



King County

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND HUMAN SERVICES

www.metrokc.gov/dchs

Director: Jackie MacLean 206-296-7689 jackie.maclean@metrokc.gov
Deputy Director: Terry Mark (206) 296-7681 terry.mark@metrokc.gov

PURPOSE: The Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) is responsible for delivering, either directly or via community-based contract, a wide variety of housing and human services for King County’s most vulnerable and at-risk residents.

Human services are provided in King County through a complex web of interconnected governments and private sector organizations. King County is the second largest human service agency in the state and DCHS is a leader in the coordination of the human service infrastructure in the county. There are a host of players that fund human services—federal government, Washington state, King County, City of Seattle, Suburban Cities, United Way, private foundations, faith communities, service providers, businesses, volunteers, and other organizations. Federal and state governments are the largest contributors. DCHS administers over \$170 million dollars of human services from various fund sources (see Funding Sources section).

King County is uniquely positioned to help plan, fund, and evaluate human service systems for King County residents and lead the development and implementation of several service systems mandated by state and/or federal governments including services for persons with serious mental illness, chemical dependency, developmental disabilities, and for veterans. In addition to its regional role, King County also serves as the local government for the more than 350,000 residents of the unincorporated areas of the county. DCHS forms partnerships with multiple funders to support its regional and local human service programs.

MISSION: To enhance the quality of life, protect rights and promote the self-sufficiency of our county’s diverse individuals, families and communities.

DESCRIPTION OF DEPARTMENT/DIVISIONS/PROGRAMS:

Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) – DCHS is responsible for the strategic planning, policy implementation, fiscal management, and oversight and provision of care for the majority of King County’s housing and human service programs. The department employs approximately 400 staff and has seven citizen advisory boards. The work of the department is coordinated through the Director’s Office and the following four divisions:

- **Community Services Division (CSD)** – Offers a wide range and variety of services to county residents that enhance the quality of life for vulnerable children and adults and improves the livability of our communities.

- Housing and Community Development (federal and current expense funded)—Works closely with local developers and financial institutions to create safe and affordable housing for low-income individuals and families. Housing Finance Program provides capital funds for affordable housing acquisition, rehabilitation, new construction, and site improvements. Credit Enhancement Program lends the financial backing of the County to affordable housing project financing, thereby lowering the project’s costs and offering inducements to developers to include more affordable housing in their projects. Housing Repair Program assists seniors and low-income families with desperately needed home repairs and disability accommodations. Homeless assistance programs offer shelter, meals, advocacy and other supports. Community Development Block Grant funds are distributed to improve the livability of low-income communities and neighborhoods. Housing Opportunity Fund creates housing for households with special needs by leveraging \$6 for every \$1 current expense (CX) invested. A new revenue source for affordable housing approved by the State Legislature in 2002 is the document recording fee, which will be available throughout King County.
- Veterans Program—Provides assistance to low-income veterans and their families including mental health and trauma counseling, employment and financial assistance, short- and long-term housing, and other supports. Veterans Program receives a dedicated, though small, portion of property tax revenue per RCW 73.08.080.
- Work Training Program—Partnership with schools and public, private and non-profit employers and agencies to provide educational and vocational assistance for at-risk and dropout youth. Work Training Program successfully leverages county funds to receive federal grants. The Dislocated Worker Program, a state and federally funded comprehensive re-employment program for adults who have lost their jobs through closures or downsizing, offers career counselors and job developers to help displaced workers find new employment.
- Aging Program—Contracts with local agencies to offer a range of services for low-income persons 55 years or older at community and senior centers and includes adult day health programs, health promotion, and nutrition programs. King County, the City of Seattle, and United Way are joint sponsors of the Area Agency on Aging, which coordinates funding for local senior services.
- Women’s Program—Works closely with community-based agencies and other funders to provide CX funded crisis intervention, counseling, legal advocacy, emergency shelter, and transitional housing for women and children affected by domestic violence or sexual assault.
- Community Organizing Program—State funded program that works with local neighborhoods to plan for and mobilize substance abuse and violence prevention programs.
- Youth and Family Service Program—Provides a variety of CX funded programs to support at-risk youth and also provides youth shelters throughout King County.

- **Developmental Disabilities Division (DDD)** – Contracts with local agencies to provide state-funded services for children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families. Services include early intervention and child development services for children with developmental delays age birth to three; employment assistance including job training and placement for adults with developmental disabilities; access and accommodation information and assistance; and family resource coordination and advocacy services.

- **Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division** – Oversees and provides a wide range of mental health and substance abuse treatment services including 24-hour emergency crisis response services. Mental health and substance abuse services are provided primarily through contracts with local community treatment agencies in a managed care model. In addition, MHCADSD oversees these grants and specialized programs:
 - Mental Health Crisis and Commitment Services – State mandated 24-hour crisis outreach and investigation for involuntary detention under mental illness statutes RCW 71.05 (adults) and RCW 71.34 (youth age 13-17).
 - Chemical Dependency Involuntary Treatment – State mandated crisis intervention services provided by specially trained staff who offer outreach and investigation for involuntary detention under chemical dependency statute RCW 70.96A.
 - Mental Health Court – Successful collaboration with the King County District Court and the Seattle Municipal Court to facilitate more effective services for the mentally ill misdemeanor offenders by providing the needed coordination between the courts, jail, and the mental health system.
 - Crisis Triage Unit – Collaboration with Harborview Hospital to provide a central access point for persons in crisis due to mental illness or substance abuse. Serves as a critical diversion site for law enforcement.
 - Mentally Ill Offender Community Transition Program/Dangerous Mentally Ill Offender Program – State Legislature funded grants that have established vital linkages between the mental health/substance abuse treatment systems and the state Department of Corrections to successfully transition persons with mental illness safely back to their communities by providing pre-release assessments of needs, stable housing, vocational assistance and case management.
 - Adult Criminal Justice Continuum of Services – The County Executive and King County Council made an additional \$1.8M available in 2003 to address gaps in the continuum of services for people with mental illness or chemical dependency who are involved in the criminal justice system.
 - Homeless Outreach, Stabilization and Transition (HOST) – Assertive community outreach and engagement services, intensive case management and stabilization, and transition to long-term care for persons with mental illness who are homeless. Jointly funded by MHCADSD and the Federal Project for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH).

- Children and Families in Common (federal grant) – Facilitates collaboration between courts, schools, juvenile detention, and mental health/substance abuse providers to coordinate care for at-risk youth with serious emotional disturbances who need services from multiple systems. Provides extensive family support and encourages family involvement.
 - Adolescent Treatment Enhancement Project (multi-year federal grant) – Improves and strengthens treatment services, supports and leadership skills for multi-cultural youth.
 - King County Assessment Center – Specially trained staff determines need and eligibility for publicly funded substance abuse treatment under the State Alcohol, Drug Abuse Treatment and Support Act (ADATSA). Screens approximately 4,000 persons annually at 21 locations around King County including the central office, Community Service Offices, and King County jails.
 - Emergency Services Patrol – Jointly funded with the City of Seattle, ESP responds to calls from 9-1-1 dispatch operators and provides van transportation for alcohol/drug incapacitated persons to the Shisler Sobering Support Center or hospital as needed.
 - Dutch Shisler Sobering Support Center – Collaboration with the City of Seattle to provide 24-hour services for chronic public inebriates including triage for medical emergencies, sober housing for sleeping off the effects of alcohol or drug use, and intensive case management. Serves approximately 1,000 persons each year.
- **The Office of the Public Defender (OPD)**—Ensures that legal services are available to low-income individuals who have been charged with a jailable offense, individuals involuntarily committed under mental health or chemical dependency statutes, and for parties to dependency proceedings. OPD screens individuals for eligibility and assigns legal counsel at over 15 locations throughout King County seven days and four evenings a week. OPD also administers the county’s expert services program for indigent offenders. OPD manages contracts with four private, non-profit law firms who provide the majority of the public defender legal services.

DCHS Funding Sources

King County devotes \$21.3 million of revenues to support human services through DCHS. In 2003, the funding is divided between the discretionary funding from Current Expense (CX), Children and Family Services, and Criminal Justice providing \$14.7 million, and a combination of other funds that contribute \$6.6 million from dedicated revenues for mental health, developmental disabilities, and veterans services. The CX funds are available to support the general needs of the citizens.

For every dollar that DCHS devotes to human services, the department obtains an additional \$7.55 from external sources. The bulk of this funding comes from federal and state grants to provide specific services. The county utilizes it’s own funding to attempt to enhance services or fill in gaps in the service delivery systems, for example, respite bed support for the Crisis Triage Unit at Harborview.

The County also uses local funding to provide match dollars to obtain federal and state grants. Often grants require a specific local match to support the grant. Sometimes a specific dollar match is not required, but in the example of the Work Training Program, the ability to “package” local funding with the grant resources makes the County’s application more competitive and increases the chances of receiving funding.

The intent has not necessarily been to maximize external revenues obtained for every local dollar spent. However, that has been the result. Mental Health and the Housing Opportunity Fund are examples of robust programs that have gained momentum and grown through the use of external funding. Originally the Mental Health Division used local millage and general fund revenue to support mental health programs in the county. The support of this infrastructure provided a prepared organization to take on the responsibilities of a Regional Service Network when the state reorganized. The Housing Opportunity Fund is used as seed money to get projects started that bring together multiple participants to accomplish larger projects.

The chart on the following page shows the contributions of funding from multiple funding sources and how those funding sources sustain the county’s range of housing and human services.

2003 Adopted Budget - Revenues

Agency	2003 Funding Sources					
	Current Expense	2003 CFSA*	Criminal Justice	Dedicated Property Taxes	2003 State/Fed./ Grant/ Other Resources **	2003 Total Revenues
Community Services Division	\$ 7,018,175	\$ 2,339,498	\$ 372,638	\$ 2,057,218	\$ 39,696,337	\$ 51,483,866
Community Services	\$ 5,953,104	\$ 1,843,449	\$ 372,638		-	\$ 8,169,191
Housing Opportunity Fund (HOF)	\$ 422,904	-	-		\$ 4,067,700	\$ 4,490,604
Federal Housing & Community Development (FHCD)	-	-	-		\$ 18,640,735	\$ 18,640,735
Work Training Program (WTP)	\$ 642,167	\$ 496,049	-		\$ 5,643,401	\$ 6,781,617
Dislocated Worker Program (DWP)	-	-	-		\$ 11,344,501	\$ 11,344,501
Veterans' Program		-	-	\$ 2,057,218	-	\$ 2,057,218
Developmental Disabilities Division (DDD)		-	-	\$ 1,298,101	\$ 16,986,547	\$ 18,284,648
DCHS Administration	\$ 467,009	-	-		\$ 810,244	\$ 1,277,253
Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division						
Mental Health (MH)	\$ 1,253,172	-	\$ 245,990	\$ 3,264,370	\$ 89,033,401	\$ 93,796,933
Alcoholism/ Substance Abuse (SA)	\$ 2,875,967	-	\$ 130,000		\$ 14,733,329	\$ 17,739,296
Human Services Sub-Total	\$ 11,614,323	\$ 2,339,498	\$ 748,628	\$ 6,619,689	\$ 161,259,858	\$ 182,581,996
Office of the Public Defender	\$ 26,685,350		\$ 24,045	-	\$ 7,815,757	\$ 34,525,152
Department of Community and Human Services	\$ 38,299,673	\$ 2,339,498	\$ 772,673	\$ 6,619,689	\$ 169,075,615	\$ 217,107,148

* CFSA is the Children and Family Services Set Aside. A subfund of the CX. It's principle revenue source is sales tax set aside for Children and Family Programs.

** Other resource include the use of Fund Balances in the Non-CS funds.

