

# Veterans, Seniors & Human Services Levy Community Engagement 2017

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## Welcome!

We appreciate your frank input as our team develops the Implementation Plan for the proposed Veterans, Seniors & Human Services Levy (VSHSL). The Implementation Plan is required by Ordinance 18555, the VSHSL Ballot Measure Ordinance.

- **Today's meeting is focused on receiving input from you that will inform the Implementation Plan.**

To see previous staff reports about the VSHSL, VSHSL Ordinance, and the full calendar of community meetings, please visit: [www.kingcounty.gov/VHSLevyInput](http://www.kingcounty.gov/VHSLevyInput).

## Goals for Today

1. Explain how we have used information from previous community input and feedback sessions
2. Answer questions and provide information on the timeline for the VSHSL Implementation Plan
3. Get input from you on how to measure the success of services for Veterans, Seniors, and Vulnerable Populations in King County

## Veterans, Seniors & Human Services Levy Information

King County Ordinance 18555 placed a ballot measure for the VSHSL on the November ballot. If approved, the VSHSL would levy a property tax of 10 cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. Proceeds would fund capital and services for veterans, seniors, and vulnerable populations.

## After this Meeting...

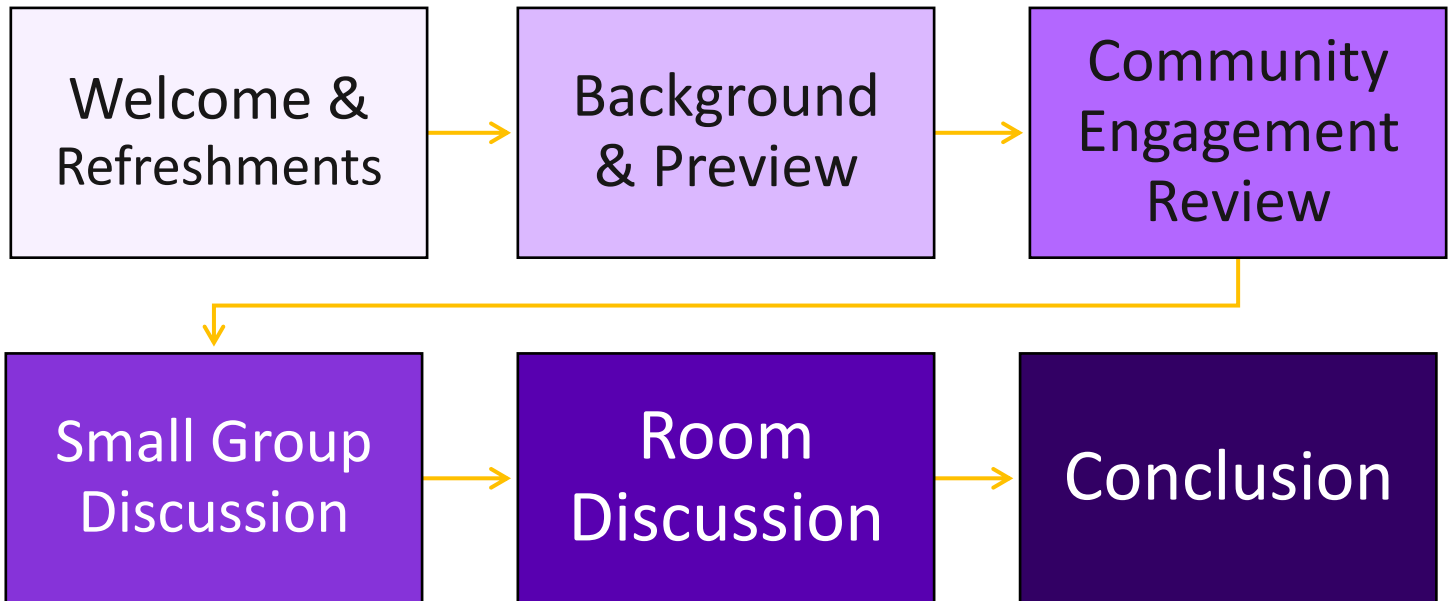
We will conclude this round of community meetings in December 2017. King County staff will reflect on what was heard from communities as the Ordinance 18555-required VSHSL Implementation Plan is developed and proposed. This plan will be transmitted to the King County Council on March 16, 2018.

**Contact:** [ADAM.SCHMID@KINGCOUNTY.GOV](mailto:ADAM.SCHMID@KINGCOUNTY.GOV)

**For more information visit:** [www.kingcounty.gov/VHSLevyInput](http://www.kingcounty.gov/VHSLevyInput)

# King County Community Meeting: Timeline

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## **Welcome & Refreshments**

- Find a seat, grab some refreshments and join the discussion.

## **Background & Preview**

- King County staff provide background information, preview discussion, and answer your questions.

## **Community Engagement Review**

- Summary & Renewal Process

## **Measuring Success: Small Groups**

- Tables break into groups and review outcome areas

## **Room Discussion**

- Tables share themes from small group discussions

## **Conclusion**

- [www.kingcounty.gov/VHSLevyInput](http://www.kingcounty.gov/VHSLevyInput) for updates and November survey!

# What did King County do with my feedback?

Since June 2016, levy staff has engaged over a thousand King County residents through community conversations, focus groups, rural convenings, presentations, and online surveys. This feedback informed the VSHSL Blueprint Report and the Executive's VSHSL renewal proposal. Both of these documents were transmitted to the King County Council and informed the development of the VSHSL Ballot Measure Ordinance 18555.



## **In-person engagements and the online survey identified the lack of affordable housing more frequently than any other human services system gap.**

- 43% of renting households in King County pay over 30% of income towards rent.  
*"The volume of housing that is affordable is not nearly keeping pace with the rising costs of living in King County." – Survey Respondent*



## **Community conversations identified gaps in transportation options, service availability for rural communities, culturally responsive services, and the accessibility of legal consultation.**

- *"Access to and information about the services is critical and a missing piece of the equation." – Survey Respondent*



## **Older adults expressed concern over their ability to stay socially engaged, access critical services, and reside in their homes as expenses outpace fixed incomes.**

- The trend towards divestment in older adult services and programs was a concern throughout the community conversations and online survey.



## **Veterans acknowledged community support for their services, but expressed frustration at the fragmentation of the service system and barriers to stabilizing federal benefits.**

- There are currently over 180 programs serving veterans in King County.  
*"I think a lot of vets don't realize what all is out there to help them." – Survey Respondent*



## **Across King County, residents cited the ability to provide veterans and human services in a professional and compassionate manner as a crucial component to address social isolation and stigma.**

- Respondents encouraged the promotion of service recipient dignity to improve the stigma of accessing services.



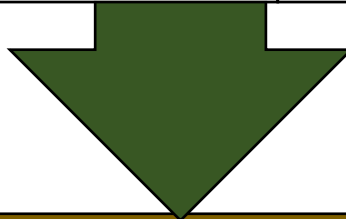
## **Service providers highlighted gaps created by funding requirements, noted an increasing demand for data production without additional resources.**

- Providers requested financial flexibility to administer their services, citing the current funding climate specificity. An expectation of data generation without commensurate funding burdens small and volunteer-based providers.

**IN THE PAST YEAR, WE ASKED KING COUNTY RESIDENTS:**  
 'What are the needs in your community?'

**THE COMMUNITY RESPONDED...**

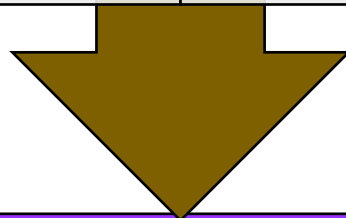
"My housing situation is unstable."	"My income can't sustain my rising costs."	"I struggle to maintain a healthy life."	"I don't have a meaningful connection to my community."	"Your services are not accessible for my community."
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**KING COUNTY USED THIS FEEDBACK TO INFORM:**  
 Two staff reports, Ordinance 18555, VSHSL Transition Plan

**THESE DOCUMENTS OUTLINED...**

Draft definitions for eligible expenditures for proposed VSHSL	Draft definitions of eligible populations for proposed VSHSL	Draft priorities for housing investments	Need for increased capacity building support
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**TODAY WE ARE ASKING KING COUNTY RESIDENTS:**  
 How should we define and measure success?  
 "How would you know?"

**We will be talking about:**

**We will not be talking about:**

"This definition should include..."	"I know my community's housing situation is stable when..."	Programs to be funded by King County	"We need more funds for..."
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# FINANCIAL STABILITY IN KING COUNTY

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1. How would you define 'financial stability'? Please be as specific as possible.

- a. **DRAFT DEFINITION:** *"The ability to have the knowledge, skills, and access to gain and maintain adequate financial resources, modest expenses, and the capacity to achieve long-term financial goals without inhibiting short-term needs."*
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2. How would members of your community know they are financially stable?

- a. *How would you know?*
  - b. Example: *"I think my community is financially stable when households can pay their full utility bill on time."*
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3. What are the characteristics of excellent service when seeking assistance with *financial stability*?

- a. What must levy-funded organizations do to provide excellent service?
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# HOUSING STABILITY IN KING COUNTY

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1. How would you define 'housing stability'? Please be as specific as possible.

- a. **DRAFT DEFINITION:** *"The ability to gain and maintain safe, decent housing in a community of one's choice for less than 40% of household income."*

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2. How would members of your community know they are stably housed?

- a. *How would you know?*
- b. Example: *"I feel stably housed when my children do not have to change schools during the school year."*

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3. What are the characteristics of excellent service when seeking assistance with *housing stability*?

- a. What must levy-funded organizations do to provide excellent service?

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# HEALTHY LIVING IN KING COUNTY

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- 1. How would you define *'healthy living'*? Please be as specific as possible.
    - a. **DRAFT DEFINITION:** *"A state of life characterized by physical and mental integrity with the ability and opportunity to: perform personally valued professional and community roles; handle physical, mental, and social stressors; and maintain a feeling of well-being."*
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- 2. How would members of your community know they are healthy?
    - a. *How would you know?*
    - b. Example: *"I would know my community is healthy by the number of children wearing helmets on their bicycles."*
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- 3. What are the characteristics of excellent service when seeking assistance with *healthy living*?
    - a. What must levy-funded organizations do to provide excellent service?
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# SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT IN KING COUNTY

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1. How would you define *'social engagement'*? Please be as specific as possible.
    - a. **DRAFT DEFINITION:** *"The ability for an individual to engage with activities, relationships, and environments of one's preference that satisfies their health, physical, cognitive, and interpersonal needs."*
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2. How would members of your community know they are socially engaged?
    - a. *How would you know?*
    - b. Example: *"I can tell my community is socially engaged by the number of people I see in my local library."*
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3. What are the characteristics of excellent service when seeking assistance with *social engagement*?
    - a. What must levy-funded organizations do to provide excellent service?
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