

VETERANS AND HUMAN SERVICES LEVY

Overview

In August, 2011, the voters of King County renewed the Veterans and Human Services Levy for another 6 years with 69% of the vote.

- \$.05 per thousand (about \$17/year for the average homeowner)
- 6 years: January 1, 2012 - December 31, 2017
- Approximately \$18 million in annual revenue received
- Revenues split 50% for Veterans, 50% for Others in Need
- Two corresponding boards:
 - Veteran Citizens Oversight Board (VCOB)
 - Regional Human Services Citizen Oversight Board (RHSCOB)

Council-adopted 2012-2017 Service Improvement Plan guides activities funded by the levy.

- Plan specifies 37 activities and 6-year allocation plan
- Implementation plans for each activity reviewed by boards
- Activities support the Levy's goals and are grouped into four overarching strategies:
 - **Strategy One:** Supporting Veterans
 - **Strategy Two:** Ending Homelessness
 - **Strategy Three:** Improving Health
 - **Strategy Four:** Strengthening Families

Levy's progress in meeting its three goals include:

- Prevent and reduce homelessness
 - Since 2006, Levy helped finance development of 2009 units of affordable housing
 - Annually about 85% of clients in Levy funded housing programs maintained their housing or exited to permanent housing (2012-2015)
- Reduce unnecessary criminal justice and emergency medical system involvement
 - Achieved cost offsets through housing placements of over \$7 million, 2012 - 2015
 - Treatment programs for those with severe mental illness showed reduced service use
- Increase self-sufficiency of veterans and vulnerable populations
 - Case management services helped about 80 percent or more of Veterans served improve their self-sufficiency score (2012-2015)
 - Evidence-based mental health services improved outcomes for about 60% of clients (2012-2015)
 - Home visiting programs for young, low-income parents improved parenting skills and supported healthy child development.

On the levy website:

- Board activities
- Annual and Mid-Year Reports
- Interactive map to help people locate Levy services.