



# HEARCAG'S LAND AND ENSLAVED PEOPLE ACKNOWLEDGMENT

**We** invite you to recognize the written histories of the United States as fractured.

**We** are on the traditional land of the Coast Salish people, whose communities lived here for generations and who continue to be systematically erased by policies and practices that remove their histories from this place. We honor their past and continued stewardship of this land.

**We** acknowledge that the United States was built off the stolen labor of kidnapped African people. Much of what we know of this country today—its culture, economic growth, and development—has been made possible by the labor of enslaved Africans and their descendants, who suffered the horrors of the trans-Atlantic human trafficking, chattel slavery, and Jim Crow. We are indebted to their labor and sacrifices, and we acknowledge the tremors of violence throughout generations that can still be felt today.

**We** recognize that these difficult histories persist in present-day racial realities and privileges in our nation. We commit to dismantling this racism in all spaces of our work and lives.

| Topic  | Speaker  | Time                 |
|--|--|----------------------|
| <p><b>Welcome:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check-in question: How do you intend to celebrate Black History month?<br/>(Break out rooms)</li> </ul>  | <p>Scott Pinkham, United Indian of All Tribes Foundation and Bereket Kiros, Coalition for Immigrants, Refugees, and Communities of Color (CIRCC)</p> | <p>10:35 – 10:50</p> |
| <p><b>Guest Speaker:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report out Policy Codesign &amp; HEARCAG</li> <li>• Invitation to Food Access Now Forum (March 24th)</li> </ul>  | <p>GINNA HERNANDEZ, PHSKC</p>  | <p>10:50 – 11:10</p> |
| <p><b>HEARCAG Member Presentation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The work of the Tubman Center for Health &amp; Freedom</li> </ul>  | <p>Tiara Ranson, Tubman Center for Health &amp; Freedom</p>  | <p>11:10 – 11:35</p> |
| <p><b>Updates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislative Session</li> <li>• Foundational Public Health Services</li> <li>• Health in Partnerships Award</li> <li>• Register for March's In-person Community Convening &amp; Check-In</li> <li>• Open meeting for Announcements</li> </ul> | <p>Jennell Hicks<br/>GINNA HERNANDEZ<br/>MATIAS VALENZUELA</p>   | <p>11:35 – 12:00</p> |

## Agenda – February 2, 2026

# Check-in Question:

How do you intend to celebrate and honor Black History month?



# Policy Codesign to Improve Food Access & Promote Racial Equity

**GINNA HERNANDEZ**, Policy Analyst, PHSKC

**HEARCAG, February 5th, 2026**



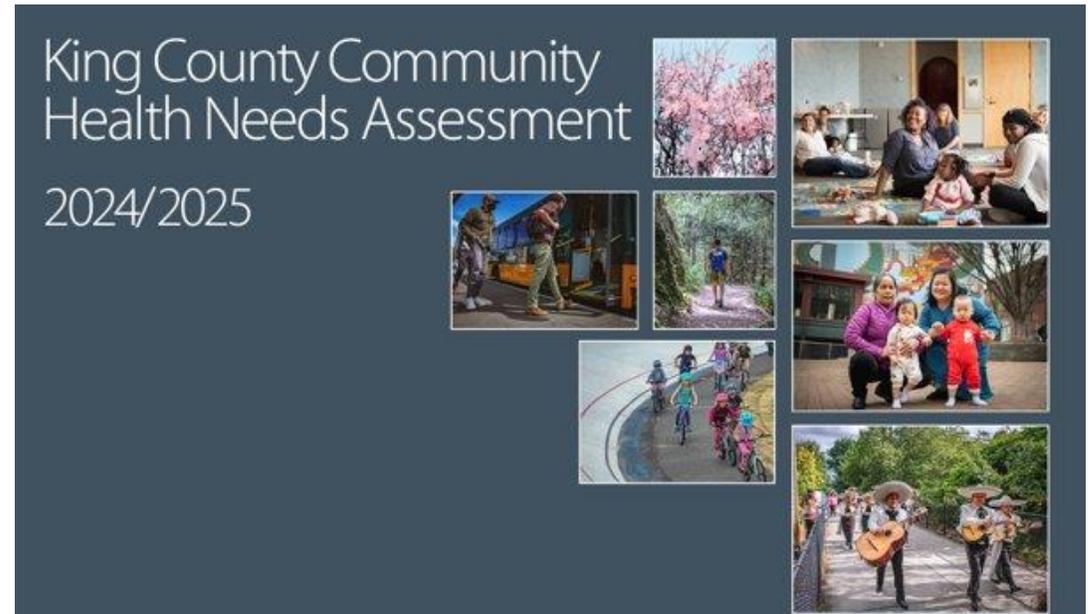
# Food Access is a Community Health Priority

**3x**  
County average

**Food insecurity** for Hispanic, Black, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander adults is nearly three times the county average

**2.5x**  
higher

For transgender adults, the rate is nearly 2.5 times higher than for cisgender adults



The King County [Community Health Needs Assessment 2024/2025](#) and Community Navigators identified food access as a priority

The codesign team  
developed **policy  
recommendations** to  
improve food access



# Recruited a Multiple Sector Codesign Team



American  
Heart  
Association®



AntiHUNGER  
& Nutrition  
COALITION

FOOD  
LIFELINE  
HUNGER DOESN'T HAVE TO HAPPEN

MEMBER OF  
FEEDING  
AMERICA



KCRHA  
King County Regional Homelessness Authority



FEEDING  
FEASIBLE  
FEASTS  
NO ONE LIES ABOUT BEING HUNGRY

solid  
ground   
Building community to end poverty



Seattle

UT PIA  
WASHINGTON



SAFEWAY 

# Additional Teams Offered Broader Perspectives



Health  
Equity Anti  
Racism  
Community  
Advisory  
Group

## Community knowledge

Consisted of grassroots organizations and people with firsthand experience. 12 members.



Food  
Systems  
Advisory  
Council

## Advisory team

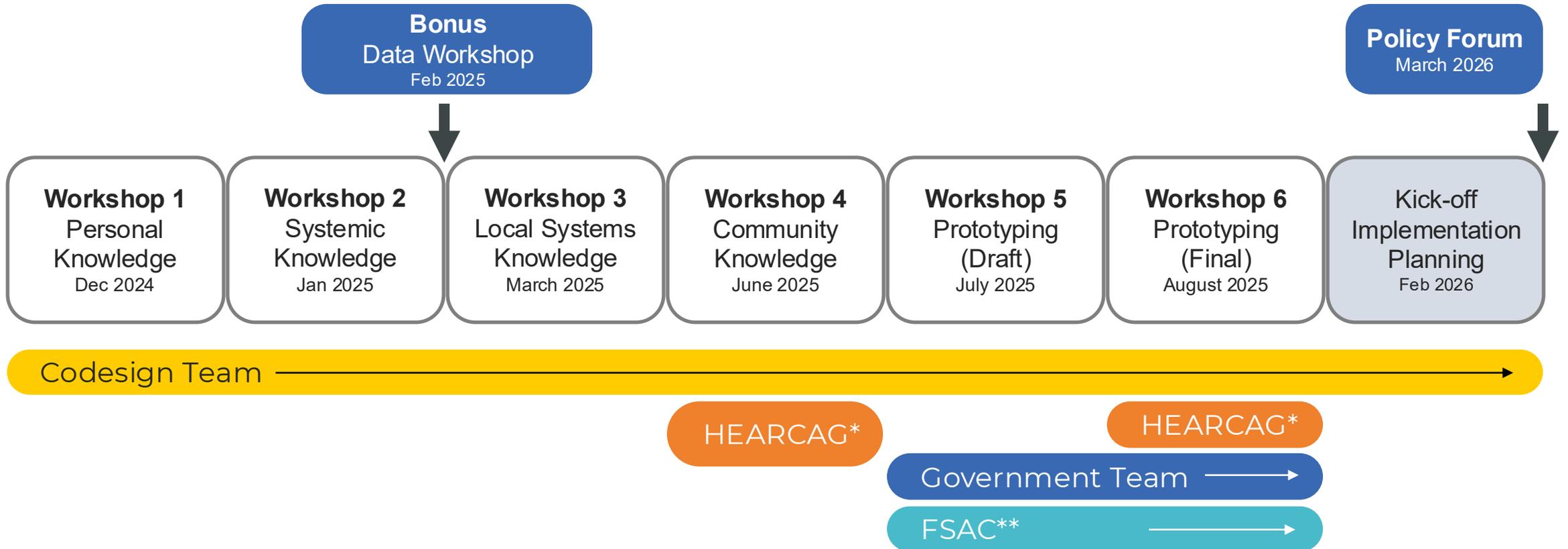
8 members from King County's Local Food Initiative Food Systems Advisory Council



Government  
Team

## Advisory team

7 King County staff members working toward better food access



\* HEARCAG: Health Equity and Anti-Racism Community Advisory Group

\*\* FSAC: Food System Advisory Council

- Developed three policy strategies based on the policy principles



### **Guaranteed Basic Income**

Guaranteed cash payments to people meeting certain eligibility requirements to buy what they need most



### **Countywide Produce Subsidy**

Expand and enhance an existing program that provides \$60 monthly benefits for fruits and vegetables



### **Healthy Food Retail in Low-Income Areas**

Support grocery stores in underserved areas to ensure neighbors have places to buy nutritious foods.

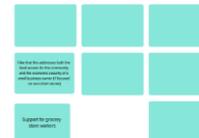


# What Codesign members heard from HEARCAG

- People-centered approaches give individuals sovereignty
- Food goes beyond affordability: there are barriers to physical access
- Address the structural causes of food access barriers in vulnerable populations (rent eats first)
- Support models that have been proven effective in prior use cases in supporting families equitably

Imagine a future state: how could this strategy improve or be harmful to the community you work for?

What about this idea are you excited about?  
What are the benefits?



What about this idea makes you concerned?  
What could be unintended consequences?



Is there anything else that you want the codesign team to consider about this idea?



# Recommended Policy: Countywide Produce Subsidy

- Recognizes the success of the Fresh Bucks program
- Builds on an already supported and widely recognized model
- Offers opportunities to expand the network of participating retailers
- Serves as a local response to recent SNAP cuts
- Closest to giving people cash

## ELECTRONIC MONTHLY CASH BENEFIT SPECIFICALLY FOR PURCHASING FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

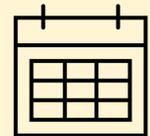


# Invitation to: Food Insecurity Forum (Eventbrite)

- Host a food insecurity policy forum to raise awareness, collect feedback and build momentum around policy funding and community strategies to improve food access.



- “Food Access Now: Advancing Local Solutions to Food Insecurity” is **scheduled** for March 24, 2026, at Highline College.



**Tiara Ranson**

**Tubman Center for Health and  
Freedom**

# Updates & Reminders



# Legislative Session:

Public Health staff have reviewed over 200 bills and provided testimony on bills for:

- Foundational Public Health Services funding (\$)
- Access to vaccines (-)
- Food Access (+) and incentivizing food retails in underserved communities (-)
- Protecting against the harms of tobacco use (\$)
- Protecting people from lead in cookware (+)
- Stable funding for abortion care (\$)
- Improved access to affordable health insurance options (-)

# Foundational Public Health Services:

- PHSKC receives about \$18m annually in FPHS funding
- FPHS faces a 38% statewide reduction
  - Multi-million-dollar annual cut for King County
- Will impact our ability to serve your communities

## **Bottom line:**

- Public Health is facing a significant structural gap
- Stabilizing Public Health's funding is a priority

# Health in Partnerships Award

## *Power-building Partnerships for Health*

- Supports our HEARCAG policy work: Budget and Community Power
- \$25,000 in flexible funding for community power-building
- Peer learning: Ten virtual sessions and in-person gatherings for shared learning, relationship-centered networking, and leadership development
- Site-specific coaching and technical assistance
- Monthly site meetings and up to 20 hours of direct TA support
- Dedicated time for relationship-building

HEARCAG Team: Yordanos, Kalika, Bereket, Tiara, Malahat, Matias, Jennell, Malahat

# Register for Community Convening & Check-In:

- March 26th in-person: [tinyurl.com/hearcagmar26](https://tinyurl.com/hearcagmar26)
- Tukwila Community Center
- Invite folks from community for networking hour
- Present brown paper around budget