

# Equitable Economic Recovery



# Equitable Economic Recovery

Economic recovery is focused on creating resilient, sustainable communities that generate long-term economic success. To foster this growth, King County structured its economic recovery funding to address several key areas: regional economic programs designed to foster economic recovery across the county through both direct and indirect support to businesses; specific investments in the creative economy and tourism sectors, which were particularly hard hit; businesses restart funding that focused on supporting business as they made adjustments to comply with public health requirements; workforce development programs that provide job training and apprenticeship opportunities to workers, as well as providing employers with skilled workers for in-demand industries; and opportunities to support youth workforce development. These efforts are designed to dovetail into other local strategies, such as larger efforts to expand the local Creative Economy, expand behavioral and mental health services, and address long-standing disparities faced by many communities, such as communities of color or those in the unincorporated urban areas. King County Executive Dow Constantine has developed a robust strategy for economic recovery. [More information](#), including how some of the grant programs described below fit with this larger strategy can be found on the Executive Office webpage.

## Investment Areas



**Figure 1: King County has invested \$60M in five key areas to promote equitable economic recovery, including Regional Economy, Culture & Tourism, Workforce Development, Business Restart, and Youth Workforce.**

- Over \$30 million in federal relief dollars was allocated into the Culture and Tourism sector. Through this investment King County helped put people back to work, attract tourism, create local economic growth opportunities, and revitalize the region.
- Over 200 Events and Festivals were put on by 185 organizations that received COVID relief funding.
- \$17.5 million in funding is allocated to support workforce development, including priority hire, job training, apprenticeship efforts, and training and recruitment for behavioral health careers.
- Over \$3.5 million was allocated to help businesses safely reopen after shutdowns by improving indoor air quality and reducing the spread of COVID-19 through the Indoor Air Quality Program and Safe Start Program.
- King County is allocated \$1 million in funding for a youth workforce program that is designed to help youth that have been affected or are at-risk of gun violence.

## Regional Economy

With a focus on small businesses, King County is building business retention and expansion strategies as a means to create thriving economies. Through capital investments and job creation, small business development helps ensure long-term economic success in communities throughout the County. As such, the Regional Economy portfolio includes three different programs that provide funding to both organizations designed to foster economic growth and direct grants to small businesses.

The Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, which is the Associate Development Organization (ADO) for King County, was awarded \$1 million in funding. [ADOs](#) are the local economic development partners for the Washington State Department of Commerce.<sup>1</sup> The ADO provides resources to businesses by developing and coordinating regional strategies. These resources are being invested to support a collaborative, sub-regional business retention-expansion plan.

The Department of Local Services (DLS) is leading economic recovery and relief programs in unincorporated King County. The department received nearly \$10 million in funds. The first program to launch was the Small Business Grant program, which provided grants of up to \$25,000 for nearly 400 small businesses located in the unincorporate areas. The Unincorporated King County (UKC) Economic Alliance is the second program,

***“While some activity in our region has returned to pre-pandemic levels, that does not mean it’s back to normal for many of the businesses in unincorporated King County. The pandemic presented unprecedented challenges for these businesses, which adapted and found creative ways to survive. King County recognizes this, and we’re dedicated to helping them succeed as our region moves forward.”***

*- John Taylor, Local Services Director*

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<sup>1</sup> More information at the ADO program can be found here: <http://www.commerce.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Commerce-ADO-2016.pdf>.

which has \$5 million in funding, is an economic relief and recovery program designed to focus on accelerating recovery efforts in communities disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. The UKC Economic Alliance consists of over 41 community partners across 37 organizations. This group of non-profit leaders and economic development professionals across Unincorporated King County meet formally bi-monthly at online meetings to discuss the unique needs of the unincorporated areas. The UKC Economic Alliance consists of three program components:

1. **Career Connector**, which serves unemployed or underemployed residents age 16+ in UKC;
2. **Business Builder**, which serves self-employed residents and small businesses in UKC with under 15 employees; and
3. **Community Innovator**, which provides business incubation for self-employed residents and small businesses with under 15 employees in disproportionally impacted areas of North Highline/ White Center, Boulevard Park/South Park, and Skyway/West Hill.<sup>2</sup>

*"The entire process of our work from the inception of the idea borne out of thousands of hours of listening across communities most impacted by COVID in unincorporated areas, to the shaping of what tangible responses were needed and how they needed to be shaped by those most impacted, is a credit to the brilliance and ideas of our community members and leaders. We are thrilled to co-create a more equitable economy with them through this work."*

- Economic Alliance [Community Partner](#)

Support for King County's small businesses and regional economies produce immense results for residents and larger economy. Much of the County's regional economic work is focused on creating lasting impact and facilitating culturally competent responses, which is reflected throughout the County's key investment areas.

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<sup>2</sup> In February 2023, Executive Constantine and Local Services launched the Economic Alliance Program to help unincorporated King County businesses thrive: <https://kingcounty.gov/depts/local-services/news/2023/02132023-economic-alliance.aspx>.

To learn more about the Economic Alliance, visit [www.publicinput.com/ukcalliance](http://www.publicinput.com/ukcalliance).

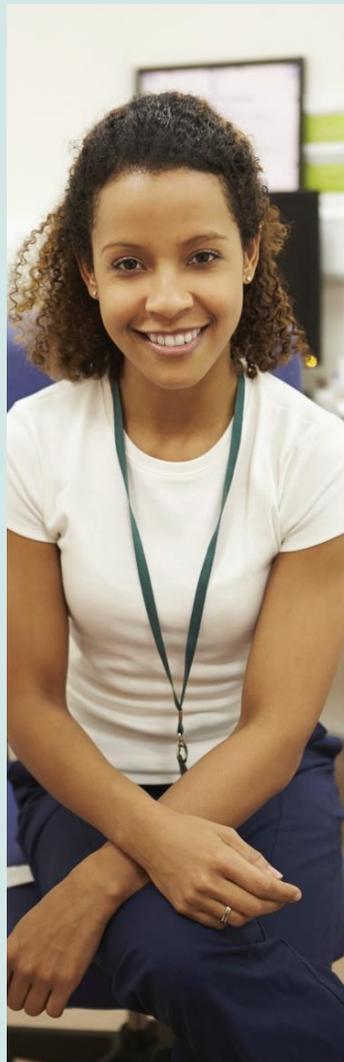
## Improving Access to Behavioral Healthcare Services and The Pathways for Job Training

### CASE STUDY

#### Behavioral Health Apprenticeship Pathways

In February 2023 roughly 25%, or over 500,000 adults in and around King County reported having moderate to severe anxiety or depression symptoms.<sup>3</sup> This represents the potential demand for one aspect of behavioral healthcare services in this growing region. Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic has created an immense need for behavioral healthcare workers to enter the workforce at a faster pace than traditional education pathways. Supporting communities hit hardest by the pandemic also means working to improve the diversity of the behavioral health workforce.

The Behavioral Health Apprenticeship Pathways program by the Health Care Apprenticeship Consortium, and sponsored by the SEIU Healthcare 1199NW Multi-Employer Training and Education Fund (Training Fund), awards Coronavirus Local Fiscal Relief (CLFR) funds to improve accessibility to behavioral health services, enhance employment retention, stabilize the behavioral health workforce, and introduce necessary diversity to the delivery of behavioral health services. This program expands the opportunities for employers to hire candidates that reflect the community demographic, including historically underserved community members.



### BEHAVIORAL HEALTH APPRENTICESHIPS

A registered statewide apprenticeship program to meet the urgent need for vital behavioral healthcare services

#### 3 CAREER PATHWAYS

Behavioral Health Technician

Peer Counselor  
Substance Use Disorder Professional

#### The time is NOW

- Accessible services
- Improve employee retention + motivation
- Stabilize & diversify BH workforce



Courtesy: Health Care Apprenticeship Consortium

<sup>3</sup> Data source: Census Household Pulse Survey February 2023; Public Health Seattle & King County COVID-19 Dashboard - <https://kingcounty.gov/depts/health/covid-19/data/impacts/behavioral-health.aspx>.

The following is a summary provided by the Training Fund about this program. Over the course of 2022-2023, this program has gradually ramped-up employer recruitment, and has 57 participants in the three training pathways listed below. In addition, the Training Fund has provided pre-apprenticeship training in the healthcare sector to 15 individuals.

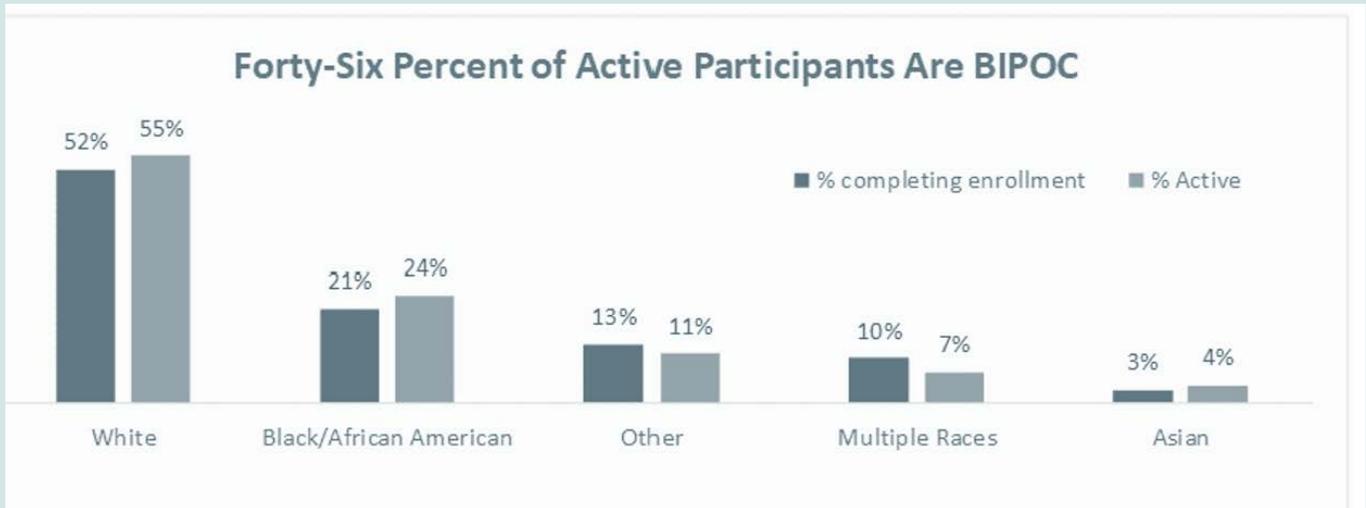
- Substance Use Disorder Professional (SUDP) - 34 participants. This track has received the most interest from employers and participants and is now implementing its third nine-quarter-long cohort.
- Peer Counselor (Peer) - 14 participants. This has been the second most popular pathway and is currently implementing its second cohort.
- Behavioral Health Tech (BhT) - 9 participants. This track has thus far received the lowest interest from employers. This is likely because BhT cannot bill hours to Medicaid and thus employers have less resources, as well as less of a financial incentive, to recruit for this critical role.

Due to varying degrees of interest among employers for these three Behavioral Health apprenticeship tracks, the Training Fund is planning additional cohorts for the SUDP track and fewer cohorts for the other two apprenticeship pathways:

	Originally Proposed	Updated Projection
<b>SUDP</b>	40	63
<b>Peer</b>	60	33
<b>BhT</b>	60	31
<b>Total</b>	160	127

Since the project implementation launch, the Training Fund has also determined that each cohort requires an additional quarter to complete their material. For BhT and Peer, this revision translates into five quarters overall, and nine quarters for SUDP. The additional expenses associated with these increases in duration has thus slightly reduced the projected number of total participants.

The Training Fund has captured demographic data on 71 individuals who completed paperwork for enrollment, 77% of whom are currently active in the program (14% did not eventually start apprenticeship cohorts, and 8% either left or are in the process of leaving the program before completion). Demographic data for these individuals is provided below:



An initial analysis shows that the most racially diverse occupational cohort is also the smallest – the BhT apprenticeship pathway – with 78% of active participants identifying as BIPOC. By contrast, 47% and 34% among active Peer Counselor and SUDP participants, respectively, identified as BIPOC. Seattle Jobs Initiative is completing a more comprehensive evaluation of these programs, which may provide updated information on participants.

## Related Media

### Web resources

- [Overview of all three Behavioral Health Apprenticeship pathways](#)

### Apprentice & mentor profile

- [Malissa & Jordan share their story](#) – Learn more about the Substance Use Disorder Professional (SUDP) behavioral health apprenticeship pathway from an apprentice and her mentor.

### Videos

- [Behavioral Health Apprenticeships – Your first day](#) (overview & what to expect on Day 1)
- [Behavioral Health Apprenticeships – Definition of Roles](#)
- [Behavioral Health Apprenticeships – Client story: Jim](#) (Substance Use Disorder Professional – an epilogue of hypothetical apprentice in the field)
- [KOMO News segment](#) about the Behavioral Health Apprenticeship program, Fall 2022 (focus on the Substance Use Disorder Professional pathway)

## PERFORMANCE REPORT

### King County Arts & Culture Grants Program

Of the \$19.5 million available, the King County Office of Performance Strategy and Budget (PSB) Arts & Culture grant program prioritized organizations in King County that had a last full season pre-COVID-19 annual operating budgets of over \$1 million. Of this funding, \$16.5 million was made available for arts, culture, and heritage organizations with annual operating costs over \$1 million. Next, \$1.5 million was made available to science organizations that promote science and nature conservation through education, exhibition, and other programs by public admission in King County. Additionally, \$1 million went to music venues for independently owned and operated music venues that offered, on average, 3 live music shows per week in King County pre-pandemic received. Finally, \$500,000 was made available for independently owned and operated movie theaters in King County<sup>4,5</sup>

#### How Much?

After award eligibility review and organizational pre-pandemic revenue adjustment, \$19,247,093 was awarded to 103 organizations in the areas of arts, culture, heritage, science, music venues, and theaters.

King County Awarded Over \$19.2 Million in COVID Relief to the Cultural Sector

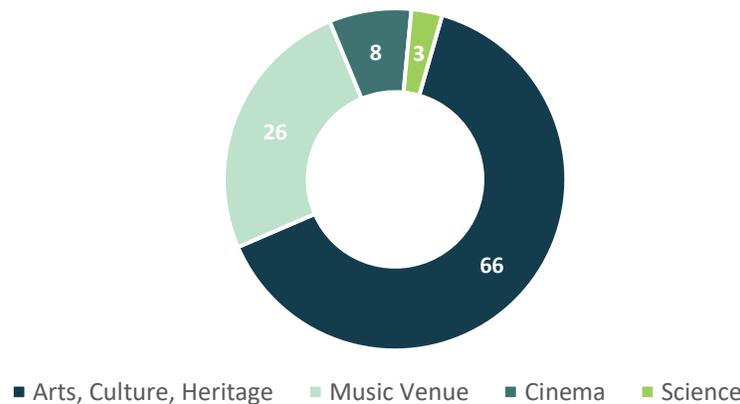


Figure 2: Over \$19.2 Million Awarded.<sup>6</sup>

- \$16.5 MILLION TO ARTS, CULTURE, AND HERITAGE ORGANIZATIONS WITH A PRE-COVID 19 FULL OPERATING SEASON ANNUAL BUDGET OF OVER \$1 MILLION.
- \$1.5 MILLION TO SCIENCE ORGANIZATIONS.
- \$1.0 MILLION TO INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED LIVE MUSIC VENUES.\*
- \$0.5 MILLION TO INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED MOVIE THEATERS.\*

\*MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND ADULT THEATERS WERE NOT ELIGIBLE TO APPLY.

<sup>4</sup> For additional information and press release visit:

<https://kingcounty.gov/elected/executive/constantine/news/release/2021/December/13-Arts-and-Culture-Fund-Awards.aspx>.

<sup>5</sup> Multinational corporations and adult theaters were not eligible for movie theater grants.

<sup>6</sup> Full list of awardees is available here: <https://kingcountycreative.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Arts-and-Culture-Awards-12.10.21.pdf> - \*note that "Over \$1 million operating budget" refers to arts, culture, heritage organizations.

## How Well?

These one-time grants aimed to provide relief to cultural organizations and businesses adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic as a means to prepare facilities for reopening, bring the people of King County together in a safe environment, and re-employ cultural workers. By investing recovery funds into the arts and cultural sector, independent live music venues, and independent movie theaters, King County intends to support putting people back to work, attract tourism, create local economic growth opportunities, and revitalize the region.<sup>7</sup>

***“Together, we are ensuring that the Pacific Northwest maritime heritage is preserved for the enjoyment of generations to come.”***

*- The Center for Wooden Boats,  
Revive & Thrive Arts and Culture Grant Recipient*



***“Because of funding from King County, we have been able to operate as a major employer for cultural and arts professionals in the region, even among the challenges posted by the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. Your assistance allows us to continue inspiring our region with exciting special exhibitions and engaging programming.***

*- Seattle Art Museum,*

*Revive & Thrive Arts and Culture Grant Recipient*

## Is Anyone Better Off?

King County values the creative sector as a primary economic and cultural driver in our region. The Arts and Culture grant program has provided relief to some of King County's most impactful cultural organizations and businesses. Due to these grants, organizations such as the Center for Wooden Boats, Seattle Art Museum, Village Theatre, and Henry Art Museum, have been able to successfully reopen and welcome back visitors. Employers, employees, individuals, and communities throughout the County have all benefited from the sustained preservation and enrichment of King County's unique arts and culture organizations.

<sup>7</sup> For additional information see the King County Arts & Culture Fund website: <https://kingcountycreative.com/home/arts-and-culture-fund/>.

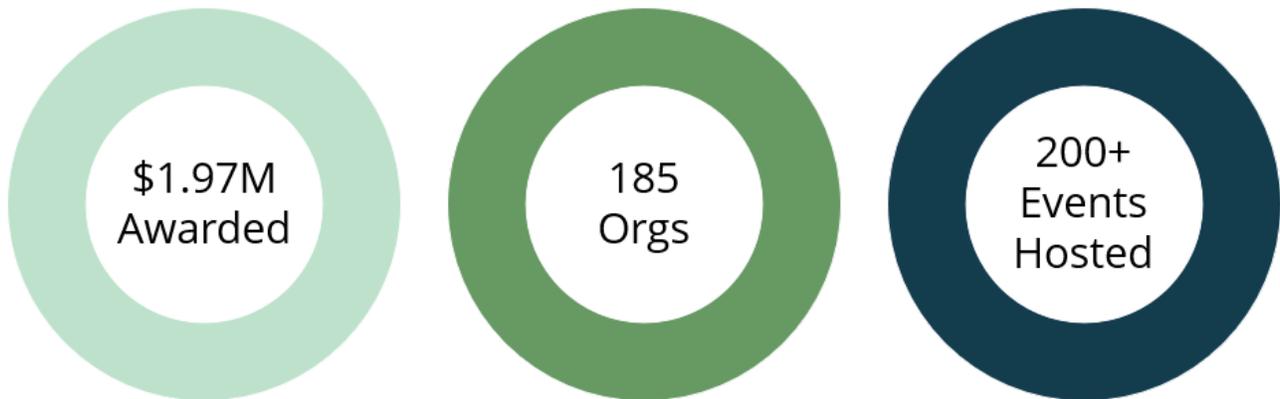
## PERFORMANCE REPORT

### Events and Festival Grant Program

Since March 2020, at least 700 events in King County have been cancelled, including music festivals, cultural festivals, community events, parades, fireworks celebrations, heritage events, film, food and craft festivals, agricultural events, and more. King County Council has allocated over \$1.9 million in support for local Events and Festivals, which are vital to both the local Creative Economy and tourism sectors. The purpose of this funding was to reestablish community events, engage tourists, and create jobs throughout the County. Staff worked together to design complimentary programs with coordinated advertisement and messaging to the community.

#### How Much?

\$1,977,446 in relief was delivered to 185 organizations to put on over 200 events and festivals throughout King County.



**Figure 3: Over \$1.97 million in relief was delivered to 185 organizations that hosted over 200 events and festivals throughout King County.**

#### How Well?

These one-time grants provided relief to the festivals and events producers adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, so they could address the needs of event and festival producers seeking to reestablish community activities, events, festivals, and celebrations in a safe environment, while engaging residents and tourists throughout the County and employing event workers, working creatives, and culture bearers.

#### Is Anyone Better Off?

The funds disbursed from the Festivals and Events Grant Program supported event/festival organizations, events-based local businesses, and other events producers

*"Thank you for the grant of \$7,070 to support our returning, in-person events at Sound Generations. We held three primary in-person events in 2022, and a number of other smaller, programmatic ones. We were able to recruit several new vendors, partly due to your support... We have more in-person events in the works for this year and have regained a lot of our previous momentum, with attendance beginning to return to pre-pandemic levels."*

- Sound Generations, Events & Festivals Grantee

adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many producers who did not think they would be able to recover after the pandemic were able to plan and/or host important 2022 community activities, events, festivals, and celebrations because of this funding.

Additionally, a broad swath of event and festival grantees representing a multitude of communities and missions received funding, including 206 Zulu, Spectrum Theatre, Nectar Lounge, Vashon Center for the Arts, and Judith's Light. The following map shows the distribution of events throughout King County that were supported by ARPA funding.

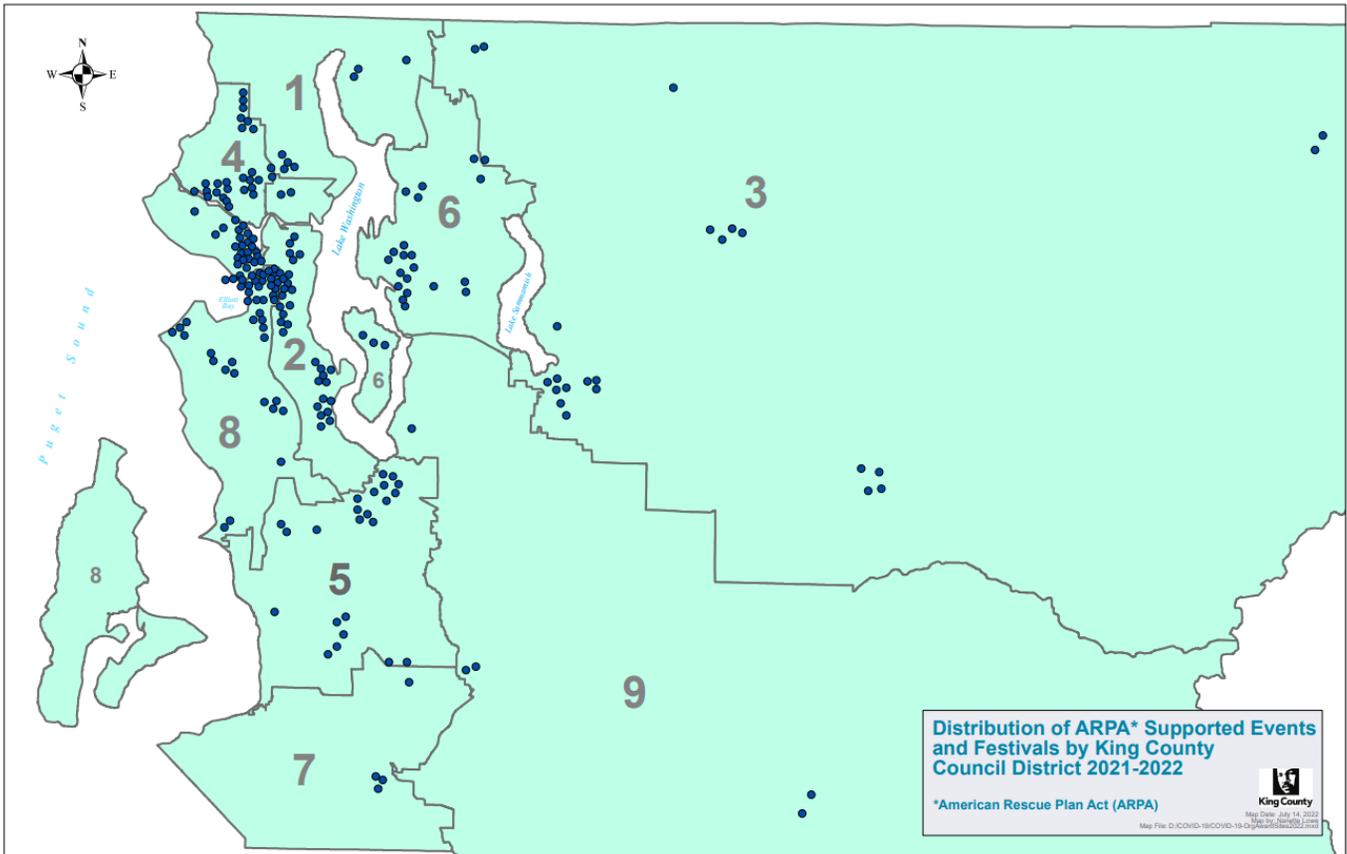


Figure 4: Distribution of ARPA Supported Events and Festivals by King County Council District.

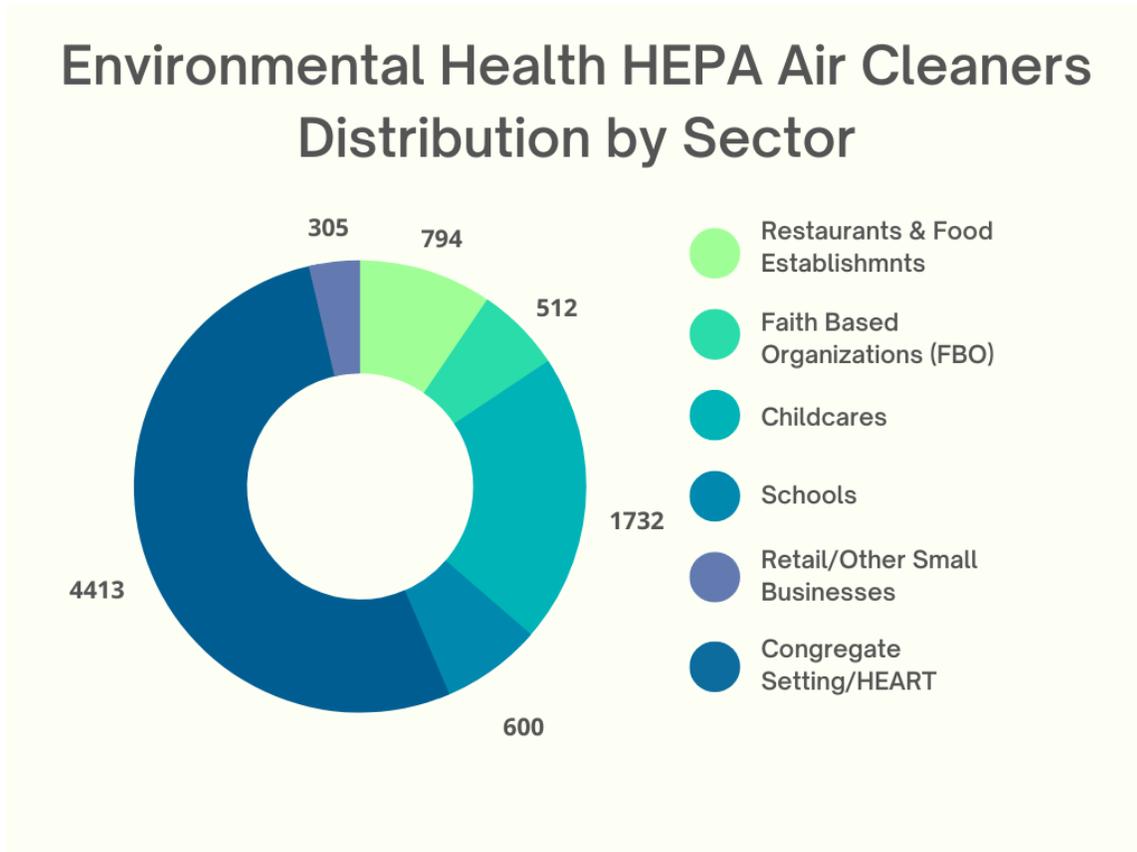
## PERFORMANCE REPORT

### Program on Indoor Air Quality & Ventilation

To reduce the spread of COVID-19, the King County Department of Public Health received \$3.6 million in funding to provide indoor air quality assistance to vulnerable organizations and communities throughout the County. Roughly \$2.5 million was allocated to provide technical assistance and distribute HEPA air cleaners that can result in immediate improvements to air quality and air flow (ventilation) inside the buildings. In addition, \$1.1 million was allocated to the Safe Start for Taverns and Restaurants (SSTAR) Program to ensure food establishments could continue to serve customers safely. Business restart efforts have focused on helping businesses safely reopen after shutdowns due to COVID-19 and adapt business practices to the public health guidance necessary for controlling community spread. Latest guidance on improving indoor air quality for building operators and business owners can be found at [kingcounty.gov/covid/air](https://kingcounty.gov/covid/air).

#### How Much?

Over 8,300 HEPA air cleaners have been distributed throughout King County since January 2021. King County's Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Program team and their partners distributed HEPA air cleaners across seven sectors, including restaurants/food establishments, faith-based organizations, congregate settings (including homeless shelters), schools, childcare facilities, and other small businesses (including retail).



**Figure 5: Number of portable HEPA air cleaners distributed to different sectors (January 2021 to June 2023).** Note Congregate Setting includes homeless shelters, adult family homes, community centers, and others.

Partnerships were critical to the program's success. In particular, distribution to congregate settings including homeless shelters and childcare providers leveraged partnerships with King County's Homeless Health Engagement Action Resource Team (HEART), Best Starts for Kids (BSK), Child Care Resources (CCR), El Centro de la Raza, Center for MultiCultural Health, White Center Community Development Association, Korean Community Service Center, Kandelia, and the Iraqi Community Center of Washington.

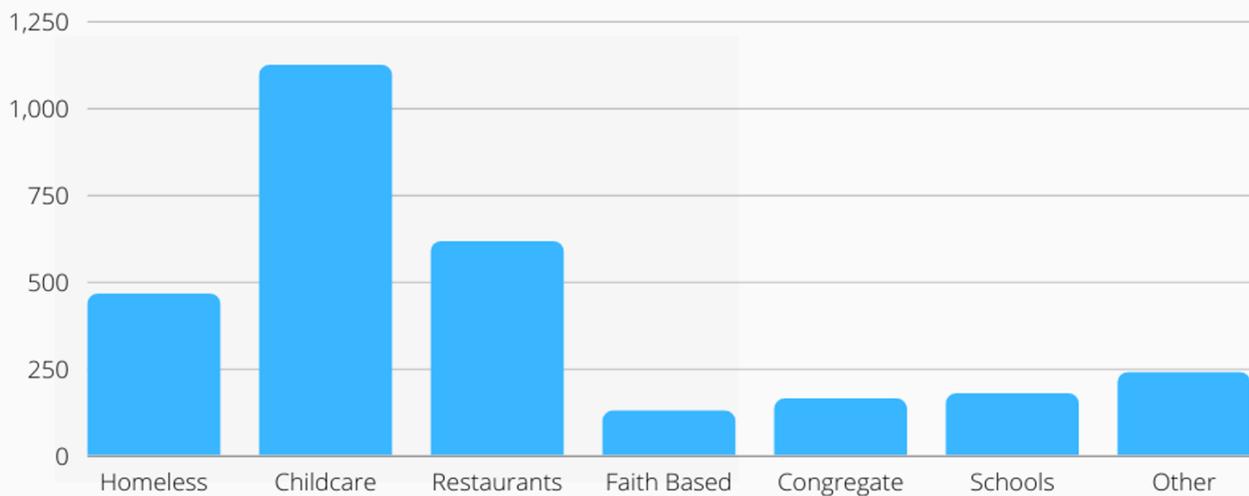
In addition to distributing HEPA air cleaners, program staff also provided site assessments, one-on-one technical assistance, and educational sessions on indoor air quality best practices and HVAC system maintenance.



**Figure 6: King County Environmental Health Services (EHS) staff assists a small business owner in receiving a free portable HEPA air cleaner at a pick-up event as part of the EHS COVID-19 Recovery Program on Indoor Air.**

## TOTAL SITES SERVED BY SECTOR

January 2021 - June 2023



**Figure 7: Number of sites served by the King County Indoor Air Program (recipients of technical assistance and/or HEPA air cleaners) across different sectors (January 2021 to June 2023). Note "Other" includes retail and other small businesses.**

## How equitably did we provide service?

Businesses and congregate settings in communities with longstanding social and economic inequities, high positive COVID-19 rates, low COVID-19 vaccination rates, and environmental health disparities were prioritized under this program.

To aid outreach, King County partnered with numerous BIPOC-led community organizations including the African Leaders Health Board, UTOPIA of WA, Chinese Information and Service Center, Indian Association of Western WA, Mother Africa, East African Senior Meal Program, Somali Health Board, Greater China Hong Kong Business Association of WA, and Ethnic Chamber of Commerce Coalition.

Educational materials were developed in 12 different languages to increase awareness and equitable outreach, which included an ethnic social media campaign.

### 3 Ways to Improve Indoor Air and Reduce the Risk of Spreading COVID-19

Clean indoor air is one of the best ways to reduce spread of COVID-19 indoors. The following strategies will help clean the indoor air in your facility:

- 1. INCREASE AIR FLOW**  
*How can I introduce outdoor air to indoor spaces?*
  - Open windows and doors to increase the flow of outdoor air into the building.
  - Increase the amount of outdoor air that is pulled in through the Heating, Ventilation, and Cooling (HVAC) system to 100%.
- 2. CLEAN INDOOR AIR**  
*How can I remove pollutants from indoor air?*
  - Add air filtration indoors by improving your HVAC system or adding portable HEPA air cleaners:
    - Have your HVAC system evaluated to determine if it can handle high efficiency filters (rated MERV 13 or higher). Install filters if possible.
    - Use portable HEPA air cleaners that provide 99% or higher filtration efficiency down to 0.3 microns.
    - Use a box fan with a MERV 13 furnace filter attached to the back. This is a low-cost option.
- 3. KILL GERMS IN THE AIR USING UPPER ROOM ULTRAVIOLET GERMICIDAL IRRADIATION (UVGI)**  
*UVGI systems can inactivate germs in the air but cannot remove pollutants. UVGI may be a useful addition to ventilation and air filtration to improve indoor air in certain situations.*
  - If appropriate for your space, work with a specialist to install UVGI systems.

Consult with your building manager or HVAC specialist to discuss the strategies that would work best for your facility.

For more detailed information on these three strategies and to learn how to identify technologies to avoid, please see [www.kingcounty.gov/covid/air](http://www.kingcounty.gov/covid/air)

Public Health  
Seattle & King County  
April 13, 2022

### 三種方法改善室內空氣並降低COVID-19傳播的風險

淨化室內空氣是減少COVID-19在室內傳播的最佳方法之一。以下的策略將幫助您淨化設施場所裡的室內空氣：

- 1. 促進空氣流動**  
*如何將室外空氣引入室內空間？*
  - 打開門窗以增加室外空氣進入建築物的流量。
  - 將通過供暖、通風和空調(HVAC)系統吸入的室外空氣量增加到100%。
- 2. 淨化室內空氣**  
*如何去除室內空氣中的污染物質？*
  - 通過改善HVAC系統或添加便攜式高效分子空氣(HEPA)過濾器，以提升室內空氣的過濾。
  - 對HVAC系統進行評估，以確定它是否可以安裝高能效濾網(最小過濾效率值(MERV)13或更高的等級)。如果可行，請安裝此等級濾網。
  - 使用便攜式HEPA空氣過濾器，以提供99%或更高的效能來過濾小至0.3微米的顆粒物。
  - 在箱式風扇的後面安裝MERV 13的暖氣濾網，此法是一種低成本的選擇。
- 3. 使用上層空間紫外線殺菌輻照(UVGI)殺死空氣中的細菌**  
*UVGI系統可滅活空氣中的細菌，但不能去除污染物質在某些情況下，UVGI可以增強通風和空氣過濾以發揮改善室內空氣的效用。*
  - 如果空間條件允許，請與專業人員接洽並安裝UVGI系統。

請向您的大樓經理或HVAC專業人員諮詢最適合您設施場所的策略方案。

想要了解更多有關這三種策略的詳細信息，以及如何確認避免使用的技術，請瀏覽 [www.kingcounty.gov/covid/air](http://www.kingcounty.gov/covid/air) (僅提供英文版)

Public Health  
Seattle & King County  
2021年4月15日

### 3 formas de mejorar el aire en interiores y de reducir el riesgo de propagación del COVID-19

El aire limpio en interiores es una de las mejores formas de reducir la propagación del COVID-19 dentro de un lugar. Las siguientes estrategias ayudarán a limpiar el aire interior de su lugar:

- 1. AUMENTAR EL FLUJO DE AIRE**  
*¿Cómo puedo permitir la entrada de aire del exterior en las instalaciones?*
  - Abra las ventanas y puertas para aumentar el flujo de aire fresco en el edificio.
  - Aumente al 100% la cantidad de aire fresco que es jalado por el sistema de Calefacción, ventilación y enfriamiento (HVAC, siglas en inglés).
- 2. AIRE PURO EN EL INTERIOR**  
*¿Cómo puedo eliminar los contaminantes del aire interior?*
  - Agregue una filtración de aire en interiores mejorando su sistema HVAC o agregando filtros de aire HEPA portátiles:
  - Haga que evalúen su sistema HVAC para saber si puede usar filtros de alta eficiencia (con clasificación MERV 13 o superior). Instale filtros si es posible.
  - Use filtros de aire HEPA portátiles que brinden un 99% o más de eficiencia de filtración hasta 0.3 micrómetros.
  - Use un ventilador de caja con un filtro MERV 13 pegado en la parte trasera. Ésta es una opción económica.
- 3. MATE LOS GÉRMENES EN EL AIRE CON IRRADIACIÓN GERMICIDA ULTRAVIOLETA (UVGI siglas en inglés)**  
*Los sistemas UVGI pueden inactivar los gérmenes en el aire pero no pueden eliminar los contaminantes. La UVGI puede ser una adición útil para mejorar la ventilación y la filtración de aire en el interior en ciertas situaciones.*
  - Si es adecuado para sus instalaciones, trabaje con un especialista para instalar sistemas UVGI.

Hable con el gerente de su edificio o especialista en HVAC sobre las estrategias que funcionarían mejor para su edificio.

Para obtener más detalles sobre estas tres estrategias y como aprender a identificar tecnologías a evitar, visite [www.kingcounty.gov/covid/air](http://www.kingcounty.gov/covid/air)

15 de abril de 2022

Salud Pública  
Seattle y el condado de King

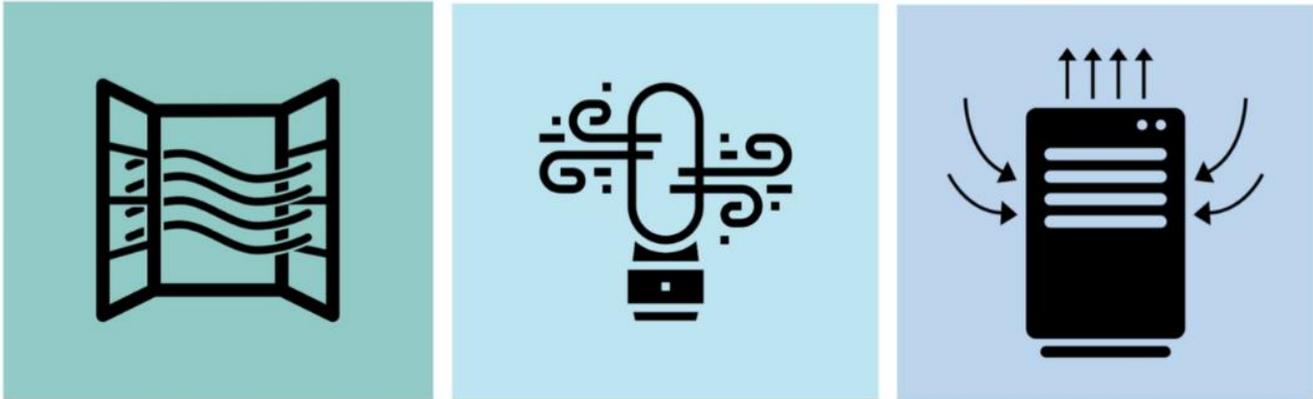
Figure 8: Educational materials about improving indoor air quality were made available in up to 12 different languages. Additional flyers and information can be found at <https://kingcounty.gov/depts/health/covid-19/ventilation.aspx>.

## Is Anyone Better Off?

Through the one-on-one technical assistance, distribution of HEPA air cleaners, and educational materials King County helped support the safe re-opening and maintenance of some of the County's most vulnerable organizations. The program improved indoor air quality, reduced safety concerns, and alleviated burdensome costs associated with improving indoor air quality and ventilation.

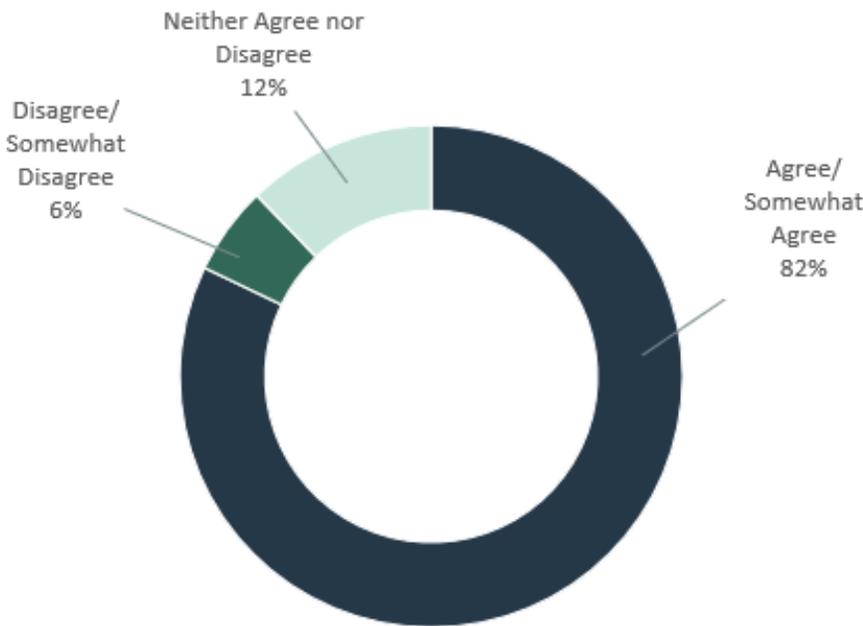
*"On behalf of my organization, I appreciate the resource. As a non-profit, we have faced unexpected costs during the pandemic. Filters were important in our setting and the County resource allowed us to obtain them without additional strain on our budget."*

- King County School, 10/5/22



**Figure 9: Strategies to reduce the risk of COVID-19 indoors include introducing more outdoor air to indoor spaces and removing pollutants and germs from indoor air by adding air filtration.** Through one-on-one technical assistance, the County provided site-specific recommended actions related to Heating, Ventilation and Cooling (HVAC) systems, portable HEPA air cleaners, and other ways to increase ventilation.

To better understand the impact of the indoor air quality assistance programs, a 2022 survey was sent to organizations that received HEPA air cleaners and/or technical assistance. Out of 123 surveyed organizations, the majority of recipients responded that they had a better understanding of indoor air quality.



*"I truly cannot thank you enough for the site visit on November 1. What a blessing to have you both come out and assess our building. We have done everything possible to keep our students and staff safe and healthy. Now with the HEPA air cleaners provided by King County Public Health we can provide clean air for everyone in our building."*

- Preschool teacher, Renton, 11/4/21

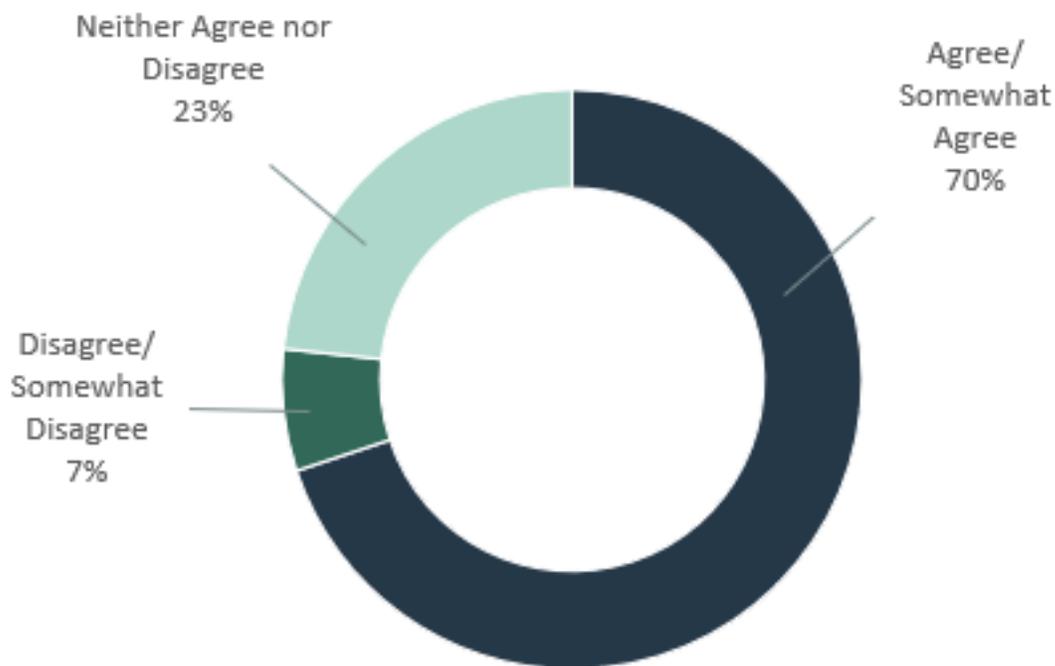
**"I have a better understanding of how indoor air quality affects my health."**

**Figure 10: Out of 123 surveyed organizations, 82% of recipients responded that they had a better understanding of how indoor air quality affects health.**



**Figure 11: King County Environmental Health staff conducts an educational technical consultation on indoor air and ventilation at a local restaurant in Seattle, Washington.**

Recipients also reported noticing improvements in indoor air quality after receiving HEPA air cleaners and/or technical assistance. Many reported feeling safer and noticing health improvements for both staff and clients due to the use of HEPA air cleaners.



**"I notice an improvement in my indoor air after following the advice given to me."**

**Figure 12: Out of 123 surveyed organizations, 70% reported feeling safer and noticing health improvements for both staff and clients due to the use of HEPA air cleaners.**

The rapid deployment of the clean air and ventilation program supported many businesses and organizations in the community by helping mitigate the threat of COVID-19 transmission indoors. Through community partnerships, the County was able to provide tangible resources and technical assistance that helped equip many types of organizations and reopen in some capacity. The resources and knowledge provided through this program are intended to support resiliency and serves as a model for any future disaster response related to clean indoor air.