



**City of Seattle**

Mayor Jenny A. Durkan

# 2019 - 2020 BIENNIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL

## Homelessness and Housing Investments



Our homelessness crisis has been years in the making, and it cannot be solved overnight. But the City of Seattle is deploying new and unprecedented resources in coordination with our partners at King County to make progress - from doing more to prevent people from falling into homelessness, to building thousands of new affordable housing units, to deploying new bridge housing and shelter units, to picking up trash and waste.

For the first time under Mayor Durkan, the City has created a Citywide budget for direct spending to address the crisis of homelessness across all departments. In 2018, the City's amended budget is \$86.7 million, which includes a series of one-time funded programs as well as new programs proposed by Mayor Durkan including the Seattle Rental Housing Assistance Pilot, expansion of the Navigation Team, a new clean-up pilot, and increasing our shelter capacity by 25% compared to 2017. The 2019 Proposed Budget sustains these new programs, continues existing programs which had one-time funding in the 2018 Budget, and adds several new programs, including new neighborhood outreach services.

Under Mayor Durkan, every quarter the City is tracking the success of programs that received funding through the City's investments at HSD. In the first six months of 2018, the City's homelessness programs served 18,356 individuals and families, a 5.4% increase over 2017. In addition to serving more people, 35% more individuals and families moved from homelessness into permanent housing compared to the first six months of 2017.

The 2019 proposed budget includes \$89.5 million for spending to address the homelessness crisis.

- Support for housing including permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing and diversion;
- Continue investments to prevent homelessness including the Seattle Rental Housing Assistance Pilot;
- Providing at least 2,300 emergency shelter beds with 70% of beds serving as 24/7 enhanced shelter beds;
- Increased case management at Seattle's tiny home villages;
- Focus on cleaning up trash and syringes;
- Support for an expanded Navigation Team and neighborhood outreach;
- Increased investments for neighborhood outreach; and
- Wage increase for workers at our service providers.

### **Creating More Affordable Housing**

In 2017, Mayor Durkan announced \$100 million in affordable housing investments, which has been leveraged to well over \$300 million in order to build and preserve 1,500 homes. Later this year, Mayor Durkan will announce more than \$70 million for affordable housing development.

From 2018 to 2021, the City expects 2,500 new City-funded affordable rental housing units and over 1,900 new MFTE affordable units to come online. Mayor Durkan's proposed budget will continue its strong investments in affordable housing, including transit-oriented development over the biennium.

## **Preventing Families and Individuals from Falling into Homelessness**

Since 2014, the City has seen a 41% increase in “upstream” prevention funding. Mayor Durkan’s proposed budget includes strong support for prevention programs to assist those at risk of homelessness so they remained housed. Created by Mayor Durkan, the Seattle Rental Housing Assistance Pilot focuses on preventing households from falling into homelessness while on the waitlist for longer-term assistance from the Seattle Housing Authority. To date, the program has prevented nearly 100 households from becoming homeless by providing rental assistance.

## **Emergency Services with a Focus on Enhanced Shelters**

Enhanced shelters, which provide 24/7 or extended hours of services, storage for belongings, and case management, have continued to support more people in finding permanent housing. In the first six months of 2018, 4,071 individuals and families were served by enhanced shelters, and 691 exited to permanent housing, an increase rate of 7% of over the first six months of 2017. Enhanced shelters have a rate of moving people to housing that is five times that of basic, overnight shelters. Under Mayor Durkan, the City is creating 25% more capacity in its shelter system and has worked to create 58% more enhanced beds in 2018 than in 2017 – this will continue in 2019. In addition, Mayor Durkan will continue support of Seattle’s tiny home villages with increased case management.

## **Supporting Housing for People Experiencing Homelessness**

In 2018, the City has budgeted \$24.2 million for housing related to our homelessness crisis. This includes \$2 million for diversion, which offers people experiencing homelessness one-time assistance or services to bypass shelter, \$7.2 million for rapid rehousing, and \$14.7 million to support approximately 1,900 permanent supportive housing units. Mayor Durkan’s proposed budget continues this support.

## **Navigation Team and Outreach Expansion**

With 4,665 people living unsheltered in the City of Seattle, the Navigation Team is comprised of human services outreach workers paired with specially trained Seattle Police Department (SPD) personnel. In 2017, the Navigation Team’s first year of operations, the team made 7,000 contacts with 64% of individuals accepting some kind of service, so far in 2018, the Navigation Team has made 8,000 contacts. The 2019 Proposed Budget supports an expanded Navigation Team in order to increase outreach to people living unsheltered and help to connect them with safer living alternatives.

The proposed budget also includes \$200,000 for additional neighborhood-based outreach to people experiencing homelessness. This funding will support three full-time outreach workers in Chinatown International District (CID)/Little Saigon, Capitol Hill, and First Hill, as part of the Downtown Seattle Association (DSA) homelessness outreach program. Learning from San Diego’s homelessness response, the budget includes \$250,000 for a new safe parking pilot program which targets some of the nearly 2,300 vehicular residents who were counted in the 2018 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count. This overnight safe parking pilot program will test new ways to serve individuals living in cars who are largely self-sufficient and require a relatively low level of services.

## **Cleaning Up Trash and Syringes**

The City makes significant investments to clean up trash resulting from the homelessness crisis. Mayor Durkan’s proposed budget will support four clean-up pilot programs including: removing trash from unmanaged encampments, cleaning trash in the public right-of-way, providing litter bags to unmanaged encampments and collecting syringes from public places and disposal boxes throughout Seattle. Since first implementing these programs, service levels have expanded, and Mayor Durkan’s proposed budget maintains the expanded service levels. Since these programs have begun, the City has removed millions of pounds of garbage and collected more than 111,000 syringes.