

KING COUNTY JOBS & HOUSING PROGRAM

2022 Program Summary



OVERVIEW

The King County Jobs & Housing Program connects people experiencing homelessness to subsidized employment, housing, and career services to help them permanently exit the homelessness system. King County established this program in 2021 to combat the region's homelessness crisis using American Rescue Plan funds.

THE JOBS & HOUSING PROGRAM PROVIDES:

- **Subsidized jobs** for up to one year, including employment at King County agencies and with community partners
- **Housing subsidies** for up to one year, utilizing King County's rapid rehousing services and guidelines
- **Career services** to all program participants to address current employment barriers and plan for future jobs

BY THE NUMBERS



303 people have participated in the program as of December 31, 2022.



\$13.9 million has been invested in community partners with a goal of helping participants find their own housing and stable employment.



87 participants have moved into their own housing, and **another 88** have entered stable housing with community partners.



14 organizations have partnered with Jobs & Housing to provide expanded employment opportunities.



63 percent of program participants identify as BIPOC, and **73 percent** identify as male.

2022 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Jobs & Housing Program works to ensure that each program participant is connected to permanent housing. In 2022, **87 program participants moved into their own housing**. Most of these individuals were connected to rapid rehousing support through Jobs & Housing partners Catholic Community Services, Wellspring, and Neighborhood House. **Another 88 secured stable housing**.



All program participants receive **career support** to address employment barriers, such as drivers licensing and fees, and help them transition into permanent jobs. Depending on their host agency, program participants may also receive industry-focused training, including flagger certification, light manufacturing, construction, and culinary skills.



Jobs & Housing expanded its employment and housing services to more individuals experiencing homelessness in 2022 by investing in **new community partners** who have connected program participants with a variety of training and career opportunities. Partners include Intercultural Community and Family Services, Weld Seattle, and FareStart.

Five **King County agencies are working with Jobs & Housing participants**, including Parks, Local Services, Regional Animal Services, Water and Land Resources, and Elections.

An evaluation by the **University of Washington's Evans Policy Innovation Collaborative** is underway to assess program **impacts to participants and offer recommendations for improvement**.

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SUCCESS STORIES

Gus enjoys his employment at King County Parks and recently became a permanent employee. Not only does his new job give him an opportunity to work outdoors and learn more about forestry, County employment enabled him to **secure an apartment and needed healthcare for his special needs child.**



Trevor, who was incarcerated at a young age in 2004, has been successfully employed at Seadrumar Recycling since his release in 2022. Trevor is an **excellent worker**, has **great attendance**, and is **well-liked by his co-workers and supervisors**. He continues to succeed.

Oliver joined Parks last spring and is interested in becoming a commercial truck driver. He is starting a weekend program to **train for and acquire a Commercial Driver's License**. Since there is significant demand for these well-compensated positions, the future is promising for Oliver and his family.



When George, age 48, entered the Jobs & Housing Program, he was sleeping in a church basement and was in **recovery from a substance use disorder** for the first time in his life. George was accepted into Weld Housing and continues to be **a successful member of the housing program**, which requires members to engage in recovery mentorship, recovery meetings, and accountability meetings with the group in the house. George was **permanently hired** into a position making \$23 per hour.

"I love the job I am privileged to show up for each morning, and have the joy of tending directly to the needs of my family, and what could be better than that?"

- Program participant

**Participants' names have been changed to protect their privacy.*

OUR WORK IN ACTION

Jobs & Housing Program participants were a vital part of the King County Elections team in the November 2022 General Election. They played an important role in preparing for Election Day and verifying and processing the ballots returned by King County voters. Participants worked long hours; trained and worked in workgroups across the organization; gained valuable experience; and helped facilitate another successful election for nearly 1.4 million voters during a time of unprecedented election observer interest. Over 900,000 ballots were returned in the November election.



SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF THEIR WORK INCLUDE:

Providing customer service at Vote Centers throughout the county. All Vote Centers were busy registering new voters, issuing replacement ballots, and helping voters with disabilities use assistive voting devices.

Serving as closing captains at ballot drop boxes on election night. They ensured drop boxes closed promptly at 8 p.m., and all laws and procedures were followed.

Performing ballot processing functions from start to finish. They were engaged with every step of the process and were happy to be trained in new tasks and take on new work.

“We have been so grateful to have the King County Elections (KCE) Jobs & Housing Program participants as members of our team. Their work on updating signatures has helped tens of thousands of voters update their records, and their willingness to jump into other areas of work has deepened their connection to our team and our mission at KCE of conducting accurate, secure, and accessible elections.”

- Eric Jenson, King County Elections