

Other Benefits



King County

Benefits and Retirement
Operations

Transportation

► **Employee ID/Keycard/Bus Pass**

If you're benefit-eligible, you receive a photo ID that can be used as a free bus pass on Metro Transit, Community Transit, Pierce Transit and Sound Transit. The photo ID can also be programmed with keycard functions for access to county facilities.

To get your photo ID/keycard/bus pass, ask your supervisor to submit an ID/Keycard Request Form to your ID/Keycard Coordinator. The form and a list of coordinators are in Public Folders/Construction & Facility Management/ID-Keycard & Forms-Bus Pass Information (in the King County e-mail system).

Your ID/Keycard Coordinator will issue you a Bus Pass Authorization Form. Take the form and a picture ID to the King County Building Services Section, ID/Access Control Unit in Room 206 on the second floor of the King County Administration Building, 500 Fourth Ave. to get your pass. Office hours are 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For more information, call 206-296-0104 (711 TTY Relay Service).

► **Employee Transportation Program**

The Employee Transportation Program (ETP) provides the following transportation benefits to you as an employee:

- Unlimited bus rides on Metro Transit, Community Transit, Pierce Transit and Sound Transit
- Unlimited rides on Sounder commuter rail
- \$45/month vanpool fare subsidy
- Home Free Guarantee: Taxi cab rides home for emergencies up to eight times a year
- Carpool
- Discounted cross-sound Kitsap Transit-Washington State Ferries pass: The Kitsap Transit portion of the monthly pass is subsidized for qualified employees.

For commute assistance or more information:

- Call the ETP telephone hotline at 206-263-4575 (771 TTY Relay Service)
- E-mail ETP at emtrans@kingcounty.gov
- Go to the ETP Web site at www.metrokc.gov/employees/transportation.

Call 206-684-1556 for alternate formats.

Money Matters

► Deferred Compensation

The King County Deferred Compensation Plan (a 457 plan) is a voluntary supplemental retirement savings program that offers a convenient way to build your savings for the future while enjoying current tax breaks. The plan allows you to defer a portion of your county pay to a variety of investment options before taxes are deducted. This reduces your taxable pay, providing an immediate tax advantage.

You may withdraw your money (in a lump sum, installment payments or an annuity payment) at retirement or when you leave employment with King County. Withdrawn funds are taxed, but ideally after you've retired and your income and tax liability are less!

You can enroll any time as a benefit-eligible employee. Please note that it may take up to 60 days after enrollment to process the first payroll deduction. For more information:

- Contact T. Rowe Price, the plan administrator:
 - Call 1-888-457-5770 (711 TTY Relay Service)
 - Go to <http://rps.troweprice.com/kingcounty/retirementplan/index.html>
- Attend a quarterly deferred compensation plan seminar (go to www.metrokc.gov/finance/benefits and click the “Deferred Compensation” link).

► Credit Unions

Credit unions are nonprofit financial cooperatives that provide cost advantages, such as lower loan rates, over traditional banks. As a King County employee, you (and members of your family) are eligible for membership in the credit unions listed below. Employees may request their paychecks to be automatically deposited in a credit union account.

- Prevail Credit Union
Call 1-800-248-6928 (711 TTY Relay Service)
Go to www.prevailcu.com
- Qualstar Credit Union
Call 1-800-848-0018 (711 TTY Relay Service)
Go to www.qualstarcu.com

► Savings Bonds

U.S. Savings Bonds are a safe way to save and they make great gifts for young persons! You may purchase savings bonds in your name or that of a designee through payroll deductions of as little as \$5 per paycheck, and you can start, stop or change your deductions at any time.

For more information about savings bonds, go to www.savingsbonds.gov. To start saving:

- Call 206-684-2066 (711 TTY Relay Service) if you're paid the 5th and 20th of each month
- Call 206-684-1098 (711 TTY Relay Service) if you're paid every other Thursday.

Work and Family

► Employee Assistance Program

The Employee Assistance Program offers free and confidential assistance to all county employees in resolving workplace concerns. Through consultation and one-on-one counseling, the EAP can help you with:

- Stress due to work issues
- Problems with co-workers or supervisors
- Anger management
- Work performance or job dissatisfaction
- Other work-related issues

For more information, call 206-684-2103 or 206-263-4572 Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or go to www.kingcounty.gov/employees/eap

► Making Life Easier Program

The Making Life Easier Program offers free and confidential personal counseling services to benefits-eligible employees 24 hours a day, seven days a week. These services are also available to your dependent family members (whether home or away) and anyone living in your household. They include:

- Up to eight personal counseling sessions with a professional counselor
- Advice on issues ranging from family relationships to substance abuse
- Credit and legal consultation, including up to 30 minutes of free consultation with an attorney
- Child care resource and referral
- Adult and elder care.

For more information, call 1-888-874-7290 24 hours a day, seven days a week (711 TTY Relay Service) or go to www.metrokc.gov/employees/eap/default.aspx

► King County Home Ownership Program

Since 1999, the King County Home Ownership Program has served thousands of King County employees looking to take advantage of the savings and benefits this program has to offer.

The King County Home Ownership Program is designed to meet the individual needs of each county employee. If you are a first time home buyer, a seasoned buyer/seller or anyone in between, you can benefit from using this cost-saving program:

- Free home-buying classes
- Individual consultation
- Flexible loan qualifying standards
- Reduced loan fees (including no-fee loan approval and reduced closing costs)
- Expedited loan processing
- Extended hours of service.

For more information, call 1-888-656-1733 or visit the Web site at: www.tinaeaster.com

Training and Career Development

Talk to your supervisor about the technical training offered within your department and available from these other county resources.

► Professional Training

Training and Organization Development (Human Resources Division/Department of Executive Services) offers classes to improve your individual, work team and organizational performance. For a complete listing of available classes, go to:

- <http://ohrm.metrokc.gov/training/index.htm> (intranet).

You may also call 206-684-2044 (711 TTY Relay Service), or e-mail ohrmtraining@kingcounty.gov.

► Safety Training

The Safety and Claims Management Division (Human Resources Division/Department of Executive Services) offers safety training including:

- First aid
- CPR
- Defensive driving

Call 206-205-5661 (711 TTY Relay Service) or go to <http://ohrm.metrokc.gov/safety/training/training.htm> (intranet).

► Career and Employment Center

The Center, located on the first floor of the King Street Center at 201 S. Jackson St. in downtown Seattle, offers Internet access and resources to assist you with furthering your career and employment goals:

- Skill and career assessment
- Ideas for better resume writing and job interviews
- Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint and keyboarding tutorial programs.

Center hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday, but hours may vary. Contact the Center before you visit by calling 206-263-6484 (711 TTY Relay Service). You may also e-mail career-center@kingcounty.gov, or go to <http://dot.metrokc.gov/jobs/center/> (intranet).

► Employment opportunities

With over 13,000 employees, King County offers a variety of employment opportunities. Most job positions are open to the general public, but some are exclusive and open only to current employees. Resources available to you include:

- Job Request Hotline: 206-205-8782 (24 hours a day, seven days a week – 711 TTY Relay Service).
- Online job postings (intranet).
- Hardcopy postings (check your break room or talk to your human resources group in your department).

Contact Personnel Services (Human Resources Division/Department of Executive Services) at 206-296-7586, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday (711 TTY Relay Service). You may also email hrcentral@kingcounty.gov, or go to www.metrokc.gov/ohrm/jobs/index.htm.