

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS IS A CRITICAL PROBLEM

A person is chronically homeless if they:



Have been homeless for **1 year** or longer, or have experienced at least **4 episodes** totaling **12 months** of homelessness in the last three years

and



Have a qualifying disability that prevents them from maintaining work or housing

Most are unsheltered:



in cars



in tents



on the street

Compared to the general homeless populations, chronically homeless people suffer from higher rates of:



- ▶ poor health
- ▶ mental illness and substance abuse
- ▶ victimization

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS IS COSTLY TO ADDRESS IN KING COUNTY:



Each year, it costs:



*Average Permanent Supportive Housing cost per person per year

**3,552
PEOPLE**

were chronically homeless in 2018**



increase in chronic homelessness **over 2017**
(779 people)**

WHY PEOPLE SLEEP OUTSIDE



Barriers to accessing housing



Chronic health and safety problems



Untreated mental illness



Negative experiences with emergency shelter



Fear of separating from pet or loved one



Fear of strangers



of people who are homeless would move into safe and affordable housing if available**

**King County

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING IS THE SOLUTION



Combines non-time-limited affordable housing assistance with



voluntary wrap-around supportive services.



counseling



mental health support



alcohol and drug treatment

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING RESULTS

Improved



social



physical



psychological

outcomes for residents.



Permanent Supportive Housing is a **Housing First** strategy that

- ▶ ends chronic homelessness,
- ▶ increases housing stability and
- ▶ saves taxpayer money

90–95%

of residents of Permanent Supportive Housing are still housed a year later.



AMOUNT SAVED IN PUBLIC COSTS **OVER 3 YEARS IN KING COUNTY** AMONG HIGH USERS OF PUBLIC SERVICES

(King County Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy)

WHAT IS HOUSING FIRST?

A strategy to quickly connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness to **permanent housing** without preconditions and barriers to entry, such as sobriety, treatment, or service participation requirements.

(U.S. Housing and Urban Development)



A proven, evidence-based model for ending chronic homelessness



The most rigorously studied homelessness intervention



More cost-effective than emergency services, shelters, hospitals and jails



Improves results from services, and improves health and safety outcomes for everyone



Provides critical housing stability



Includes strategies like **Permanent Supportive Housing**



Pioneered in Seattle