



King County

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King County Executive

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June 15, 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 proud to transmit the 2022 Health Through Housing Annual Report, as required by King County Code (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 2022 and fulfills the initiative's annual reporting requirements. Specifically, the enclosed report includes summaries of the accomplishments and effectiveness of the expenditure of HTH sales tax proceeds in 2022 as well as financial information including but not limited to the allocation of proceeds by jurisdiction.

This report also summarizes the significant additional annual data reporting provided in HTH's new online dashboard, as called for by the Initial Health Through Housing Implementation Plan 2022-2028 as adopted by Ordinance 19366. This tool, which also adds context about HTH's process, outcomes, and community-wide impact, enables community members and policymakers alike 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.

This report confirms that the HTH Advisory Committee has certified that the online dashboard is current and updated with 2022 data and ready for review, as directed by the implementation plan. Because the HTH Advisory Committee was forming at the time this report was drafted, it was not feasible for the committee to send the 2022 transmitted report. Consequently, I am directly delivering this report. With the Advisory Committee now fully formed and operating, I will transmit future reports to the Council on behalf of the Advisory Committee.

The Honorable Dave Upthegrove

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Health Through Housing in 2022

With the acquisition of the first property in May 2021, HTH took a significant step forward in the struggle to solve chronic homelessness. This initiative demonstrates King County's long-term commitment to creating new, regional supportive housing and reducing racial and ethnic disproportionality among people experiencing or at risk of chronic homelessness. In 2022, the Health Through Housing portfolio grew to a total of 1,366 units, opened 543 additional units to residents in Auburn, Renton, and Seattle, served 803 people across eight buildings, permanently housed 348 people, and achieved high housing stability rates for most residents.

The HTH initiative recently reached an important milestone with the finalization of its purchase of its 11th building, located in Seattle's Capitol Hill neighborhood. HTH properties cover a wide geographic area, including three in south King County, two in east King County, and six in Seattle. The HTH initiative has partnered with the City of Seattle to permanently add four City-owned buildings totaling 350 units to the HTH portfolio, where King County will fund all services and ongoing operations in those buildings. To reach HTH's paramount goal of creating and operating 1,600 new units affordable housing, King County anticipates acquiring one to two more buildings by early 2024 and establishing its final operations-only partnership in 2023.

The HTH initiative is the fastest regional expansion of supportive housing that King County has implemented as compared to newly constructed affordable housing, which takes anywhere from one-and-a-half to three years to come online once funding is secured, according to the 2021 Housing Awards Annual Memorandum. By contrast, HTH opened its buildings in an average of 11 months. HTH has seen more than 1,000 units of supportive housing purchased and brought into the regional system and hundreds of people already housed who would otherwise be at high risk of sleeping outside or in shelters, including first of their kind expansions of supportive housing to five King County cities.

Some HTH locations were slower to open than anticipated, due to staffing shortages, capital repairs, and timing of permitting and other necessary agreements taking longer than originally planned. Taking measure of the program's successes and challenges, I remain confident that HTH is a powerful component of our regional strategy to address the entwined crises of affordable housing and chronic homelessness. I look forward to reporting the progress the program continues to make, and my staff will continue working to overcome challenges to achieve the initiative's goals.

Furthering the King County Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan

HTH is focused on housing historically marginalized communities that are more likely to experience chronic homelessness. With this aim, HTH supports several goals of the Equity and Social Justice (ESJ) Strategic Plan by substantively expanding housing and services for people experiencing chronic homelessness while focusing on reducing racial and ethnic disproportionality. HTH addresses root causes of inequities, increases access to quality affordable housing, and improves health and well-being to create thriving communities.

I appreciate the shared commitment by cities, providers, neighbors, and the community to partner with King County and the HTH initiative to welcome these new housing opportunities

The Honorable Dave Upthegrove

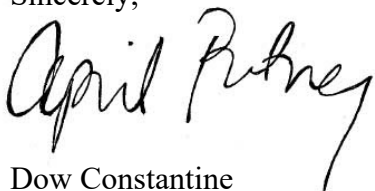
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for people experiencing chronic homelessness. I remain clear-eyed about the successes and challenges of the HTH initiative, that it is indeed our fastest-ever supportive housing expansion and that we must continue to work urgently to overcome delays and deliver the full benefit of the program. By taking unified action across the county and by meeting the urgency of the moment with smart, sustainable, evidence-based strategies that will serve thousands of people over decades, we can turn the tide on this regional crisis.

Thank you for your consideration of the enclosed proposed Motion and this first Health Through Housing Annual Report. If your staff have any 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 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