



**KCRHA**

King County Regional Homelessness Authority

# 2024 Unsheltered PIT

Updated: 11/07/23

# 5 Year Planning Model

# 53,532 People

State administrative data indicates that in 2022, over 53,000 people experienced homelessness in King County.



# Agenda

- Background
- Overview for 2024
- Respondent Driven Sampling
- Lessons learned from 2022
- Timeline
- Hub Considerations
- Next Steps



# Background

- Point-in-Time Count (PIT) required by HUD & WA State Commerce
- Aligns with the Housing Inventory Count (HIC)
- Unsheltered PIT required every-other year
- Standard Unsheltered PIT is a street count
- Widely understood to be an undercount



# Background

- King County has been doing the PIT long before KCRHA
- KCRHA became system administrator in 2022
- Received approval from HUD for 2022 Unsheltered PIT
- New method for PIT: Respondent Driven Sampling
  - Partnered with LEC, others with Lived Experience and researchers from UW



# Background

- Street Count is an observational count at night
- Counts folks who are visibly unsheltered, pairs with survey
- Issues with this method:
  - Requires a huge number of volunteers
  - Requires a person be easily visible to include
  - Separates survey from the population counted
  - Uses blanket estimations for tents and vehicles
  - Does not work well in rural areas
  - Everyone agrees this is an undercount



# Background

- Respondent Driven Sampling (RDS) is a sampling method
- Estimates overall population from a sample
- Why we chose RDS:
  - Requires few locations and fewer volunteers
  - Peer recruitment allows engagement with hard-to-reach populations
  - Direct surveying of the sample
  - Estimation is based on peer connections and participant information
  - Works well in urban, suburban and rural areas
  - Established method used by reputable scientific institutions: WHO, CDC



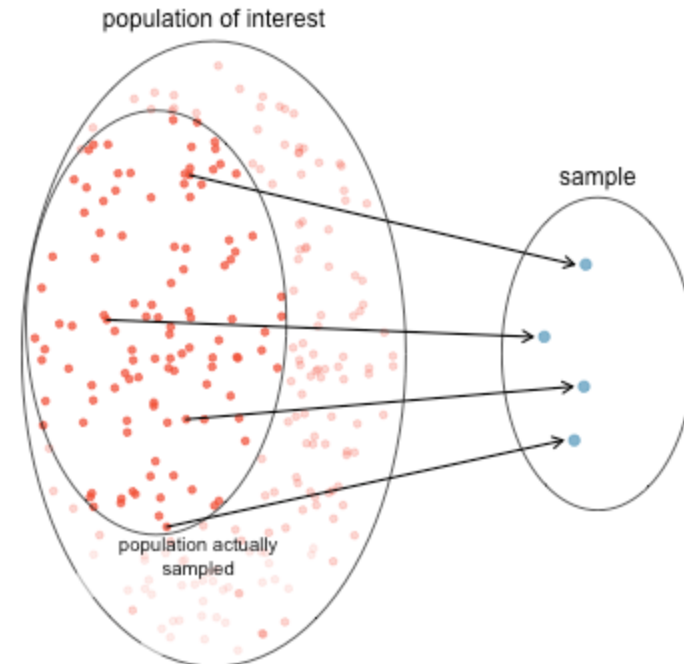
# Overview of 2024

- Planning is well underway
- Respondent Driven Sampling (RDS)
- No qualitative data collection
- Build from lessons learned in 2022
- Partner with University of Washington
  - Data Sharing Agreement
  - Institutional Review Board (IRB)
  - Peer Review of Results



# Respondent Driven Sampling

- RDS is both a sampling strategy and set of statistical estimators
- Able to go from small sample to population estimate
- Measuring hard to reach populations
- Has two parts:
  - Data collection (sampling)
  - Data analysis (statistical estimation)



# RDS: Data Collection

- Staff hub locations from January 22 – Feb 2
  - Most surveys completed here
- Start “seeds” with street outreach on January 22
  - Partnering with providers
- Provide first respondent with three “coupons”
- Respondent gives those to people they know (“wave 1”)
- Those people come to hub with coupon to be surveyed
- Wave 1 folks are given three new coupons to give to wave 2



# RDS: Data Collection

First Interview – in the field



Surveyors

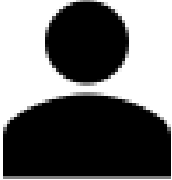


Seed  
participant

- Ask person to complete survey
- Complete survey on tablet
- Give coupons packet to participant
- Ask participant to distribute coupons
- Provide compensation

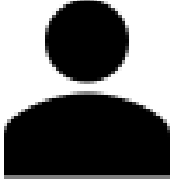
# RDS: Data Collection

Give Coupons to Network

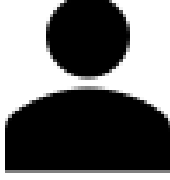


Seed  
participant

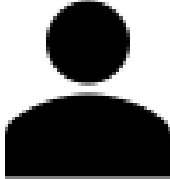
- Give coupon to three people they know



Wave 1  
participant



Wave 1  
participant



Wave 1  
participant

# RDS: Data Collection

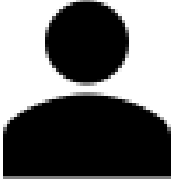
## Hub Interview



- Wave 1 participant comes to hub
- Complete survey tablet
- Give coupons packet to participant
- Ask participant to distribute coupons
- Provide compensation to Wave 1
- Provide additional comp to Seed

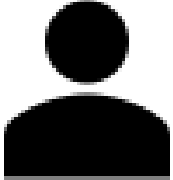
# RDS: Data Collection

Give Coupons to Network

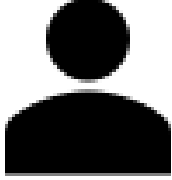


Wave 1  
participant

- Give coupon to three people they know



Wave 2  
participant



Wave 2  
participant



Wave 2  
participant

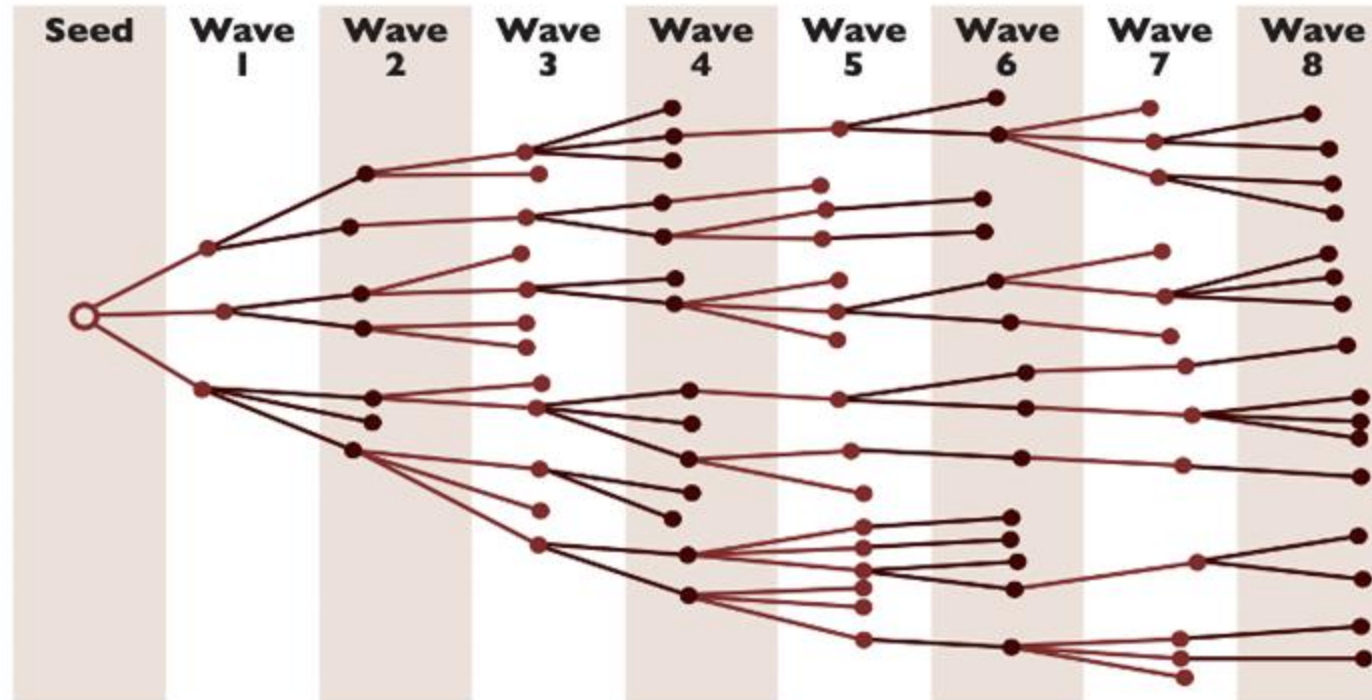
# RDS: Data Collection

## Hub Interview



- Wave 2 participant comes to hub
- Complete survey on tablet
- Give coupons packet to participant
- Ask participant to distribute coupons
- Provide compensation to Wave 2
- Provide additional comp to Wave 1

# RDS: Data Collection

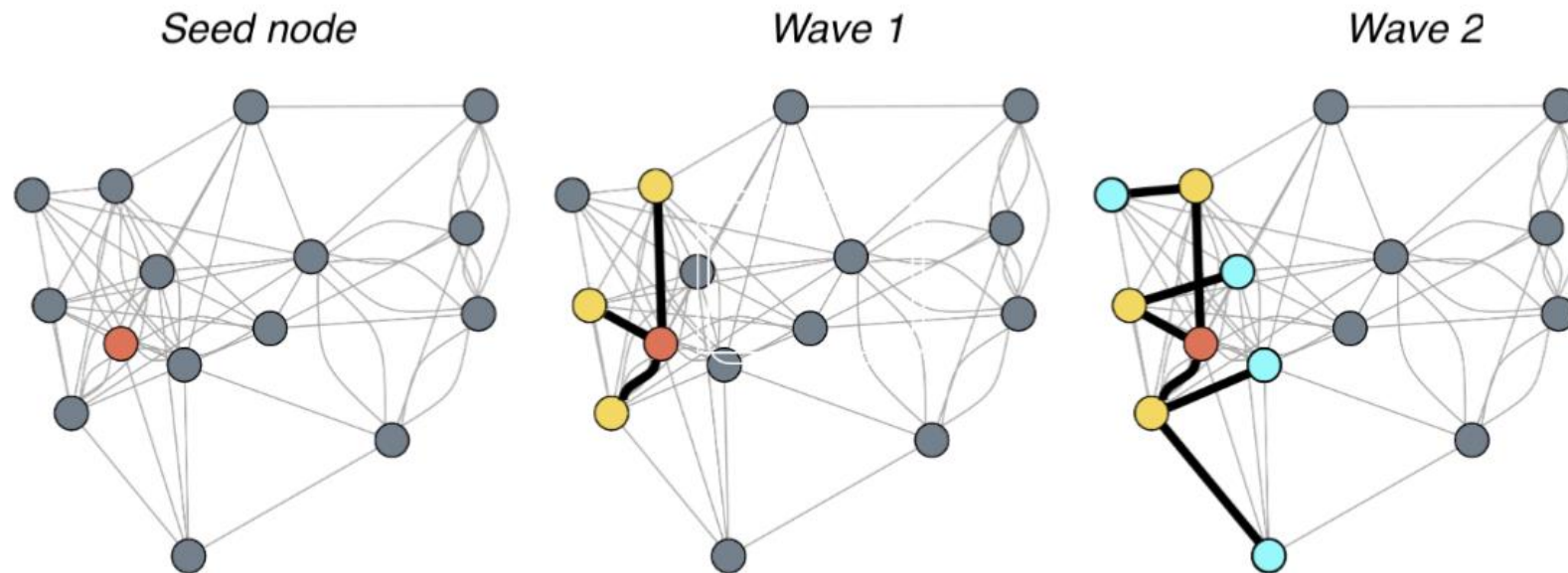


**Figure 1.1** Recruitment chain of eight waves generated from one seed

Source: Johnston LG, Sabin K. Sampling hard-to-reach populations with respondent driven sampling. *Methodological Innovations Online*, 2010, 5(2):38–48.

# RDS: Data Analysis

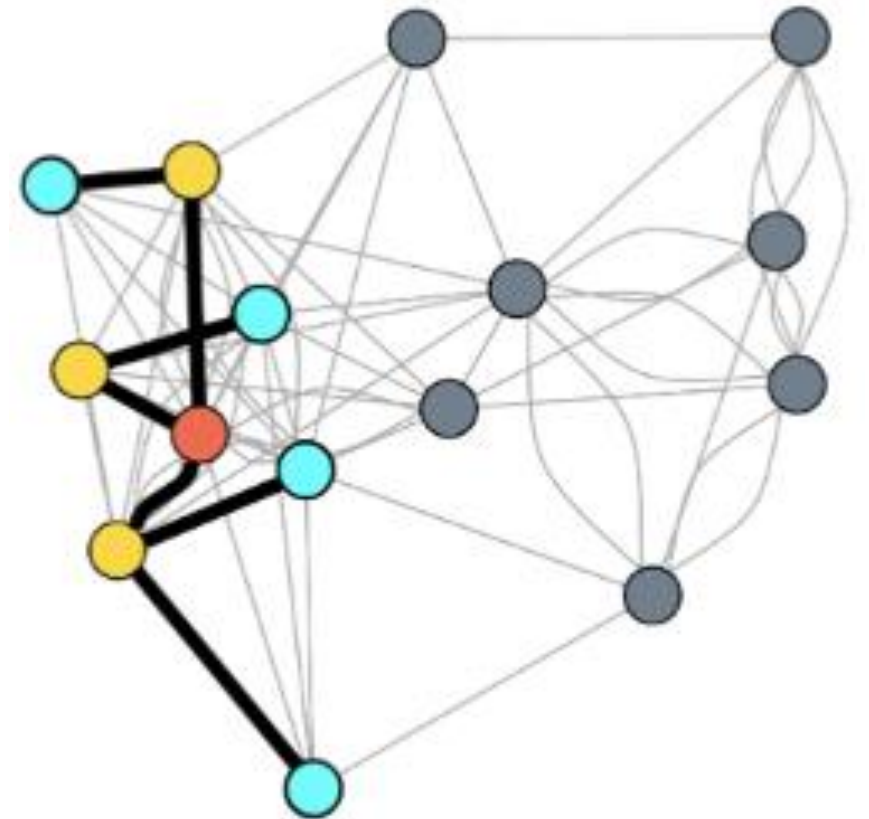
Respondent-Driven Sampling 5



**Fig. 1.** Each figure shows an entire example network. Nodes recruited in waves 1, 2 and 3 are shown in red, yellow, and light blue, respectively. Grey nodes are never recruited, and bolded paths indicate directed recruitment links. Paths that are not bolded remain unobserved to the researcher.

# RDS: Data Analysis

- **Degree ( $d$ )** is the number of people experiencing homelessness that an individual knows
- Connections in network
- Reported number of people known in survey



# RDS: Data Analysis

- Salganick-Heckathorn Estimator

$$\frac{N_u}{N} = \frac{\bar{d}_s \cdot c_{su}}{\bar{d}_u \cdot c_{us} + \bar{d}_s \cdot c_{su}} = \mu_u$$



# RDS Data Analysis

- $N_u$  - Total number of people unsheltered
- $N$  - Total population of people experiencing homelessness
- $\bar{d}_s$  - Average degree of people in shelters that night
- $\bar{d}_u$  - Average degree of people unsheltered
- $c_{su}$  - Number of cross social ties between sheltered and unsheltered
- $c_{us}$  - Number of cross social ties between unsheltered and sheltered
- $\mu_u$  - proportion of people who are unsheltered



# RDS Analysis

Algebra gets us to

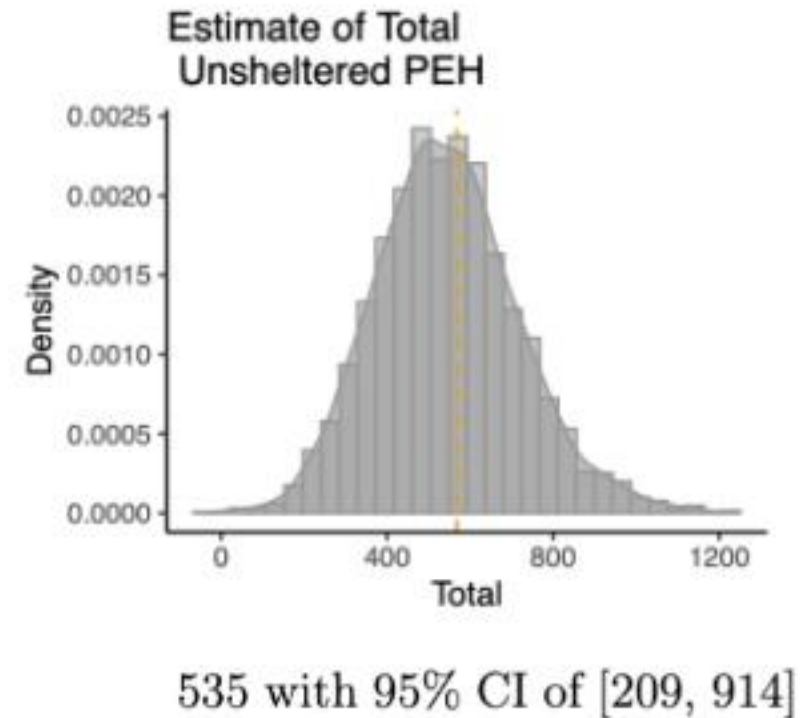
$$N_u = N_s \frac{\mu_u}{1 - \mu_u}$$

If we know number of people sheltered and proportion of the total homelessness population that is unsheltered, we can estimate the total number of people living unsheltered



# RDS Analysis

- Analysis completed many with different cuts of the network
  - e.g. Remove seed and wave 1
- Completed on demographic information, including race
- Converge on an estimate with 95% confidence interval
- Similar to how other sampling and statistical analysis works



# Lessons Learned

Received feedback that our hub locations could improve

Staffing demands were greater than anticipated

Paper forms and hand-written coupons were difficult to manage

There was not enough training for interviewers

Identifying more representative SKC hub; adding additional rural hub

Staffing plan is more robust, with clearer roles

Forms will be filled out on a tablet with surveyors; print coupons on site

Increase quantity and quality of training for all involved



# Lessons Learned

American Indian Alaska Native Community under-represented

Families with children were under-represented

We under-communicated about new methodology

Pairing the PIT and qualitative data collection required significant logistics

Change how we collect race data, collaborate with Chief Seattle Club

Pilot phone-based RDS for families with Mary's Place Intake Line

Starting communication plan early, including more detail

We will only do data gathering for the PIT this year



# Timeline

## July-September 2023:

- Planning started
- Submit methods request to HUD
- Reestablish relationship with UW

## October 2023:

- Continued planning
- Learnings from UW
- Identify hub locations
- Finalize budget

## November 2023:

- Finalize hub locations
- Finalize methodology and staffing plan
- Submit methodology to Advisory Board
- Volunteer recruitment

## January 2024:

- Finalize all logistics and supplies
- Volunteer training (completed by 12<sup>th</sup>)
- Data Collection Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> – Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>

## February 2024:

- A short break to catch our breaths
- Data validation and analysis

## March 2024:

- Data analysis complete (March 15<sup>th</sup>)

## April 2024:

- Anticipated HUD submission: April 30<sup>th</sup>



# Hub Considerations

- Continued planning engagements across KC, including:
  - Vehicle Residency Working Group
  - Seattle King County Coalition on Homelessness
  - Chief Seattle Club
  - Subregional Partners (East, South, North, Rural) with SRP
  - Veteran Operations Leadership Team
  - Mary's Place
  - Youth Providers

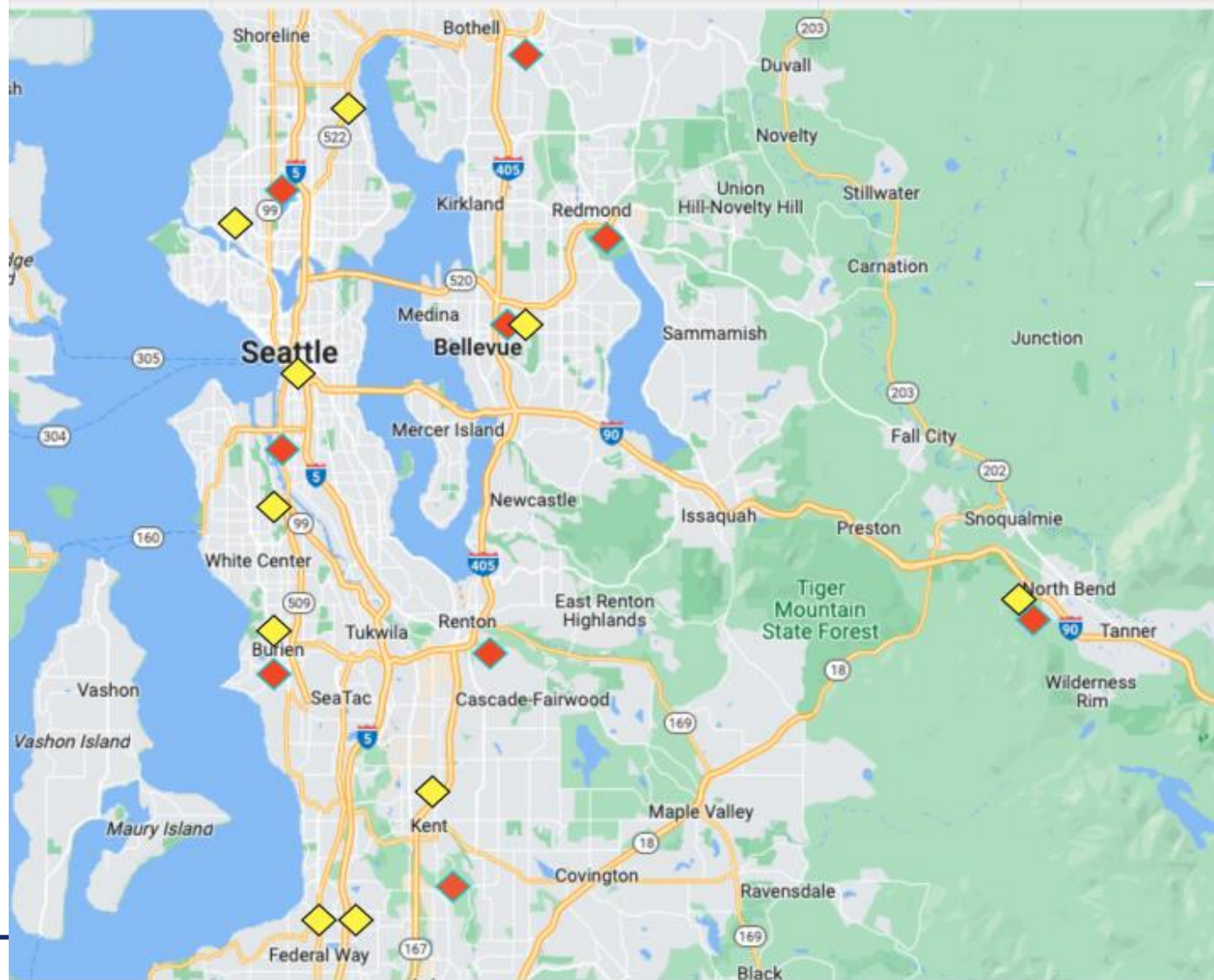


# Hub Considerations

- Hub Criteria
  - Looking for 10-12 total
  - Generate many respondents (ideally 30+)
  - May be specifically useful for a subpopulation
  - Has parking
  - Has accessible entrance and building
  - Proximity to other resources
  - Can hold 30 or so people at one time
  - Has accessible bathrooms
  - Has internet (or good hot-spot reception)



- 2023 HUB
- 2022 HUB



# Hubs Considerations

- Seattle Metro:
  - Ballard Food Bank
  - Vashon Island (short duration)
  - Georgetown St. Vincent de Paul
- Urban unincorporated:
  - Highline United Methodist Church
- North King County
  - Ronald Commons – Hope Link
- Southeast King County
  - Maple Valley Foodbank
- East King County
  - Together Center
  - Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank
- Snoqualmie Valley
  - Reclaim Day Center – River Street
  - Snoqualmie Valley Food Bank
- South King County
  - Federal Way Day Center
  - Kent Community Engagement Center
  - Arcadia Young Adult Shelter
- Pop specific
  - Seattle Veteran Center
  - Mary's Place Family Intake Line



# Next Steps

- Finalize hub locations
- Finalize methodology and staffing plan per hub
  - Some hubs may be open shorter than others
  - Staffing plan will have specialized roles
- Continue engagement with community partners
- **Recruit for hub staffing**
- Back-end logistics





# Thank you.

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