

King County

Veterans, Seniors & Human Services Levy

Renewal Planning Update

July 10th, 2023

Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy (VSHSL)

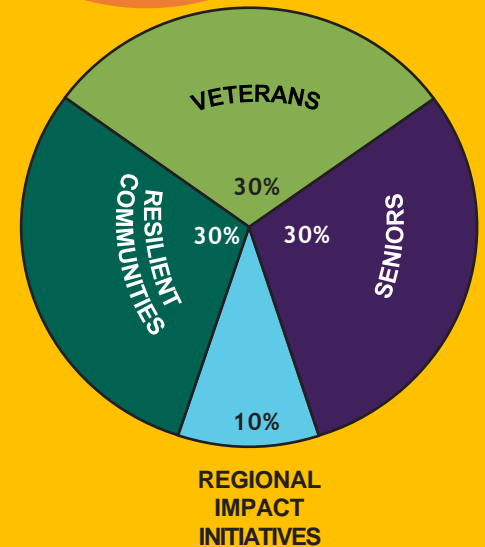
10¢
per \$1,000 of
assessed value

+\$17
based on
estimated 2024
home values

King County is moving forward to renew the Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy (VSHSL) for 2024-2029.

The VSHSL expires at the end of 2023. King County is asking voters to consider levy renewal on the August 2023 ballot.

**\$564
million**
over six years
(2024-2029)
to support the
communities



Investing in the people, providers, and programs that strengthen connection and build accessible communities.

About the VSHSL

Six-year property tax levy; *voter-approved 3x since 2005*

Four funding areas

1. Veterans, servicemembers and their families
2. Older adults and their caregivers
3. Other resilient communities

NEW Regional impact initiatives that affect all three populations

Five result areas:



Since 2018, the VSHSL has...



Served more than **185,000**
people, including
more than **27,000** veterans,
servicemembers, or their
families,
and more than **100,000**
seniors



Funded more than
300 programs
Led by more than **150**
community-based
organizations, a third of
which are small
organizations

- Built 1200 units of affordable housing and 198 shelter beds
- Contributed to a 40% reduction in veteran homelessness



Funded 39 senior centers across the county



Partners use the VSHSL to pivot and adapt services and programming throughout the COVID-19 pandemic

- Helped more than 260 veterans, servicemembers, and family members access more than 15,000 mental health counseling sessions



- **DVHopeline**, a countywide, 24-hour, multi-lingual, multi-modal domestic violence hotline, launches.

- First-in-the-nation pilot program houses homeless veterans.

Collaborative Case Management blends rental assistance with supportive services to help veterans secure stable housing.



- Funded 55 agencies with 675 bonuses to hire and retain critical human services staff at a time of high turnover and vacancies
- Funded mobile advocacy services for more than 1,200 survivors of gender-based violence



Measuring VSHSL Impact



Housing
Stability

80% of VSHSL Housing Stability program outcomes showed positive housing results (such as remaining housed or finding permanent housing).



Financial
Stability

66% of VSHSL Financial Stability program outcomes showed increases in financial security through employment obtainment, education enrollment, public benefit/veteran assistance, or other progress on financial goals.



Healthy
Living

76% of VSHSL Healthy Living program outcomes showed improved health and well-being.

Measuring VSHSL Impact



57% of VSHSL Social Engagement program outcomes showed reduced isolation through increased feelings of connection or increased engagement in community.



78% of VSHSL Service System Access and Improvement program outcomes showed connection to services through referral or direct service and 66% of VSHSL Gender-Based Violence program outcomes showed survivors made progress or met their self-defined goals each year.

VSHSL Renewal Community Engagement March 2022 – June 2023



- **20** community conversations
- **20** focus groups/
listening sessions
- **15+** informational presentations
- **10** open houses
- **2** Summits

If renewed, the VSHSL will:

- Fund permanent supportive housing, including veteran-specific housing



- Keep reducing veteran homelessness (40% reduction since 2018)



- Expand investments in the human services workforce



- Double current funding for senior centers



- Maintain access to counseling and mental health supports for veterans and seniors



- Deepen community-centered programming for survivors of gender-based violence

Leading in Veteran Services



SUPPORT VETERANS

Build Nation's Strongest Local Veterans Program

- The levy sustains and expands innovative partnerships and programming, comprehensive case management, and behavioral health counseling for veterans and their families and caregivers. This includes:
 - Operation of the two King County Veterans Program (KCVP) sites at Northgate and Tukwila
 - Providing mental health counseling to veterans, servicemembers and their families

Keep Reducing Veteran Homelessness

- Over the next six years, the VSHSL strives to further reduce veteran homelessness in the following ways:
 - Creating at least 70 dedicated affordable housing units for veterans, making permanent the Collaborative Case Management program, and funding housing navigators to assist people in their affordable housing search.



Doubling Investments for Seniors



EXPAND ACCESSIBILITY FOR SENIORS

Double Funding for Senior Centers

- The levy will reinforce senior services that made a difference in the pandemic, strengthen and sustain senior center programming to provide social connection, and invest in green energy improvements like heat pumps, solar panels, and air filtration that help senior centers reduce their carbon footprint, cut utility bills, and provide refuge in extreme weather.

No Workforce, No Results:

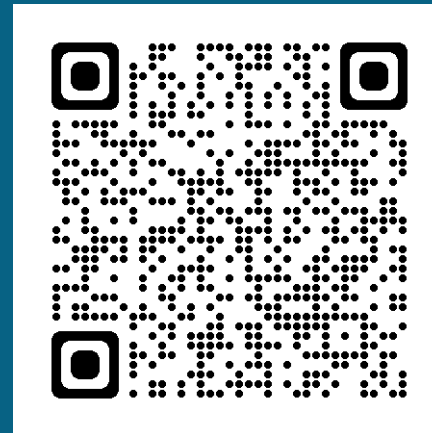
Critical Workforce Investments

STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES, BUILD RESILIENCY

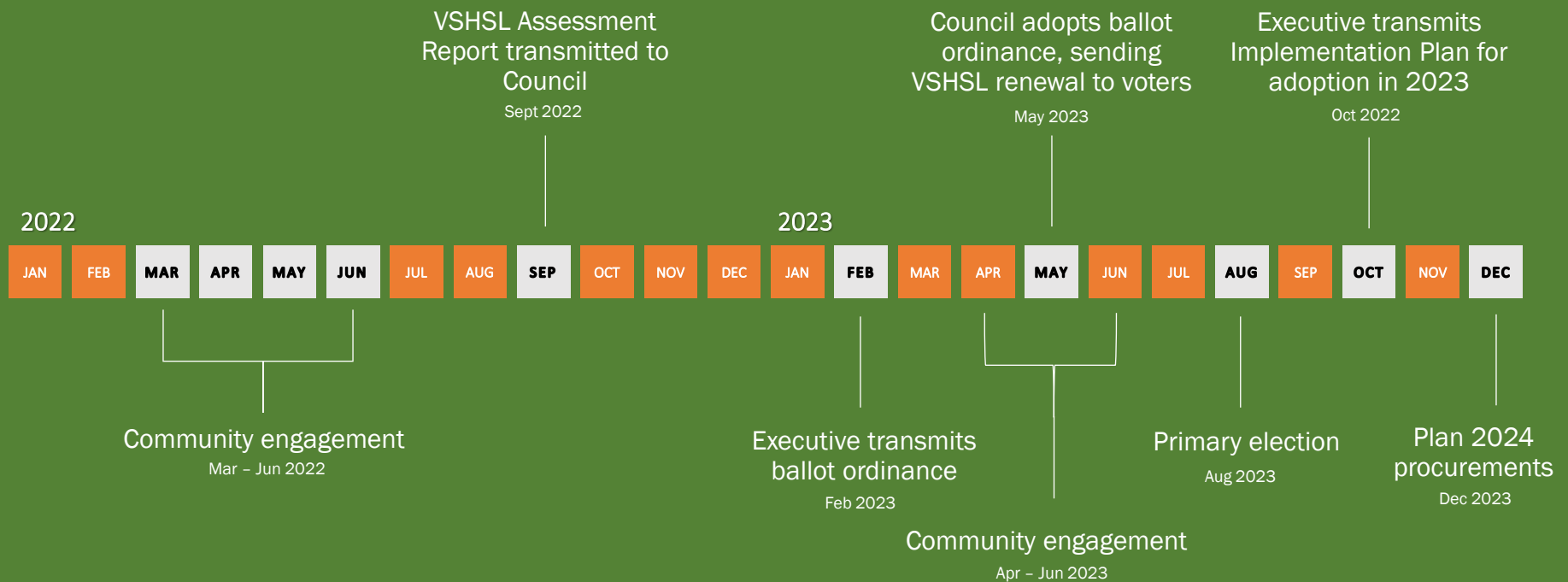
Deepen Investments in Critical Workforce

- The region's vibrancy requires an effective and sustainable human services workforce that can prevent crises and help solve them in real time. The levy plays a critical role in investing in the people who support those in need, make our communities a place where people can thrive, and ensuring human services are accessible, effective, and equitable.

Learn more about non-profit wage inadequacy: [Wage Equity Study | School of Social Work \(uw.edu\)](#)



VSHSL Renewal Timeline



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