



To: Zsa Zsa Floyd, Ben Maritz, Carey Anderson, Nate Caminos, Paula Carvalho, John Chelminak, Gordon McHenry, Damien Pattenaude, Simha Reddy, Christopher Ross, Okesha Brandon, Marvin Futrell, and Rian Watt

cc: Members of the Governing Committee, Interim Director Darrell Powell

From: Alison Eisinger & Hali Willis, Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness

RE: KCRHA 2025 Budget Proposal

Date: 05/08/24

Dear members of the KCRHA Implementation Board,

We write in response to the budget proposal outlined in the [May 8th memo](#) from KCRHA staff to the Implementation Board. This proposal, which would cut up to 300 shelter beds, end diversion services for over 250 households, and end important supportive services for residents in multiple tiny home villages would have unacceptable consequences for our entire community, and especially for people experiencing homelessness and organizations charged with providing crisis response services. This region already falls far short of meeting our community's needs, and such a proposed budget would put our entire sector and region even further behind where we need to be to respond to the scope and nature of homelessness and the lack of affordable homes in King County.

As Implementation Board members, you are responsible for helping to shape a functional homelessness response system that meets community needs. If you were to adopt this proposal, you would accept the notion that KCRHA does not need additional resources to accomplish its mission. If the Implementation Board adopts a budget proposal that would close hundreds of places for people to rest, you will predetermine inadequate funding for the homelessness response system, and abdicate your responsibility to fight for a better system that meets peoples' needs. Moreover, adopting this budget proposal would make it less likely that advocates like us will be successful when we push for the additional investments in housing, shelter, and services that people desperately need. **We urge you to reject this proposal, and instead adopt the ["stabilization budget" proposal](#) presented to the Board in March which would maintain the current service capacity in our system.**

We understand that King County and Seattle expect to cut their budgets this year. However, the budget proposal should not be beholden to KCRHA's funders. It is an opportunity for you, as board members, to declare what the independent agency needs to carry out its mission. Seattle and King County should take that

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**Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness** mobilizes our community to challenge systemic causes of homelessness and advocate for housing justice.

proposal under advisement when they build their budgets, and return to KCRHA with their final budgets when their respective processes are complete.

The KCRHA, as the organization charged with leading a regional homelessness response, should not simply maintain an insufficient system during an emergency. We must do more, including adding significantly more year-round shelter that meets peoples' needs; additional seasonal winter shelter; robust programs that assist and connect people with housing, shelter, and support; and sustained investments in systems and infrastructure (including the workforce) crucial to planning and implementing a stronger and broader network of homelessness crisis response.

In March, we wrote to tell you that anything less than sustaining the current system would be unacceptable to the community and to the purpose of this agency. We strongly urge you to reject the budget proposal before you and instead adopt the "stabilization" budget proposal put before you in March. As we commented at the time, this is the bare minimum to continue operating at current service levels. While a maintenance budget is not sufficient, it would not abandon the KCRHA's responsibility to this community.

With sincere thanks for your work,

Alison Eisinger, Executive Director  
Hali Willis, Community Policy Manager  
Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness

We note with appreciation that the Seattle Human Services Coalition and the King County Alliance for Human Services have agreed through their respective leadership bodies to join us in signing on to this letter.

King County Alliance for Human Services

Seattle Human Services Coalition