



Department of Community and Human Services

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STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

Determination of NonSignificance

February 20, 2025

Lead agency: King County Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS)

Agency Contact:

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Description of the Proposal:

King County DCHS has released an RFP to solicit Behavioral Health Agencies (BHAs) to develop and operate new residential treatment facilities, aiming to restore King County's mental health residential capacity to at least the 2018 level of 355 beds. Funding may be used to acquire an existing facility, renovate an existing facility to expand new bed capacity, or construct a new facility.

The goal of this funding is to improve access to and the availability of mental health residential treatment services by covering costs associated with new construction, facility acquisition, building renovation or expansion, and other capital pre-development and development costs. Mental health residential treatment is a critical level of care within a robust continuum of

mental health services, where individuals can receive intensive treatment within a structured setting and receive 24/7 support.

Residential treatment is a community based behavioral health treatment option for people who need a higher level of care than outpatient behavioral health services can provide but do not need inpatient psychiatric care. Multiple mental health residential treatment facilities, which are a subset of residential treatment facilities, have closed in recent years due to rising operating and maintenance costs, aging infrastructure, and insufficient resources to repair facilities. The lack of resources for capital maintenance and facility improvements has contributed to facility closures. As of October 2023, King County had a total of 240 mental health residential treatment beds for the entire county, a decrease of 115 beds, down nearly one third from the capacity of 355 beds in 2018. The closing of residential treatment facilities highlights a gap in King County's behavioral health continuum of care.

Residential treatment facilities that offer the following types of programs would be prioritized to receive expansion capital funds:

1. Up to two programs (up to 16 beds each) that would deliver a relatively high intensity of treatment programming, would provide a more structured and monitored treatment environment, and would be able to accommodate the following populations:
 - a. Individuals with a co-occurring mental health (MH) and substance use disorder (SUD) condition needing a high intensity of SUD treatment and stabilization.
 - b. Individuals at higher risk for concerning or dangerous behaviors (e.g., aggressive behaviors, suicidal ideation, or self-harm behaviors)
 - c. Individuals who may need a relatively short and more intensive treatment episode.
2. Up to three programs (consisting of 16 beds each) that will provide treatment programs with opportunities for community integration in South King County
3. One program of up to 16 beds that will serve ages 13-17, with programming and structure to provide care for adolescents with disruptive or aggressive behaviors and that can accommodate and provide specialized care for adolescents with co-occurring Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities.
4. Priorities for all programs to be selected include:
 - a. Provision of Evidence Based Practices for populations they will be serving (e.g. DBT, CBT for psychosis)
 - b. Provision of representative staffing and culturally and linguistically tailored treatment for racial/ethnic minority populations.
 - c. Provision of integrated and robust (SUD) treatment options
 - d. Occupational Therapy services
 - e. Provision of accommodations for and specialized interventions for individuals with co-occurring IDD or brain injuries
5. Facilities located within the South King County region

Location of the Proposal:

This proposal is a nonproject action and does not yet include determined sites. Residential treatment facilities could be located anywhere in the county.

The Residential Treatment Facility Program will expand and develop facilities to increase residential bed capacity by 100 to 200 beds. Funding may be used to acquire an existing facility, renovate an existing facility to expand new bed capacity, or construct new facilities. Facilities cannot exceed federal standards for facility sizes, which currently limit facility size to no greater than 16 beds. Therefore, facilities would be located in a variety of locations across the county, potentially including locations of existing facilities and new locations. Facilities could be co-located with other behavioral health facilities provided adherence to applicable laws and authorities. Priority would be given to programs meeting certain criteria, including facilities located with the South King County region.

King County has determined that this proposal will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030 based on review of the attached Environmental Checklist. This information is available at: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/crisis-care-centers>.

This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2) and the comment period will end on March 6, 2025. Comments may be submitted to:

Kelly Rider, Responsible SEPA Official
401 5th Avenue, Suite 400
Seattle, WA 98104
ccclevy@kingcounty.gov

Signature *Kelly Rider*
(electronic signature or name of signor is sufficient)

Date Feb 20, 2025

Appeal process:

Any interested person may submit written comments or may appeal the above determination(s) according to KCC Title 20. Written comments may be made at anytime and should be addressed to:

Kelly Rider, Responsible SEPA Official
401 5th Avenue, Suite 400
Seattle, WA 98104
ccclevy@kingcounty.gov

CCC SEPA DNS Strat2


Final Audit Report


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