



## 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:

This letter transmits the King County Equitable Development Initiative Implementation Plan Phase 2, in response to Ordinance 19712, Section 77, Expenditure Restriction ER8 and Proviso P1, and Motion 16062. This letter also transmits a proposed Motion that would, if enacted, accept the Implementation Plan. Passage of this proposed legislation will also support implementation of initial King County Equitable Development Initiative (EDI) programming via new, one-year capacity building grants to support community-based organizations (CBOs) leading housing-related capital projects in priority communities, as described further in the plan. Priority communities are defined in the plan as communities adversely impacted by structural racism and discrimination, disparities in economic and health outcomes, and heightened risk of displacement.

The Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) collaborated on the Implementation Plan with a Community Planning Workgroup (CPW) comprised of 15 community members, emphasizing Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) leadership and broad geographic representation. All CPW members have lived experience or relevant expertise in topics such as anti-displacement, building cultural community anchors, civic engagement, immigrant and refugee services, community-driven development projects, affordable housing, and commercial affordability in communities vulnerable to displacement across King County.

The enclosed plan outlines the CPW's recommendations for implementing a King County EDI consistent with Motion 16062 and deploying equitable development investments consistent with Ordinance 19712, Section 77, Expenditure Restriction ER8 and Proviso P1. The CPW envisions a King County EDI that would transform how resources are allocated to communities at risk of displacement and create a pathway for CBOs that are led by and for priority

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communities to build their capacity to successfully lead and own capital projects that increase community stability, expand access to opportunities, and build community wealth.

Toward this goal, and grounded in the feedback provided by the CPW, I have identified next actions that are achievable with the one-time appropriation of \$1 million, pending the Council's passage of the proposed Motion to accept this Implementation Plan. I am committed to working with an Interim EDI Advisory Board to use the \$1 million from the proviso to develop and launch new capacity building grants for housing-related capital projects led by and for priority communities.

Notably, the CPW's recommendations extend beyond what is possible with the one-time only \$1 million funds. The CPW recommendations include launching the King County EDI in four stages, which would be implemented based on the level of future funding that may be appropriated for the EDI. These stages provide a phased approach to implement the EDI and solidify its program infrastructure commensurate with the level of resources available for its purpose.

As outlined in the report, the CPW identified that approximately \$10 million per year is needed to meaningfully implement the full scope of a King County EDI's initial Alignment Stage, including capacity building grants and capital investments for one demonstration project. The CPW noted that at least \$100 million in dedicated, annual funding is needed to fully support the Sustained Stage of implementation and create meaningful outcomes to undo the effects of inequitable public and private investment in King County. This would be accomplished through capacity building, predevelopment, strategic acquisition, and capital funding programs. The County does not currently have sufficient revenue options to achieve either scale of annual funding, especially given the General Fund forecast, and the constraints imposed by requirements of existing fund sources.

Ultimately, implementing the CPW's vision for a King County EDI will require the state Legislature to give King County additional revenue authority and/or provide additional state revenue for equitable development. Should new revenue become viable at the necessary scale, the important direction identified in this report will help King County address the impacts of displacement and historical underinvestment by supporting community-driven and community-owned development.

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

Sincerely,



for

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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

Kelly Rider, Acting Director, Department of Community and Human Services