

ONE TABLE

Addressing root causes
of homelessness

Purpose, Roles, Process

CONTEXT

Seattle/King County has experienced and continues to experience significant increases in homelessness. The annual point-in-time count continues to show increased numbers, with the recent count in January 2017 identifying 11,643 people experiencing homelessness. Over the course of a year, far more people become homeless than are homeless on any one night. At the same time, the number of households exiting to permanent housing has also continued to increase with a 50% increase from 2013-2016). Over the course of a year, nearly 30,000 people experienced homelessness in Seattle/King County in 2016, and over 20,000 exited homelessness. The need is outpacing the system's ability to respond, therefore requiring a different approach and a new focus on upstream strategies and root causes.

Homelessness is a broad societal issue that results from the failure of many systems and disproportionately affects people of color. Many community efforts to address homelessness have been focused on helping people *after* they have become homeless. If we are truly going to address homelessness, we need to prevent people from becoming homeless in the first place.

PURPOSE

On Dec. 1, 2017, King County Executive Dow Constantine, Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan and Auburn Mayor Nancy Backus announced One Table, a regional effort to bring together leaders from the business, nonprofit, philanthropic, faith, government and community sectors to create solutions to prevent homelessness.

One Table participants will address the root causes of homelessness through broad, scalable, multi-sectored community actions that harness community resources.

One Table's efforts to address these root causes of homelessness will also strive to undo the racial disparities and disproportionality that result from these system failures. All participants will share in the responsibility to identify and commit resources to implement the actions identified to address the causes of homelessness.

Systemic factors contributing to homelessness

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Rising housing costs make it difficult to find appropriate housing.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Individuals lack access to necessary mental health and substance use treatment.

CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

One-third of homeless youth in King County have been in the child welfare system.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Interaction with this expensive system inhibits individuals' ability to obtain housing and employment.

EMPLOYMENT

Inability to access employment and regional wage gaps make it difficult for some to afford housing costs.

PARTICIPANTS

A comprehensive stakeholder group will convene for four months in early 2018 to participate in the One Table effort. This stakeholder group will include community and subject matter experts, civic leaders and elected officials.

COMMUNITY ACTION WORKGROUP (CAW)	
Participants	Subject matter experts from the business, nonprofit, philanthropic, faith and community sectors who have expertise in workgroup issue areas. Members participate in the following workgroups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable Housing • Behavioral Health • Child Welfare • Criminal Justice • Employment
Charge	Recommend 3-5 scalable strategies/solutions that address root causes of homelessness.

CIVIC LEADERSHIP GROUP (CLG)	
Participants	Civic leaders who will determine how to scale strategies recommended by the 5 workgroups.
Charge	Leverage and execute broad, scalable solutions to address root causes of homelessness that the Seattle/King County community can impact.

ELECTED LEADERSHIP GROUP (ELG)	
Participants	Elected officials from state, county and city governments across King County.
Charge	Provide vision and guidance for the development of committee actions and commit to generating the political will necessary to implement them.

PROCESS

