

# LIVE UNITED



United Way of King County

## United Way of King County Ending Homelessness Funding Announcement

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### Overview:

United Way of King County's Ending Homelessness Funding Application will be available on January 13, 2017. We will make more than \$3 million available to significantly reduce the number of unsheltered people in King County by aligning current resources around proven practices and leveraging new funding to make changes at scale. Based on recommendations from the [SWAP and Poppe reports](#), we will prioritize moving people from the streets and shelter system and into homes. United Way will take a leadership role in reducing homelessness by quickly adopting recommendations for improved efficiency and effectiveness across the homeless delivery system. United Way will select and support agencies that have the capacity to quickly house single adults, youth, and families and work with system partners to make homelessness rare, brief, and one time.

All existing contracts in the investments areas below end on June 30, 2017. Agencies currently supported under these areas must apply to be considered for funding and may not be considered eligible or provide services aligned for the new or redesigned areas. Awards made through this RFP will align United Way funding with community need, best practices, and the recommended changes to our homeless delivery system outlined in the 2016 SWAP and Poppe reports.

### Investments areas that will end June 30, 2017

**1485-** Youth and Young Adult Shelters

**2103-** Homeless People Meet Emergency/Immediate Shelter Needs (Shelters- all populations)

**2104-** People are able to meet basic self-care and/or other survival needs

**2105-** People Transitioning- Secure Permanent Housing (Youth Transitional Housing will continue to be funded)

**2108-** Homeless people meet interim housing needs

**2109-** Homeless People increase stability in PSH (Permanent Supportive Housing)

**In some areas, funding will be less than in previous years. As such, we anticipate this being a highly competitive process.** Programs currently funded by United Way in the areas listed above are NOT guaranteed to be funded. If you currently receive funding in one of these areas and wish to be considered for future funding, you must apply for funding through this application process. Applicants may apply for funding in more than one area in accordance with the detailed descriptions below.

**New Investment Areas beginning July 1, 2017**

1. Emergency Shelters
2. Housing Services For Domestic Violence Survivors
3. Outreach and Engagement Centers
4. Housing First: Non-time Limited Permanent Housing
5. Rapid Rehousing (new)
6. Streets to Home for Families (new)

**Funding available:** A minimum of \$3 million will be available on an annual basis.

**Award range:** Ranges will vary by area. See below for specific ranges.

**Funding period:** Awards will be made for 12 months from July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018. Ongoing funding is contingent upon agency performance, United Way fundraising, and community need.

**Timeline:**

January 13, 2017	Applications available in eCImpact
January 17, 2017, 2:00-4:00pm	Application information session 1: United Way of King County, 720 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave, Gates Rm, Seattle WA
January 24, 2017, 11:00-1:00pm	Application information session 2: The 2100 Building, 2100 24th Ave S, Seattle WA
January 27, 2017, 1:00-3:00pm	Application information session 3: Green River College, 417 Ramsay Way, Ste 112, Kent WA
February 24, 2017	Applications Due
April 30, 2017	Applicants notified if approved for funding
July 1, 2017	Contracts begin
January 16, 2018	Progress report due
July 23, 2018	Year-end report due with demographics

**Application Information Sessions:**

There will be three sessions (agenda repeated for each) held to answer any questions about the application process. Please RSVP for the information sessions [here](#).

<b>Description</b>	<b>Up to \$1,200,000 available</b>
<b>1: Emergency Shelters</b>	<b>Award Range: \$30,000- \$225,000</b>

For this strategy, United Way of King County seeks to fund service providers who specialize in welcoming people who are literally homeless into a low barrier, harm reduction shelter with mats or beds so that people may sleep there 7 days a week. Shelter capacity will include an ability to quickly establish an individual Housing Stability Plan that guides guests through the process of enrollment into Coordinated Entry for All, housing them in transitional or permanent housing according to the system performance standards as defined by the [joint MOU](#) (Memorandum of Understanding) signed by United Way of King County, The City of Seattle, Seattle Office of Housing and King County. New and current applicants to United Way of King County will be accepted. Funded shelter programs will be expected to meet or make significant progress toward meeting established community-wide performance targets for their program and population type.

Examples of projects that align include:

- Multi service, low barrier 24-Hour/Evening/Night Shelters that offer food, hygiene services, benefit assistance, referral services, housing navigation and placement
- A basic shelter with a system for sheltering those who are literally homeless (HUD Definition – refer to definitions page) and with capacity for referring and placing people into housing
- Low barrier domestic violence shelter with housing navigation and other aforementioned services

Examples of projects that do not align include:

- Stand-alone shelters without services beyond sleeping facilities
- Shelters that do not comply with Coordinated Entry for All
- Programs that will not participate in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

Focus Population:

Single Adults, Families, Youth and Young Adults

<b>Description</b>	<b>Up to \$400,000 available</b>
<b>2: Housing services for homeless Domestic Violence Survivors</b>	<b>Award Range: \$50,000 – 100,000</b>

For this strategy, United Way of King County seeks to fund service providers who specialize in helping survivors of domestic violence quickly access housing and regain stability using a Housing First approach.

Examples of projects that align include:

- Flexible financial assistance based on a set of policies and procedures designed to support survivors with an assortment of expenses related to employment, children’s basic needs, transportation, and safety measures for the home that might impact their ability to be stable in housing.
- Diversion funding which allows survivors to remain safely in their current housing, rapid re-housing, subsidized housing, or permanent supportive housing.
- Support of time-limited housing and other resources that provide a pathway to permanent housing.

Examples of projects that do not align include:

- Domestic Violence Shelter Programs (refer to Emergency Shelter Investment Area)

Focus Population:

Domestic violence survivors

<b>Description</b>	<b>Up to \$ 200,000 available</b>
<b>3: Outreach and Engagement Centers</b>	<b>Award Range: \$30,000 - \$50,000</b>

For this strategy, United Way of King County seeks to fund service providers who specialize in welcoming people who are literally homeless into an established, warm, dry, safe, secure, clean harm reduction gathering space where people can reside during day time hours to receive services and

connect them with Coordinated Entry. Agencies that receive funding will at minimum have the capacity to offer self-serve or staff provided laundry services, showers, toilets, and where applicable sinks for shaving. Services shall be offered a minimum of five days a week, six hours per day. Outreach and Engagement Centers who receive funding should have the aforementioned services of a hygiene center plus a seating area with tables. Highly desirable services include daily meals, referral services and other resources that allow people to live indoors. Funded programs will also be expected to connect guests with Coordinated Entry and diversion or navigation services to assist guests in getting housed.

Examples of projects that align include:

- Day Centers that provide measurable daily services with staff capacity to quickly assist people in attaining indoor living arrangements through diversion and/or other housing navigation services.
- Hygiene Centers that provide a maximum number of hygiene services and referrals to benefits and/or diversion and other housing navigation services.

Examples of projects that do not align include:

- Service providers who do not offer a minimum of laundry, toilet and shower services and do not have strategies to connect people to Coordinated Entry for All.

Focus Population:

Single Adults, Families, Youth and Young Adults

<b>Description</b>	<b>Up to \$500,000 available</b>
<b>4: Housing First: Non-Time Limited Permanent Supportive Housing</b>	<b>Award Range: \$50,000 - \$125,000</b>

For this strategy, United Way of King County seeks to fund service providers who provide independent community-based housing that has no time-limit on tenancy or specific service requirement as a condition of tenancy for formerly homeless single adults, families and youth and young adults throughout King County who have adopted and actively practice Housing First principles. We are particularly interested in funding Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and Permanent Housing with Supports (see definitions page). Only agencies currently funded in investment areas 2105, 2108, or 2109 are eligible to apply. Funded programs will be expected to meet or make significant progress toward meeting established community-wide performance targets for their program and population type.

Examples of projects that align include:

- Permanent and Permanent Supportive Housing units who have a demonstrated ability to house and retain people on a non-time limited basis.
- Housing facilities that have an ability to assist those who are eligible, willing and wanting to relocate to Graduation or Move Up housing when applicable.

Examples of projects that do not align include:

- Service providers who have low utilization rates, low entries from homelessness and high rates of return to homelessness.

Focus Population:

Single Adults, Families, Youth and Young Adults

<b>Description</b> <b>5: Rapid Re-Housing</b>	<b>Up to \$750,000 available</b> <b>Award Range: \$100,000 - \$250,000</b>
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For this strategy, United Way of King County seeks to fund service providers who have a proven, developed track record housing people with dedicated [Rapid Re-Housing \(RRH\) Funds](#). United Way views RRH as a short to medium-term intervention with housing-focused case management that emphasizes housing attainment, use of short term rental assistance, and housing retention after the subsidy concludes.

Examples of projects that align include:

- Service providers who have a demonstrated ability to quickly house people utilizing Rapid Re-Housing Funds in accordance with the system minimum and performance standards as defined by the [joint MOU](#) signed by United Way of King County, City of Seattle, Seattle Office of Housing and King County
- Projects that connect clients to employment or other services to strengthen financial stability and improve RRH outcomes
- Projects that have a history of or targeted plan for landlord engagement

Examples of projects that do not align include:

- Service providers who have no or low performing experience with Rapid Re-Housing funds

Focus Population:

Single Adults and Families

<b>Description</b> <b>6: Streets to Home for Families</b>	<b>Up to \$275,000 available</b> <b>Award Range: \$50,000 – \$100,000</b>
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For this strategy, United Way of King County seeks to fund service providers who have a proven ability to quickly address the needs of non-chronically homeless families by moving them into a safer, more stable setting through diversion. This may include but not be limited to movement from: 1) street to shelter, 2) street to permanent housing, 3) vehicle to shelter or permanent housing, 4) shelter to housing. Selected service providers will be provided flexible funds. Flexible funds are intended to strengthen the ability of existing outreach efforts, supporting both navigation and diversion efforts with families experiencing homelessness. Funds may not be used for staffing.

Examples of projects that align include:

- Funding an organization that is staffed with case managers and/or housing navigators who can house families with flexible funds.

Examples of projects that do not align include:

- Funding an organization that has no to little experience housing families.

Focus Population:  
Families

### **Racial Equity**

United Way of King County is focused on eliminating racial disparities. Homelessness disproportionately impacts people of color. In King County, American Indians/Alaska Natives are seven times, African Americans five times, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders three times more likely to experience homelessness. Successful applications will demonstrate the capacity to deliver effective, culturally competent services that have the potential to reduce identified racial disparities.

### **Reporting**

A six month progress report and final report are required, providing a summary of goals/milestones met to date including narrative descriptions of highlights, successes, and challenges encountered and resolved.

### **Additional Requirements and Information**

Funded agencies will be required to participate in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Funding decisions will be aligned with the [joint MOU](#) for implementation of system wide minimums and target standards signed by United Way of King County, City of Seattle Human Services Department, City of Seattle Office of Housing, and King County Department of Community and Health Services.

Agencies funded may be required to participate in meetings or trainings to share best practices and work collectively on challenges.

### **Application Process**

Applications will be available on January 13, 2017 and must be submitted through [eCImpact](#), our online application system. If you need help logging into or navigating e-CImpact, email [communityservices@uwkc.org](mailto:communityservices@uwkc.org), or contact Damian Spence at 206-461-8511 or Sue Wyss at 206-461-3778. Technical assistance may be limited near the submittal deadline. Please don't wait until the last minute to complete your application in e-CImpact.

## Definitions

**Case Management – Housing Focused.** Housing focused case management focuses on immediate efforts to address housing attainment, utilizing the minimum assistance needed to address each household's immediate housing crisis. Staff works with each household to identify and refer households to other resources in the community (mainstream services, benefit services, food assistance programs, childcare resources, etc.) to support on-going housing stability. Services are generally light-touch, housing-focused and person-centered; but can be increased through progressive engagement if more services are necessary to address individual need.

**Chronically Homeless - HUD Definition.** Chronically homeless as defined by HUD, and reflected in (24 CFR 578.3), is an unaccompanied homeless individual or adult in a family household with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more OR an unaccompanied homeless individual who has had at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years. A disabling condition is defined as: (1) A disability as defined in section 223 of the Social Security Act; (2) a physical, mental, or emotional impairment which is expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration, substantially impedes an individual's ability to live independently, and of such a nature that the disability could be improved by more suitable conditions; (3) a developmental disability as defined in section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act; (4) the disease of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome or any conditions arising from the etiological agency for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome; or (5) a diagnosable substance abuse disorder. The term "homeless" in this case means a person sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (for example, living on the streets), in an emergency homeless shelter, or in a Safe Haven as defined by HUD. A family with an adult head of household (or if there is no adult in the family, a minor head of household) who meets all of the criteria in this definition, including a family whose composition has fluctuated while the head of household has been homeless, is also considered chronically homeless.

Permanent Supportive Housing for Chronically Homeless is PSH (as defined in paragraph 3.2.3 above) that serves individuals or households with an adult head of household that meet the definition of chronically homeless from 24 CFR 578.3, as follows:

- (i) A homeless individual with a disability; who:
- (ii) Lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; and
- (iii) Has been homeless and living as described in paragraph (ii) of this definition continuously for at least 12 months or on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years, as long as the combined occasions equal at least 12 months and each break in homelessness separating the occasions included at least 7 consecutive nights of not living as described in paragraph (ii). Stays in institutional care facilities for fewer than 90 days will not constitute as a break in homelessness, but rather such stays are included in the 12-month total, as long as the individual was living as described in paragraph (ii) immediately before entering the institutional care facility.

## Coordinated Entry for All Coordinated Entry for All and System Access

Coordinated Entry for All (CEA) is a system to ensure that all people experiencing a housing crisis have fair and equal access and are quickly identified, assessed for, and connected to housing and homeless assistance based on their strengths and needs. It will use standardized tools and practices, incorporate a system-wide housing first approach, and coordinate assistance so that those with the most severe service needs are prioritized. This approach has been adopted locally, and is guided HUD's Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act

- a. **Decentralized Assessment Model.** Seattle-King County has selected a decentralized model for Coordinated Entry for All which means that there are multiple ways to access the CEA Housing Triage Tool such as walk-in, street outreach, scheduled appointments, institutions, and events. A diverse range of staff are trained to administer the tool, known as Housing Assessors.
- b. **Regional Access Points.** Often referred to as HUBs, Regional Access Points are designated access centers throughout King County where individuals and families that are experiencing homeless can complete a CEA Housing Triage Tool by walk-in or scheduling an appointment. Regional Access Points provide a clear location to direct people to that are in need of homeless housing resources.
- c. **Housing Assessors.** Housing Assessors are staff from the Regional Access Points, and also selected community based organizations or programs. All Housing Assessors are the initial contact for CEA, administer the CEA Housing Triage Tool with individuals in need of housing, and enter assessment data in HMIS.
- d. **Housing Navigators.** Housing Navigators are designated staff from community agencies and assist in navigating the process of securing housing from housing referral to "lease up". Navigation duties include assisting in documentation gathering, transportation needs and addressing any challenges that may arise in the housing process at the time of referral.
- e. **CEA Housing Triage Tool.** In a coordinated system, each system entry point ("front door") uses a standardized assessment tool and makes decisions on which programs individuals and families experiencing homelessness are referred to, based on an understanding of each program's specific requirements, target population, and available beds and services. The Seattle / King County CoC will use the VI-SPDAT with a limited number of additional questions as the CEA Housing Triage Tool.
- f. **Prioritization based on a Banding Order.** King County will implement prioritization using a 'Banding Order' approach with the use of the CEA Triage Tool (VI-SPDAT). Using Banding Order, individuals' CEA Triage Tool scores are associated with a band of housing resources ("High", "Medium", or "Low"). Individuals are then prioritized for housing referrals based on their CEA Triage Tool score within a particular band. If multiple resources identified for individuals in the band are available, individuals are given options within their choices in the band.

**Diversion.** A flexible short-term intervention that assists homeless households with innovative solutions to overcome their housing crisis and avoid entering the shelter system whenever possible, moving families quickly from the streets to housing.

**e-CImpact.** The online application and contract database system utilized by United Way of King County. If your organization is not registered, please e-mail us at [communityservices@uwkc.org](mailto:communityservices@uwkc.org).

**Fair and Just Practices.** Agency policies, practices, attitudes, services, and systems that promote fairness and opportunity for all people, particularly marginalized communities, including people of color, low-income communities, people with limited English proficiency, immigrants and refugees, individuals with disabilities and LGBTQ individuals. This includes programs that engage all communities in a manner that fosters trust among people and supports efforts to develop solutions on individual, organizational and community levels.

**Graduation or Move-up.** Graduation or Move-Up refers to a strategy where households of permanent supportive housing with 24/7 front desk support with intensive services, who no longer need high-intensity services of their existing building, and who want greater independence, are given the option (and often assistance) to move into permanent affordable housing with less service supports. These households will be supported throughout the shift to new housing and provided services on an as needed basis. Graduation units facilitate the movement to less service-intensive housing thereby freeing up a new permanent supportive housing unit for a new homeless household with intensive support needs. This strategy may also be used to transition households who are accessing permanent housing with supports to housing that has minimal to no services attached.

**Harm Reduction.** Harm reduction is a set of practical strategies that reduce the negative consequences associated with drug use, including safer use, managed use, and non-punitive abstinence. These strategies meet drug users "where they're at," addressing conditions and motivations of drug use along with the use itself. Harm reduction acknowledges an individual's ability to take responsibility for their own behavior. This approach fosters an environment where individuals can openly discuss substance use without fear of judgment or reprisal, and does not condone or condemn drug use. Staff working in a harm reduction setting work in partnership with tenants, and are expected to respond directly to unacceptable behaviors, whether or not the behaviors are related to substance use. The harm reduction model has also been successfully broadened to reducing harms related to health and wellness as well as many other issues

**Housing First.** Housing first is a homeless system orientation designed to return homeless people to housing as quickly as possible without a "housing readiness" test, or other conditions to entering housing. Programs in a housing first homeless system empower homeless people to overcome barriers to obtaining permanent housing. Support services are voluntary, but can and should be used to persistently engage tenants to ensure housing stability. A housing first system does not require that households spend time in a shelter or graduate from a transitional housing program in order to receive permanent supportive housing, although many households will enter housing from a shelter. In order to achieve a housing first system orientation, homeless housing units in the system must reduce screening barriers and screen in homeless households, many of whom may have barriers that traditionally make it more difficult for them to rent in the private market.

**Homeless – from HUD Continuum of Care Definition [24 CFR 578.3]:** A homeless person or household is someone who is literally homeless, or fleeing or attempting to flee a domestic violence situation. These categories are further defined below.

1. Category 1, Literally Homeless: Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:
    - a. Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation;
    - b. Is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state and local government programs); or
    - c. Is exiting an institution where (s)he has resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution.
  2. Category 4, Fleeing or Attempting to Flee a Domestic Violence Situation: Any individual or family who:
    - a. Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence;
    - b. Has no other residence; and
    - c. Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.
- b. **Homeless Family**. One or more homeless adults over the age of 18, in combination with other adult or children family members, who cohabit.
  - c. **Homeless Older Adult**. A homeless person aged 55 or over. Programs serving this population may be eligible for specific funding sources and/or may develop programming specific to the needs of this age group.
  - d. **Homeless Young Adult**. Homeless persons ages 18 through 24.
  - e. **Homeless Youth**. Homeless persons under age 18.
  - f. **Long-Term Homeless**. This term includes all people who have been homeless for long periods of time or repeatedly over long periods of time as evidenced by stays in the streets, emergency shelters, or other temporary settings, sometimes cycling between homelessness and hospitals, jails, or prisons. This definition intentionally includes a larger group of people than the HUD definition of chronically homeless, such as families, youth, partnered homeless people, and those who do not have a documented disability. **Critical Time Intervention (CTI)**: Critical Time Intervention (CTI) is a cost-effective, evidence-based practice designed to prevent recurrent homelessness, recidivism, and other adverse outcomes during the period following placement into the community from shelters, hospitals and other institutions. This time-limited intervention is delivered in three phases, each usually lasting three months. Each phase decreases in service intensity and results with the intervention ensuring the participant is linked to the appropriate community services to ensure housing and life stability.

**Housing Navigation.** Assistance during the process of securing housing from housing referral to “lease up”. Activities include assisting in documentation gathering, meeting transportation needs and addressing any challenges that may arise in the housing process at the time of referral.

**Housing Stability Plan - Comprehensive.** A plan created with the program participant(s), as part of the housing support services, to address a variety of issues related to a household’s ability to maintain and improve their housing situation. The plan defines the services requested by the household, how these services will be delivered, and how progress is measured. It can include strategies for addressing basic and clinical care needs, developing positive social support networks, and assessing needs and gaps in current supportive services.

**Permanent Housing or Non-time Limited Housing.** Independent community-based housing that has no time-limit on tenancy or specific service requirement as a condition of tenancy, although services may be provided, depending on residents served. Residents hold rental agreements and can stay in the housing for as long as they choose and as long as they are eligible and in compliance with their rental agreement or lease. Note: Non-time limited Housing is also referred to in many of these definitions as “permanent housing”. The use of the word “permanent” does not imply an expectation or requirement that the tenant will stay in the unit indefinitely. “Permanent” means only that the housing is not artificially time-limited.

**Permanent Housing with Supports (i.e. other permanent housing).** Permanent housing for homeless households with a high to medium level of service needs. Services are needed in order for the homeless household to maintain housing stability and services are individualized and targeted based on the housing stability plan. Programs and services may be available on or off-site and the tenant holds a rental agreement.

**Permanent Supportive Housing.** Permanent housing for a household that is homeless on entry, and has a condition or disability, such as mental illness, substance abuse, chronic health issues, or other conditions that create multiple and serious ongoing barriers to housing stability. Households have a long-term high level of service needs in order to meet the obligations of tenancy and maintain their housing. Tenant holds a rental agreement or lease and may continue tenancy as long as rent is paid and the tenant complies with the rental agreement or lease. Tenants have access to a flexible array of comprehensive services, mostly on site, such as medical and wellness, mental health, substance abuse, vocational/employment, and life skills. Services are available and encouraged but are not to be required as a condition of tenancy. There is ongoing communication and coordination between supportive service providers, property owners or managers, and/or housing subsidy programs. Permanent Supportive Housing may be facility-based or with scattered-site.

**Rapid Re-Housing (RRH).** RRH is a short to medium-term intervention for households experiencing homelessness. Housing-focused case management is provided, with an emphasis on immediate efforts

to address housing attainment, utilizing the minimum assistance needed to resolve each household's immediate housing crisis. Once a household moves into permanent housing, short-term rental assistance may be provided, utilizing a progressive engagement approach to provide the appropriate level of assistance. Frequent re-assessment will be used to establish continued eligibility and amount of continued rental subsidy. The services are time-limited and the household does not have to leave the housing when services end. RRH staff work with each household to identify and refer households to other resources in the community (mainstream services, benefit services, food assistance programs, childcare resources, etc.) to support on-going household and housing stability.

**Transitional Housing.** A time-limited intervention intended to provide assistance to households who need more intensive or deeper levels of support services to attain permanent housing. Emphasis is still placed on rapid exit to permanent housing, but lengths of stay are flexible and tailored to the unique needs of each household. Services continue to emphasize housing attainment through a housing-focused assessment and housing stability planning, which includes working with each household to identify resources in the community, to make referrals as needed, and to support on-going family and housing stability. All services are person-centered and tailored to the individual needs of each household. Transitional housing comes in a variety of facility-types, from congregate-style living to scattered site apartments.