



Kitsap County Housing and
Homelessness Division

Annual Report 2020



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 \$3.2 million annually in non-profit programs and services

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://www.kitsapgov.com/hs/Pages/HH-Reports-and-Data-Homelessness.aspx> for additional division reports

Making
homelessness
rare, brief,
and one-time

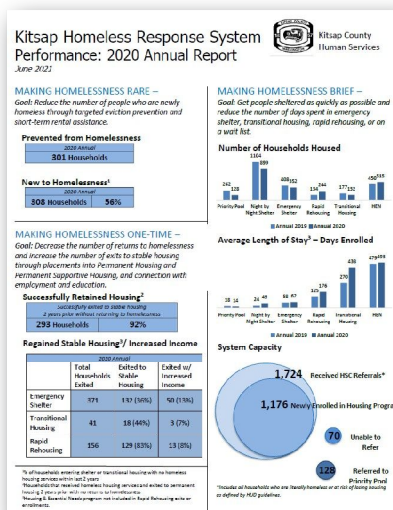
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<https://www.kitsapgov.com/hs/Pages/housing.aspx>



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

2020 Annual Point-in-Time Count

The Point-in-Time Count is an annual state-mandated 24-hour survey of people experiencing homelessness. The Housing and Homelessness Division coordinates the survey process. In 2020, 108 unique volunteers gave a total of 525 hours surveying at 21 locations including 3 Project Connect Fairs, 5 Street Outreach Surveying Teams, and numerous shifts at 10 different food banks and meal site locations. In all 382 individuals were surveyed and 199 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 of volunteer scheduling. The COVID-19 pandemic proved a challenge during the 2020-2021 season. Two 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 2020-2021 season 176 overnight stays were provided over 17 activation days.

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

For more information or to volunteer visit <http://kcowa.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 2020.

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.



1,747

Kitsap County households **requested housing assistance** in 2020 (Housing Solutions Center)



414

Homeless children counted by Kitsap School Districts in school year '20-'21



533

People without a home counted in a 24-hour period in Kitsap County during the 2020 Point-in-Time Count¹

1,021

literally homeless households

298

were households with children (546 children total)

96

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

83%

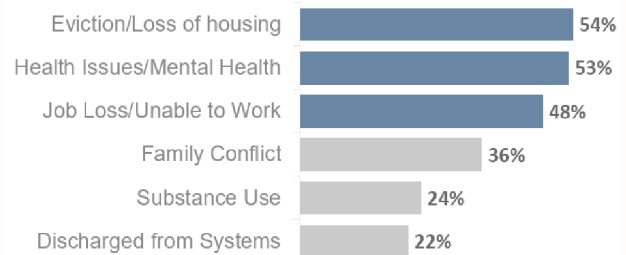
of households were below Federal Poverty Level

\$609

average monthly income for households seeking housing assistance at the HSC

Causes of Homelessness

2020 Point-in-Time Count - Countywide



Kitsap Rents Outpacing Wages

Minimum Wage	\$13.50/hr	\$624 Rent Affordable at Minimum Wage
Mean Renter Wage	\$13.48/hr	\$701 Rent Affordable at Mean Renter Wage
Housing Wage for Zero Bedroom	\$16.23/hr	\$844 FMR
Housing Wage for One Bedroom	\$19.29/hr	\$1,003 FMR
Housing Wage for Two Bedroom	\$24.92/hr	\$1,296 FMR
Housing Wage for Three Bedroom	\$35.25/hr	\$1,833 FMR

* Affordable here is considered as paying no more than 30% of income towards rent per month
FMR - Fair Market Rate

Source: Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R), U.S. Dept. of HUD (2020)
Source: 2020 Out of Reach Report



High Rents Each Year

\$1,400

Average rent per unit in Kitsap County Sept 2020. An increase of **40%** since Sept 2015.

Source: <https://www.kitsapgov.com/hs/Pages/HH-Reports-and-Data.aspx>

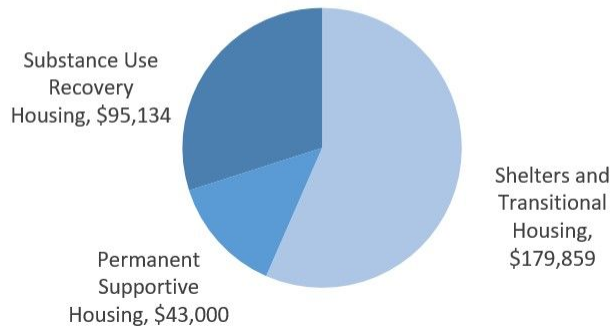
¹ Includes Unsheltered (199) and Sheltered (334) individuals | Tent icon made by FlatIcon from www.flaticon.com

Investments of Public Funds

Affordable Housing Grant Program

\$317,993

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.

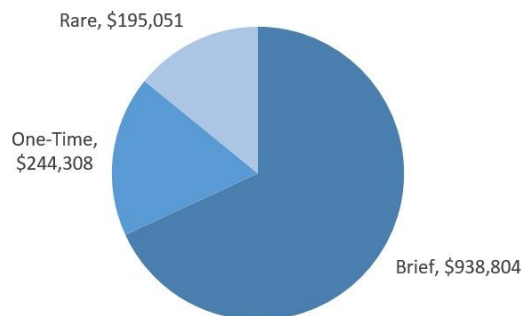
These grant funds are distributed through a competitive process to Kitsap organizations that provide affordable housing in a variety of ways, including shelters, transitional housing, and substance use recovery housing. For more information on the grant process please visit: <https://www.kitsapgov.com/hs/Pages/HH-Coordinated-Grant-Application-Process.aspx>

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

\$1,378,163

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.

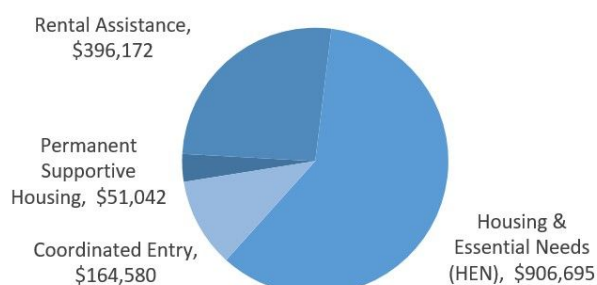
These grant funds are distributed through a competitive process to Kitsap housing programs and social service providers working to implement the strategies and action steps identified in the Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response and Housing Plan.

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

\$1,518,488

Invested in Permanent Supportive Housing for Chronically Homeless Families, Coordinated Entry, HEN, 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	2020 Results
Goal 1: Make homelessness rare.		
Homeless Prevention  Targeted prevention resolves imminent homelessness with housing-focused case management and temporary rent subsidies.	Housing Kitsap HHGP (\$65,779)	18 low-income households retained housing
	Housing Resources Bainbridge HHGP (\$50,857)	12 low-income households retained housing
	Kitsap Community Resources CHG (\$23,877*)	6 households prevented from eviction/able to secure housing
	North Kitsap Fishline HHGP (\$22,401)	32 households prevented from eviction/able to secure housing
	Olive Crest HHGP (\$56,013*)	21 foster youth retained stable housing and received supportive services
Goal 2: Make homelessness brief.		
Coordinated Entry  Connects households that are homeless or at risk of homelessness to appropriate housing interventions at one-stop housing resource offices located across the county.	Kitsap Community Resources Housing Solutions Center HHGP (\$204,896), CHG (\$164,580)	1,724 households connected to shelter and housing 624 individuals were contacted by outreach specialists in the community, at events, the jail, and treatment facilities
Continuous Stay Emergency Shelters  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.	Catholic Community Services Benedict House HHGP (\$100,752)	27 beds for single men 111 individuals served
	Kitsap Community Resources Emergency Housing AHGP (\$43,500), HHGP (\$31,178)	16 beds for families 31 individuals served
	St Vincent de Paul Stella Maris House AHGP (\$14,518), HHGP (\$44,111)	21 beds for women and women with children 90 individuals served
	Weaver Foundation Georgia's House AHGP (\$24,070), HHGP (\$58,788)	22 beds for women and women with children 122 individuals served
	Coffee Oasis Youth Shelter AHGP (\$25,188)	6 beds for youth 16-20 years of age 35 youth served
	YWCA of Kitsap County ALIVE Domestic Violence Shelter AHGP (\$32,583), HHGP (\$21,936)	13 beds for women and women with children fleeing domestic violence 85 individuals served
Drop-in Shelters  Emergency housing that provides a short-term stay at no cost. Beds are not reserved for multiple days, but are made available on an individual night basis.	Kitsap Rescue Mission Safe Harbor Shelter HHGP (\$62,859)	26 beds for single adults 60 individuals served* *on March 25th, 2021 KRM was converted to a COVID-19 shelter

Strategies	Investments	2020 Results
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>	Salvation Army Winter Shelter <i>HHGP (\$214,293)</i> Severe Weather Shelters <i>not funded by AHGP, HHGP, or CHG</i>	65 beds for adults, families, and youth Dec 1 - Mar 31* 208 individuals served <i>*on March 25th, 2021 Salvation Army was converted to a COVID-19 shelter</i> 17 max beds in 2 locations - availability is weather dependent 176 overnight stays
Transitional Housing  <p>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.</p>	Kitsap Community Resources Transitional & Supportive Housing <i>AHGP (\$40,000), HHGP (\$52,141*)</i>	22 units for families 37 households served
Homeless Services  <p>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.</p>	Kitsap Community Resources <i>CHG (\$636*), HHGP (\$15,501*)</i> North Kitsap Fishline <i>HHGP (\$31,679*)</i> The Coffee Oasis <i>HHGP (\$100,670)</i>	22 adults provided with safe parking 120 households provided case management and services 11 adults provided safe parking or camping space with services and 3 households provided motel vouchers 53 homeless youth provided life skills training, 163 youth engaged in housing case management, and 19 entered into supportive housing

Goal 3: Make homelessness one-time.

Permanent Supportive Housing  <p>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.</p>	Housing Resources Bainbridge Permanent Affordable Housing <i>HHGP (\$34,794)</i> YWCA of Kitsap County Home Safe <i>HHGP (\$12,000)</i>	14 units for low-income adults and families 17 households served 10 units for women with children fleeing violence 11 households served
Permanent Housing  <p>Permanent subsidized housing that serves low-income individuals or households without a disability, but who need ongoing supportive services and assistance.</p>	Catholic Housing Services Max Hale Center <i>AHGP (\$35,000), HHGP (\$13,509)</i> Kitsap Community Resources Housing for Chronically Homeless <i>CHG (\$51,041)</i> Kitsap Homes of Compassion Shared Housing Program <i>HHGP (\$34,550)</i>	53 units for single adults 58 households served 5 units for families 8 households served 16 rooms for single adults 33 households served
Substance Use Recovery Housing  <p>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.</p>	Agape Unlimited Sisyphus II Permanent Housing <i>AHGP (\$27,986), HHGP (\$30,132)</i> Koinonia Inn Transitional Housing <i>AHGP (\$50,008)</i> West Sound Treatment Center O'Hana House and Lighthouse <i>AHGP (\$17,140), HHGP (\$17,860)</i>	24 units for single adults and families 69 households housed with recovery supports 6 units for pregnant and parenting women in recovery 17 households housed with recovery supports 6 units for single women and women w/children 4 units for single men 33 households served with recovery housing and supports

Strategies	Investments	2020 Results
Rapid Re-Housing  <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>	Kitsap Community Resources Rapid Re-Housing CHG (\$224,425*)	95 households obtained stable housing
	Olive Crest Independent Living Skills CHG (\$5,166*)	1 foster youth obtained stable housing
HEN - Housing & Essential Needs  <p>Provides program participants with rent assistance, utility and transportation assistance, as well as hygiene supplies.</p>	Catholic Community Services Housing & Essential Needs CHG (\$906,695)	521 households helped to obtain or retain housing and provided essential needs

Goal 4: Continuously improve the homeless crisis response system.

- Finalized a comprehensive Affordable Housing Inventory and Recommendations Report from ECONorthwest.
- Improved outreach to the Annual Point-in-Time Count by hiring people with lived experience to do survey outreach.
- Partnered with the Juvenile Court system on the Housing Stability for Youth iNvolved with Courts (HSYNC) program.
- Produced a Resource Guide for you experiencing housing instability.
- Implemented a standardized housing case management report for all homeless service providers.
- Worked towards racial equity goals and targets through contracts with organizations lead by people of color.
- Completed re-alignment of Grant Funding with the 2020 Coordinated Grant Cycle.

Goal 5: Expand community engagement.

- Coordinated the communitywide homelessness response to COVID-19.
- Produced performance dashboard reports, geographic data sheets, and COVID-19 information to the public and decision makers.
- Provided weekly updates to a wide variety of stakeholders through the Kitsap Pandemic Response Coalition.
- Expanded working partnerships with Peninsula Community Health and Kitsap Public Health and others.

Rhody is a Veteran who became homeless when his mother passed away and he lost his home. He experienced homelessness for several years and had been living in the woods prior to staying at the Rescue Mission. Soon after arriving at the shelter case managers connected Rhody with the Housing Solutions Center to help apply for senior housing and helped him contact a prior landlord to repay debts which affected his ability to find a new place. The Bremerton Housing Authority had an apartment become available and worked with him to obtain the needed documents to help get housed. Rhody has received keys to a new apartment, Abraham's House graciously supplied furniture and housing necessities, and volunteers helped Rhody move into his new place. Because of the collaborative work of many partners Rhody is now successfully housed.

Heather, a single mother of four, came from out of state fleeing domestic violence has been staying in KCR's emergency+ program. She's had difficulty finding a permanent home, but she has used her time wisely. So far, she has graduated from KCR's BE\$T program, passed her real estate license exam, and is working on starting up her own catering business. Having a trauma informed emergency apartment without a time limit to stay in has allowed Heather the breathing room to build up some skills to help her be more financially resilient and be able to support herself fully in the future.

Kitsap Rescue Mission Guest

Kitsap Community Resources Client

2020 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.



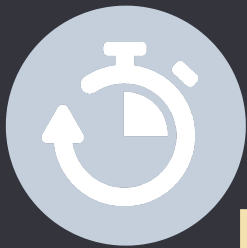
301 

Households prevented from homelessness

56% 


Of households were experiencing homelessness for the first time (308 households)

Make homelessness brief.



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



3,987

Total unduplicated households served by the Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response System

Length of time and households served by intervention

Priority Pool 

14 days avg
128 households

*Drop-in Shelter 

58 days avg
252 households

Continuous Stay Shelter 

62 days avg
352 households

Rapid Re-Housing 

176 days avg
244 households

Transitional Housing 

438 days avg
132 households

Housing & Essential Needs 

493 days avg
515 households

Make homelessness one-time.

1x

279 

Households exited

the Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response System to Permanent Stable Housing

92% 

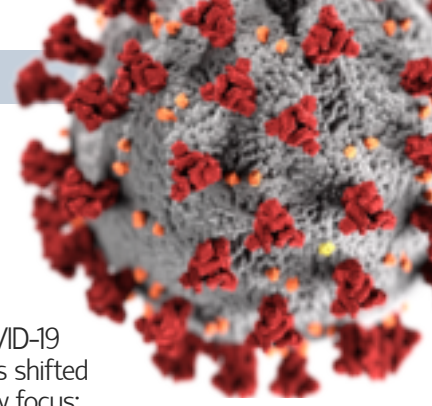
of 293 households have not returned to homelessness

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 2020 - March 24, 2020.

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, and the work of the Housing and Homelessness Division and our many community partners shifted dramatically to respond to this new challenge. Another layer of strategies and activities became a new focus:

Response Activities



Worked with non-profit partners to "stand up" an additional **150 new temporary COVID-19 homeless shelter beds**, which served **593 unique individuals** with **27,994 bed nights** and **105,923 meals**. These shelter beds were in operation from April - December 2020 and continued operations through 2021.



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



Distributed over **250,000 items of personal protective equipment (PPE)** to homeless shelters and housing programs.



Worked closely with the Kitsap County Emergency Operations Center to **stand up a comprehensive Quarantine and Isolation Center**, available to people who are unsheltered or unable to safely stay at home while isolating or quarantining. During 2020, the Quarantine and Isolation Center provided **510 nights** of safe accommodation for **85 individuals**, as well as medical care, meals, and supportive services.



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



Coordinated the distribution of over **100,000 cloth masks** to low-income households through community-wide service providers including food banks, clinics, non-profits, and other service providers.



Administered and contracted **\$1,388,576** to partner organizations for COVID-19 response activities for homelessness and housing security programs.

Eviction Prevention

A new 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 \$3.1 million

in unpaid rental assistance paid to landlords for

1,090 most vulnerable

low-income households at risk of eviction between Sept 1st and Dec 31st of 2020.

Racial Equity Benchmarks and Performance

