County, with at least one in each of the four crisis response zones established in Ordinance 19572 and one serving youth.
- **Residential Treatment:** Restore the number of mental health residential treatment beds to at least 355 and expand the availability of residential treatment in King County.
- **Community Behavioral Health Workforce:** Help more people join and stay in the behavioral health workforce in King County by expanding community behavioral health career pathways, supporting labor-management workforce development partnerships, and focusing on crisis workforce development.

While laying a path and providing resources for long-term change, the plan also prioritizes rapid changes where possible. The plan includes specific strategies to quickly invest in additional crisis services before crisis care centers open and substantial first-year investments in residential treatment facilities and existing behavioral health workforce strategies.

This transmittal package also includes the following proposed legislation:

- A proposed Ordinance that would, if enacted, adopt the plan to govern the CCC Levy's strategies, activities, and expenditures from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2032;
- A proposed Ordinance that would, if enacted, provide supplemental budget appropriation to the Crisis Care Centers Fund to support CCC Levy strategies and activities in 2024; and
- A proposed Ordinance that would, if enacted, amend King County Code 2A.300.050 to empower the King County Behavioral Health Advisory Board to be the advisory body for the CCC Levy in accordance with Ordinance 19572 and implement changes to the code as recommended in the CCC Levy Implementation Plan, including updating the Board's membership requirements and duties.

On February 9, 2023, King County adopted Ordinance 19572 to provide for the submission of the CCC Levy to the voters of King County. King County voters considered the Levy as Proposition No. 1 as part of the April 25, 2023 special election, and 57 percent of voters approved it. The passage of Proposition No. 1 created a nine-year property tax levy of \$0.145 per \$1,000 of assessed value, which is expected to generate over \$1.1 billion in revenue between 2024 and 2032. Ordinance 19572 also required transmittal of an implementation plan to direct CCC Levy expenditures from 2024 through 2032.

The CCC Levy implementation plan is the product of an intensive process that began in June 2023 and concluded in December 2023. DCHS' planning activities included engaging community partners, soliciting formal requests for information (RFIs), engaging with various Washington State departments, consulting with national subject matter experts, coordinating with other County partners, and convening internal workgroups within DCHS. Community engagement activities included participation from behavioral health agencies, people with lived experiences of behavioral health crises, frontline behavioral health workers, local jurisdiction staff and elected officials, and other community partners. This input significantly informed the strategies described in this Plan and will inform future procurement and operational phases of the CCC Levy.

The enclosed plan describes the forecasted expenditure of Levy proceeds, consistent with Ordinance 19572, to achieve the Levy's paramount and supporting purposes. It identifies and describes strategies to create and operate a regional network of five crisis care centers across King County, which will create a new front door for people in crisis who need behavioral health services. The plan funds early crisis services that will go into effect in 2024 before crisis care centers are operational and will quickly expand services for people experiencing both mental health and substance use crises in our community. Additionally, the plan also includes strategies to increase King County's mental health residential treatment capacity back to at least its 2018 level of 355 beds, and to strengthen the County's community behavioral health workforce. The plan also describes a robust framework to assess and report on how well the CCC Levy is achieving its results and describes how its results will be made available digitally to the Council and community, as directed by Ordinance 19572. Lastly, the plan makes recommendations to empower the King County Behavioral Health Advisory Board as the CCC Levy's advisory body.

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Thank you for your continued support of the CCC Levy. I look forward to ongoing collaboration with the Council, local jurisdictions, behavioral health providers, and other community partners. Together, we aim to ensure that future generations will have a safe, accessible, and effective place to go when they experience a mental health or substance use crisis or treatment need, confident in the knowledge that there will be supportive providers there to help.

If your staff have questions, please contact Leo Flor, Director, Department of Community and Human Services, at 206-477-4384.

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine  
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers  
ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff  
Melani Hay, 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  
Leo Flor, Director, Department of Community and Human Services