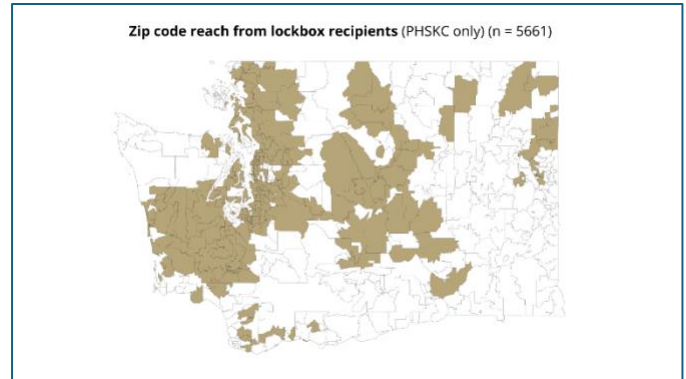


Lock It Up Program Expansion 2024-2025 Review

Overview

Public Health – Seattle & King County’s Lock It Up program promotes safe firearm storage to protect families and communities across Washington, in partnership with the Washington State Department of Commerce’s Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention. This program works with partners from many sectors to provide education and distribute safe storage devices. Through these partnerships, 77% of devices purchased under this funding were distributed outside King County. Investing in King County amplifies this impact because there is current infrastructure in place to gather resources, coordinate partners, and share them statewide, helping gun owners take action for community safety.

Since January 2024, Lock it Up has supported over 30 rural and urban communities across the state. As of June 2025, Lock it Up has distributed 4,086 lockboxes and 2,495 trigger locks, for a total of 6,581 safety devices through collaboration with local partnerships across Washington.



Lockbox recipients reached across Washington zip codes through PHSKC-led distribution (n = 5,661). This map illustrates the program’s broad geographic impact and the strength of local partnerships.

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:

- *“I feel like the project team at PHSKC really focused on leveraging existing relationships to get the supplies to where they were needed most in the community. They took time to build relationships with me and our team and we were able to connect them with many other partners in Pierce County.” – Imagine Justice Project*
- *“Two dozen people attended the workshop at the Winthrop Public Library. 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.” – Methow Valley News article about a giveaway event in Winthrop*
- *“Having community partners be the ones to hand out devices and information is definitely the most effective way to do this kind of program. Our local fire department was a great partner for this.” – Kitsap Public Health*
- *It was super helpful to allow us to adapt the Lock It Up brochure specifically for our community. We were able to make it more culturally relevant and get them branded by trusted community partners. – Spokane Regional Health District*



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

Access to Free Safety Devices

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*
- *“Gun lock boxes and trigger locks — went fast! There was a need for them and people wanted them.”- Kitsap Public Health*



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

Building Trust Through Training and Harm Reduction

PHSKC’s Lock It Up program supports partners with thorough training, ongoing guidance, and a harm reduction approach to firearm safety. This combination ensures partners feel confident distributing devices and engaging communities, especially in areas with high gun ownership or skepticism toward public health. By emphasizing personal choice and safe storage as the cornerstone of responsible gun ownership, the program builds trust and encourages safer behaviors.

Partner feedback highlights:



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

- *“The training was thorough and helped guide our efforts to maximize community impact.” – Chelan-Douglas Health District*
- *“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

Summary

PHSKC’s Lock It Up program shows how local health jurisdictions can effectively partner with diverse communities statewide. In its first year, the program built trust, distributed 6,581 safety devices, and encouraged open conversations about firearm safety. With continued funding, we aim to deepen partnerships with marginalized communities, including youth programs and tribal agencies, and expand outreach to Southeast and Southwest Washington and additional youth-serving organizations to save lives and strengthen community safety.



Partners from Safe and Sane Skagit distributing our devices with the Police Department

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