

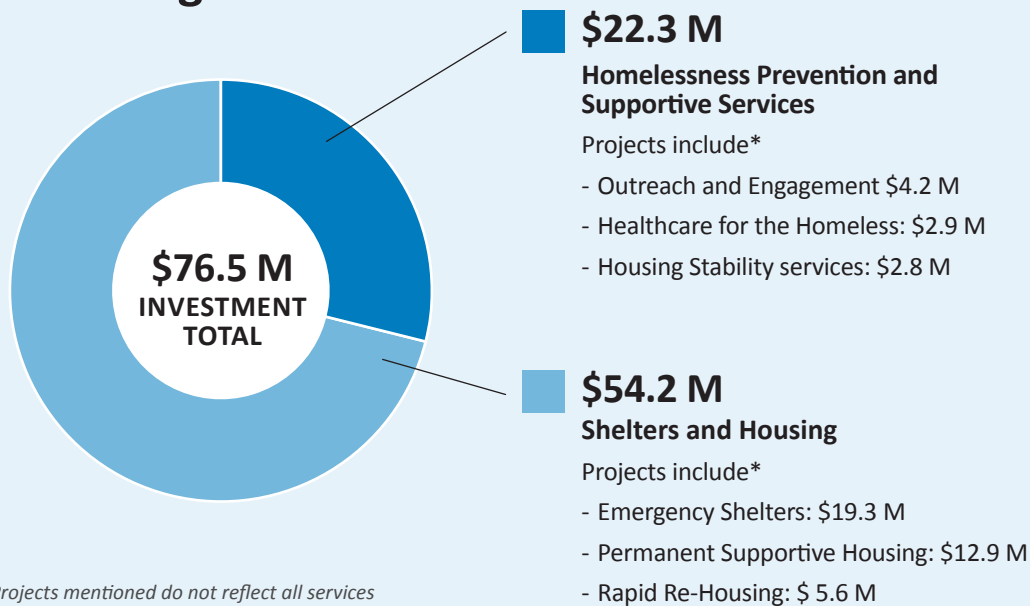
Addressing Homelessness



HSD's Homeless Strategy and Investment (HSI) Division focuses on assisting people in securing permanent housing to end their experiences of homelessness. Services are provided in three investment areas—prevention, emergency response, and housing—whereby service providers assist people who are at imminent risk of falling into homelessness or who are living without housing.

The Navigation Team is comprised of specially-trained police officers, field coordinators, and contracted outreach workers. As part of the City's emergency response, they work closely with other City departments—such as Parks, Utilities, and Fire—to ensure people living in homeless encampments receive the outreach, care, and connections to shelters they need to find a path to stable housing, and to remove unsafe encampments found on public rights-of-way, sidewalks, and in parks.

2018 Budget



Support and Services

Emergency services provide shelter and a connection to housing for people experiencing homelessness. Shelters, tiny house villages, transitional housing, day centers, and outreach programs focus on providing support for those living unhoused.

Mayor Durkan's Path to 500 program opened a total of 516 safer spaces, including two new shelters and three new permitted villages. This increase in capacity is the largest expansion of City-funded shelter and village resources in Seattle's history.



Addressing Inequity

American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN) and Black or African American (B/AA) households disproportionately experience homelessness in King County.

In 2018, 87% more AI/AN and 27% more B/AA households exited Seattle-funded programs to permanent housing destinations.

Homeless Prevention Programs

Prevention programs assist people who are currently housed but face an imminent risk of becoming homeless by helping them to remain in their homes, with the use of one-time financial assistance or case management services.

In 2018, in partnership with Seattle Housing Authority and local service partners, HSD launched a pilot program to prevent homelessness among households waiting for Housing Choice Vouchers.

Programs with Results

HSD invests in Diversion, Rapid Rehousing, and Permanent Supportive Housing programs that provide financial assistance, supportive services, or permanent housing to help people leave the homeless services system and enter safe housing.

In 2018, HSD implemented performance-based contracting with performance pay for enhanced shelters, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, and rapid rehousing programs that met systemwide adopted performance standards for outcomes.



Exiting To Permanent Housing

5,601 households exited from the homeless services system to permanent housing in 2018 – an increase of 30% over 2017.