HousingSearchNW.org Available Starting February 15th

Starting on February 15th, renters will be able search for properties on HousingSearchNW.org online 24 hours a day or by calling a toll-free, bilingual call center for assistance: 1-877-428-8844, Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pacific Time. Interpretation in a number of languages is also available. The website HousingSearchNW.org is free. Landlords may advertise properties free of charge, while renters can find rentals that fit their needs. Property owners are currently registering their properties to get the site populated. If you have a rental property that you would like to list, please do so at the website or by calling the toll-free number.

Training in use of HousingSearchNW: Starting soon, Socialserve.com will be offering web-based trainings for case managers, social service agencies and others interested in helping clients search for affordable housing in Seattle and King County. Look for more information about upcoming training opportunities or contact Crystal Kirby at crystal@socialserve.com.

NATIONAL NEWS & ACTION

National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) has many new documents particularly relevant to the One Night Count Homeless Census. See their website www.naeh.org. Below are a few highlighted reports:


Prevention Targeting 101: Published December 13, 2011 This brief is a concise “how-to” guide on how communities can begin or improve efforts to identify and effectively assist the households who are most likely to become homeless and serve them appropriately.

Impact of “Sequestration” on Federal Homelessness Assistance: Published December 9, 2011. Sequestration, an initial 9.1 percent across-the-board cut to discretionary federal funding, could mean significant reductions in resources serving homeless and at-risk people and a potential rise in homelessness across the country.

NAEH MEDIA CLIPS

How to curb chronic homelessness? First, a home! (Christian Science Monitor, January 25, 2012)

High Rents, Low Wages and the Coming Homeless Surge (Fiscal Times, January 20, 2012)

Homeless numbers down, but risks rise (MSNBC, January 18, 2012)

Homeless Rate Ready To Rise As Stimulus Cash Runs Out: Study (Huffington Post, January 18, 2012)

Homelessness rate in U.S. dips, report finds (McClatchy News, January 18, 2012)

Stimulus money kept Americans off the street, study finds (CNN, January 18, 2012)

FUNDING and RFP’s

Cost modeling structure for homeless housing and services.

The King County Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS), on behalf of the Committee to End Homelessness (CEH), is requesting proposals for a consultant to create a cost-modeling structure for homeless housing and services, commencing with permanent supportive housing for single adults. The consultant will analyze the level of services and related funding necessary for success within housing and service projects targeting or accepting specific homeless populations, and advise regional leaders around a potential cost-modeling structure. An associated topic will include cataloguing existing and emerging fund sources and suggesting what funds we may be underutilizing in housing and services (e.g. are we maximizing Medicaid reimbursements). Considerable documentation exists on regional fund sources available to support homeless housing and services, and the cataloguing work will be limited to identifying underutilized fund sources and/or fund sources that appear to be inefficiently applied.

To review or download a copy of this RFP, visit http://www.kingcounty.gov/operations/procurement.aspx, and access the “Solicitations” tab in the left-hand column. By accessing this site, you will be forwarded to the King County Procurement and Contract Services Online Vendor Registration (OVR) System*. You may enter the site either as a Guest, or if previously registered, by logging on with your User ID. The RFP is listed under “Technical Services”.

*King County reserves the right to change the OVR System. If you have questions please call 206-263-1165, 360-566-1165 or 1-866-574-5550.

If you have an item of interest for the CEHKC community, please contact Gretchen Bruce at gretchen.bruce@kingcounty.gov
Seattle HSD: Communities Supporting Safe and Stable Housing Investment Plan
The Seattle Human Services Department (HSD) has developed a **long-term plan for the City’s human service investments to prevent and end homelessness.** The plan will guide the City’s future investments in emergency shelter, transitional housing, day centers/hygiene centers and supportive services for adults, families with children, youth and young adults, and domestic violence survivors who are at-risk of or experiencing homelessness. HSD plans to release the **Communities Supporting Safe and Stable Housing Investment Plan** in early March. Information about the Investment Plan and the community meeting to introduce the plan will be posted on the HSD web page: [http://www.seattle.gov/humanservices/initiatives.htm#safe](http://www.seattle.gov/humanservices/initiatives.htm#safe). For additional information, contact Andrea Akita 206-684-0113 or andrea.akita@seattle.gov.

**EVENTS**

**Annual One Night Count – Point in Time Census of People Who Are Homeless**
The annual One Night Count (ONC) of unsheltered people in King County was held Friday January 27th from 2 – 5 am. There was a slight increase (72 people) on a same-area to same-area basis over the 2011 count, for a total of 2,594 individuals counted in 2012. The weather was cold but not extreme, so some severe weather shelters that were open last year were not open this year. Over the coming weeks, analysis will be done to combine the street count with the shelter count for a combined snapshot of the number of people who are homeless. To get involved in ongoing activities related to the count, see Seattle King County Coalition on Homelessness website: [http://www.homelessinfo.org/](http://www.homelessinfo.org/)

**CEH COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**Governing Board**
Co-Chairs: Dan Brettler and Dow Constantine. Staff: Bill Block ([bill.block@kingcounty.gov](mailto:bill.block@kingcounty.gov)) and Gretchen Bruce ([gretchen.bruc@kingcounty.gov](mailto:gretchen.bruc@kingcounty.gov)). Typical Meeting Schedule, 4th Wednesday of the Quarter, 8:30–10:30am at YWCA Opportunity Place. Meeting Summaries of previous Governing Board meetings are available at [www.cehkc.org](http://www.cehkc.org)

Upcoming Meeting: January Governing Board meeting cancelled

**Interagency Council (IAC)**
Co-Chairs: Stephen Norman and Sue Sherbrooke. Staff: Bill Block ([bill.block@kingcounty.gov](mailto:bill.block@kingcounty.gov)) and Gretchen Bruce ([gretchen.bruc@kingcounty.gov](mailto:gretchen.bruc@kingcounty.gov)). Typical Meeting Schedule: 1st Monday of the month, 2–4pm, rotating locations (Seattle, Bellevue, Renton). Meeting summaries of previous IAC meetings available at [www.cehkc.org](http://www.cehkc.org)

Upcoming Meeting: Monday, February 6, 2 – 4 pm
Agenda Topics
- Interim Report on Task Forces: Youth & Young Adult and Immigrants & Refugees
- Proposed uses of 3% set aside funds
- Advocacy Update
- HEARTH Measures Selection

Recent Meeting: January IAC meeting cancelled

**Consumer Advisory Council (CAC)**
Co-Chair: Rotating members; Staff: Bill Block ([bill.block@kingcounty.gov](mailto:bill.block@kingcounty.gov)) and Gretchen Bruce ([gretchen.bruc@kingcounty.gov](mailto:gretchen.bruc@kingcounty.gov)). Typical Meeting Schedule: 3rd Wed of the month, 6-7:30pm at Plymouth Congregational Church in Seattle. Meeting summaries of previous CAC meetings available at [www.cehkc.org](http://www.cehkc.org)

Upcoming Meeting: Wednesday, February 15, 6:00–7:30 pm
Agenda Topics
- Feedback to the Immigrant and Refugee Task Force, Update on Legislative Efforts

Recent Meeting: January meeting cancelled due to snow
### Public Relations

Chair: Sherry Hamilton (sherry.hamilton@kingcounty.gov). Typical Meeting Schedule: 4th Wed of month, 3:30–4:30pm at Chinook Building 401 – 5th Ave, Room 526.

**Upcoming Meeting:** Tentative: Wednesday February 22, 3:30 pm  
Chinook Building – 401 Fifth Avenue, Room 526, Seattle

**Agenda Topics**  
Email to confirm

### Legislative Advocacy

Co-Chairs: Marilyn Mason-Plunkett and Barbara Langdon. Staff: Bill Block (bill.block@kingcounty.gov). Typical Meeting Schedule: 2nd Tuesday of the month from 8:30–10, via conference call. During legislative sessions, calls will be held every other week, though members are advised to call to confirm.

**Upcoming Meeting:**  
Tuesday, February 7, 8:30 – 9:30 am  
Conference Call 206-205-1111

**Agenda Topics**  
2012 legislative session

### Population Affinity Groups

With the completion of the CEH Mid Plan Review in spring of 2012, the population committees of CEH have sunset in consideration of the task forces and workgroups that are going forward. The following are updates on population-based groups or initiatives that are going forward aligned with CEH.

**Single Adults:** Single Adults committee has been sunset. Meeting(s) may be convened as needed to seek feedback on the Homeless and Essential Needs or Single Adult Task Force as those bodies of work move forward.

**Families:** Follow the Families Initiative! See Family Homelessness Initiative website for regular trainings and opportunities.

**YYA:** The King County Homeless Youth and Young Adult Leadership Council will convene in the coming months based on feedback and urging of leaders within young adult homeless services. The Mission of the Leadership Council is to: Provide a forum for connecting leaders on issues pertaining to homeless youth and young adults. Meetings will be held quarterly. Staffing will be provided by the City of Seattle, and the group is seeking nominations for co-chairs. The next quarterly meeting will be held in April. Therafter, meeting dates will be set by the co-chairs.

### RELATED COMMUNITY MEETING UPDATES

#### South King County Forum on Homelessness

Contact: Jason Johnson, City of Kent jaljohnson@ci.kent.wa.us. The SKC Forum on Homelessness meets the 1st Wed. of every month at 9–10:30am at the Kent Senior Activity Center to 1) keep South county service providers in touch with one-another; 2) share resources with / for SKC service providers; 3) receive updates and announcements of new or future projects; 4) to help bridge the disconnect between the homeless and services. Most attendees are planners or providers, though anyone is welcome to attend. SKC Forum on Homelessness web address: [http://www.ci.kent.wa.us/content.aspx?id=2728](http://www.ci.kent.wa.us/content.aspx?id=2728)

**Upcoming Meeting:**  
Wednesday, February 1, 2012, 9–10:30am  
Kent Senior Activity Center – 600 E Smith Street, Kent

**Agenda Topics**  
King County Family Homelessness Initiative. Puget Sound Energy about shut off policies and assistance programs

#### North King County Housing Stakeholders Meeting

Contact: Kelly Rider at kelly@housingconsortium.org. The NKC Stakeholders group coordinates homeless housing & service activities in North King County. Most attendees are planners or providers; though anyone is welcome. Typical Meeting Schedule: Every other month, 2nd Wednesday, 11 am – 1 pm, (brown bag) Shoreline City Hall, 17500 Midvale Ave N.

**Upcoming Meeting:**  
NKC Housing Stakeholders does NOT meet in February. The next meeting will be:

Wednesday, March 14, 11 am – 1 pm (brownbag)  
Shoreline City Hall, 3rd floor, 17500 Midvale Ave N

**Agenda Topics**  
Moving forward with projects identified as part of the North County Forum.
Eastside Homelessness Advisory Committee (EHAC)
Contact: Arthur Sullivan  Asullivan@bellevuewa.gov  or Sharon Anderson  sanderson@ci.kirkland.wa.us.  EHAC coordinates homeless housing & service activities in East King County. Most attendees are planners or providers; though anyone is welcome. Typical Meeting Schedule: 2nd Thursday of the month, 2:00pm – 4:00pm, First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue, 1717 Bellevue Way NE (just south of 520)

Upcoming Meeting: Thursday, February 9, 2012, 2–4pm  First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue, 1717 Bellevue Way NE
Agenda Topics: Updates on Eastside Winter Shelter, Progress to date on EHAC priorities

Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness (ITFH)
The ITFH works among, between, and within the faith community and seeks to create the political will to end homelessness using targeted education, outreach and advocacy. Typical Meeting Schedule: 3rd Wednesday of the month, noon-1:30pm at St. Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral. Contact: Bill Kirlin-Hackett at itfh@comcast.net or call at (425) 442-5418.

Upcoming Meeting:  February 15, 2012, noon–1:30pm  Saint Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral, 1245 – 10th Ave E, Seattle

University District Conversation on Homelessness
Contact: Nathalie Gerhke.  Monthly Gathering share thoughts and strategies on local and regional concerns around homelessness. Typical Meeting Schedule: 2nd Monday of the month, 9 – 11:30 am. Meetings rotate throughout the U District, and frequently at University Congregational Church though location may change.

Upcoming Meeting:  February 13, 2012, 9am–11:30 am  University Lutheran Church, corner 50th & 16th, U District/Seattle
Agenda Topics:

University District Service Provider’s Alliance Service Provider Team
Contact:  udsp.spt@gmail.com  U-District Service Provider’s Alliance share information relevant to working with homeless youth and young adults, program updates, and neighborhood updates. A service provider debrief follows each meeting. Typical Meeting Schedule: 2nd Wednesday of the month, 11am-12:30pm

Upcoming Meeting:  February 8, 2012, 11am–12:30pm  Street Youth Ministries, 4540 – 15th Ave NE, Seattle

Seattle King County Coalition on Homelessness (SKCCH)
The General meeting is the 3rd Thurs of each month, 9-11am at E Cherry YWCA. Most attendees are providers or homeless community members and other concerned folks are welcome. Several standing committees also meet regularly (families with children; youth & young adults, single adults; advocacy). Learn more and sign up for meeting reminders at www.homelessinfo.org

General Meeting:  February 16, 2012, 9–11am  Stay Tuned! See Below
Agenda Topics:  Results of the 2012 One Night Count / Beyond the One Night Count (BONC)

Two advocacy workshops will be held in February
Homelessness Advocacy 101: Go Beyond the One Night Count -- Saturday, February 11, 2012
10am-Noon at Seattle Pacific University in the Student Union Building, Gazebo Room
and again
2pm-4pm at Kona Kai Coffee Company in Kent, WA: 124 4th Ave S., Kent, WA
An interactive and fun workshop featuring Nancy Amidei, Director of the Civic Engagement Project. Learn about legislative priorities for homelessness and housing advocates and about taking action during this tough legislative session.
For more information and to register please visit:  http://homelessinfo.org/one_night_count/beyond_the_one_night_count.php

SKCCH February Meetings
February 16 - General Membership Meeting: Stay tuned! SKCCH may be taking an advocacy field trip to Olympia for the February General Meeting!

February 14, 10:30am-Noon, Location TBD - Youth and Young Adults Committee Meeting
February 9, Noon-1:30pm, Plymouth Simons Seniors Apartments, 2119 3rd Ave - Single Adults Advocacy Committee Meeting
February 22, 9:30am-11:00am, E. Cherry YWCA, 2820 E. Cherry St - Families with Children Committee Meeting
The Mid Plan Review: Renewed Areas of Focus 2012 - 2015

In late 2010, just over half way through the Ten Year Plan, the governing bodies of the Committee to End Homelessness embarked on a Mid-Plan Review. This review included a review of the original goals, a broad evaluation of successes and shortfalls in meeting those goals, and the actions needed in the second half of The Plan. We have made some great gains since 2005, and the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness in King County is regarded as one of the strongest ten year plans in the nation. Since 2005, our region has:

- Become a national leader in the creation of Housing First models for vulnerable populations
- Funded over 4,500 units of new homeless housing
- Created coordinated entry for chronically homeless single adults
- Implemented the Landlord Liaison Project breaking down housing barriers for over 900 households
- Created effective diversion programs interrupting the cycle of jails and psychiatric hospitals, realizing millions in cost offsets
- Helped more than 30,000 individuals exit homelessness (over 18,000 households during the first five years of The Plan)
- Stabilized existing housing for over 18,500 people (5,500+ households since 2005) through prevention assistance

More remains to be done, and The Mid Plan review resulted in a comprehensive Mid-Plan Review Report with eight key strategies going forward. Click here to read the report. Below are updates on the key strategies, These will be updated quarterly.

1-Housing Production [updated 12/2011]
Per the CEH Bodies of Work: the goal for the Housing Production investment priority is to develop and secure housing under the Ten Year Plan through a mix of capital development and leased housing. Specific strategies include: 1) Issue annual Combined Homeless Housing Funder NOFA that defines common funding priorities; 2) Utilize common application forms for fund sources supporting homeless supportive housing projects; and 3) Conduct collaborative reviews of applications among local and state funders. A subproject is the Rent Assistance Workgroup, working to coordinate and align all short-term, emergency rental assistance programs for ease of contracting, distribution, etc.

Update: The Coordinated NOFA was released during the summer of 2012 as a joint effort among seven funders and a total of $56 million for homeless and affordable housing, both capital, operating, services and rental assistance. Funding awards will be complete by the end of 2012 for contracts starting early 2012. The rental assistance workgroup is cataloguing existing and available rental assistance and researching national models and best practices. Highlights of this work will be forwarded to the Funders in February, and final recommendations for Funder review will be brought to the March 2012 Funders meeting, in time to inform the 2012 NOFA.

2-Homeless Families Initiative [updated 12/2011]
Per the CEH Bodies of Work: the goal for the Homeless Families Initiative is to transform the homeless families system to streamline entry into housing and implement best practices wherever possible, focusing on: 1) Coordinated Entry and Assessment; 2) Prevention; 3) Rapid Rehousing; 4) Transition to Housing Stabilization Approach; and 5) Connection to Mainstream Systems.

The King County Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) and Catholic Community Services of King County (CCS) have begun to work together on the implementation of the Coordinated Entry and Assessment (CEA) Program. There will be a series of community meetings and individual meetings with providers once staff are in place, and KC DCHS and CCS will keep the community abreast of the implementation schedule as the project moves forward. For any questions please call King County, Debbi Knowles at 206-263-9088 or Deborah Kuznitz at 206-263-9071.

3-HEARTH and HMIS Implementation Work Group [updated 12/2012]
Per the CEH Bodies of Work: the goal for the HEARTH workgroup is to establish system-level measures of the status of homelessness in King County that aligns with HEARTH Act standard, focusing on: 1) Providing clear, consistent quarterly reports on the status of homelessness in King County, per Safe Harbors; 2) Establishing metrics for ending homelessness; and 3) providing recommendations for use of data in planning and evaluation related to homelessness.

Update: Planners and providers are identifying common reporting elements that will tell us how the system is working, boiled down to three main data elements.
- The length of time that people are homeless.
- The number of people who become homeless for the first time
- The number of people who, having exited homelessness, become homeless again

The workgroup recognizes there are a number of nuances and challenges in collecting and analyzing this information and is being thoughtful about the implications of selecting and measuring these specific data points and what they do (and don’t) tell us. A future work element may be exploring whether/how to establish common data elements across other funding sources or how to otherwise streamline data collection efforts.

4-Veterans Five Year Plan
The Five Year Plan to End Homelessness Among Veterans in King County is one of several Investment Priority of the Committee to End Homelessness in King County. It is built off of four overarching recommendations:
A. Close the existing housing gap for homeless / at-risk veterans.
B. Secure adequate funding and work with partners towards system alignment, with an emphasis on exploring efficiencies and reducing duplication of service.
C. Prepare the housing system to address complex needs among veterans, including the newly returning veterans, starting with outreach and prevention.
D. Identify and Replicate Best Practice Models for Serving Veterans.

The Veterans Five Year Plan recognizes four fundamental elements:
- Ending Veteran Homelessness begins and ends with housing.
- Funding at the local, state and federal levels will be critical to implementing the Five Year Plan to End Homelessness Among Veterans in King County.
- The Five Year Plan to End Homelessness Among Veterans in King County was developed in partnership and alignment with the state and federal five year plans.
- The Five Year Plan to End Homelessness Among Veterans in King County is informed by the unique challenges faced by Veterans.

An advisory workgroup continues to meet to help inform implementation of the Five Year Plan. Contact Debora Gay for information. debora.gay@kingcounty.gov

5-Client Care Coordination
Update will be drafted for March 2012 All Things CEH

6-Youth and Young Adult Task Force updated 12/2011
Per the CEH Bodies of Work: the goal for the YYA task force, arising out of the Mid Plan Review, is to explore and articulate a clear vision for a young adult system focused on housing, education, employment, with an emphasis on prevention (e.g., family reunification) & cross-systems connection (foster care, juvenile justice).

Update: The Task Force has been meeting regularly since October. It’s is to define the elements of a youth and young adult homeless ‘system’ focused on prevention, intervention and best practices. Several local philanthropies and investors (with leadership by the Medina Foundation and Raikes Foundation) have expressed interest in coordinating funds and influence to support a systemic response to youth and young adult homelessness. United Way and Building Changes are serving as a bridge between these foundations, the YYA Task Force of the IAC, and the Funders Group to assure that the development and funding of this system are informed by each other’s work. The task force will address three priority areas:
1. Prevention – to identify what priority action items need to be taken in order to prevent youth and young adults from entering the homeless system
2. Coordinated Engagement and Entry – to assure that youth experiencing homelessness receive early intervention, including outreach, intake, housing, case management, education, employment services and other social and mental health services, including coordinated entry to assure youth receive consistent and streamlined services. Discussion of the community level goals of these services and shared outcomes
3. Use of Data – to assure that data and information is shared among agencies and used collaboratively in order to improve services and outcomes for homeless youth and young adults.

7-Single Adult Shelter Task Force updated 12/2011
Per the CEH Bodies of Work: the goal for the SA Shelter task force, arising out of the Mid Plan Review, is to explore and articulate a clear vision for the single adult shelter system, emphasizing placement in permanent housing, and a focus on long-term & frequent stay-ers of shelter. The task force may also explore use of short-term, shallow subsidies to facilitate exits, and conduct an inventory of Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing beds.

Update: The task force which has met regularly since September, and is currently researching the number and type of beds existing in the current shelter/transitional housing system for single adults, access points for these beds, and other critical data needed to inform the group’s recommendations. The Task Force is also reviewing the CEHKC Emergency Housing Task Force Recommendations drafted in 2006 to reacquaint themselves with the report and determine which, if any, recommendations remain relevant to the current environment. They also plan to review the recommendations that arose out of the CEHKC Prevention Task convened in 2008 to see which, if any, should be carried over to this effort.

This effort has a county-wide focus, even as the task force recognizes that City of Seattle invests substantial funds in emergency shelter and many of the strategies and recommendations that arise from the effort may be specific to Seattle. The task force hopes to have recommendations for the Funders Group and the IAC to review by early 2012.

8-Immigrant and Refugee Task Force updated 12/2011
Per the CEH Bodies of Work: the goal for the I&R task force, arising out of the Mid Plan Review, is to explore and recommend strategies to increase access to housing among culturally focused agencies and homeless housing providers.

Update: The I&R Task Force has been meeting since August identifying common themes and scenarios of how and why immigrants and refugees face homelessness; as well as resources and gaps in response to those scenarios – both at the cultural level as well as at the resource/mainstream system level. The final product from the group will be a resource cross-walk / toolkit to help both the culturally focused agencies and mainstream know where and how to access resources and supports for their clients, as well as recommendations for needed policy and/or system changes to help the two branches coordinate services. For the latter half of January / beginning of February, the Task Force is holding a series of focus groups to gain wider stakeholder input on the toolkit elements. The Task Force expects to have its final product completed by late March, 2012.