



King County

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King County Executive

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September 6, 2022

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

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

I am pleased to transmit to you an assessment report of the Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy (VSHSL), as required by Motion 16129. The report provides an analysis of investments and the impact the VSHSL has made, and recommendations in consideration of potential renewal of the VSHSL.

Since its expansion in 2018 to support not only local veterans, servicemembers and their families, and other resilient communities, but also seniors and their caregivers, the VSHSL has served more than 146,000 King County residents with community-driven programming. The enclosed report ties together extensive research by staff, and provider and community feedback. It illustrates the VSHSL's impact in each of its result areas, sharing how the levy has supported King County residents with housing stability, healthy living, financial stability, social engagement, and service system access. The report also shares how the VSHSL has distributed its investments and programming geographically to ensure broad service reach throughout the county. It addresses the levy's work in advancing equitable access to levy resources, including through the provision of its technical assistance and capacity building funds.

The report's analysis and its 21 recommendations indicate that renewal of the levy is an opportunity for King County to continue needed programming while prioritizing strategies to support veterans, seniors, and resilient communities in the region even more effectively.

Motion 16129 requested an assessment report to inform deliberations about the future of the VSHSL, which is set to expire on December 31, 2023 unless a ballot measure for renewal is sent to King County voters. The report includes an assessment of VSHSL programming and recommendations.

The assessment includes analyses of:

- investments by geographical area;
- the impact the VSHSL has made in the five result areas;
- technical assistance and capacity building investments; and
- the impact of the VSHSL's work in advancing equitable access.

The report's 21 recommendations, within each result area and across the levy, address:

- whether a renewed levy should maintain or modify the five result areas;
- how a renewed levy would align and coordinate with other federal, state and local funding streams and programs to integrate and avoid duplication of effort; and
- whether to maintain or modify the distribution of levy funds among population groups and result areas.

Additionally, the report includes an assessment of current needs and funding opportunities related to gender-based violence and a recommendation on whether a renewed levy should maintain or modify funding for those services. It also includes information about the Executive's ongoing assessment of current needs and opportunities for services for individuals with behavioral health conditions, with anticipated next actions.

The VSHSL has helped many of the County's most vulnerable residents achieve a safer, healthier and more productive life in many ways. But the levy's value goes beyond helping vulnerable residents—it helps the entire region because a common sense of opportunity and belonging in King County makes all individuals and communities stronger.

The Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy strongly supports the County's Equity and Social Justice Initiative, working to provide opportunities for all county residents to achieve their fullest potential while centering community voice and equity throughout the VSHSL's programs. The VSHSL also advances four goal areas of the King County Strategic Plan: the health and human services goal of improving the health and well-being of all people in our community; the accessible, affordable housing goal of increasing access to quality housing that is affordable to all; the economic vitality goal of increasing access to job opportunities; and the safety and justice goal of implementing alternatives to divert people from the criminal legal system.

This report required an estimated 1,150 staff hours to produce, costing approximately \$82,184.

Thank you for your commitment to addressing the needs of our veterans, military personnel, and their families; seniors and their caregivers; and other individuals and families in need of housing, health, and human services.

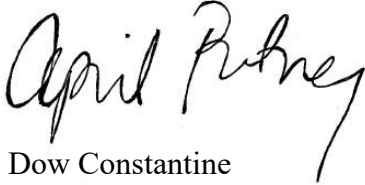
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If your staff have any questions, please contact Leo Flor, Director, Department of Community and Human Services, at 206-263-9100.

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers
ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff
Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council
Shannon Braddock, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Karan Gill, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive
Mina Hashemi, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive
Leo Flor, Director, Department of Community and Human Services