



WeAreⁱⁿ

2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

A MESSAGE FROM WE ARE IN'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2022 is drawing to a close, and we are already beginning to look toward the new year. At this moment, I am encouraged by the progress we have seen over the past year and committed as ever to our fight to address homelessness and create more affordable homes in our region. While there is a lot of work still to do, I remain hopeful and energized by our growing movement. In 2022, the We Are In community reached 12,000 strong. That means 12,000 and counting of our neighbors have come together to say that safe and stable housing is a basic human need, that homelessness is preventable, and that we all have a role to play in ending homelessness in our region.

Our members come from all over King County, a reminder that this is not one city or community's issue, but instead our collective charge. And our response must be coordinated — whether across geographic lines, government bodies, or the public and private sectors. We know that, when we truly work together, we can meaningfully address homelessness in our region.

This past year, in partnership with people with lived experience of homelessness, local government, and diverse, external stakeholders, We Are In continued to...



Organize and build a movement of 12,000 and counting community allies, including those with lived experience of homelessness, providers, philanthropists, and businesses who are advocating for solutions to homelessness in King County.



Fund and advance innovative solutions to homelessness that are racially equitable, community-driven, data-informed, and sustainable.



Build empathy and deepen public understanding of the causes of, impacts of, and solutions to homelessness, through virtual events, social media, op-eds, newsletters, and blogs.



Advocate for meaningful change at the local, state, and federal levels by meeting with elected officials, helping We Are In's partners and members make their voices heard, and ensuring leaders know that there is a strong constituency in King County for compassionate solutions.

As we look to 2023, I am hopeful that the legislative session will bring further investment and in action on the issues of homelessness and housing affordability. The progress that we've already seen shows us that we can make meaningful change when we truly work together and bring the innovation and urgency needed to address these challenges. Our coalition will continue our work of educating, advocating, funding, collaborating and organizing.

Before we dive into the new year, it is important to take stock of where we have been and what we have accomplished. This report highlights the progress we have seen over the past year and the work ahead. Thank you for being a part of this movement.

In partnership,

Felicia Salcedo
Executive Director



ORGANIZING A MOVEMENT

We Are In is a community coalition of 12,000 and counting unhoused and housed neighbors, local advocacy organizations and philanthropies, service providers, and businesses who have come together to say that safe and stable housing is a basic human need, that homelessness is preventable, and that we all have a role to play in ending homelessness in our region.

Earlier this year, we asked some of our members why they joined this movement. Everyone had a unique perspective, but the common thread was clear: that all of our neighbors deserve a stable, safe place to live, and they want to be part of the work needed to make that a reality for King County.

“

I've been homeless before, I want to be on the right side of change”

— Issaquah resident Tina K.

I'm excited to see greater leadership and collaboration within our homelessness response system, and partnership with people with lived experiences and KCRHA. I am committed to ending homelessness because people in our community don't need to suffer on the streets, especially when there is so much wealth and opportunity here.”

— Seattle resident (Anonymous)

I'm hoping for ways to shape effective policy and practice from the government and create opportunities for everyone to contribute to everyone being housed”

— Seattle resident Janie A.

Homelessness is a symptom of many root causes. I desperately want our community to work toward solving the problems of the root causes. I am in!”

— Seattle resident (Anonymous)



FUNDING AND ADVANCING INNOVATIVE AND EQUITABLE SOLUTIONS

Solving homelessness in King County requires that we bring innovation, collaboration, and urgency to the table. We need to disrupt the decades-old fragmentation in our response system and ensure that our efforts are grounded in data; we must think regionally, coordinate our resources, and partner with individuals who have the lived experience of homelessness; and we must work swiftly, treating an emergency like an emergency. In 2022, We Are In focused our grantmaking on initiatives rooted in these tenets.

We Are In, along with many of our business, philanthropic, and government partners, helped make Partnership for Zero possible, an extraordinary collaboration to dramatically reduce unsheltered homelessness in targeted areas of King County, starting in Downtown Seattle and the Chinatown-International District.

We Are In also is a key supporter of the [Washington State Lived Experience Coalition](#) (LEC), an advocacy membership organization of individuals with the personal experience of homelessness and housing instability who are working to reshape our homelessness response system in a way that honors and serves those most impacted. The LEC collaborates with the KCRHA, We Are In's coalition of business and philanthropic partners, and elected leaders at the local and state levels to ensure that those closest to the challenges of housing and homelessness are also closest to the solutions.

Partnership for Zero

Partnership for Zero allows our community to treat an emergency like an emergency and live our values by helping people move from homelessness to housing. In 2022, the pilot project launched in Downtown Seattle and the Chinatown-International District, made possible by a public-private partnership with We Are In partners in King County's business and philanthropic communities.

The Partnership for Zero model — a proven, evidence-based approach — is divided into five phases. In Downtown Seattle, we have already implemented phases one and two: [the establishment of the Housing Command Center](#) and the development of a By-Name List, both of which are essential for the work of swiftly getting people housed. Ultimately, the Partnership for Zero model will be scaled to other communities across King County.

In Downtown Seattle and the Chinatown-International District, the Housing Command Center field team has engaged with nearly **800 people** living unsheltered to assess their needs in order to match them to services and housing as resources become available. Additionally, the Housing Command Center is already working to make it easier to match individuals with available housing; in November, the Housing Command Center announced a comprehensive incentive package for private landlords, offering guaranteed rent, good tenant coaching, human service supports, and more, which will help us achieve our goal of swiftly and permanently housing more people.



By uniting government and philanthropic, business, and civic organizations and leaders — not just to marshal resources — but to substantively act on our shared values and commitment to change, Partnership for Zero represents real collaboration and a vital step in addressing the homelessness crisis. The work ahead is by no means easy, but this is the kind of cooperation envisioned in the creation of the Regional Homelessness Authority and in my calls for public-private-philanthropic teamwork. Helping people experiencing homelessness get off the streets of downtown Seattle and into housing with services is an essential priority for my administration; Partnership for Zero is a bold plan of action to make progress possible — and permanent.”

— Mayor of Seattle Bruce Harrell

As an organization and We Are In member, Symetra wholeheartedly supports policies and initiatives that help provide individuals and families with safe, affordable places to live while addressing the variety of root cause barriers that contribute to chronic homelessness. The Partnership for Zero offers all of us, working together, a meaningful opportunity to take a critical step forward on a defining issue for our region.”

— Margaret Meister, CEO, Symetra Financial



Marvin Futrell, co-director of the Housing Command Center and director of policy and strategy for Washington State Lived Experience Coalition, left, speaks in Seattle at the launch of the Housing Command Center, with Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell and Felicia Salcedo, Executive Director of We Are In.

(Erika Schultz / The Seattle Times)

PARTNERSHIP FOR ZERO IS DEPLOYED IN FIVE PHASES

PHASE 1

Creating the Housing Command Center

STATUS Open and Operational

The Housing Command Center (HCC) is a centralized emergency operations management system that coordinates and streamlines the actions required to house people. Currently, the HCC is focused on permanently housing people living unsheltered in Downtown Seattle.

A command center takes best practices learned from years of emergency response and applies them to homelessness.

PHASE 2

Development of By-Name List

STATUS Build Complete in Downtown Seattle, In Progress Countywide

A “By-Name List” is a tool that allows us to understand every person experiencing homelessness and what they need to move to stability – it includes real-time, action-oriented, person-centered information, much like the “MyChart” that you might access through your healthcare provider. We’ve seen By-Name Lists used successfully during encampment resolutions at Ballard Commons and Woodland Park in Seattle.

PHASE 3

Case Planning and Resource Matching

STATUS Ongoing

The Housing Command Center is matching people with housing and services in an ongoing process based on available resources.

With funding from We Are In, KCRHA is hiring and managing staff to do the hard work of caring for people. The KCRHA team of 26 System Advocates have lived experience of homelessness and use that expertise to help others.

PHASE 4

Permanently Housing People

STATUS Ongoing

Housing people is an ongoing process managed by the Housing Command Center, as outreach workers and System Advocates facilitate the movement of people into housing that matches their needs.

PHASE 5

Hold Steady

STATUS Ongoing

Once Phase 4 is complete, KCRHA will maintain the infrastructure necessary to immediately identify and respond to new individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness in focused geographic areas.

Lived Experience Coalition

All of our partners in this work — from We Are In’s coalition members, to government leaders, to advocates, to service providers, to Lived Experience Coalition members — are united toward a common vision. In order to make progress toward solving homelessness as we know it, we must create a homelessness response system that centers those most impacted in order to best respond to needs and eliminate inequities.

Starting with that premise, We Are In and the KCRHA jointly fund the ongoing operations of the Lived Experience Coalition (LEC), as part of our shared commitment to giving people with lived experience a seat at every decision-making table and ensuring that members of the LEC are deeply engaged in all aspects of our work. Currently, more than half of We Are In’s Board comprises people with lived experience of homelessness or individuals selected by the LEC.

With We Are In’s support, the LEC participates full-time in the operation of the Housing Command Center and the implementation of Partnership for Zero; LEC representatives also sit on community boards and participate in decision-making across the region; and LEC members are compensated for their time and expertise.

Our close partnership with the LEC is vital to everything that we do, from building empathy and deepening understanding to supporting innovative solutions and advocating for change. Those with the lived experience of homelessness have a unique understanding of the existing system — and a vision for needed change — that must be valued and honored, and We Are In, KCRHA, and other partners are ensuring that the future of our homelessness response is co-designed by those with lived experience.





BUILDING EMPATHY AND DEEPENING PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING

Solving homelessness is consistently the most important issue for people in King County, and it is this sense of urgency and concern that will ultimately drive change. But we also know that the fight to end homelessness cannot just be about home values, political fights, or clearing encampments; it has to be about genuine care for our neighbors experiencing homelessness.

Empathy hinges on understanding. Often, we see individuals experiencing homelessness shamed and scapegoated for their very existence in our communities. A foundational pillar of our work is ensuring that our community understands the causes and impacts of homelessness — as well as the solutions.

There is progress underway as well as opportunities for continued change, of which we cannot lose sight. To build a movement of people who care about this issue and are ready to act, we must show that a better future is not only possible, but that we are already moving toward it.

Community Events

In 2022, We Are In hosted 10 virtual events for more than 1,100 attendees. Several of our events focused on housing – the need for more of it, and what is happening at the local, state, and federal levels to increase our supply of affordable units. Other events provided legislative and policy updates, allowing our members to hear directly from government leaders, including Congresswomen Suzan DelBene and Pramila Jayapal, Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell, key state legislators, and Biden Administration officials. Ahead of the midterm elections, we also hosted a candidate forum where we asked candidates for two open state legislative seats about their stances on housing and homelessness to help our members make informed decisions when casting their ballots.

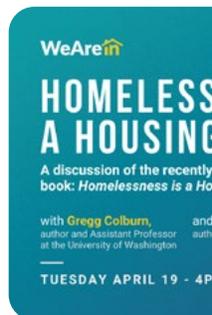
You can read more about some of our events at the links below.

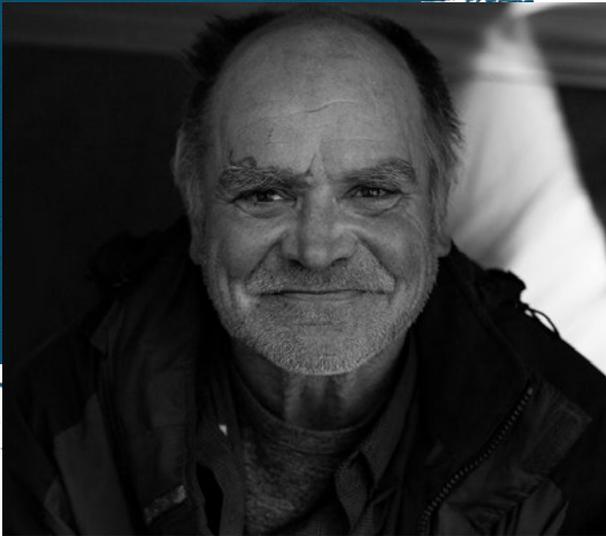
- [This is Our Opportunity to Create Affordable, Permanent Housing](#)
- [Update on Housing and Homelessness in Seattle with Mayor Bruce Harrell](#)
- [Housing and Homelessness Are Regional Issues, Requiring Regional Solutions: A Recap of Our 2022 Sub-Regional Town Halls](#)
- [A Conversation on Federal Efforts to End Homelessness: My Discussion with Two Leaders in the Biden Administration](#)

Digital Engagement

We Are In is bringing together like-minded individuals from all across the region through the power of our digital platforms. So much of the discourse about homelessness and housing is happening online, so We Are In has built a robust digital presence, elevating stories of progress, sharing important news, correcting misinformation, amplifying the work of our partners, and more.

We're not only on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn, but we also share a quarterly newsletter with our members, and regularly publish informative posts on our website. We recently launched our updated [website](#), which we hope you will explore.





ADVOCATING FOR MEANINGFUL CHANGE AT THE LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL LEVELS

Throughout 2022, We Are In met with a variety of elected officials to ensure that our partners' and members' voices are heard and that our leaders know there is a strong constituency in King County for compassionate solutions to homelessness.

At the local level, We Are In and our members heavily engaged in the processes to create King County and City of Seattle's 2023-2024 budgets. We Are In staff and supporters met with eight city and county councilmembers and had numerous additional meetings with legislative and executive staff. Our goals were clear: to protect the budget

of the KCRHA from any potential cuts and to ensure that the KCRHA continues to be the primary administrator of homelessness service funds. Hundreds of We Are In members signed a [petition](#) to support these goals.

We are proud to say that, thanks to the leadership of Executive Dow Constantine, Mayor Bruce Harrell, and budget chairs Joe McDermott and Teresa Mosqueda, the KCRHA's budget was protected. We are thankful for these leaders, and the many other champions on both councils, who continue to fight for regional solutions to homelessness.

This year at the state level, We Are In was a leader in the 2022 legislative session, supporting the legislative agendas of the [House Washington](#) coalition and partner organizations like the [Washington Low Income Housing Alliance](#). Governor Jay Inslee and legislators made historic investments in housing and homelessness, funding \$850 million in emergency and affordable housing and behavioral health services. The investment includes \$114 million for the Housing Trust Fund, \$240 million for rapid housing acquisition, almost \$100 million for the new Apple Health and Homes program, over \$125 million for crisis stabilization facilities, \$155 million to strengthen our behavioral health and outreach workforce, and \$135 million to increase outreach services.

In the 2023 session, We Are In and House Washington will continue to advocate for increased investments in homelessness and affordable housing, because we know that these issues can only be solved with all levels of government working together.

We are In was also active at the federal level, working closely with King County's federal delegation. While attending the National Alliance to End Homelessness conference in Washington, D.C. in July, we visited the Capitol to meet with Reps. Suzan DelBene, Pramila Jayapal, and Kim Schrier, and staff for Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell and Rep. Adam Smith. We were also thrilled to welcome Reps. DelBene and Jayapal to virtual events with our members and look forward to doing additional events with other members in 2023.



THE WORK AHEAD

In the coming year, We Are In will build on the momentum and progress we have already seen to further grow our movement of engaged and informed community allies. We will continue hosting informative events, amplifying the latest news and progress, and inviting our membership to advocate and volunteer.

With our coalition quickly expanding, we must not only focus on growth but also sustainability. In 2023, we will work to leverage and activate our existing members to ensure that they are equipped to raise awareness among their own networks, combat misinformation and harmful stigmas that they encounter, and encourage their peers to join us.

Our grantmaking will continue the progress toward our Partnership for Zero goal of significantly

decreasing unsheltered homelessness, and we will see PFZ expand to another geographic area within King County. We will also seek and support additional evidence-based practices to catalyze change and advance equity.

As always, we will center empathy and systems transformation as key to solving homelessness in our region. This is about supporting the most vulnerable among us by rooting out the structural conditions that allow people to become homeless in King County in the first place.

We look forward to further collaboration with our members and partners in 2023. We know that when we truly work together with innovation and urgency, we can make a meaningful difference in our region.