



King County Framework Policies for Human Services

The King County Council adopted eighteen framework policies through Ordinance No. 13629. Highlighted below are the policies that provide guidance for Current Expense and Criminal Justice Funds (CX and CJ) as they relate to the proposed Aging Services Funding Policy.

II. King County's Role in Human Services

HS-1: Regional Role---for All County Residents and Communities

King County's regional role in human services shall be to help assure access to a range of prevention, intervention, and rehabilitative human services for residents of King County regardless of jurisdiction, with emphasis on serving those most in need.

King County shall lead the development and implementation of quality, countywide human service systems for its mandated service areas, that is, for mental health services, drug and alcohol services, services for people with developmental disabilities, veteran's services, and public health services. King County shall execute this role chiefly through the mandates, guidelines, and funding provided by the State of Washington and/or the federal government.

King County, in partnership with other jurisdictions and the private sector, shall also help support other regional human service systems for persons most in need, taking into account other resources available to address those needs. Examples of such systems include, but are not limited to, youth and family services, domestic violence and sexual assault services, information and referral, basic needs, and employment services.

King County does not assume primary or sole responsibility for the governmental portion of support for regional human services systems. As part of the partnership needed to support these regional systems, each jurisdiction should provide financial support to help address the human service needs of its residents, according to locally identified priorities.

HS-2: Local Role—for Unincorporated Area Residents

King County's local role in human services shall be to help ensure that residents of unincorporated areas (both urban and rural) have access to a broad spectrum of human services,

and to provide directly for those services which are considered a “local” responsibility, as described in HS-15.

As the local government for unincorporated King County, King County recognizes that it has the sole governmental responsibility. King County supports regional human services in part to help to provide access for unincorporated residents.

III. Parameters for the Use of County Funds for Human Services

HS-13: Priorities for Use of CX/CJ for Human Services

In the use of its CX and CJ funds for human services, King County shall give priority to services which help accomplish the following:

- To help provide access to a basic array of human services for residents of unincorporated King County, according to need.
- To help assure access to a basic array of human services for persons most in need, regardless of where they live.
- To reduce the impacts on the County’s juvenile justice and adult criminal justice systems.

HS-14: CX/CJ Not to be Used in “Mandated” Services Areas

King County shall not use CX/CJ funds in mandated service areas unless the particular service falls outside the scope of the state mandate or is within the scope but is funded at a plainly insufficient level; is a high County priority; and continues to be unavailable from state and federal resources despite significant advocacy. For purposes of this policy the mandated services are: services for people with serious mental illness, substance abuse services, services for people with developmental disabilities; veteran’s services; and aging services.

HS-15: Use of CX/CJ for Certain “Local” Services Not Allowed in Incorporated Areas

For incorporated residents, King County shall not routinely use CX/CJ to fund services that are typically organized and delivered on a local basis, such as: family, youth and senior social and recreation programs targeted at the general population; local food and clothing banks; and community-specific information and referral (e.g., a local help line for a particular neighborhood or community). King County will support these kinds of programs only for residents of unincorporated areas.

King County considers all other human services to be organized on a regional or subregional basis and may elect to support them as part of fulfilling both its regional and local roles as described in HS-1. As further explained in HS-1, it is King County’s position that support for

regionally organized human services is a shared responsibility among state and local governments—including the cities of King County—and the private sector.

IV. Parameters for the Use of County Funds for Human Services

HS-17: Promoting Regional Participation in Human Services

King County shall encourage local governments and the private sector to become active in providing support for human services. King County shall promote this participation through the following practices:

- King County shall work with cities to develop understandings or agreements about who will support which services in a given area or within a particular human service system.
- Where appropriate, King County shall give funding preference to those contractors who demonstrate that they have acquired matching funds or otherwise leveraged support from other private and local government sources.

King County shall expect local services which are provided primarily for residents of unincorporated King County to seek other private or volunteer resources, but does not expect local government participation other than King County's support.