

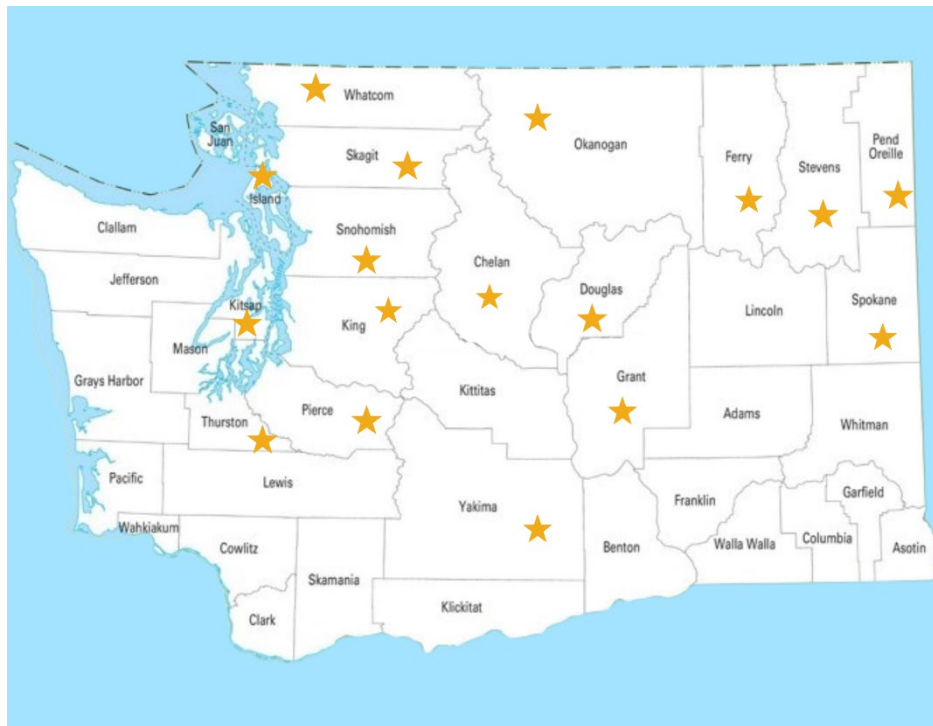
Lock It Up Program Expansion 2024-2025 Midstream Successes

Overview

Public Health – Seattle & King County’s (PHSKC) [Lock It Up program](#) promotes safe firearm storage to improve family and community safety in Washington. Funded by the Washington State Department of Commerce’s Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention (OFSVP), we collaborate with local health jurisdictions across the state, community violence intervention organizations, tribal health programs, health care providers, the Veterans Administration, the Navy, and community advocates. Together, these efforts provide safe firearm storage education materials and devices to firearm owners.

Since January 2024, Lock it Up has expanded from an exclusively King County program to supporting over 30 rural and urban communities across the state. As of April 2025, Lock it Up has distributed 3,060 lockboxes and 2,370 trigger locks through collaboration with local partnerships across Washington (see figure below; counties with Lock it Up partners are marked with a star).

Current funding concludes **on June 30, 2025**.



Map of Lock it Up Washington State device distribution partners as of April 2025

Key Achievements

Strong Collaboration and Relationships

The Lock it Up program has significantly boosted local collaboration, fostering new relationships among public agencies, community groups, local health jurisdictions, and organizations. PHSKC’s involvement has also bolstered local credibility for LHJs.

- Partners shared that the program helped them gain access to new spaces for prevention education like schools, police and fire departments, the Navy, and community centers.
- Local collaborations created opportunities to engage new audiences at local firearm safety events.

Partner feedback highlights:

- *“Having visible partners gives us more credibility. When someone asks, ‘Where did these locks come from?’ we can smile and say, ‘Public Health Seattle and King County and the Alliance for Gun Responsibility.’” – Thurston Gun Sense*
- *“The event drew people from throughout the community — hunters, concerned parents, health care providers, law enforcement officers, and people who said they’d never owned a gun and don’t intend to acquire one.” – March 26th Methow Valley News [article](#) on event in Winthrop, WA*
- *“We are also working with the Sheriff’s office and local gun clubs to see if there is opportunity there. The sheriff citizen patrol staff distributes CPLs, and they are interested in collaborating with us.” – Island County Public Health*



Partners from the Snohomish County Health Department distributing our devices at the Tulalip Environmental Resource Fair

Access to Free Safety Devices



Partners from Community Passageways distributing our devices at a Gun Violence Awareness Day event in Kent

Lock It Up excels at reducing barriers by providing free high-quality safety devices, often unaffordable or inaccessible in many communities.

Partner feedback highlights:

- *“It is one thing to tell people to lock up their guns, it is a completely different thing to provide them with the tools they need to be successful in doing so.” – Thurston Gun Sense*
- *“Several people asked if they could take extras for friends or family — people were calling and picking up for others in their community.” – Neighborhood House High Point (King County)*
- *“Gun lock boxes and trigger locks — went fast! There was a need for them and people wanted them.”- Kitsap Public Health*

This access has created a ripple effect, fostering behavior change and extending safety devices into more homes.

Training and Support from PHSKC

The PHSKC team has been instrumental in ensuring success through thorough training and ongoing support. Partners feel well-prepared to distribute devices, conduct their own training sessions, and address community concerns.

Partner feedback highlights:

- *“The training was thorough and helped guide our efforts to maximize community impact.” – Chelan-Douglas Health District*
- *“Karyn and Adriane from PHSKC went above and beyond with virtual training, FAQs, and consistent check-ins” – Safe and Sane Skagit*
- *“Adriane and Karyn have been incredibly supportive. The materials arrived quickly, and they checked in consistently to make sure everything went smoothly.” – Snohomish County Health Department*

Focus on Encouraging Safer Behaviors

The Lock It Up program takes a harm reduction approach to firearms, emphasizing personal choice and reducing risks. Securely storing firearms reduces the harms associated with gun ownership.

This approach builds trust, particularly in communities with high gun ownership or skepticism toward public health.

Partner feedback highlights:

- *“Now our answers revolve around being a responsible gun owner. Safe storage is the keystone to opening the conversation.” – Safe and Sane Skagit*
- *“Promoting firearm safety is a complicated affair. We received several comments of pleasant surprise that our agency was taking the approach of harm reduction/firearm safety instead of simply working against firearm ownership.” – Alliance for Gun Responsibility*



Partners from the Grant County Health District holding a multilingual distribution in Moses Lake

Summary

PHSKC’s Lock It Up program’s statewide expansion demonstrates how local health jurisdictions can collaborate and partner with diverse communities respectfully and effectively statewide. In our first year, the program has built trust, forged lasting partnerships, distributed 5,430 safety devices, and encouraged open dialogue about firearm safety. With continued support, Lock It Up is poised to grow, save lives, and make an even greater impact in the future.

Contact: Karyn Brownson, Community Safety Manager, karyn.brownson@kingcounty.gov or 206-477-7755