



Kitsap County Housing and
Homelessness Division

Annual Report 2022



Division Overview

Mission and Vision

The Housing and Homelessness Division works to reduce Kitsap homelessness and to support and increase affordable housing through implementation of state legislation and local policies.

Vision: to make homelessness a **rare, brief, and one-time** occurrence in Kitsap County and to ensure that affordable housing is accessible to all Kitsap residents who need it.

Mission: to ensure that Kitsap County is a leader in reducing homelessness and improving access to affordable housing through systematic planning, facilitating strategic investments of public funds, measuring and reporting on progress, and ensuring an effective community response to these issues.



Strategic Investment of Public Funds

Kitsap County manages the Affordable Housing Grant Program, the Homeless Housing Grant Program, and the Consolidated Housing Grant program.

- Investment of over \$5.1 million annually in non-profit programs and services
- Administered over \$24.2 million in pandemic-related funding (see pg. 11 for more details)

Measuring and Reporting Progress

Homeless service providers collect information about homeless households receiving housing services. Kitsap County reports outcomes, tracks system performance, and uses data to inform future needs for services and funding.

- Countywide system performance reports (4 quarterly and 1 annual)
- Geographic data summaries about homelessness across the county
- Visit <https://kcowa.us/housing> for more information and <https://kcowa.us/kchhd-data> for additional division reports

Kirsten Jewell
Division Manager
kjewell@kitsap.gov

Virginia McCaslin
Grants Program Analyst
vmccaslin@kitsap.gov

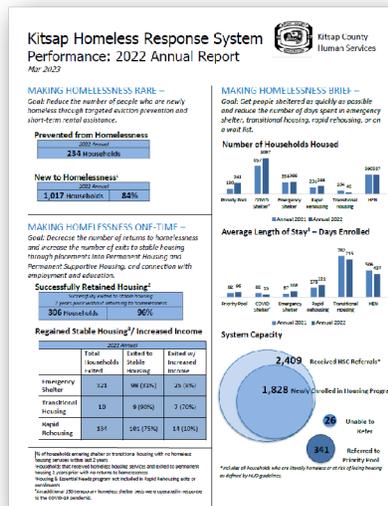
Leah Noldan
Contracts Coordinator
lnoldan@kitsap.gov

Jarrold Moran
HEART Coordinator
jmoran@kitsap.gov

Judy-Rae Karlsen
Project Coordinator
jrkarlsen@kitsap.gov

Cory Derenburger
Division Specialist
cderenbu@kitsap.gov

Doug Washburn
Director, Department of Human Services
dwashburn@kitsap.gov



Thank You

To Kitsap County Commissioners Robert Gelder, Charlotte Garrido, and Ed Wolfe for their support of people experiencing homelessness

Coordinated Community Response

The Division is responsible for developing Homeless Housing Plans, coordinating the annual Point-in-Time Count, and facilitating stakeholder work groups and special projects. The Division works closely with the many housing and social service providers that make up the Homeless Crisis Response System. Many of these organizations are also part of the Kitsap Housing and Homelessness Coalition.

- Updates to the Kitsap County Homeless Crisis Response and Housing Plan
- Coordinating the Annual Point-in-Time Count by recruiting volunteers, providing training, organizing survey opportunities, and reporting survey results
- Managing the Severe Weather Shelter Program
- Updates to the "How to Help People Living Homeless" guide

2022 Annual Point-in-Time Count

The Point-in-Time Count is an annual state-mandated 24-hour survey of people experiencing homelessness. In 2022, the Count was conducted in February across Washington State. The Division contracted the outdoor count to Northwest Hospitality.

A total of 77 volunteers gave 323 hours surveying at 11 locations including 6 food bank and meal locations, and 5 Street Outreach survey regions. Project Connect resource fairs were not offered in 2022 due to changes in the date of the count. In all, 197 individuals were surveyed and 187 were identified as living unsheltered.



Severe Weather Shelters



The Kitsap County Severe Weather Shelter Program is a partnership between the Housing and Homelessness Division, Kitsap County Department of Emergency Management, and the five organizations that host the shelters.

The Division oversees the SWS program by providing training and coordination. The COVID-19 pandemic proved a challenge during the 2022-2023 season. Four shelter sites were identified that could open while implementing disease mitigation precautions. The Division contracted with Gather Together Grow Together (G2G2) to help provide rides for guests to shelters during severe weather.

During the 2022-2023 season 1,103 overnight stays were provided over 46 activation days.

To subscribe to future shelter activation notifications text KITSAPSW to 898-211.

For more information or to volunteer visit <http://kcow.us/KCSWS>

Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response And Housing Plan Update



HEADING HOME

Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response and Housing Plan

2019 Update
Approved 11/25/19

Note: This is a Compliance Update to meet new Washington State Dept. of Commerce requirements. Changes from the 2018 Plan were made only in these sections: Action Plan – Detail Matrix, Appendix D, and Appendix E.



Kitsap County
Department of Human Services



Kitsap Housing and
Homelessness Coalition

The Kitsap County Board of County Commissioners approved the latest update to the Homeless Crisis Response Plan on November 25, 2019. The plan includes input from many community stakeholders, including from people experiencing homelessness. This update included several new requirements from the Washington State Dept. of Commerce's Housing Assistance Unit, including a racial disparities analysis, an impact analysis, and a crosswalk of state objectives with the Kitsap Plan strategies. The Plan was not updated in 2022.

Homeless Encampment Action, Response, and Transitions (HEART) Program



The HEART (Homeless Encampment Action Response and Transitions) Program was launched in April 2022. The program is designed to ensure that the county government has a consistent, coordinated, and compassionate response to unauthorized homeless encampments on Kitsap County property.

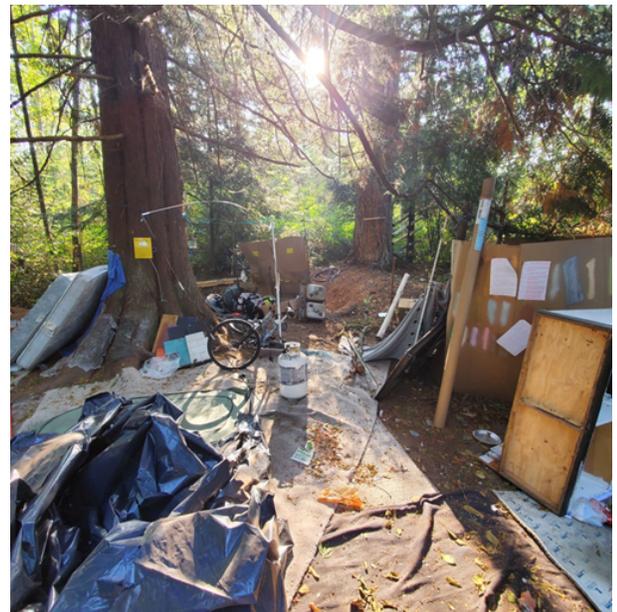
2022 Year End Review

Development of the Program

Developed the HEART program and Advisory Group, implemented the Unauthorized Encampments on County Property Policy, and funded a HEART Outreach Team through Kitsap Community Resources Housing Solutions Center (HSC).

Encampment Response

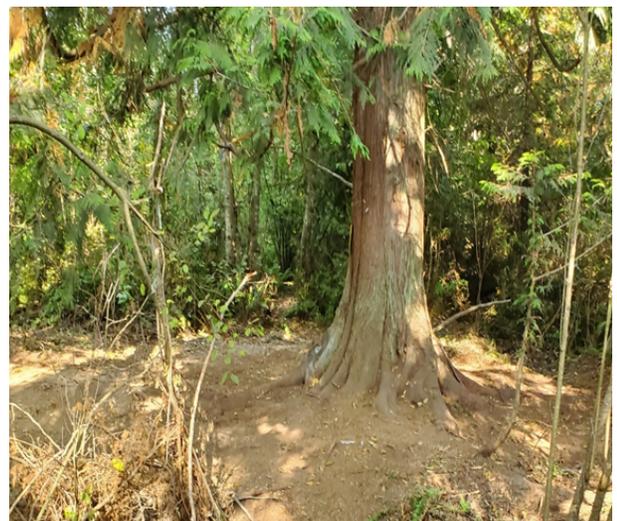
- Monitored and responded to encampments on County property
- Arranged for clean-up at **6** of the most impactful sites on county property, worked with community partners, and facilitated over **22 tons** of refuse clean-up from encampments through partnership with Kitsap County Solid Waste Division.
- Worked with the City of Port Orchard, Department of Natural Resources, the City of Poulsbo, Greater Peninsula Conservancy, Clear Creek Taskforce, Kitsap Realty Association, Washington State Department of Transportation, and Kitsap Housing Authority in efforts to clean up encampments.



Connecting People with Housing and Services

Connected people living unsheltered with the following assistance and services:

- **Responded to 54 inquiries**, questions, and public complaints between May-Dec 2022.
- **65** people were referred into shelter or other temporary housing programs, and **1** was referred into a permanent housing program.
 - **16** people who were initially contacted in an encampment by the HEART Program transitioned from a shelter program to signed leases on their own homes.
- **4** people were connected to emergency services, **2** were taken to the emergency room.
- **16** people were connected with the R.E.A.L. team for mental health and substance use resources.
- **11** people were referred to Adult Protective Services, and **3** were referred to the Developmental Disabilities Administration.



Learn More & Full Report

See the full HEART Program 2022 Year End Review and more information about the Encampment Response process and Frequently Asked Questions at <http://kcowa.us/HEART>.

Homelessness in Kitsap County

*note: data collection and access to services has been affected by COVID-19 precautions, closures, and other impacts since March 2020.



2,427

Kitsap County households requested housing assistance in 2022 (Housing Solutions Center)



754

Homeless children counted by Kitsap School Districts in school year '22-'23



563

People without a home counted in a 24-hour period in Kitsap County during the 2022 Point-in-Time Count.

1,312 literally homeless households

438 were households with children (857 children total)

243 households reported they were homeless without permanent housing for 1 year or longer

82% of households were below Federal Poverty Level

\$701 average monthly income for households seeking housing assistance at the HSC

Causes of Homelessness

2022 Point-in-Time Count - Countywide



Kitsap Rents Outpacing Wages



* Affordable here is considered as paying no more than 30% of income towards rent per month
FMR - Fair Market Rate
Source: 2022 Out of Reach Report

High Rents Each Year

\$1,765

Average rent per unit in Kitsap County Sept 2022. An increase of 44% since Sept 2017.



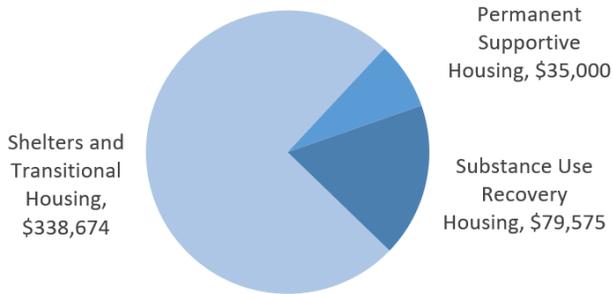
Source: <https://kcowa.us/kchhd-data>

Investments of Public Funds

Affordable Housing Grant Program

\$453,249

Invested in Operations & Maintenance of Shelter and Affordable Housing Units



Affordable Housing Grant Program funds are authorized by the Washington State legislature and are collected through a fee on certain transactions recorded at the Auditor's Office.

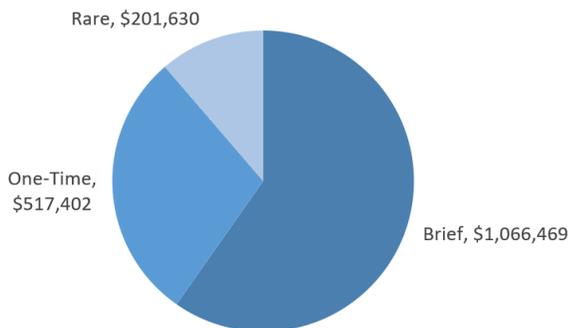
These grant funds are distributed through a bed-rate model for shelters and competitive processes to Kitsap organizations that provide affordable housing in a variety of ways, including transitional housing and substance use recovery housing. For more information on the grant process please visit: <https://www.kitsapgov.com/hs/Pages/HH-Coordinated-Grant-Application-Process.aspx>

The authorizing legislation defines the allowable use of funds as: operations and maintenance support for existing affordable housing, acquisition, rehab, or development of new affordable housing, rental assistance voucher programs, and support for overnight shelters. With such a small annual total, in Kitsap the funding has been prioritized to fund operations and maintenance.

Homeless Housing Grant Program

\$1,785,501

Invested to Make Homelessness Rare, Brief, and One-Time



Homeless Housing Grant Program funds are authorized by the Washington State legislature and are collected through a fee on certain transactions recorded at the Auditor's Office.

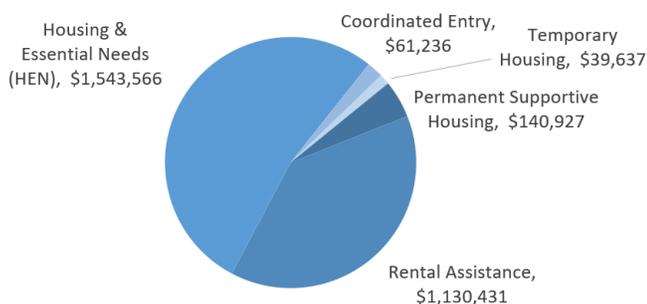
These grant funds are distributed through a bed-rate model for shelters and competitive processes to Kitsap housing programs and social service providers working to implement the strategies and action steps identified in the Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response and Housing Plan.

The Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response and Housing Plan outlines five goals for addressing homelessness (listed on the following pages). Each goal includes specific strategies and action steps. The Plan is available at <https://www.kitsapgov.com/hs/Pages/HH-Homeless-Crisis-Response-and-Housing-Plan.aspx>

Consolidated Homeless Grant

\$2,915,797

Invested in Permanent Supportive Housing for Chronically Homeless Families, Coordinated Entry, HEN, and Temporary Housing, and Rental Assistance



The Consolidated Homeless Grant (CHG) program is funded through the portion of document recording fees that are not retained locally and are transmitted to the Washington State Department of Commerce. Commerce distributes these funds back to counties through contracts for specific homeless housing and services. These grant funds are administered by the Division and sub-contracted to eligible service providers. The funds are governed by Commerce's CHG Guidelines.

The Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) program provides access to essential needs items and rental assistance for low-income individuals who are unable to work for at least 90 days due to a physical and/or mental incapacity and are ineligible for Aged, Blind, or Disabled (ABD) cash assistance. While DSHS/CSD determines eligibility for the referral to the HEN program, actual eligibility for rental assistance and essential needs items is determined by the Department of Commerce through a network of homeless service providers.

Distribution of Grant Funding by Plan Goals

The Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response and Housing Plan includes goals, strategies, action steps, and metrics for measuring the effectiveness of the countywide homeless crisis response system. Grant funding is distributed to service providers that are implementing strategies outlined in the plan to meet the following goals.

Strategies	Investments	2022 Results
Goal 1: Make homelessness rare.		
Homeless Prevention  <p>Targeted prevention resolves imminent homelessness with housing-focused case management and temporary rent subsidies.</p>	Housing Kitsap <i>HHGP (\$83,487)</i>	15 low-income households retained housing
	Housing Resources Bainbridge <i>HHGP (\$41,454)</i>	9 low-income households retained housing
	North Kitsap Fishline <i>HHGP (\$8,790)</i>	36 households prevented from eviction/able to secure housing
	Olive Crest <i>HHGP (\$65,977*)</i>	27 foster youth retained stable housing and received supportive services
Goal 2: Make homelessness brief.		
Coordinated Entry  <p>Connects households that are homeless or at risk of homelessness to appropriate housing interventions at one-stop housing resource offices located across the county.</p>	Kitsap Community Resources Housing Solutions Center <i>HHGP (\$398,012), CHG (\$61,236)</i>	2,409 households connected to shelter and housing 663 individuals were contacted by outreach specialists in the community, at events, the jail, and treatment facilities
	Continuous Stay Emergency Shelters  <p>Emergency housing that provides a short-term stay at no cost. Beds are reserved for residents until they exit the program. Shelter stays typically include housing case management and connections with resources with the goal of securing appropriate permanent housing.</p>	Catholic Community Services Benedict House <i>AHGP (\$136,015)</i>
	Kitsap Community Resources Emergency Housing <i>AHGP (\$67,428), HHGP (\$34,421)</i>	16 beds for families 21 individuals served in family shelter units
	Motel Leasing <i>CHG (\$39,637)</i>	34 individuals served in leased motel rooms
	St Vincent de Paul Stella Maris House <i>AHGP (\$17,848), HHGP (\$85,759)</i>	21 beds for women and women with children 117 individuals served
	Weaver Foundation Georgia's House <i>AHGP (\$24,370), HHGP (\$83,268)</i>	22 beds for women and women with children 72 individuals served
	Coffee Oasis Youth Shelter <i>AHGP (\$30,266)</i>	6 beds for youth 16-20 years of age 30 youth served
Seasonal Shelters  <p>Emergency shelter beds function similarly to drop-in shelter beds, but are only available during a specified period, or dependent on severe weather.</p>	Severe Weather Shelters <i>not funded by AHGP, HHGP, or CHG</i>	34 max beds in 4 locations - availability is weather dependent 1,103 overnight stays

Strategies

Investments

2022 Results

Transitional Housing



Subsidized housing for up to 2 years with rent typically set at no more than 30% of client's income. Case management services are included to prepare individuals to obtain housing and live self-sufficiently.

Kitsap Community Resources
Transitional & Supportive Housing
AHGP (\$62,387), HHGP (\$34,649)*

22 units for families
21 households served

Homeless Services



Provides supportive services to help homeless or unstably housed individuals meet basic needs, seek employment, participate in training programs, and to address barriers to housing or engagement in services.

Kitsap Community Resources
HHGP (\$31,761)*

97 households provided case management and services

North Kitsap Fishline
AHGP (\$400), HHGP (\$101,438)*

20 adults provided safe parking or camping space
83 households provided with homeless supportive services

The Coffee Oasis
HHGP (\$225,000)

88 homeless youth provided life skills training, 113 youth engaged in housing case management, and 15 entered into supportive housing

Foundation for Homeless & Poverty Management
HHGP (\$12,913)

39 individuals provided with homeless supportive services

The Salvation Army
HHGP (\$59,247)

327 homeless individuals provided with supportive services and items including: 340 bus tokens, 34 people provided ID assistance, 21 taxi rides, and 77 gas vouchers

Goal 3: Make homelessness one-time.

Permanent Supportive Housing



Permanent subsidized housing serves individuals or households in need of ongoing supportive services and assistance such as people with mental health issues, substance abuse disorders, physical disabilities, or more than one of these.

Housing Resources Bainbridge
Permanent Affordable Housing
HHGP (\$62,071)

14 units for low-income adults and families
12 households served

Kitsap Mental Health
Pendleton Place
HHGP (\$150,000)

72 units for individuals experiencing chronic homelessness and living with chronic/severe mental illness or substance use disorders
72 individuals served

Permanent Housing



Permanent subsidized housing that serves low-income individuals or households without a disability, but who need ongoing supportive services and assistance.

Catholic Housing Services
Max Hale Center
AHGP (\$35,000), HHGP (\$20,000)

53 units for single adults
54 households served

Kitsap Community Resources
Housing for Chronically Homeless
CHG (\$140,927)

5 units for families
13 households served

Kitsap Homes of Compassion
Shared Housing Program
HHGP (\$115,896)

37 rooms for single adults
37 households served

Substance Use Recovery Housing



Clean and sober living for individuals and families in recovery from addiction. Includes peer support and connection to services which reinforce a substance-free lifestyle and promote long-term recovery.

Agape Unlimited
Sisyphus II Permanent Housing
AHGP (\$23,800), HHGP (\$44,371)
Koinonia Inn Transitional Housing
AHGP (\$43,190), HHGP (\$6,058)

24 units for single adults and families
60 households housed with recovery supports

West Sound Treatment Center
O'Hana House and Lighthouse
AHGP (\$12,585), HHGP (\$37,415)

6 units for single women and women w/children
4 units for single men
29 households served with recovery housing and supports

Strategies	Investments	2022 Results
<p>Rapid Re-Housing</p> <p>Helps to quickly move households from homelessness into permanent housing by providing move in assistance, temporary rent subsidies, and housing-focused case management.</p> 	<p>Kitsap Community Resources Rapid Re-Housing CHG (\$1,130,431*), HHGP (\$77,959)</p> <p>Olive Crest Independent Living Skills HHGP (\$1,922*)</p> <p>North Kitsap Fishline Rapid Re-Housing HHGP (\$3,632*)</p>	<p>151 households obtained stable housing 51 households assisted with housing case management</p> <p>6 foster youth obtained stable housing</p> <p>3 households obtained stable housing</p>
<p>HEN - Housing & Essential Needs</p> <p>Provides program participants with rent assistance, utility and transportation assistance, as well as hygiene supplies.</p> 	<p>Catholic Community Services Housing & Essential Needs CHG (\$1,543,566)</p>	<p>600 households helped to obtain or retain housing and provided essential needs</p>

Goal 4: Continuously improve the homeless crisis response system.

- Designed and launched the Homeless Encampment Action, Response, and Transitions (HEART) Program to provide a compassionate, coordinated, and consistent response to encampments on Kitsap County-owned property.
- Worked to develop a new low-barrier homeless shelter in Port Orchard, the Pacific Building project, including designing building upgrades and submitting permits for the project.
- Partnered with other Kitsap agencies to fund and support the Foster Youth Independence (FYI) program to support youth transitioning out of foster care and into permanent housing.
- Refined and expanded the Kitsap Eviction Prevention Assistance (KEPA) Program, providing rental assistance to landlords to prevent evictions of low-income households.

Goal 5: Expand community engagement.

- Worked to improve housing equity among under-served populations of color through developing relationships and contracting with community-based organizations serving racially diverse households.
- Coordinated an Eviction Planning Work Group including Kitsap Legal Services, the Northwest Justice Project, the Dispute Resolution Center of Kitsap County, the Superior Court, Kitsap Community Resources, and others.
- Coordinated the community-wide homelessness response to COVID-19, including providing shelter and housing-related COVID-19 information to the public and decision-makers.

"R" was brought to the shelter from living in a tent in a local encampment with no income, a lifetime of hardship, and his living situation was significantly affecting his already poor health. While quarantining at Benedict House he began to gain some sense of stability and began engaging with case workers and managers to secure income through social security, connecting with medical and dental providers, and assistance through HEN. He sought services through Kitsap Mental Health Services and began attending regular mental health treatment. After addressing some legal issues and obtaining needed documents "R" was able to be given keys and transition to his own apartment at the new Pendleton Place permanent supportive housing program and moved into his first home in years.

*Catholic Community Services
Benedict House Guest*

A homeless mother with 4 kids, one of which was a newborn stayed at Georgia's House for 5 months. During her stay she was able to get supports for her family including TANF, WIC, food stamps, and one of her children was able to be assessed for a disability. When her infant was hospitalized with a heart condition, she was able to stay and visit her child at the hospital. With the help of case management and support from the shelter this family has developed the stability needed to move on to permanent housing. Now this mom and her children have moved into their first ever rental and are happy to be living successfully in their new home.

Georgia's House Guest

2022 System Performance

Performance indicators measure the homeless crisis response system to ensure that households are moving from homelessness into housing, that the system is utilized at capacity, and that progress is made toward attaining the goals of making homelessness rare, brief, and one-time.

Make homelessness rare.



234 

Households prevented from homelessness

84% 


Of households were experiencing homelessness for the first time (1,017 households)

Make homelessness brief.



Median number of days for households experiencing homelessness to receive housing services after seeking assistance at the Housing Solutions Center



4,452

Total unduplicated households served by the Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response System

Length of time and households served by intervention

Priority Pool 	96 days avg 341 households	
*COVID Shelter 	55 days avg 1097 households	
Continuous Stay Shelter 	108 days avg 366 households	
Rapid Re-Housing 	231 days avg 244 households	
Transitional Housing 	715 days avg 40 households	
Housing & Essential Needs 	437 days avg 587 households	

Make homelessness one-time.

1x

208 
 Households exited

the Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response System to Permanent Stable Housing

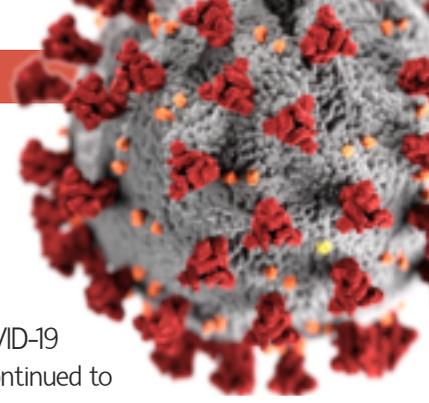
96% 
 of 306 households have not returned to homelessness

after exiting to housing 2 years prior

Performance is measured system-wide for Kitsap County; these measures include housing intervention programs funded by other sources. These additional programs are not funded by grants distributed through the Division, but are an important part of the Homeless Crisis Response System and provide additional units of housing and specialized services.

* Kitsap Rescue Mission Drop-in and Salvation Army Winter Shelters were converted to COVID-19 Shelters March 25, 2020. Data in this chart reflects households served and length of stay only for the time period of Jan 1 2022 - December 31, 2022.

COVID-19 *Extraordinary Times, Extraordinary Response*



On March 8, 2020 a State of Emergency was declared in Kitsap County in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic. During 2022 the Housing and Homelessness Division and our many community partners continued to respond to this new challenge. Another layer of strategies and activities became a new focus:

Response Activities



Worked with non-profit partners to operate an additional **150 temporary COVID-19 homeless shelter beds**, which served **1,127 unique individuals** with **48,161 bed nights** and **113,486 meals**. These shelter beds were in operation from January 1 - December 31, 2022 and continued operations in 2023.



Worked with existing shelters to implement CDC guidelines on bed-spacing, hygiene, sanitation practices, and added funding so that **all shelters moved to 24/7 operations**.



Distributed over **30,000 items of personal protective equipment (PPE)** to homeless shelters and housing programs.



Provided **14 temporary portable handwash stations** at shelters and locations where people experiencing homelessness could use them to reduce the spread of COVID-19.



Administered and contracted **\$24,289,358** to partner organizations for COVID-19 response activities for homelessness and housing security programs, eviction prevention, and eviction resolution.

Eviction Prevention

The Kitsap Eviction Prevention Assistance program was created using state, federal, and local funds with the goal to prevent evictions that would contribute to homelessness by paying landlords for back rent accrued by tenants during the pandemic.

Funding for this program was targeted toward households most likely to become homeless after eviction in Kitsap County. This eviction assistance program promoted equity in who was served and focused on populations that historically had not been provided equitable access to rent assistance, and those populations most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This included ethnic and racial minorities, LGBTQ+, people with disabilities, and people with limited English proficiency.

To reach these underserved and diverse populations, several outreach organizations assisted in targeted outreach within their communities to directly assist with applying for assistance.

Funding for this program included a requirement to meet benchmarks based upon equitable access among these populations. Kitsap County far exceeded these requirements to work towards racial equity.

Over \$16.8 million
in unpaid rental assistance paid to landlords for
1,799 most vulnerable
low-income households at risk of eviction
between Jan 1st and Dec 31st of 2022.

Racial Equity Benchmarks and Performance

