

Investing in **People** & Communities

King County's 2016 Federal Agenda

King County is fortunate to have a strong economy fueled by innovation, and a skilled workforce that is drawing jobs and job-seekers to our region. However, structural obstacles and increased population growth have created challenges that leave the county in an ongoing struggle to address critical problems, including the county's aging roads and bridges and public health programs. We have worked to provide local solutions, like Best Starts for Kids, but King County must continue to have a strong partner in the federal government if we are to achieve the future we seek for all King County residents.

Our 2016 agenda includes protecting funding levels for critical programs and services, investing in infrastructure, partnering on solving the homelessness crisis, and advancing prevention and upstream solutions for both people and the environment.



A Strong Investment

Our primary federal objective is to ensure continued, robust investment in King County and its 2.1 million residents. King County effectively leverages federal resources to foster vibrant and healthy communities, serve our most vulnerable, and facilitate innovation across the region. In the 2015/2016 budget, King County relied on \$300M in federal grant funding for transportation programs; \$90M in federal funding for public health programs; and \$70M in federal funding for developmental disability, substance abuse, mental health, and housing programs.

We would like to see these investment levels increased or maintained, and in exchange we are committed to achieving continued positive outcomes as a return on that investment.



Infrastructure for the Future

Investments in transportation, flood control infrastructure, and systems to ensure the clean-up and health of Puget Sound are needed to keep King County a thriving hub of economic development and healthy communities. King County appreciates assistance included in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, and now we must go beyond maintaining basic transportation levels.

Our rapidly growing economy calls for vastly expanded transit services; and population growth has increased demands on our 1,500 miles of county roads and 181 county bridges (57 are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete). Increased federal investments are needed to ensure people can continue to get to work, school, and back home safely, quickly, and affordably.



Homelessness

More than 10,000 people are without permanent housing each night in King County, including 4,500 who are unsheltered, living in cars, tents and on the streets.

We need a multi-faceted federal partnership that addresses the immediate emergency, and makes homelessness rare, brief, and one-time. Our approach must include strategies around opioid addiction and substance abuse, mental health, traumatic life experiences, ability to work, and adjusting to life-altering changes, such as veterans returning home.



