



Anti-Racist and Pro-Equity Investments

The 2023-2024 budget invests in proactively addressing the harms of racism by co-creating and implementing anti-racist, pro-equity practices and policies. In addition to the new investments outlined below, King County will continue critical programming established in the 2021-2022 budget to advance equity and racial and social justice.

Prioritizing where needs are the greatest

- Ensure that grants and funding in all areas of the budget are prioritizing communities and populations where needs are the greatest. By focusing on communities farthest from opportunity, access, and justice, King County will be better able to meet its True North of becoming a welcoming community where every person can thrive.

Working with community

- **Funding participatory budgeting:** \$10 million for a second round of participatory budgeting for residents of urban unincorporated King County. The first round of participatory budgeting concluded successfully in August 2022, with residents selecting 45 capital projects to fund in their communities.
- **Supporting community engagement and co-creation:** \$710,000 to provide ongoing support for King County's Pro-Equity and Anti-Racist Community Co-Creation team, which creates community opportunities to participate in transparent and accountable governance through groups such as the King County Equity Cabinet, the Racism is a Public Health Crisis Gathering Collaborative, and the Coalition Against Hate and Bias.
- **Partnering on climate justice:** \$460,000 for the Climate Equity Task Force to support community-led responses to climate justice.

Transforming the criminal legal system

- **Vacating drug convictions:** \$2 million to community groups to build awareness about options to vacate drug convictions and provide services that address the needs of individuals affected by the collateral consequences of contacts with the criminal system and drug convictions, such as persistent barriers to housing and employment.
- **Preventing gun violence:** \$9 million to support the Regional Peacekeepers Collective, trusted messengers delivering a community-led approach to gun violence prevention including critical incident response, hospital-based referrals, and hot spot remediation activities.
- **Supporting community-led diversion programs:** \$11.9 million to continue the Restorative Community Pathways program and the Community Diversion Program to provide **community-based accountability and services for youth and adults outside the court system.**

Continued on next page

Anti-Racist and Pro-Equity Investments

Continued



Enhancing King County's capacity to implement pro-equity/anti-racism work

- **Expanding translation services:** \$1.7 million to improve language equity, including expanding translation of the King County websites.
- **Expanding internal capacity:** \$4.8 million to build King County's internal organizational capacity for pro-equity, racial, and social justice work, including providing additional training for staff, improving capacity for community engagement and co-creation with community-based organizations, and developing strategies to advance disability justice.