



King County

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August 15, 2024

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 a proposed amended and restated interlocal agreement between King County and the City of Seattle, and a proposed ordinance that would, if adopted, authorize the Executive to execute the amended restated interlocal agreement titled, “Amended and Restated Interlocal Agreement for the Establishment of the King County Regional Homelessness Authority Between King County and the City of Seattle Pursuant to RCW 39.34.030.”¹ The original interlocal agreement for the establishment of the King County Regional Homelessness Authority first went into effect on December 18, 2019.^{2,3} Since then, the needs of our region have changed dramatically in the face of emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the region’s continued recovery from its effects. Approval of the proposed amended and restated interlocal agreement and proposed ordinance will reaffirm King County’s commitment to a regional approach to addressing homelessness, allow for the County’s continued support of the King County Regional Homelessness Authority, and update its structure to be more responsive to today’s needs.

Homelessness and housing insecurity remain chronic and serious problems across King County. Additionally, people of color continue to be overrepresented among people who struggle with homelessness and housing instability. To effectively address homelessness, a coordinated regional approach that includes an intentional effort to address the racial disparities among people experiencing homelessness is still needed. The adoption of the proposed ordinance and execution of the proposed, restated and amended interlocal agreement will continue the King County Regional Homelessness Authority and will advance a regional and equitable approach to addressing homelessness.

¹ RCW 39.34.030 [[LINK](#)].

² King County Ordinance 19039 [[LINK](#)].

³ City of Seattle Ordinance 126021 [[LINK](#)].

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The original interlocal agreement established the King County Regional Homelessness Authority, a governmental administrative agency, to administer funding for consolidated, aligned homelessness service contracts. The Authority receives revenues from King County, the City of Seattle, and other public and private sources to advance its mission to administer effective, performance-based homeless services to support a high-functioning homelessness crisis response system to significantly decrease the incidence of unsheltered homelessness across King County using equity and social justice principles.

The proposed amended and restated interlocal agreement updates the original interlocal agreement that went into effect in 2019. Proposed amendments include streamlining the Authority's governance structure to improve oversight and accountability and making other changes to clarify roles, responsibilities, and processes. The proposed amended and restated interlocal agreement would continue the agreement for an indefinite period until terminated by either King County or the City of Seattle.

King County's Executive Branch collaborated with the City of Seattle and members of the Sound Cities Association to develop the proposed agreement with the shared overall goal of improving the effective delivery and coordination of services for individuals experiencing homelessness. When local governments, homeless service providers, and community members come together as a region, we can collectively and effectively address serious regional challenges, including reducing homelessness and supporting our neighbors who are unhoused. With these changes and its new leader, Dr. Kelly Kinnison, the King County Regional Homelessness Authority will be well positioned to lead this regional effort and continue to improve the delivery and coordination of services for people experiencing homelessness.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed amended and restated interlocal agreement and proposed ordinance. I look forward to continuing to work with the King County Council, the City of Seattle, the Sound Cities Association, homeless service providers, people with lived experience of homelessness, and other community partners to strengthen our regional approach to administering an effective and equitable response to homelessness in our community.

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

Sincerely,



for

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King County Executive

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Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff

Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

Karan Gill, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Penny Lipsou, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

Kelly Rider, Director, Department of Community and Human Services