

ONE TABLE

Addressing root causes
of homelessness

Purpose, Roles, Process

CONTEXT

The annual King County point-in-time count of people experiencing homelessness reflects the growing crisis in our region, with the recent census in January 2018 identifying 12,112 people without a stable home, up four percent from the previous years. This tells only part of the story. While more than 20,000 individuals exit homelessness annually in King County, more than 30,000 people lose housing. The need is outpacing the system's ability to respond. We must adopt a different approach, and 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 identify solutions to prevent homelessness.

One Table participants were charged with addressing 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 also strive to undo the racial disparities and disproportionality that result from these system failures. All participants 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 convened beginning January 2018 to participate in the One Table effort. This group included 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 participated in the following workgroups: Affordable Housing, Behavioral Health, Child Welfare, Criminal Justice, Employment
Charge	Develop scalable strategies/solutions that address each root cause of homelessness centered in addressing racial disparities

CIVIC LEADERSHIP GROUP (CLG)

Participants	Civic leaders from business and philanthropy
Charge	Participate in the CAW process; advise on the ability to leverage and execute the recommended broad scalable solutions

ELECTED LEADERSHIP GROUP (ELG)

Participants	Elected officials from state, county and city governments across King County.
Charge	Participate in the CAW process; provide vision and guidance for process; commit to generating political will to implement scalable solutions

LEADERS WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE (LLE)

Participants	Leaders with lived experience with homelessness and the systems being addressed
Charge	Participate in the CAW process; review strategies separately to leverage their expertise and ensure strategies are poised to make measurable impact

PROCESS

