Proven Solutions to End Chronic Homelessness
We know what works – permanent supportive housing. We need more of it.

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS IS A CRITICAL PROBLEM

A person is chronically homeless if they:

- Have a qualifying disability that prevents them from maintaining work or housing
- Have been homeless for 1 year or longer, or have experienced at least 4 episodes totaling 12 months of homelessness in the last three years

Most are unsheltered:

- in cars
- in tents
- on the street

Compared to the general homeless populations, chronically homeless people suffer from higher rates of:

- poor health
- mental illness and substance abuse
- victimization

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS IS COSTLY TO ADDRESS IN KING COUNTY:

- 29% of the homeless population
- MAJORITY of the public cost

Each year, it costs:

- More to keep people homeless than to house them*: $16K–$22K
- $30K–$50K+

Why people sleep outside:

- Barriers to accessing housing
- Chronic health and safety problems
- Untreated mental illness
- Negative experiences with emergency shelter
- Fear of separating from pet or loved one
- Fear of strangers

3,552 people were chronically homeless in 2018**

+28% increase in chronic homelessness over 2017 (779 people)**

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS IS COSTLY TO ADDRESS IN KING COUNTY:

- 29% of the homeless population
- MAJORITY of the public cost

Each year, it costs:

- More to keep people homeless than to house them*: $16K–$22K
- $30K–$50K+

See reverse to learn about solutions to chronic homelessness.

*Average Permanent Supportive Housing cost per person per year

**King County
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING IS THE SOLUTION

Combines non-time-limited affordable housing assistance with voluntary wrap-around supportive services.

WHAT IS HOUSING FIRST?

A strategy to quickly connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry, such as sobriety, treatment, or service participation requirements.

(AUTS Housing and Urban Development)

- A proven, evidence-based model for ending chronic homelessness
- The most rigorously studied homelessness intervention
- More cost-effective than emergency services, shelters, hospitals and jails
- Improves results from services, and improves health and safety outcomes for everyone
- Provides critical housing stability
- Includes strategies like Permanent Supportive Housing
- Pioneered in Seattle

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING RESULTS

| Improved                          | Permanent Supportive Housing is a Housing First strategy that |
|                                 | › ends chronic homelessness,                          |
|                                 | › increases housing stability and                      |
|                                 | › saves taxpayer money                                 |

90–95% of residents of Permanent Supportive Housing are still housed a year later.

AMOUNT SAVED IN PUBLIC COSTS OVER 3 YEARS IN KING COUNTY AMONG HIGH USERS OF PUBLIC SERVICES

$7 Million

(King County Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy)