



Kitsap County Housing and  
Homelessness Division

# Annual Report 2021



# Division Overview

## Mission and Vision

The Housing and Homelessness Division works to reduce Kitsap homelessness and to support and increase affordable housing through implementation of state legislation and local policies.

Vision: to make homelessness a **rare, brief, and one-time** occurrence in Kitsap County and to ensure that affordable housing is accessible to all Kitsap residents who need it.

Mission: to ensure that Kitsap County is a leader in reducing homelessness and improving access to affordable housing through systematic planning, facilitating strategic investments of public funds, measuring and reporting on progress, and ensuring an effective community response to these issues.

## Strategic Investment of Public Funds

Kitsap County manages the Affordable Housing Grant Program, the Homeless Housing Grant Program, and the Consolidated Housing Grant program.

- Investment of over **\$3.6 million** annually in non-profit programs and services
- Administered over **\$14.3 million** in pandemic-related funding (see pg. 10 for more details)

## Measuring and Reporting Progress

Homeless service providers collect information about homeless households receiving housing services. Kitsap County reports outcomes, tracks system performance, and uses data to inform future needs for services and funding.

- Countywide system performance reports (4 quarterly and 1 annual)
- Geographic data summaries about homelessness across the county
- Visit <https://www.kitsapgov.com/hs/Pages/HH-Reports-and-Data-Homelessness.aspx> for additional division reports



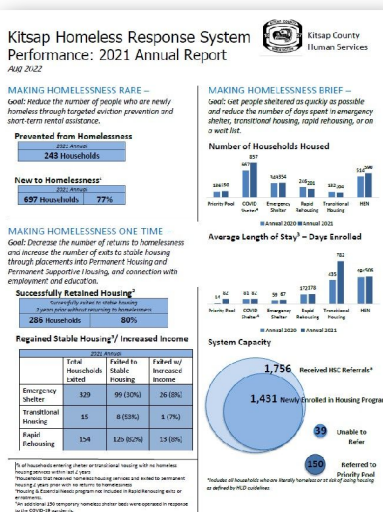
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<http://kcowa.us/housing>



*Thank You*

To Kitsap County  
Commissioners Robert Gelder, Charlotte Garrido,  
and Ed Wolfe for their support of people experiencing homelessness

## Coordinated Community Response

The Division is responsible for developing Homeless Housing Plans, coordinating the annual Point-in-Time Count, and facilitating stakeholder work groups and special projects. The Division works closely with the many housing and social service providers that make up the Homeless Crisis Response System. Many of these organizations are also part of the Kitsap Housing and Homelessness Coalition.

- Updates to the Kitsap County Homeless Crisis Response and Housing Plan
- Coordinating the Annual Point-in-Time Count by recruiting volunteers, providing training, organizing survey opportunities, and reporting survey results
- Managing the Severe Weather Shelter Program
- Updates to the "How to Help People Living Homeless" guide

## 2021 Annual Point-in-Time Count

The Point-in-Time Count is an annual state-mandated 24-hour survey of people experiencing homelessness. The Housing and Homelessness Division coordinates the survey process. In 2021, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the unsheltered count was canceled in Kitsap County and across Washington State. The Count was still conducted in a limited fashion, counting guests that were staying in shelter and transitional housing programs. A total of 324 individuals were counted during this survey period in temporary housing programs.



## Severe Weather Shelters



The Kitsap County Severe Weather Shelter Program is a partnership between the Housing and Homelessness Division, Kitsap County Department of Emergency Management, and the five organizations that host the shelters.

The Division oversees the SWS program by providing training and coordination of volunteer scheduling. The COVID-19 pandemic proved a challenge during the 2021-2022 season. Four shelter sites were identified that could open while implementing disease mitigation precautions. The Division contracted with Gather Together Grow Together (G2G2) to help provide rides for guests to shelters during severe weather.

During the 2021-2022 season 298 overnight stays were provided over 18 activation days.

To subscribe to future shelter activation notifications text KITSAPSWs to 898-211.

For more information or to volunteer visit <http://kcowa.us/KCSWS>

## Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response And Housing Plan Update



### HEADING HOME

Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response  
and Housing Plan

2019 Update  
Approved 11/25/19

Note: This is a Compliance Update to meet new Washington State Dept. of Commerce requirements. Changes from the 2018 Plan were made only in these sections: Action Plan – Detail Matrix, Appendix D, and Appendix E.



Kitsap County  
Department of Human Services



Kitsap Housing and  
Homelessness Coalition

The Kitsap County Board of County Commissioners approved the latest update to the Homeless Crisis Response Plan on November 25, 2019. The plan includes input from many community stakeholders, including from people experiencing homelessness. This update included several new requirements from the Washington State Dept. of Commerce's Housing Assistance Unit, including a racial disparities analysis, an impact analysis, and a crosswalk of state objectives with the Kitsap Plan strategies. The Plan was not updated in 2021.

# Homelessness in Kitsap County

\*note: data collection and access to services has been affected by COVID-19 precautions, closures, and other impacts since March 2020.



**1,778**

Kitsap County households **requested housing assistance** in 2021 (Housing Solutions Center)



**575**

**Homeless children** counted by Kitsap School Districts in school year '21-'22



**780**

**People without a home** contacted by outreach teams and enrolled for housing assistance during 2021.

**1,111**

literally homeless households

**255**

were households with children (497 children total)

**136**

households reported they were homeless without permanent housing for 1 year or longer

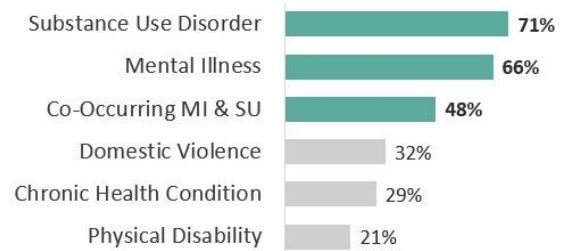
**84%**

of households were below Federal Poverty Level

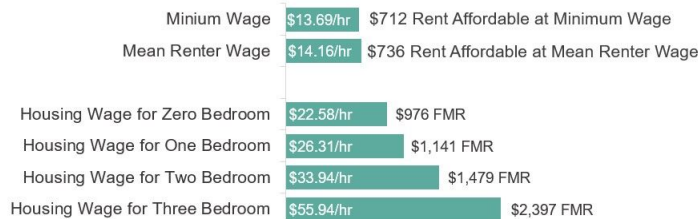
**\$587**

average monthly income for households seeking housing assistance at the HSC

## Self-Reported Characteristics HSC Outreach Households



## Kitsap Rents Outpacing Wages



\* Affordable here is considered as paying no more than 30% of income towards rent per month  
FMR - Fair Market Rate  
Source: Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R), U.S. Dept. of HUD (2021)  
Source: 2021 Out of Reach Report

## High Rents Each Year

**\$1,299**

**Average rent** per unit in Kitsap County Sept 2021. An increase of **25%** since Sept 2016.



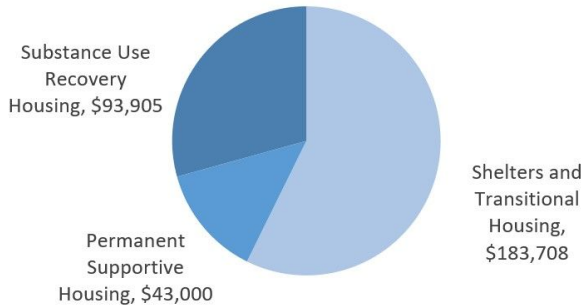


# Investments of Public Funds

## Affordable Housing Grant Program

**\$320,613**

Invested in Operations & Maintenance of Shelter and Affordable Housing Units



Affordable Housing Grant Program funds are authorized by the Washington State legislature and are collected through a fee on certain transactions recorded at the Auditor's Office.

These grant funds are distributed through a competitive process to Kitsap organizations that provide affordable housing in a variety of ways, including shelters, transitional housing, and substance use recovery housing. For more information on the grant process please visit:

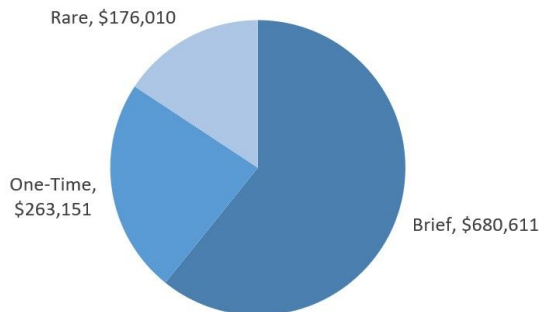
<https://www.kitsapgov.com/hs/Pages/HH-Coordinated-Grant-Application-Process.aspx>

The authorizing legislation defines the allowable use of funds as: operations and maintenance support for existing affordable housing, acquisition, rehab, or development of new affordable housing, rental assistance voucher programs, and support for overnight shelters. With such a small annual total, in Kitsap the funding has been prioritized to fund operations and maintenance.

## Homeless Housing Grant Program

**\$1,119,772**

Invested to Make Homelessness Rare, Brief, and One-Time



Homeless Housing Grant Program funds are authorized by the Washington State legislature and are collected through a fee on certain transactions recorded at the Auditor's Office.

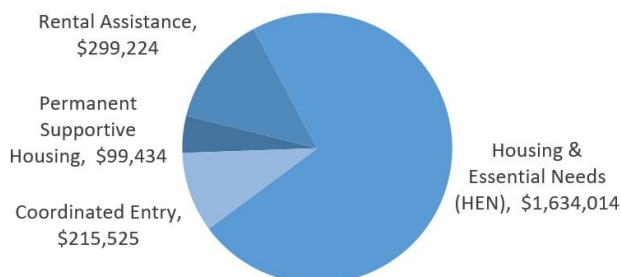
These grant funds are distributed through a competitive process to Kitsap housing programs and social service providers working to implement the strategies and action steps identified in the Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response and Housing Plan.

The Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response and Housing Plan outlines five goals for addressing homelessness (listed on the following pages). Each goal includes specific strategies and action steps. The Plan is available at <https://www.kitsapgov.com/hs/Pages/HH-Homeless-Crisis-Response-and-Housing-Plan.aspx>

## Consolidated Homeless Grant

**\$2,248,197**

Invested in Permanent Supportive Housing for Chronically Homeless Families, Coordinatred Entry, HEN, and Rental Assistance









The Consolidated Homeless Grant (CHG) program is funded through the portion of document recording fees that are not retained locally and are transmitted to the Washington State Department of Commerce. Commerce distributes these funds back to counties through contracts for specific homeless housing and services. These grant funds are administered by the Division and sub-contracted to eligible service providers. The funds are governed by Commerce's CHG Guidelines.

The Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) program provides access to essential needs items and rental assistance for low-income individuals who are unable to work for at least 90 days due to a physical and/or mental incapacity and are ineligible for Aged, Blind, or Disabled (ABD) cash assistance. While DSHS/CSD determines eligibility for the referral to the HEN program, actual eligibility for rental assistance and essential needs items is determined by the Department of Commerce through a network of homeless service providers.




# Distribution of Grant Funding by Plan Goals



The Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response and Housing Plan includes goals, strategies, action steps, and metrics for measuring the effectiveness of the countywide homeless crisis response system. Grant funding is distributed to service providers that are implementing strategies outlined in the plan to meet the following goals.

Strategies	Investments	2021 Results
<b>Goal 1: Make homelessness rare.</b>		
<b>Homeless Prevention</b>  <p>Targeted prevention resolves imminent homelessness with housing-focused case management and temporary rent subsidies.</p>	<b>Housing Kitsap</b> <i>HHGP (\$66,310)</i>	13 low-income households retained housing
	<b>Housing Resources Bainbridge</b> <i>HHGP (\$50,857)</i>	6 low-income households retained housing
	<b>North Kitsap Fishline</b> <i>HHGP (\$17,724)</i>	31 households prevented from eviction/able to secure housing
	<b>Olive Crest</b> <i>HHGP (\$57,158*)</i>	28 foster youth retained stable housing and received supportive services
<b>Goal 2: Make homelessness brief.</b>		
<b>Coordinated Entry</b>  <p>Connects households that are homeless or at risk of homelessness to appropriate housing interventions at one-stop housing resource offices located across the county.</p>	<b>Kitsap Community Resources Housing Solutions Center</b> <i>HHGP (\$205,409), CHG (\$215,525)</i>	1,757 households connected to shelter and housing  780 individuals were contacted by outreach specialists in the community, at events, the jail, and treatment facilities
	<b>Continuous Stay Emergency Shelters</b>  <p>Emergency housing that provides a short-term stay at no cost. Beds are reserved for residents until they exit the program. Shelter stays typically include housing case management and connections with resources with the goal of securing appropriate permanent housing.</p>	<b>Catholic Community Services Benedict House</b> <i>HHGP (\$100,752)</i>
	<b>Kitsap Community Resources Emergency Housing</b> <i>AHGP (\$43,500), HHGP (\$28,097)</i>	16 beds for families 20 individuals served
	<b>St Vincent de Paul Stella Maris House</b> <i>AHGP (\$18,492), HHGP (\$65,023)</i>	21 beds for women and women with children 104 individuals served
	<b>Weaver Foundation Georgia's House</b> <i>AHGP (\$23,945), HHGP (\$62,707)</i>	22 beds for women and women with children 118 individuals served
	<b>Coffee Oasis Youth Shelter</b> <i>AHGP (\$25,188)</i>	6 beds for youth 16-20 years of age 23 youth served
	<b>YWCA of Kitsap County ALIVE Domestic Violence Shelter</b> <i>AHGP (\$32,583), HHGP (\$21,991)</i>	13 beds for women and women with children fleeing domestic violence 71 individuals served

Strategies	Investments	2021 Results
<p><b>Seasonal Shelters</b></p> <p>Emergency shelter beds function similarly to drop-in shelter beds, but are only available during a specified period, or dependent on severe weather.</p> 	<p><b>Severe Weather Shelters</b> <i>not funded by AHGP, HHGP, or CHG</i></p>	<p>34 max beds in 4 locations - availability is weather dependent 298 overnight stays</p>
<p><b>Transitional Housing</b></p> <p>Subsidized housing for up to 2 years with rent typically set at no more than 30% of client's income. Case management services are included to prepare individuals to obtain housing and live self-sufficiently.</p> 	<p><b>Kitsap Community Resources Transitional &amp; Supportive Housing</b> <i>AHGP (\$40,000), HHGP (\$46,621*)</i></p>	<p>22 units for families 29 households served</p>
<p><b>Homeless Services</b></p> <p>Provides supportive services to help homeless or unstably housed individuals meet basic needs, seek employment, participate in training programs, and to address barriers to housing or engagement in services.</p> 	<p><b>Kitsap Community Resources</b> <i>HHGP (\$28,937*)</i></p> <p><b>North Kitsap Fishline</b> <i>HHGP (\$33,431*)</i></p> <p><b>The Coffee Oasis</b> <i>HHGP (\$100,670)</i></p>	<p>1 adult provided with safe parking 95 households provided case management and services</p> <p>18 adults provided safe parking or camping space with services</p> <p>91 homeless youth provided life skills training, 52 youth engaged in housing case management, and 23 entered into supportive housing</p>

## Goal 3: Make homelessness one-time.

<p><b>Permanent Supportive Housing</b></p> <p>Permanent subsidized housing serves individuals or households in need of ongoing supportive services and assistance such as people with mental health issues, substance abuse disorders, physical disabilities, or more than one of these.</p> 	<p><b>Housing Resources Bainbridge Permanent Affordable Housing</b> <i>HHGP (\$34,794)</i></p> <p><b>YWCA of Kitsap County Home Safe</b> <i>AHGP (\$8,000), HHGP (\$12,000)</i></p>	<p>14 units for low-income adults and families 15 households served</p> <p>10 units for women with children fleeing violence 15 households served</p>
<p><b>Permanent Housing</b></p> <p>Permanent subsidized housing that serves low-income individuals or households without a disability, but who need ongoing supportive services and assistance.</p> 	<p><b>Catholic Housing Services Max Hale Center</b> <i>AHGP (\$35,000), HHGP (\$20,000)</i></p> <p><b>Kitsap Community Resources Housing for Chronically Homeless</b> <i>CHG (\$99,434)</i></p> <p><b>Kitsap Homes of Compassion Shared Housing Program</b> <i>HHGP (\$34,550)</i></p>	<p>53 units for single adults 57 households served</p> <p>5 units for families 8 households served</p> <p>23 rooms for single adults 37 households served</p>
<p><b>Substance Use Recovery Housing</b></p> <p>Clean and sober living for individuals and families in recovery from addiction. Includes peer support and connection to services which reinforce a substance-free lifestyle and promote long-term recovery.</p> 	<p><b>Agape Unlimited Sisyphus II Permanent Housing</b> <i>AHGP (\$27,986), HHGP (\$30,132)</i></p> <p><b>Koinonia Inn Transitional Housing</b> <i>AHGP (\$48,779)</i></p> <p><b>West Sound Treatment Center O'Hana House and Lighthouse</b> <i>AHGP (\$17,140), HHGP (\$17,860)</i></p>	<p>24 units for single adults and families 60 households housed with recovery supports</p> <p>6 units for pregnant and parenting women in recovery 13 households housed with recovery supports</p> <p>6 units for single women and women w/children 4 units for single men 20 households served with recovery housing and supports</p>

Strategies	Investments	2021 Results
<p><b>Rapid Re-Housing</b></p> <p>Helps to quickly move households from homelessness into permanent housing by providing move in assistance, temporary rent subsidies, and housing-focused case management.</p> 	<p><b>Kitsap Community Resources</b> Rapid Re-Housing CHG (\$299,224*), HHGP (\$78,774)</p> <p><b>Olive Crest</b> Independent Living Skills HHGP (\$1,684*)</p> <p><b>North Kitsap Fishline</b> Rapid Re-Housing HHGP (\$4,290*)</p>	<p>81 households obtained stable housing 49 households assisted with housing case management</p> <p>1 foster youth obtained stable housing</p> <p>5 households obtained stable housing</p>
<p><b>HEN - Housing &amp; Essential Needs</b></p> <p>Provides program participants with rent assistance, utility and transportation assistance, as well as hygiene supplies.</p> 	<p><b>Catholic Community Services</b> Housing &amp; Essential Needs CHG (\$1,634,014)</p>	<p>600 households helped to obtain or retain housing and provided essential needs</p>

## Goal 4: Continuously improve the homeless crisis response system.

- Purchased a building in Port Orchard to be converted into a low-barrier homeless shelter, the Pacific Building project, and conducted a feasibility review on the best utilization of the building for this purpose.
- Partnered with other Kitsap agencies to create, fund, and launch a new Foster Youth Independence (FYI) program to support youth transitioning out of foster care and into permanent housing.
- Launched the Kitsap Eviction Prevention Assistance Program, providing rental assistance to landlords to prevent evictions (see COVID-19 page for details) of low-income households.
- Supported operations of the county's COVID-19 Quarantine and Isolation Center, providing safe lodging, meals, and medical support for people who needed housing during recovery from COVID-19. (See COVID-19 page for details).

## Goal 5: Expand community engagement.

- Worked to improve housing equity among under-served populations of color through developing relationships and contracting with community-based organizations serving racially diverse households.
- Coordinated a new Eviction Planning Work Group including Kitsap Legal Services, the Northwest Justice Project, the Dispute Resolution Center of Kitsap County, the Superior Court, Kitsap Community Resources, the Educational Services District, Coffee Oasis, and others.
- Coordinated the community-wide homelessness response to COVID-19, including providing shelter and housing-related COVID-19 information to the public and decision-makers.

Ashley came to the Stella Maris house in need childcare, employment, affordable housing, and assistance with move-in costs. Ashley's immediate needs were healthcare a dental appointment for her child. The Stella Maris case manager assisted Ashley in obtaining healthcare for herself and booking appointments for her and her child. Ashley's desired line of work was reception or an office environment, she quickly found work at a local business working in their main office. Once the schedule was determined for her new employment, a childcare subsidy became available to Ashley. Ashley put her child into a temporary daycare until a daycare closer to her employment had an opening. Ashley is still searching for housing but has successfully established herself in her new job.

*St Vincent de Paul Stella Maris Guest*

A single mom of two children left a severe DV situation. She was staying at a shelter when her application was selected for KCR Transitional Housing. She was income qualified, leased up, and moved in on the same day. Later that day, KCR employees helped her locate free furniture and moved it into the apartment for her. The client's kids were visiting their grandparents on move-in day, and when they returned, she was able to surprise them with a new, safe home. Her case manager is currently working on getting her connected to KCR's Early Learning and Family Services for preschool and childcare, DV support services, and is helping to get a protection order in place.

*Kitsap Community Resources Client*



# 2021 System Performance



Performance indicators measure the homeless crisis response system to ensure that households are moving from homelessness into housing, that the system is utilized at capacity, and that progress is made toward attaining the goals of making homelessness rare, brief, and one-time.

## Make homelessness rare.



243 

Households prevented from homelessness

77%   


Of households were experiencing homelessness for the first time (697 households)

## Make homelessness brief.



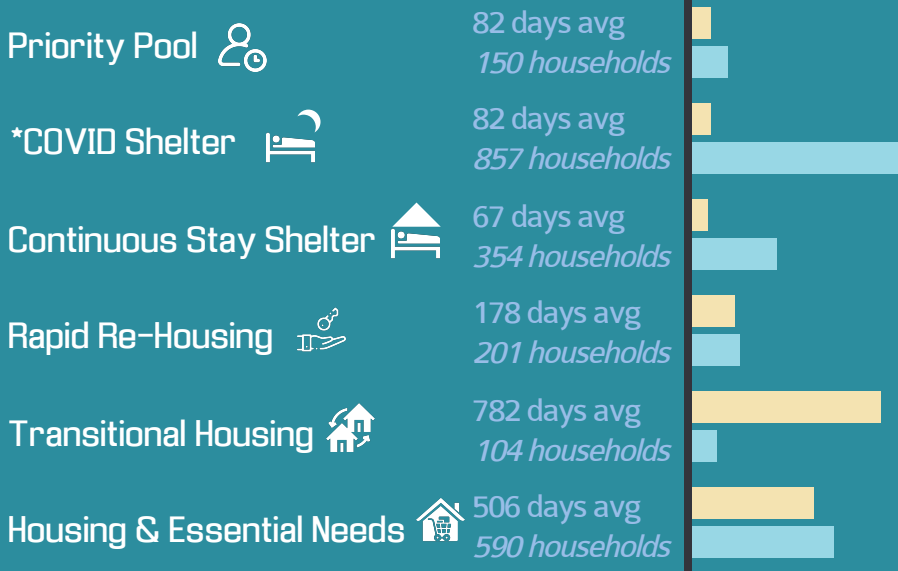
Median number of days for households experiencing homelessness to receive housing services after seeking assistance at the Housing Solutions Center

 8

4,038

Total unduplicated households served by the Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response System

### Length of time and households served by intervention



## Make homelessness one-time.

1x

233 

Households exited

the Kitsap Homeless Crisis Response System to Permanent Stable Housing

80% 

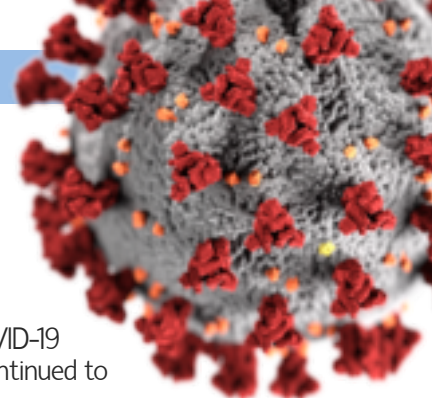
of 286 households have not returned to homelessness

after exiting to housing 2 years prior

Performance is measured system-wide for Kitsap County; these measures include housing intervention programs funded by other sources. These additional programs are not funded by grants distributed through the Division, but are an important part of the Homeless Crisis Response System and provide additional units of housing and specialized services.

\* Kitsap Rescue Mission Drop-in and Salvation Army Winter Shelters were converted to COVID-19 Shelters March 25, 2020. Data in this chart reflects households served and length of stay only for the time period of Jan 1 2021 - December 31, 2021.

# COVID-19 *Extraordinary Times, Extraordinary Response*



On March 8, 2020 a State of Emergency was declared in Kitsap County in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic. During 2021 the Housing and Homelessness Division and our many community partners continued to respond to this new challenge. Another layer of strategies and activities became a new focus:

## Response Activities



Worked with non-profit partners to operate an additional **150 new temporary COVID-19 homeless shelter beds**, which served **857 unique individuals** with **44,289 bed nights** and **109,349 meals**. These shelter beds were in operation from January 1 - December 31, 2021 and continued operations through 2022.



Worked with existing shelters to implement CDC guidelines on bed-spacing, hygiene, sanitation practices, and added funding so that **all shelters moved to 24/7 operations**.



Distributed over **110,000 items of personal protective equipment (PPE)** to homeless shelters and housing programs.



Worked closely with the Kitsap County Emergency Operations Center to **operate a comprehensive Quarantine and Isolation Center**, available to people who are unhoused or unable to safely stay at home while isolating or quarantining. During 2021, the Quarantine and Isolation Center provided **172 individuals** with an average of 5-6 days of temporary lodging, for a total of **986 bednights** of safe accommodation, as well as medical care, meals, and supportive services.



Provided **14 temporary portable handwash stations** at shelters and locations where people experiencing homelessness could use them to reduce the spread of COVID-19.



Administered and contracted **\$14,389,891** to partner organizations for COVID-19 response activities for homelessness and housing security programs, quarantine & isolation centers, and eviction prevention.

## Eviction Prevention

A new Kitsap Eviction Prevention Assistance program was created using state, federal, and local funds with the goal to prevent evictions that would contribute to homelessness by paying landlords for back rent accrued by tenants during the pandemic.

Funding for this program was targeted toward households most likely to become homeless after eviction in Kitsap County. This eviction assistance program promoted equity in who was served and focused on populations that historically had not been provided equitable access to rent assistance, and those populations most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This included ethnic and racial minorities, LGBTQ+, people with disabilities, and people with limited English proficiency.

To reach these underserved and diverse populations, several outreach organizations assisted in targeted outreach within their communities to directly assist with applying for assistance.

Funding for this program included a requirement to meet benchmarks based upon equitable access among these populations. Kitsap County far exceeded these requirements to work towards racial equity.

**Over \$9.7 million**  
in unpaid rental assistance paid to landlords for  
**1,500 most vulnerable**  
low-income households at risk of eviction  
between Jan 1st and Dec 31st of 2021.

### Racial Equity Benchmarks and Performance

