

ONE TABLE

Addressing root causes
of homelessness

Action Statements



Having a current county-wide gap of approximately 90,000 housing units that are affordable to very low income households is a major risk factor for these households becoming homeless. The community **should preserve existing low income housing, utilize public land whenever possible, adopt innovative solutions to utilize existing housing supply, implement effective policy tools and incentives to better utilize the private market, reduce displacement, increase financial resources for housing solutions, and intentionally serve individuals exiting jail, foster care, and behavioral health treatment facilities with a race and equity lens.**



Create a **housing stabilization fund to achieve zero exits into homelessness** (including zero inappropriate evictions), with a focus on preventing homelessness for those with the most acute need.



Provide **on-demand behavioral health services** that are racially, ethnically and culturally appropriate, flexible, person-centered, mobile, peer-focused, and trauma-informed.



Offer a **comprehensive service package for all foster youth aging out of care** to increase stability throughout their transition.



Strive to achieve **zero bookings for charges that are a direct result of homelessness and behavioral health crises**, through diversion and compliance requirement reform done through a racial justice lens. Study cost offsets from reduced jail use and redistribute savings to fund diversion programs.



Ensuring access to employment opportunities that can cover market rate housing costs in King County reduces the risk for homelessness. The community should **scale employment programs across the county over two years to train and employ people who are disproportionately at-risk of homelessness and secure private and public sector commitments to hire program graduates.** Employment programs to be scaled will include government, community-based and social enterprise programs and will be designed to accommodate the needs of all individuals at risk of homelessness and provide them with employment and wages that support them and their families.