

Overview – 2026 HCHN Needs Assessment Activities

HCHN Governance Council Briefing
January 2026

Public Health
Seattle & King County



What are our needs assessment focus areas for 2026?

- Homelessness in King County changing rapidly, increasing scale & complexity of community needs
- Factors include federal funding shifts, an aging population, economic instability, global conflict, food insecurity, and climate-related impacts
- To respond effectively, HCHN is conducting multiple targeted needs assessment activities to better understand gaps & opportunities, guide strategic prioritization, inform partners and policymakers, and support more effective use of available resources
 - Alignment with 2025-2027 GC Strategic Priorities
- Goal= proactively align services, partnerships, and investments to meet evolving community needs as effectively as possible

Impacts of Gun Violence

- Aligns with GC interest to support gun violence prevention work
- The [WA State Lived Experience Coalition \(LEC\)](#) is a community-led organization uplifting the voices & needs of people experiencing homelessness
- LEC received a grant, **Survive To Thrive Community Action Hub**, to explore the factors driving gun violence, particularly among Black, Brown, Indigenous, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (BBI-NHPI) males, youth, and adults & those impacted by systemic violence/incarceration in King/Pierce Counties
- Goal= examine how systemic racism and service fragmentation contribute to this growing crisis and how community-led interventions can address disparities
- HCHN is participating as a system partner providing guidance and data, with the goal of better understanding the intersection of gun violence and homelessness

Health Care Needs of Residents in Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

- Aligns with GC strategic priority regarding supports for older adults
- Challenge= many individuals living in PSH have aged in place or are experiencing chronic health conditions that limit their ability to manage activities of daily living (ADLs)
- In addition, many PSH buildings are aging and require ongoing maintenance, but funding for new housing development/building maintenance remains limited
- Goal= better understand the needs of individuals who are housed but continue to struggle to meet their basic needs & identify ways to better support providers and explore more tailored care models, such as in-home services or alternative supportive care approaches
- HCHN is partnering with a University of Washington School of Public Health graduate student to conduct surveys in person at estimated 5-6 permanent supportive housing buildings

Emergency Shelter/Discharge Options

- Aligns with GC strategic priority regarding Respite expansion
- Challenge= referring individuals to shelter after they exit the Medical Respite program (shared experience of hospitals across the county, including the HCHN Street Medicine team)
- Shelter system has changed significantly since the COVID-19 pandemic – we learned that congregate shelter models were ineffective in many ways, which led the county to transition rapidly, without sufficient strategic planning for interim solutions
- As a result, gaps now exist for individuals who need shelter while managing serious illnesses, such as cancer and other chronic health conditions
- Goal= work with Medical Respite leadership to highlight these gaps & convene partners across King County, KCRHA, and the City of Seattle to collaboratively identify sustainable, long-term solutions to this ongoing challenge
 - Also partnering with a University of Washington School of Public Health graduate student who will analyze respite service and discharge data

Supports for Refugees/Immigrants/Asylum Seekers

- Aligns with GC strategic priority regarding invisible homelessness
- HCHN conducted a comprehensive assessment in 2025 to better understand the needs of refugee and asylum-seeking communities—particularly considering major federal policy changes
- Assessment has been completed, findings were shared with community partners, & abstract summarizing work was accepted for the 2026 NHCHC Conference
- Next steps= presenting results to the Community Health Services (CHS) Leadership Team in February, and closely monitoring how the incoming County Executive/new City of Seattle Mayor address these ongoing challenges
- Goal= build upon this baseline assessment through ongoing, consistent evaluation to ensure our work remains responsive to the evolving needs of refugee and asylum-seeking populations

Other Projects in Progress

- Street Medicine Team & REACH Markham Building evaluation – analyzing health needs, services provided, and outcomes of shared clients
- Collaboration with [One Health Clinic](#) – received grant to build capacity and expand “One Health” model, where human health clinicians and veterinarians work side-by-side to treat the human-animal unit, to new sites

Debrief Patient Satisfaction/ Grievance & Next Steps

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Overall Feedback – Strengths & Opportunities

Patient Satisfaction

Patient Grievance

Strategies for the GC and/or CAG to hear client experience directly

1. Membership recruitment – post flyers about the GC and CAG at our clinics/sites & in the community, address barriers to participation
2. Strengthen connections with contractors – engage directly with providers as part of HCHN Program Spotlights
3. Share ideas/best practices - attend/present at HCHN provider and community gatherings (i.e. Annual Gathering)
4. Others?