



King County

Veterans, Seniors & Human Services Levy

Ensuring that Veterans, Seniors and Resilient Communities are connected and supported across the region.

Since 2006, the King County Veterans and Human Services Levy has funded a wide range of programs that connect veterans, military service members and their families, as well as individuals and families in need with affordable housing, employment, behavioral health treatment, and other services. In 2017, voters approved the Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy (VSHSL), adding funding for services to King County seniors and their caregivers. The current levy expires in December 2023. The priorities and investment areas detailed below are contingent upon the implementation plan that would be considered and adopted by the King County Council, if voters renew the Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy.



If renewed, the levy will:

SUPPORT VETERANS

Build Nation's Strongest Local Veterans Program

- The levy sustains and expands innovative partnerships and programming, comprehensive case management, and behavioral health counseling for veterans and their families and caregivers. This includes:
 - Operation of the two King County Veterans Program (KCV) sites at Northgate and Tukwila
 - Providing mental health counseling to veterans, servicemembers and their families

Keep Reducing Veteran Homelessness

- Over the next six years, the VSHSL strives to further reduce veteran homelessness in the following ways:
 - Creating at least 70 dedicated affordable housing units for veterans, making permanent the Collaborative Case Management program, and funding housing navigators to assist people in their affordable housing search.



EXPAND ACCESSIBILITY FOR SENIORS

Double Funding for Senior Centers

- The levy will reinforce senior services that made a difference in the pandemic, strengthen and sustain senior center programming to provide social connection, and invest in green energy improvements like heat pumps, solar panels, and air filtration that help senior centers reduce their carbon footprint, cut utility bills, and provide refuge in extreme weather.

STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES, BUILD RESILIENCY

Deepen Investments in Critical Workforce

- The region's vibrancy requires an effective and sustainable human services workforce that can prevent crises and help solve them in real time. The levy plays a critical role in investing in the people who support those in need, make our communities a place where people can thrive, and ensuring human services are accessible, effective, and equitable.

Renewing the levy will build on previous work and support ongoing efforts.

VETERANS

Veterans strengthen our region, and King County is building the nation's strongest local veterans program to support them. Through continued support from the past three levies, the KCVP will expand partnerships with service providers to make a one-stop-shop location for thousands of veterans annually.

Served more than
27,000



veterans, servicemembers and their families by VSHSL with fewer eligibility barriers than many federal programs

SENIORS

The VSHSL recognizes the essential role of senior centers in our community and will help them become even more accessible and sustainable for the long term.

Funded

39



senior centers across the county

Served more than

100,000

through expanded senior programming

BUILD RESILIENCY


The levy will help stabilize the human services workforce, and also invest in the people who help our communities thrive. The levy will also deepen investments for prevention efforts and responses to survivors of gender-based violence.



Funded
675 bonuses
at **55** agencies



Funded
mobile
advocacy
services for more than
1,200 survivors of
gender-based violence

Helped build more than 
1,000 units of affordable housing
and **198** new shelter beds

Launched DVHopeline, a countywide, 24-hour multi-lingual and multimodal domestic violence hotline and received

16,000 calls or texts

and referred nearly
7,000 of those to
additional support



If renewed, the levy will:

- Fund permanent supportive housing, specifically for veterans
- Keep reducing veteran homelessness
- Expand investments in the human services workforce
- Double current funding for senior centers
- Maintain access to counseling and mental health supports for veterans and seniors
- Dedicate King County staff to strengthen resident and resource connections
- Deepen community-centered programming for survivors of gender-based violence

Cost to King County Residents

The levy would be assessed at 10 cents per \$1,000 in assessed value, estimated to cost approximately \$83.75 per year based on estimated 2024 home values for a median-valued home. Total revenue is estimated at \$564 million over six years (2024-2029).



**+\$17 more per year
based on estimated
2024 home values**

Timeline

2023

- Executive transmits legislation to the Council.
- King County Council expected to vote by May on whether to put the proposal on the August ballot. If approved by voters, the Executive will prepare a detailed implementation plan by October 31, 2023.

2024

January 1:
2024-2029
VSHSL begins,
if approved.



King County

DCE: 13119w