

# King County Regional Homelessness Authority

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## AGREEMENT BETWEEN KING COUNTY REGIONAL HOMELESSNESS AUTHORITY *AND*

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THIS AGREEMENT ("Agreement") is made and entered into this \_\_\_\_\_, 2021 ("Agreement Date"), by and between the King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA) (hereinafter "Authority"), and \_\_\_\_\_, (hereinafter "Service Provider").

WHEREAS, the Authority is the King County Continuum of Care (CoC) lead agency, and holds the CoC responsibilities under Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with the King County Housing Authority, the Seattle Housing Authority, and the Renton Housing Authority, which are the three public housing agencies (PHAs) each allocated Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); and

WHEREAS, the Authority's Inter-local Agreement Guiding Principles include: "The Authority shall address racial-ethnic and other statistical disproportionalities amongst the population of people experiencing homelessness..." and the PHAs share this strong commitment to race and social justice; and

WHEREAS, the EHV allocation under the American Rescue Plan Act is in response to the public health and economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and HUD strongly encourages housing authorities and CoCs to consider comparative health risks from COVID-19 when designing preferences for EHV, and the federal Centers for Disease Control have identified that people of color, especially people who identify as Black, Indigenous and Latinx people, are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and at increased risk of severe disease from it; and

WHEREAS, Black, Indigenous, and Latinx people, and LGBTQIA-identified people continue to be disproportionately impacted by homelessness, have longer periods of homelessness, longer times to be housed, and higher rates of returns to homelessness; and

WHEREAS, people of color—especially people who identify as Black, Indigenous and Latinx—are disproportionately experiencing homelessness in King County because of historical and current structural racism; and

WHEREAS, the Memorandums of Understanding with the PHAs include the following guiding strategies:

1. EHV rental assistance shall be used to address, racial-ethnic and other disproportionalities amongst marginalized populations of people experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County, including those with disproportionate risk from COVID-19 and other severe disease.
2. EHV rental assistance will be used to serve individuals and families living unsheltered in

encampments or in vehicles, and people living in tiny villages or enhanced shelters, and people housed with rapid rehousing but at imminent risk of returning to homelessness, in transitional housing, and youth and young adults over 18 and under 26 who are experiencing housing instability and at risk of homelessness.

3. EHV rental assistance will be used to promote voluntary Move-On for individuals and families served in Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) programs.

4. EHV rental assistance will be used to serve individuals and families fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking.

WHEREAS, the Authority has responsibility for King County's Coordinated Entry for All (CEA), the region's mandated coordinated entry system and the referral entity for EHV under the terms of HUD's allocation and local MOUs with the PHAs; and

WHEREAS, the CEA use of COVID prioritization has decreased the exposure risk for many people experiencing homelessness who were at disproportionate risk of acquiring COVID and of severe disease, and increased the equity results of referrals for housing; and

WHEREAS, EHV offer people experiencing or at risk of homelessness durable rental assistance, which has been proven effective in ending homelessness; and

WHEREAS, EHV also provide for initial housing search and leasing assistance, which is accessed through the PHAs; and

WHEREAS, EHV does not provide supportive services for case management or tenancy supports; and

WHEREAS, the Authority provides no funding for supportive services or administrative costs under this Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Authority with due consideration for the input of community stakeholders have determined that non-profit service providers and community-based organizations can offer necessary supportive service assistance for people to optimally utilize their EHV; and

WHEREAS, the Authority has determined that the most effective and feasible manner of reaching eligible people experiencing or who are at risk of homelessness is by entering into agreements with service provider agencies that serve people experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the Service Provider herein represents that it has the requisite personnel, experience, and resources to provide the client services required for durable housing tenancy, and the Service Provider desires to provide the services; and

WHEREAS, the Service Provider will assist their clients with their EHV eligibility determination and voucher process, and with navigating their housing search, including execution of an EHV lease agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Service Provider will provide case management services, including regular interactive meetings with clients, and other tenancy supports for their clients for at least one year after execution of a client's EHV lease; and

WHEREAS, the Authority and Service Provider desire to enter into this Agreement for the Services upon the terms and conditions set forth herein;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants, benefits and promises herein stated, the

1. Service Provider shall identify as clients for referral in the EHV program such people experiencing homelessness who accord with COVID prioritization, and Service Provider will support those clients through the EHV application, voucher issuance, housing search and navigation, lease-up, move-in and tenancy process.
2. Service Provider shall provide PHA application assistance for new clients referred through the program to ensure timely and complete applications are made to the PHAs, including assistance with acquiring necessary documentation and identification, including post-application assistance to gather necessary documentation that supports initial self-certifications for application.
3. Service Provider shall provide housing navigation and housing identification assistance for new clients referred through the program to ensure that they successfully utilize their voucher, utilizing various means that ensure choice and options for clients. Housing navigation includes assistance with location of available rental units, with access to public transportation, with landlord negotiation, with rental unit applications, and with overcoming other rental barriers as may emerge.
4. Service Provider shall provide housing and tenancy support related case management for new clients referred through the program for a minimum of one year, and will be responsive to PHA and landlord requests for assistance regarding tenancy support for the client.
5. Service Provider shall ensure a continuing capacity for assistance for all housed clients referred by Service Provider who may in future need of housing stability assistance, as needed, to maintain their housing following the one-year requirement noted above.
6. KCRHA and Service Provider will work with the PHAs to measure outcomes for Service Provider referred clients. KCRHA will make outcome reports available to Service Provider on a regular basis.

**King County Regional Homelessness Authority**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Marc Dones

Chief Executive Officer

400 Yesler Way, #600

Seattle, WA 98104

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Service Provider:**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_