



King County

2021-2022 Proposed Budget

Community Engagement

Intentional and meaningful community engagement leading to co-creation is foundational to King County's success in being pro-equity, living its value of leading with racial justice, and effectively becoming a more anti-racist government and region. The 2021-2022 Proposed Budget makes investments to enhance the County's approach to working in partnership with communities to support self-determination and co-creation.

BACKGROUND

King County's traditional approach to community engagement has historically lacked process equity. Lack of meaningful community input can lead to inequitable outcomes for communities most impacted by systemic racism. Additionally, departments have generally operated in silos, causing added challenges for communities. Effectively partnering with community and addressing racism requires co-creation between King County with community—at the outset and throughout the duration of projects.

KEY INVESTMENTS

Community Engagement Compensation Fund

A Community Engagement Compensation Fund and approach will provide for compensation to community members and community-based organizations (CBOs) for their expertise and engagement on task forces and ad hoc groups. Initially, the \$600,000 fund will focus on compensating participation from communities most harmed by systems of oppression and racism.

Cultural Community Liaisons

Cultural Community Liaisons will help to co-create solutions and ideas and share two-way information and insights as trusted liaisons. This model engenders trust and credibility between communities and county government. This program will build on the learnings and success of the Community Navigators program, which has been used to support the County's COVID-19 response, and will invest approximately \$2 million in supports to advance the anti-racism agenda in 2021-2022.

Partnering on New Models to Serve Residents

King County agencies will partner with community members to design and implement new models for key services.

- A cross-agency group including the Executive Department, Department of Local Services, Department of Community and Human Services, and the King County Sheriff's Office will partner with community members to design and implement a new community-driven safety model in urban unincorporated King County, which will be funded through a \$500,000 reserve in the General Fund. While the work will begin with a focus on unincorporated King County, the new model may ultimately advance the broader criminal legal system.



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- Metro Transit will partner with employees, cities, and the community to change its approach to policing on transit and fare enforcement, and develop new, community-driven solutions in 2021, with the goal of implementing changes in late 2021 or 2022.
- The Executive Department, King County Sheriff's Office, and other agencies will also partner with school districts and contract cities to develop alternative approaches for School Resource Officers (SRO) for implementation in the 2021-2022 school year.
- The Zero Youth Detention (ZYD) Regional Approach to Youth Gun Violence will develop a long-term, systems-focused, community-centered, comprehensive strategy to reduce firearm death and violence. ZYD is working with the community to build safe, healthy, hopeful communities where equitable quality and quantity of life can exist, regardless of race and location.

Cross-Functional Community Engagement Team

A new community engagement team will plan and execute specific engagements and co-creation activities with and alongside community partners directly associated with implementing the County's policies and agenda to become a more anti-racist entity and region. The team will build on efforts already underway in the COVID-19 response to develop a strategic plan for equitable community engagement, and will focus on breaking down existing silos that lead to community fatigue and lack of equitable engagement. They will also ensure coordination through a cross-agency team and manage a central platform for tracking and coordinating community engagement activities, especially those where needs are greatest, to advance King County's anti-racist agenda. In addition, the team will work with the County's Customer Experience team to develop and administer an annual community engagement survey to understand the impact of policy decisions on community members.

Improving Access to Information through Translation

King County will invest \$1 million to build out an ongoing translation program for the [Kingcounty.gov](https://www.kingcounty.gov) website to ensure that information is available in the six most-spoken languages in the County. The new translation program will allow nearly all residents to access information about jury summons, marriage licenses, snow closures, and more in their preferred language.

Shared Budget Decisions in Unincorporated King County

King County is prioritizing community-driven input in the unincorporated area by expanding community participation and decision-making to improve the services, programs, and facilities provided by the County. The Department of Local Services will develop a community-centered advisory board to support an ongoing participatory budgeting effort for operating programs in the urban unincorporated area in 2021. In addition, Local Services will lead a \$10 million participatory budgeting effort for capital projects in the urban unincorporated area.

Local Services, with Council input, will also work with community members to develop a catalog of requests for services and investments, and evaluate the feasibility of the requests. Those items that are prioritized by the community and deemed feasible will be used by County agencies to inform 2023-2024 budget proposals.