Other Benefits

King County
Benefits and Retirement Operations

Transportation

► Employee ID/Keycard/Bus Pass

If you're benefit-eligible, you receive a photo ID that can be used as a free bus pass on Metro Transit, Community Transit, Pierce Transit and Sound Transit. The photo ID can also be programmed with keycard functions for access to county facilities.

To get your photo ID/keycard/bus pass, ask your supervisor to submit an ID/Keycard Request Form to your ID/Keycard Coordinator. The form and a list of coordinators are in Public Folders/Construction & Facility Management/ID-Keycard & Forms-Bus Pass Information (in the King County e-mail system).

Your ID/Keycard Coordinator will issue you a Bus Pass Authorization Form. Take the form and a picture ID to the King County Building Services Section, ID/Access Control Unit in Room 206 on the second floor of the King County Administration Building, 500 Fourth Ave. to get your pass. Office hours are 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For more information, call 206-296-0104 (711 TTY Relay Service).

► Employee Transportation Program

The Employee Transportation Program (ETP) provides the following transportation benefits to you as an employee:

- Unlimited bus rides on Metro Transit, Community Transit, Pierce Transit and Sound Transit
- Unlimited rides on Sounder commuter rail
- $45/month vanpool fare subsidy
- Home Free Guarantee: Taxi cab rides home for emergencies up to eight times a year
- Carpool, bicycle and walk incentives: $20/month in vouchers for qualified employees who work outside downtown Seattle
- Discounted cross-sound Kitsap Transit-Washington State Ferries pass: The Kitsap Transit portion of the monthly pass is subsidized for qualified employees.

For commute assistance or more information:

- Call the ETP telephone hotline at 206-263-4575 (771 TTY Relay Service)
- E-mail ETP at emtrans@kingcounty.gov
- Go to the ETP Web site at www.metrokc.gov/employees/transportation.

Call 206-684-1556 for alternate formats.

Money Matters

► Deferred Compensation

The King County Deferred Compensation Plan (a 457 plan) is a voluntary supplemental retirement savings program that offers a convenient way to build your savings for the future while enjoying current tax breaks. The plan allows you to defer a portion of your county pay to a variety of investment options before taxes are deducted. This reduces your taxable pay, providing an immediate tax advantage.

You may withdraw your money (in a lump sum, installment payments or an annuity payment) at retirement or when you leave employment with King County. Withdrawn funds are taxed, but ideally after you've retired and your income and tax liability are less!

You can enroll any time as a benefit-eligible employee. Please note that it may take up to 60 days after enrollment to process the first payroll deduction. For more information:

- Contact T. Rowe Price, the plan administrator:
  - Call 1-888-457-5770 (711 TTY Relay Service)
  - Go to http://rps.troweprice.com/kingcounty/retirementplan/index.html
- Attend a quarterly deferred compensation plan seminar (go to www.metrokc.gov/finance/benefits and click the "Deferred Compensation" link).

► Credit Unions

Credit unions are nonprofit financial cooperatives that provide cost advantages, such as lower loan rates, over traditional banks. As a King County employee, you (and members of your family) are eligible for membership in the credit unions listed below. Employees may request their paychecks to be automatically deposited in a credit union account.

- Prevail Credit Union
  Call 1-800-248-6928 (711 TTY Relay Service)
  Go to www.prevailcu.com

- Qualstar Credit Union
  Call 1-800-848-0018 (711 TTY Relay Service)
  Go to www.qualstarcu.com

► Savings Bonds

U.S. Savings Bonds are a safe way to save and they make great gifts for young persons! You may purchase savings bonds in your name or that of a designee through payroll deductions of as little as $5 per paycheck, and you can start, stop or change your deductions at any time.

For more information about savings bonds, go to www.savingsbonds.gov. To start saving:

- Call 206-684-2066 (711 TTY Relay Service) if you're paid the 5th and 20th of each month
- Call 206-684-1098 (711 TTY Relay Service) if you're paid every other Thursday.

Work and Family

► Making Life Easier Program

The Making Life Easier Program offers free and confidential personal counseling services (24 hours a day, seven days a week) to you, your dependent family members (whether home or away) and anyone living in your household:

- Up to eight personal counseling sessions with a professional counselor
- Advice on issues ranging from family relationships to substance abuse
- Credit and legal consultation, including up to 30 minutes of free consultation with an attorney
- Child care resource and referral
- Adult and elder care.

For more information:

- Call 1-888-874-7290 24 hours a day, seven days a week (711 TTY Relay Service)
- Go to www.metrokc.gov/employees/eap/default.aspx.

► King County Home Ownership Program

The Making Life Easier Program collaborates with a local mortgage company to offer you a range of homebuying services if you're purchasing/refinancing and occupying a home within King County:

- Free home-buying classes
- Individual consultation
- Flexible loan qualifying standards
- Reduced loan fees (including no-fee loan approval and reduced closing costs)
- Expedited loan processing
- Extended hours of service.

For more information, call 1-888-656-1733 (711 TTY Relay Service) or visit the Web site at www.kchop.net.

► Mildly Ill Child Care

The Making Life Easier Program contracts with Virginia Mason's Tender Loving Care (TLC) Program to provide free child care for mildly ill children, ages 12 months to 12 years. TLC is located at the Children's Center on the ninth floor of the Lindeman Pavilion at 1201 Terry Ave. in downtown Seattle), and is open weekdays 6:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. There is a one-time $20 fee, payable upon the first visit. After the first visit, the benefit is covered at 100 percent. For more information:

- Call 206-583-6521 (711 TTY Relay Service)
- Go to www.virginiamason.org/tlc.

Training and Career Development

Talk to your supervisor about the technical training offered within your department and available from these other county resources.

► Professional Training

Training and Organization Development (Human Resources Division/Department of Executive Services) offers classes to improve your individual, work team and organizational performance.

- Call 206-684-2044 (711 TTY Relay Service)
- E-mail ohrmtraining@metrokc.gov
- Go to http://ohrm.metrokc.gov/training/index.htm (intranet).

► Safety Training

Safety and Claims (Human Resources Division/Department of Executive Services) offers safety training ranging from first aid and CPR to defensive driving.

- Call 206-205-5661 (711 TTY Relay Service)
- Go to http://ohrm.metrokc.gov/safety/training/training.htm (intranet).

► Career and Employment Center

The Center, located on the first floor of the King Street Center at 201 S. Jackson St. in downtown Seattle, offers Internet access and resources to assist you with furthering your career and employment goals:

- Skill and career assessment
- Ideas for better resume writing and job interviews
- Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint and keyboarding tutorial programs.
- Center hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday, but hours may vary. Contact the Center before you visit:
- Call 206-263-6484 (711 TTY Relay Service)
- E-mail career-center@metrokc.gov
- Go to http://dot.metrokc.gov/jobs/center/ (intranet).

► Employment opportunities

With over 13,000 employees, King County offers a variety of employment opportunities. Most job positions are open to the general public, but some are exclusive and open only to current employees. Talk to the human resources group in your department or contact Personnel Services (Human Resources Division/Department of Executive Services):

- Call 206-296-7586 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday (711 TTY Relay Service)
  206-205-8782 Job Request Hotline 24 hours a day, seven days a week (711 TTY Relay Service)
- E-mail hrcentral@metrokc.gov
- Go to www.metrokc.gov/ohrm/jobs/index.htm.