



## **Seattle-King County Continuum of Care Board**

### ***Values and Project Priorities***

The Seattle-King County Continuum of Care Board affirms the following values and prioritization considerations, anchored in love for our community, to guide the development of the FY24 Project Priority Listing:

1. Center our theory of change - If we create a homelessness response system that centers the voices of people who have lived experience of homelessness, then we will be able to focus on responding to needs and eliminating inequities, in order to end homelessness for all - in the planning, programming and evaluation of Continuum of Care services.
2. Promote our mission to significantly decrease the incidence of homelessness throughout King County, using equity and social justice principles.
3. Promote development of new permanent housing in underserved areas of King County.
4. Promote anti-violent, human-centered wellbeing and partnerships with a Housing First and Harm Reduction approach instead of further perpetuation of undue burdens such as harmful displacement, fining, and imprisonment of our unhoused neighbors.
5. Promote equitable access and service provision with an intersectional and an anti-racist approach, serving those who are historically marginalized and disproportionately impacted by the experience of homelessness in our community.<sup>1</sup>
6. Develop a culturally responsive system that embraces equity, liberation and deeply supports the importance of our unique cultural histories and collective needs.
7. Maximize our community response to homelessness including leveraging as much HUD Continuum of Care Program funding to preserve continuity of services and supports in housing for program participants.
8. Grow a proactive, accountable system through transparent and ethical practices, guided by accountability to those we serve to ensure funding is clearly and thoughtfully allocated.
9. Prioritize projects that:
  - a. Elevate the voices of people with lived and living experience as experts in the development and implementation of planning, programming, and evaluation;

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<sup>1</sup> This community includes but is not limited to: the Black, Indigenous, Pacific Islander, Latine and Asian communities; the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, Two Spirit communities (LGBTQAI2S+); the Trans community; people living with disabilities; people with foster care system involvement; the Elder community; people with carceral system involvement; people living with behavioral health conditions and substance use disorders; all immigrant and refugee communities; sex workers; and survivors of domestic violence and sex trafficking.



- b. Focus on those who are currently experiencing literal<sup>2</sup> and chronic homelessness, including those who are “experiencing trauma or lack of safety related to, or fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous, traumatic, or life-threatening conditions”.<sup>3</sup>
- c. Actively participate in the Continuum of Care through demonstrable racial equity and social justice-oriented practices that center community and are in alignment with values of community accountability, housing first, trauma-informed care, harm reduction, prevention, and whole person wellbeing through focusing on what is meaningful to the individual;
- d. Demonstrate commitment to power-sharing and deference to people with lived and living experience in organizational design and policy development processes through actions such as dedicated board seats or management positions;
- e. Advance as a collective the goals of the CoC, including addressing racial disproportionality and achieving equitable outcomes for Indigenous, Black, Pacific Islanders and other people of color, trans individuals, broader LGBTQAI2S+<sup>4</sup> communities, and people living with disabilities;
- f. Advance as a collective the goals of the CoC to support our Elder community - which is the largest growing population of those experiencing and at-risk of homelessness - to access dignified, appropriate housing to thrive as they age.
- g. Have positive outcomes, as defined by the participant, to permanent housing and subsequent stability, including economic stability, as the primary focus;
- h. Do not replace mainstream resources such as federally funded health insurance, cash benefits, and other federally funded behavioral health services;
- i. Work to connect people served by CoC-funded programs with community-based, culturally responsive<sup>5</sup> resources;
- j. Participate in the Homeless Management Information System with complete, high-quality data per both local metrics and HUD data standards;
- k. Demonstrate alignment with HUD Housing First standards<sup>6</sup> (including screening, program entry, person-centered services, and termination policies);

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<sup>2</sup> [https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/HomelessDefinition\\_RecordkeepingRequirementsandCriteria.pdf](https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/HomelessDefinition_RecordkeepingRequirementsandCriteria.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/coc-esg-virtual-binders/coc-esg-homeless-eligibility/four-categories/>; HYPERLINK "[https://nnedv.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Library\\_Policy\\_HEARTH\\_Creating\\_Access\\_for\\_Survivors.pdf](https://nnedv.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Library_Policy_HEARTH_Creating_Access_for_Survivors.pdf)" "[https://nnedv.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Library\\_Policy\\_HEARTH\\_Creating\\_Access\\_for\\_Survivors.pdf](https://nnedv.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Library_Policy_HEARTH_Creating_Access_for_Survivors.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, Two Spirit communities (LGBTQAI2S+)

<sup>5</sup> American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (n.d.). Cultural responsiveness. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Retrieved February 23, 2023, from <https://www.asha.org/practice-portal/professional-issues/cultural-responsiveness/>

<sup>6</sup> United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2016, September). *Housing First Checklist: Assessing projects and systems for a housing...* United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. Retrieved February 23, 2023, from



- I. Perform well against HUD Continuum of Care goals and positively impact local system performance and equity outcomes;
- m. Consistently meet and exceed operational standards for spending, match, occupancy, and reporting.

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[https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset\\_library/Housing\\_First\\_Checklist\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Housing_First_Checklist_FINAL.pdf);  
<https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Housing-First-Permanent-Supportive-Housing-Brief.pdf>