Proven Solutions to End Chronic Homelessness
We know what works – permanent supportive housing. We need more of it.

**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
- 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:**

- **29%** of the homeless population
- **MAJORITY** of the public cost

Each year, it costs:

- More to keep people homeless than to house them*
  - $16K–$22K
  - $30K–$50K+ per person

- **98%** of people who are homeless would move into safe and affordable housing if available**

**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

- **3,552** PEOPLE were chronically homeless in 2018**
- **28%** increase in chronic homelessness over 2017 (779 people)**

See reverse to learn about solutions to chronic homelessness.

*Average Permanent Supportive Housing cost per person per year

**King County

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PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING IS THE SOLUTION

Combines non-time-limited affordable housing assistance with voluntary wrap-around supportive services.

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

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)

$7 Million

The Third Door Coalition is a nimble group of business leaders, service providers and researchers who seek to end chronic homelessness in King County through Housing First/permanent supportive housing. Learn more: thirddoorcoalition.org.