

KING COUNTY UPDATE ON HEALTH THROUGH HOUSING INITIATIVE (HTH)

Mark Ellerbrook, Director
Housing, Homelessness, and Community Development Division



Health Through Housing Initiative

HEALTH THROUGH HOUSING INITIATIVE OVERVIEW

SUMMARY

- 0.1% Countywide Sales Tax (in Unincorporated King County and All Cities but 8)
- Estimated to generate approximately \$50 million/year in 2021
- Adopted by King County Council in October 2020

GOAL

House 1,600 King County residents experiencing, or at risk of, chronic homelessness—while reducing racial-ethnic disproportionality—by:

1. acquiring single-room settings like hotels while economic conditions are favorable,
2. putting buildings into immediate service as emergency and affordable housing,
3. funding sustainable and long-term operating and supportive services within housing,
4. converting into permanent supportive housing over time while continuing to develop additional affordable housing.

WHY THIS APPROACH?



Housing is Effective: Housing is a foundation for health and supported housing is a proven solution for homelessness.



Single Room Housing is Healthier: Congregate shelters are not a long-term solution.



Stewardship: A temporary opportunity to make an immediate & lasting difference while making resources go further.



It Will Take Us All: We will have a Bigger Impact Faster *if We Work Together.*

WHY THIS APPROACH?

- **We have every reason to believe that homelessness is growing—and will grow substantially this year—unless we act decisively.**

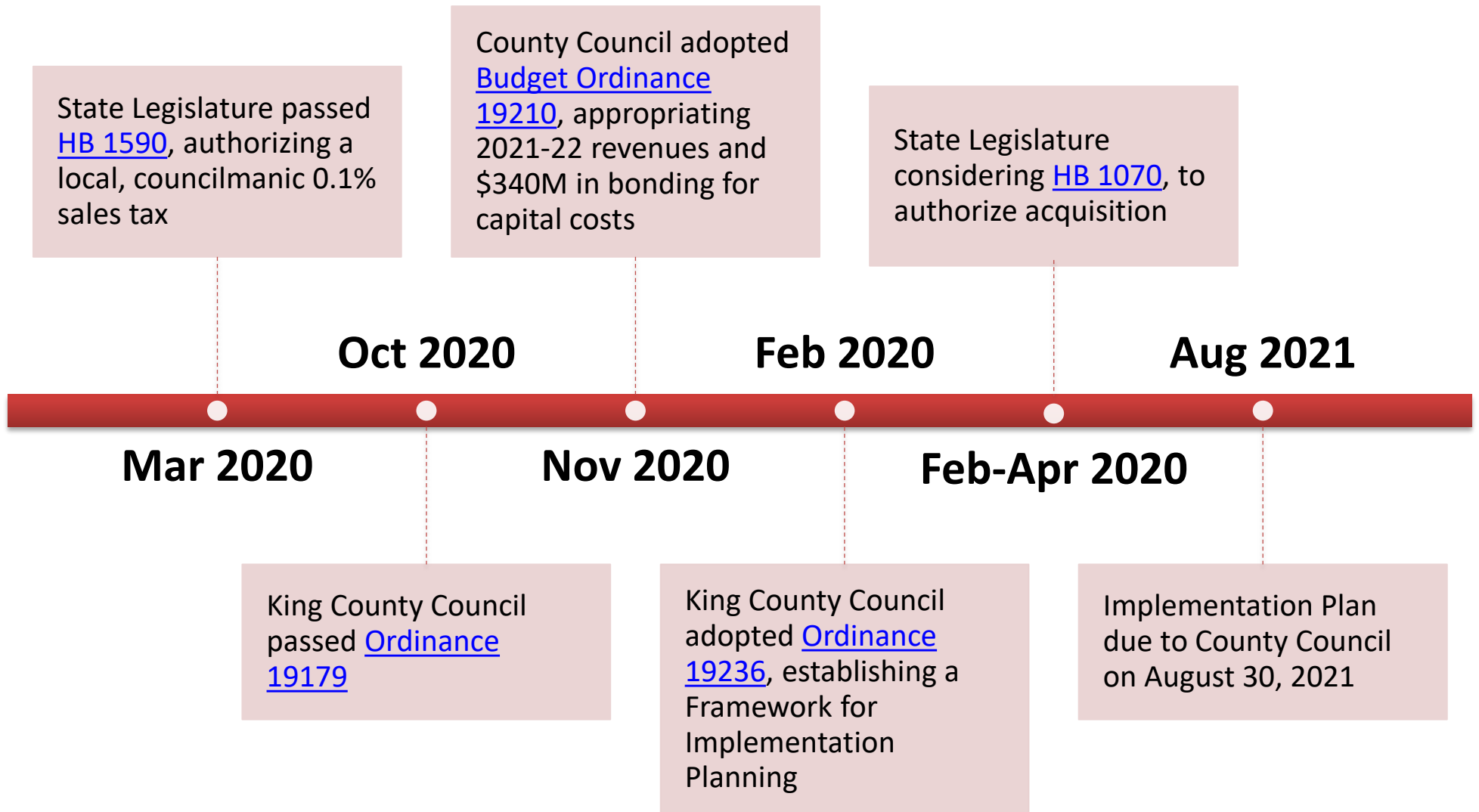
- **We also know what works:**

<https://depts.washington.edu/urbanuw/news/final-report-impact-of-hotels-as-non-congregate-emergency-shelters/>

&

https://regionalhomelesssystem.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Impact-of-Hotels-as-ES-Study_Full-Report_Final-11302020.pdf

HEALTH THROUGH HOUSING INITIATIVE LEGISLATIVE TIMELINE



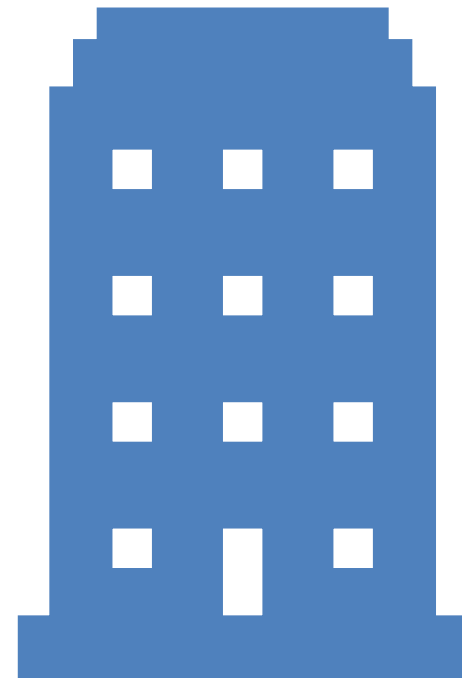
WHO WILL BE SERVED?

Households at or below 30% Area Median Income (~\$23,000 for an individual) who meet one of the following definitions

1. Households experiencing chronic homelessness:
 - Includes an adult with a disability AND
 - Either currently experiencing homelessness for at least 12 consecutive months or has experienced homelessness for a cumulative 12 months within the previous 3 years
2. Households at risk of experiencing chronic homelessness:
 - Includes an adult with a disability; AND
 - Either currently experiencing homelessness for 10-12 months in the previous 3 years or has experienced homelessness for a cumulative total of 12 months within the last 5 years; AND
 - Represents a population disproportionately impacted by homelessness

BUILDING CRITERIA

- Existing buildings, with 75-150 units
- Units with private bedroom and bathroom
- Priority for recent construction, 1990 and later
- Internal stairways
- Zoned for HTH use
- Supports ADA access, including elevators



WHAT WILL HTH FUND?

1. Site Acquisition
2. Building Operations
3. On-site 24/7 Staffing
4. Case Management Services
5. Site Rehab/Construction as needed to fully convert to Permanent Supportive Housing

Implementation Plan, due by August 30, 2021 will include:

- Goals, strategies, performance measures, reporting requirements and annual expenditure plan, including:
 - Reduction of racial and ethnic disproportionality of chronic homelessness
 - Allocation of proceeds by jurisdiction
 - ***Paramount goal to create and operate 1,600 units of affordable housing***
 - Goal to create and operate a mobile behavioral health intervention program
 - Health through Housing Advisory Committee
 - Process to site affordable housing and behavioral health facilities
 - Communication and partnership plan
 - Description of satisfaction of RCW 82.14.530
 - Expenditure plan for the first 8 years of the tax
- ❖ To be updated no later than June 30, 2027 and every 8 years after



QUESTIONS?

CONTACT INFO



Kelly Rider

Government Relations Manager

King County Department of Community & Human Services

206.263.5780

krider@kingcounty.gov