



King County

Department of
Community and Human Services

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IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2012 – 2017 Veterans and Human Services Levy Activity 3.5: Facilitation of Ongoing Partnerships

1. Goal

The primary goal of this activity is to increase self-sufficiency of veterans and vulnerable populations.

2. Strategy

The Veterans and Human Services Levy Service Improvement Plan (SIP) set a goal of Improving Health.

3. Activity 3.5: Facilitation of Ongoing Partnerships

Activity 3.5: Facilitation of Ongoing Partnerships is the only activity described in the Service Improvement Plan under this activity.

4. Service Needs, Populations to be Served, and Promotion of Equity and Social Justice

a) Service Needs

The Veterans and Human Services Levy Service Improvement Plan (SIP) developed for the first levy, 2006-2011, emphasized the importance of engaging community partners in the implementation of the Levy. The ballot measure stated the levy was being created to establish funds to create regional health and human services funds to benefit veterans and their families and others in need. The programs and services described in the SIP are designated as regional resources to assist those most in need throughout King County.¹ Accomplishing this objective requires engaging many agencies, organizations, and interest groups.

In the same vein, the SIP was developed after reviewing planning documents and conducting extensive consultation with a broad array of stakeholders from multiple systems and constituencies within the public and private sectors. Numerous assumptions and implementation criteria were identified in the SIP including the following:

¹ King County Veterans and Human Services Levy Service Improvement Plan, Department of Community and Human Services, 2006, p. ii.

1. Aligning with other funders/partners will create the greatest positive impact for the Levy resources
2. Greater achievements will be made by aligning levy investments with other efforts targeting the same or similar populations. Examples of these include:
 - a. Committee to End Homelessness in King County
 - b. King County Criminal Justice Initiative – a county initiative to promote jail diversion and post-release linkages for incarcerated individuals who need mental health and/or substance abuse treatment, supportive housing and employment services.
 - c. Sound Families – an initiative to provide housing and supportive services to homeless families
 - d. SOAR – a community collaboration to create stronger systems of care for King County children and youth.
3. Working with these initiatives the Levy becomes an investment partner promoting collaboration across funding streams and leveraging new resources from local, state, and national sources in the public and private sectors. One of the objectives of the Levy is to work collaboratively to braid resources.

Other criteria related to building regional partnerships that were identified in the SIP included:

1. Promoting services and system integration and expanding the capacity of organizations to coordinate and integrate service delivery, particularly in the area of services for veterans and the homeless.
2. Moving King County and local partners towards an effective regional management approach to housing, health and human services across jurisdictions and agencies.

To reduce the fragmentation of funding and services available to those in need in King County, the SIP for the first Levy designated funds (Activity 5.9) to develop and promote ongoing relationships with partners in both the public and private sectors. This activity continues as Activity 3.5 in the renewed Levy. As in the first Levy, half of the funds are dedicated to improving collaboration among those partners providing services to veterans and half to those providing services to others in need in King County. The Levy's success is dependent upon the effective collaboration with its partners, community stakeholders and local governments. Communicating effectively with these entities will help reduce fragmentation, braid resources and integrate services.

b) Populations to be Served

This activity will focus on building King County's partners including residents, veterans and human services providers, a variety of community stakeholders, and local, state and national entities working to improve the lives of King County's veterans, their families and others most in need.

c) Promotion of Equity and Social Justice

The Equity and Social Justice Ordinance requires King County to consider the impacts of its policies and activities on its efforts to achieve fairness and opportunity for all people, particularly for people of color, low-income communities and people with limited English proficiency.

i) Will your activity have an impact on equity?

Yes this activity will have a positive impact on equity. The increased collaboration and reduced service fragmentation likely will improve the delivery of services to individuals and families at risk. They will most likely gain the skills and support needed to address the disproportionate risks they are facing.

ii) What population groups are likely to be affected by the proposal? How will communities of color, low-income communities or limited English proficiency communities be impacted?

Through its work supporting improved coordination and collaboration of services, Activity 3.5 will improve as indicated above, access to health and human services, a key determinant of equity. These efforts to reduce fragmentation of services will positively impact veterans, their families, low income, high-risk individuals and families; people of color and people with limited English proficiency and support King County's Equity and Social Justice activities.

iii) What actions will be taken to enhance likely positive impacts on these communities and mitigate possible negative impacts?

There will be no negative impacts from the implementation of this activity. By increasing collaboration among King County's numerous partners, the efficiency and effectiveness of the provision of services will only be increased which will have a positive impact on these communities.

5. Activity Description

Effective collaboration and partnerships are the cornerstones of any initiative to reduce fragmentation, braid resources, and integrate services. In the current levy the funds will be used to support ongoing work of increasing collaboration among those providing services to veterans. With the implementation of the King County Regional Veterans Initiative in 2012 the veteran's portion of this activity was used to support planning activities and the development of the King County Stakeholder Recommendations for Enhanced Regional Coordination for Veterans [Report](#). Once the report was completed, this activity supported staff to work with the Levy's veteran services partners to increase the coordination of services to veterans, military personnel and their families as described in the report.

This activity has also supported staff to plan the implementation of the King County's Health and Human Services Transformation Plan. Recognizing that neighborhood environments affect our health and well-being this plan focuses on making improvements in King County's communities to provide better housing, increase availability of healthy foods, support a transit, pedestrian and bike friendly infrastructure, increase access to health care and social service access, promote social cohesion and increase employment opportunities. Primarily Human Services Levy funding will be used for this activity's support of the Transformation Plan.

During the last levy, funds under this activity were used to assist in the renewal of the levy. They supported staff that analyzed major changes in veteran’s human services, health, housing policy and King County population changes, including the 2010 Census that impacted the environment in which the renewed levy would operate. New initiatives were evaluated for their potential impact on the levy and for the possibility of engaging new partners in the levy’s work. Examples include the local, state and federal plans to end homelessness among veterans and the federal health care reform.

The staff supported by this activity conducted extensive outreach to stakeholders and the general public. Presentations were provided to numerous groups including local municipalities and feedback requested from a variety of veterans and human service organizations. Working with a planning team, the staff wrote the SIP for renewed levy. In 2016 planning will begin for renewal of the 2012-2017 levy and Facilitation of Ongoing Partnerships funds will again be used to support the work of renewing the levy.

6. Funds Available

The 2012 Service Improvement Plan identified the following allocations for this activity for the six-year levy period 2012-2017.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Veterans Levy	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$70,000
Human Services Levy	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$70,000
Total	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$140,000

7. Evidence-based or Promising Practices

This activity is not implementing a particular evidence-based or promising practice. However, funds may also be used to research best practices or evidence based programs that may enhance the effectiveness of the levy and support their implementation.

8. Service Partnerships

The Veterans and Human Services Levy is implemented by the King County Department of Community and Human Services in partnership with 70 community based agencies. A complete list of the agencies receiving levy funds each year is included in the Veterans and Human Services Levy annual reports. As an example of some of the other community partners, the following list of stakeholders who were contacted during the development of the current SIP is provided.

Bellevue Human Services Commission Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Church Council of Greater Seattle Committee to End Homelessness Funders Group Committee to End Homelessness Interagency Council Community Health Council Downtown Seattle Association	King County Veterans Program Advisory Board King County Women’s Advisory Board Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Oversight Committee Minority Executive Director’s Coalition North Urban Human Services Forum Public Defense Agency Directors Seattle Central Community College Veterans Club Seattle Office of Education
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Eastside Homelessness Advisory Council Eastside Human Services Forum Health Care for the Homeless Planning Council Housing Development Consortium of Seattle-King County Huskies United Military Veterans Joint Recommendations Committee Kent Human Services Commission King County Alliance for Human Services King County Coalition Against Domestic Violence King County Refugee Forum King County Veterans Consortium	Seattle Human Services Department Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness Supportive Housing Alliance for Veterans Shoreline Community College Vets Club SOAR South King Council of Human Services South King County Forum on Homelessness South King County Human Services Planners United Way of King County Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 102 Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs
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9. Performance Measures

The following performance measures were identified by the Levy's Evaluation Team. Performance measures are reviewed annually. Updated performance measures can be found in the *2012 - 2017 Levy Evaluation Plan Implementation Plan and Activity Level Evaluation Templates* on the Levy web site:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/operations/DCHS/Services/Levy.aspx>

Objectives	Service Outputs/ Measures	Most Recent Performance	2012 Target(s)	Data Source
System Improvements/Capacity Building	Development of updated Service Improvement Plan for 2018-2023 Levy	N/A	N/A	