

MULTI-SERVICE CENTER

2025-2026 Community Needs Assessment

Table of Contents

Executive Summary
Page 3

Regional Context
Page 9

Summary of Survey and Focus Group Results
Page 24

A Closer Look at the Top Three Concerns
Page 35

MSC's Strategies for Addressing Community Needs
Page 41

Sources
Page 45



Multi-Service Center (MSC)
1200 S. 336th St.
Federal Way, WA 98003
(253) 838-6810
info@mschelps.org
mschelps.org



01. Executive Summary

- About MSC
- Mission, Vision, and Guiding Principles
- Community Needs Assessment Overview
- Methodology and Data Collection

About MSC

Multi-Service Center (MSC) uplifts communities by increasing equitable access to advocacy, opportunities, and well-being. Our vision thriving communities rooted in equity and justice where we all experience joy and belonging.

In 1971, a grass-roots community group established MSC to provide support and services to low- and moderate-income families and individuals in South King County. Many resources and services had previously been concentrated in the City of Seattle and were difficult for residents in South King County to access. MSC was able to provide a more localized response and create access to services for families and individuals. Incorporated originally as South King County Multi-Service Center, the organization started out with several services under one roof such as credit counseling, medical and dental services, education, employment security, and a food bank. As a Community Action Agency (CAA), MSC's programs have grown and changed to meet the needs identified by the communities it serves.

MSC is one of 30 Community Action Agencies throughout Washington State, and more than 1,000 in the nation. Washington State Community Action Partnership (WSCAP) works to build healthy communities and eliminate poverty through a unified network of Community Action Agencies across Washington State.

Helping People. Changing Lives.
community Action PARTNERSHIP
AMERICA'S POVERTY FIGHTING NETWORK

Community Action is a spirit of service. We believe that everyone deserves a chance and that connected neighbors create healthy communities. Community Action Agencies provide local solutions to local problems. We believe in the power of partnership to help people and change lives.

MSC's service area of South King County is considered home to the largest population in King County with the greatest number of people living in poverty. Our programs confront the barriers and inequities of poverty by offering emergency and basic services to stabilize individuals and families in South King County, helping them to attain the resources and skills to rise out of poverty and become self-sufficient. During 2025 to June 2026, MSC served over 137,500 clients and over 50,217 households.



MSC's current community support programs include:

MSC's new food bank location, **The Market at Redondo Heights**, addresses food insecurity by offering free, nutritious food in a market-style setting, primarily serving residents within the Federal Way School District.



MSC also expands food access through its **Bridging a Gap (BAG) Weekend Feeding Program** for children and teens during the school year, its **Food Bridge** program for senior housing communities, and **home delivery programs** in partnership with United Way of King County, Virginia Mason Franciscan Health, and Amazon Flex. Together, these programs serve people across age groups and help residents who face barriers to visiting a food bank.

MSC's **Housing Programs** address community needs related to homelessness, housing affordability, and housing stability. MSC owns or operates more than 1,100 affordable housing units and offers both p**ermanent supportive housing** and **permanent affordable housing**. These programs help prevent homelessness and assist people experiencing homelessness in securing permanent, affordable housing.

MSC also serves as a **Regional Access Point** for King County's Coordinated Entry for All program, connecting individuals and families to housing resources. **Rental assistance, emergency assistance, and diversion funds** provide additional support to help residents secure or maintain stable housing.

MSC's **employment** programs help individuals gain skills to achieve their goals. Employment programs work with adults by providing training and job-readiness services.
MSC also offer programs specifically targeted to youth and young adults ages 16-24 to support them with **education** and employment goals. This includes reengaging youth to help them obtain a GED or high school diploma, obtain employment, enroll in a college or training program, and skill development in many areas.

MSC's **Energy Assistance Program** distributes funds to South King County low-income residents through the Federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Puget Sound Energy HELPS program. Residents are also able to obtain assistance with water and sewer bills, as well as portable air-conditioning units.

MSC's **Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program** provides advocacy and education ensuring safety and dignity of residents of long-term care facilities throughout Washington.

Mission, Vision, and Guiding Principles



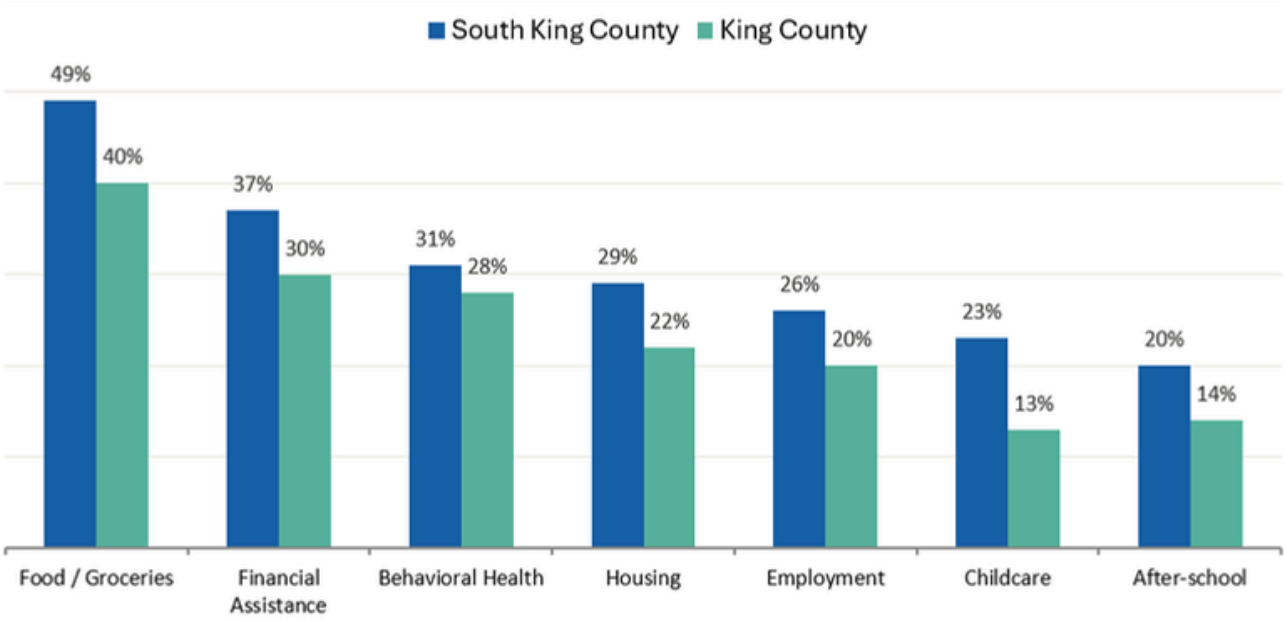
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

Multi-Service Center is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. These are values that we embrace and are vital components in fulfilling our mission to uplift communities by increasing equitable access to advocacy, opportunities, and well-being. We are committed to serving all members of the community who are in need and eligible for our services, regardless of religious affiliation, nationality, gender, age, ability, race, ethnicity or sexual orientation. In an effort to achieve our vision of thriving communities rooted in justice and equity where we all experience joy and belonging, we work to foster a spirit of inclusion and acceptance. We find strength in diversity and welcome people from all walks of life. MSC supports an active employee DEI committee. The DEI committee is dedicated to embracing diversity, practicing inclusion, and ensuring equity for all staff and volunteers through a variety of strategic initiatives that include improving hiring practices, professional development, service delivery, and policy. The committee fosters a spirit of inclusion and acceptance to help MSC better serve the community.

Community Needs Assessment Overview

MSC conducts a Community Needs Assessment every three years to understand the causes and conditions of poverty in South King County. From summer 2025 through summer 2026, MSC conducted its assessment to examine the current economic environment, identify the needs of the communities it serves, and evaluate the effectiveness of existing MSC programs. The findings inform MSC's strategic planning and help guide program priorities and resource allocation. The top three needs identified were food and grocery assistance, financial assistance, and behavioral health support.

Table 1: Community Needs - South King County



Food Insecurity is #1

49% of SKC respondents identified food/grocery assistance as a top need — 9 pts above KC average. Communities in 98001 (Auburn) show refugee/immigrant food needs.

Childcare Gap is Critical

23% flagged childcare — nearly double the KC rate. 98030 (Kent, Somali-speaking) shows pronounced childcare gap. After-school programs also elevated.

Housing Pressure Elevated

29% of SKC respondents cited housing — 7 pts above KC average. SKC is an end-destination in displacement corridor from Central District.

Behavioral Health Persistent

31% identified behavioral health needs. 98023 (Federal Way) highlighted behavioral health service gaps. Hispanic/Latino respondents show 43% behavioral health need.

Methodology and Data Collection

MSC's Community Needs Assessment includes data from the following three areas: Community Needs Survey administered by Byrd Barr Place (BBP), targeted outreach and focus groups, and independent research through primary and secondary sources.

For this assessment, MSC partnered with Byrd Barr Place (BBP), along with independent research through primary and secondary sources. BBP is a fellow community action agency in King County.

For the Record is a statewide Community Needs Assessment led by BBP, designed to document the needs, experiences, and strengths of Black communities and underserved populations across Washington State. The survey instrument was developed by Zibolsky Consulting LLC in partnership with BBP, with input from Community Action Agency partners statewide, including MSC. Survey design was grounded in CSBG reporting requirements and informed by secondary data sources including U.S. Census Bureau ACS 5-Year Estimates, the CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index, and County Health Rankings.

The survey covers the following domains: housing stability and displacement, food access, financial security and employment, healthcare and behavioral health, transportation, childcare, disability, community needs, and demographic information.

The survey was administered digitally via Microsoft Forms and made available in six languages: English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Russian, Korean, and Mandarin. An AI avatar option was also available to support multilingual and accessibility needs. The survey was anonymous; no identifying information was attached to individual responses. For MSC, data was collected from August 2025 through April 2026.

The survey was distributed through the following channels:

- Direct outreach to 300+ partner organizations statewide, including Community Action Agencies, Black-led nonprofits, faith communities, healthcare organizations, and civic groups.
- Email campaigns to CNA contacts and partner networks.
- Social media promotion across BBP's Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn platforms.
- In-person tabling at community events, health fairs, food banks, and partner on-site locations across King, Pierce, Kitsap, and Clark countries.
- Media coverage through The Facts Newspaper, Converge Media, and the South Seattle Emerald.
- Multi-Service Center distributed the survey link and campaign materials through staff, programs, and social media posts.



02. Regional Context

- South King County (SKC) Demographics
- Education and Career Readiness
- Economic Opportunities and Housing Affordability

South King County Demographics

South King County includes 19 cities, several unincorporated communities, and nine school districts. Its varied geography and socioeconomic landscape include wealthy neighborhoods within predominantly low- and moderate-income communities, as well as low- and moderate-income neighborhoods within otherwise wealthy communities. Many of MSC's programs focus on serving South King County communities.

The tables below compare population size, racial and ethnic composition, and socioeconomic conditions across King County regions. They highlight four key trends: population growth across regions; South King County's position as the most racially and ethnically diverse region, with 50% of residents identifying as non-white; increased racial and ethnic diversity in every region between 2014 and 2021; and high numbers of families and individuals living in poverty in South King County and Seattle. King County's overall poverty rate remained relatively stable between 2020 and 2023.

Table 2: Population Growth Between 2014 and 2021

Regions	Total Population 2014	Total Population 2021	% Change in Total Population
South King County	649,614	711,284	9%
Southeast King County	65,562	71,013	8%
North/East King County	694,810	787,232	13%
Seattle	638,610	726,822	14%
King County	2,048,596	2,296,351	12%
Washington	6,899,123	7,617,364	10%

Table 3: Race and Ethnicity Comparison 2021

Regions	Percentages of Races and Ethnicities of Residents of Each Geographic Region							
	White	Black/ African American	Asian	Native Haw./ Pacific Islander	Native American / Alaskan	Hispanic / Latinx	Multi	Total Non-White
South King County	50%	11%	17%	2%	1%	17%	10%	50%
Southeast King County	83%	1%	6%	0.50%	0.40%	7%	8%	17%
North/ East King County	64%	2%	25%	0.10%	0.40%	7%	7%	36%
Seattle	65%	7%	16%	0.20%	0.50%	7%	9%	35%
King County	60%	6%	19%	0.70%	0.60%	10%	9%	40%
Washing-ton	72%	4%	9%	0.70%	1%	13%	9%	28%

Table 4: Latinx/Hispanic Population as a % of Total Population in Each Region

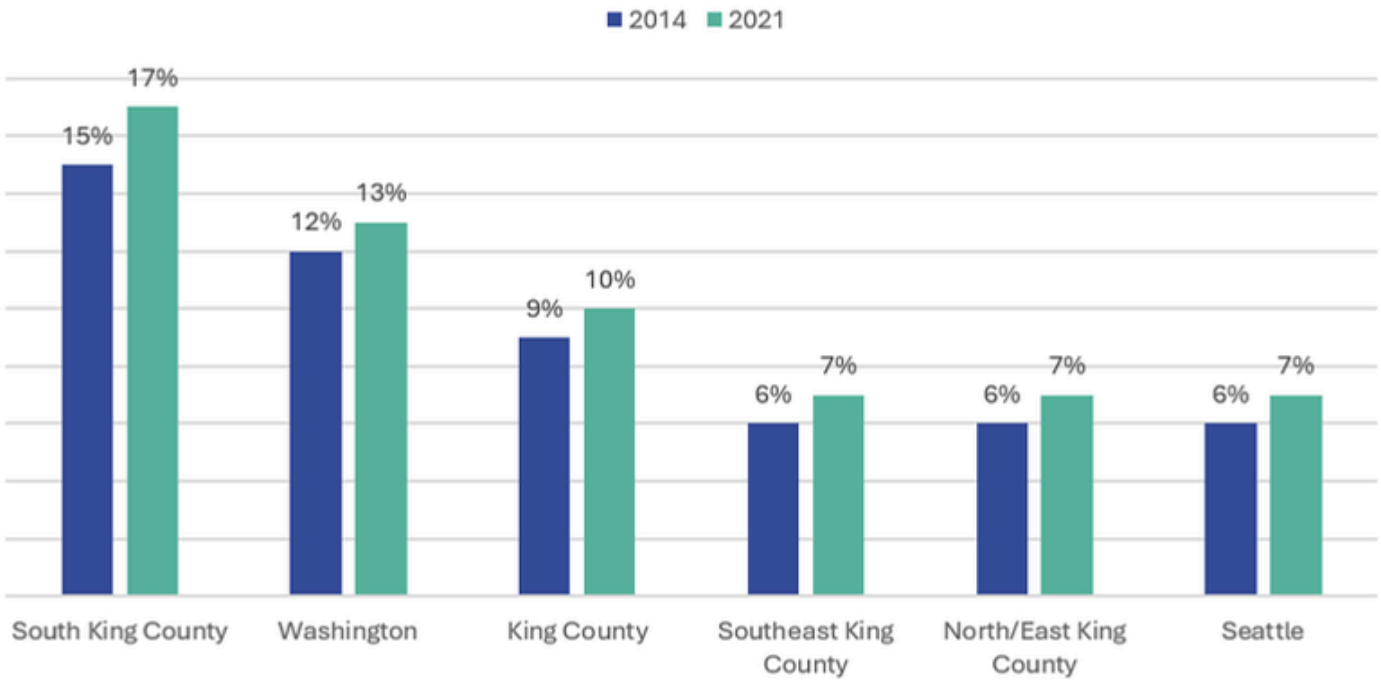


Table 5: Increasing Diversity - Comparing 2014 and 2021

Regions	2014 Total Residents of Color (Non-White)	2021 Total Residents of Color (Non-White)	% Increase in Residents of Color
South King County	252,228	356,684	41.40%
Southeast King County	8,192	12,379	51.10%
Seattle	192,409	255,251	32.70%
North/East King County	183,094	284,854	55.60%
King County	635,923	909,168	43.00%

Table 6: State of Poverty in 2021

2021 federal poverty guidelines: Households of 1 earning less than $12,880 and households of 4 earning less than $26,500.

Regions	Families in Poverty	% Families in Poverty	Individuals in Poverty	% of Individuals in Poverty
South King County	12,828	7.40%	57,538	10.20%
Southeast King County	740	3.80%	2,793	5.10%
Seattle	7,606	5.10%	63,100	10.00%
North/East King County	7,002	3.30%	33,550	5.40%
King County	27,894	5.20%	154,248	8.40%

Table 7: 2020 - 2023 Poverty Comparison in King County

King County	Families in Poverty	% Families in Poverty	Individuals in Poverty	% of Individuals in Poverty
2020	27,273	5.10%	153,103	8.40%
2021	27,894	5.20%	154,248	8.40%
2022	27,402	5.10%	155,970	8.40%
2023	27,568	5.10%	156,615	8.40%

Education and Career Readiness

South King County schools serve racially, culturally, and linguistically diverse communities, including students experiencing poverty and homelessness. Regional data covering Auburn, Federal Way, Highline, Kent, Renton, South Seattle, and Tukwila highlight the need for accessible, culturally responsive education and support services.

During the 2023–24 school year:

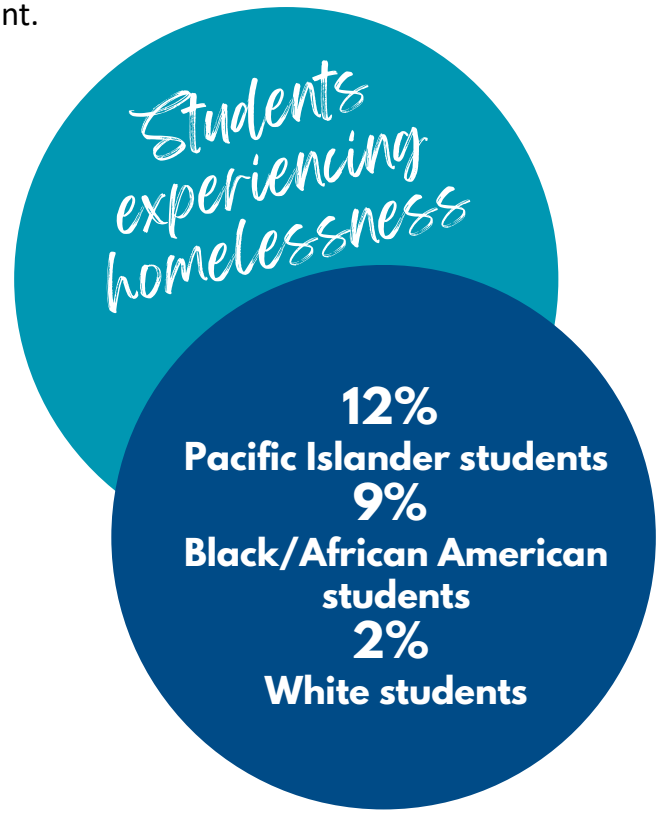
- 77% of students were students of color, an increase of 1 percentage point since MSC's 2022 Community Needs Assessment. See Table 9 for race and ethnicity data across South King County school districts. (Road Map Project)
- 62% of students were from low-income households, an increase of 5 percentage points since the previous assessment.
- 46% of students came from non-English-speaking households, an increase of 2 percentage points since the previous assessment.
- 75% of teachers were White, and 33% had five years or less of teaching experience.

Enrollment trends varied across districts between the 2021–22 and 2023–24 school years. Enrollment increased in Auburn, Enumclaw, Federal Way, Kent, Tahoma, and Tukwila, while declining in Highline, Renton, and Vashon Island. Statewide enrollment increased slightly during the same period.



These findings underscore the importance of education and employment pathways that respond to students' varied backgrounds, language needs, and economic circumstances. MSC's youth and young adult programs, including Open Doors, help address these needs by supporting educational reengagement, diploma or GED completion, skill development, and connections to further education and employment.

South King County students are also experiencing homelessness and poverty. Overall, 5% of all students in the region during the 2023-24 school year were experiencing homelessness. There is a racial disproportionality among students experiencing homelessness: 12% of all Pacific Islander and 9% of all Black/African American students across the region during the 2023-24 school year were experiencing homelessness, compared to only 2% of White students.



Between the 2021-22 and 2023-24 school years, the percentage of students enrolled in free or reduced lunch in most South King County districts slightly increased, as well as for Washington State as a whole.

Furthermore, of those high school graduates who graduated in 2019, 38% have completed a 2- or 4-year postsecondary degree by age 24 or 6 years after high school graduation. Examining this data further indicates disparities with college completion. Of those students who completed the postsecondary degree within the time frame, White and Asian students had more than double the percentage of completion compared to Pacific Islander and Native American students.

Across all South King County, 59% of all High School Graduates enrolled directly into a 2-or 4-year postsecondary institution after graduating in 2023. Across all South King County, 59% of all High School graduates enrolled directly into a 2- or 4- year postsecondary institution after graduating in 2023.

Additionally, between 2022 and 2023, most districts in South King County had an increase in High School graduates enrolling directly into a 2- or 4-year postsecondary institution, explaining the 2% increase in South King County school districts.

Furthermore, King County has a highly educated population, compared to both Washington state has a whole and nationwide. For the population 25 years and older in 2023, 55.9% in King County have a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to Washington state at 38.8% and the United States at 35%.

The opportunity gap describes the ways that demographics, social status, and other factors can perpetuate or lead to disparities in educational goals and achievements for students. This gap can be created by factors such as lack of financial resources, prejudice or bias, home environment, parental educational achievement, English ability, economical disadvantages, location, and lack of access to technologies. In Washington, the current disparities in kindergarten readiness requires special attention given that if the educational ability is not addressed early on, the educational gap can widen between students from vulnerable populations and their peers over time, potentially impacting college attainment and career choices. As a result, there is a need for increasing access to further education for historically marginalized populations. This is especially important given that graduation from college can lead to lower risks of unemployment/underemployment, economic security, improved health, and fewer work-safety hazards.

In Washington state, there have been current efforts to address these educational gaps. For Washington's K-12 public education system, the Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight Committee (EOGOAC) has put forward several recommendations to close this opportunity gap. Some of these recommendations include family and community involvement, cultural competency, diversification of educators and administrators, and the redirection of current programs and resources. Additionally, we have current efforts from local King County organizations such as Communities in Schools, who provide educational resources and support for marginalized students. Collectively, we can work towards closing these educational gaps by supporting local efforts that promote a more equitable and accessible education system for all students.





Table 8: School District Statistics 2021-2022 vs 2023-2024

Regions	2021-22 School Year			2023-24 School Year			% Increase in Total # of Students
	Students	Free/ Reduced Enrollment	Drop Out Rate	Students	Free/ Reduced Enrollment	Drop Out rate	
Auburn	17,357	61.20%	10.30%	18,142	61.80%	11.30%	4.50%
Enumclaw	4,247	33.30%	8.50%	4,562	33.70%	6.60%	7.40%
Federal Way	21,406	70.40%	8.50%	21,898	76.00%	10.50%	2.30%
Highline	18,521	71.10%	8.60%	17,838	68.50%	9.40%	-3.70%
Kent	25,092	56.70%	8.20%	25,752	58.10%	7.30%	2.60%
Renton	15,399	52.10%	9.80%	15,096	51.10%	8.20%	-2.00%
Tahoma	8,940	17.00%	4.10%	9,255	20.10%	6.10%	3.50%
Tukwila	2,595	77.80%	8.20%	2,842	82.70%	7.40%	9.50%
Vashon Island	1,524	25.60%	3.50%	1,476	30.80%	2.90%	-3.10%
Washing-ton	1,091,343	47.90%	10.10%	1,100,059	50.10%	9.70%	0.80%

Table 9: Diversity across South King County School Districts

Race and Ethnicity of Students in South King County School Districts 2023 to 2024

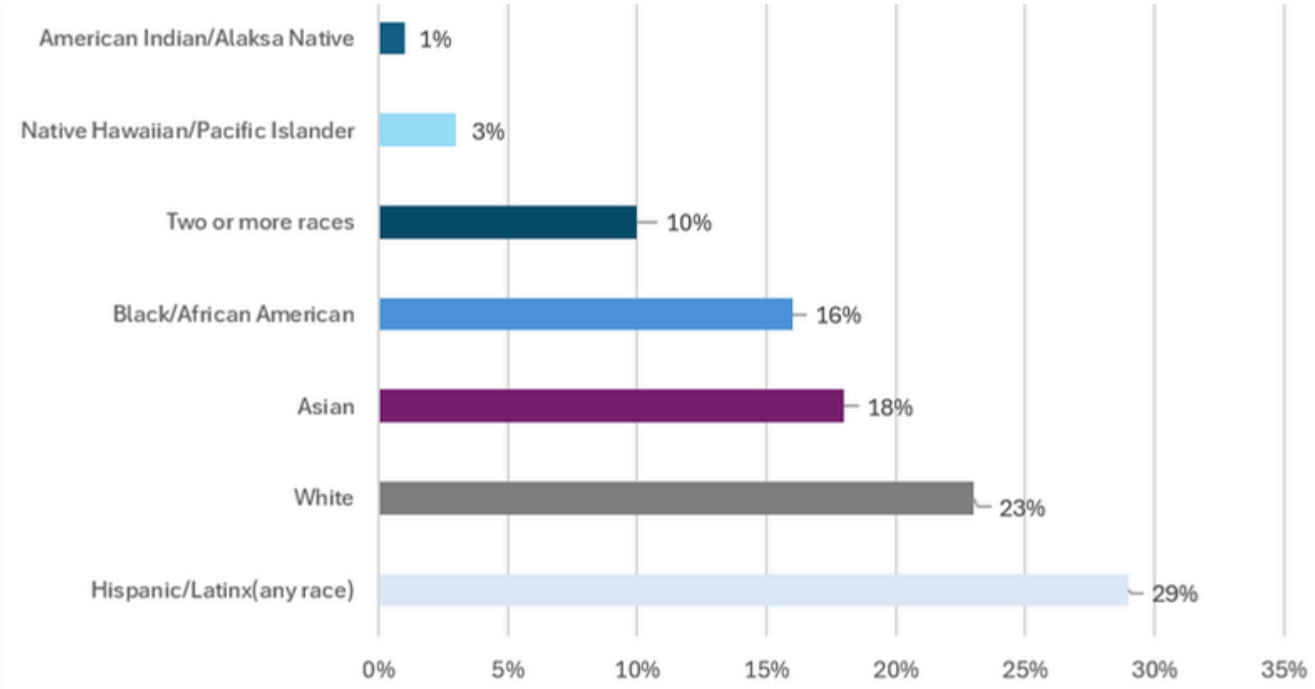


Table 10: High School Graduates Enrolling

District Name	% of ALL High School Graduates who enrolled directly into a 2-or 4-year postsecondary institution after graduating in 2022	% of ALL High School Graduates who enrolled directly into a 2-or 4-year postsecondary institution after graduating in 2023	% Change between 2022 and 2023
Auburn	51%	56%	5%
Federal Way	49%	50%	1%
Highline	54%	49%	-5%
Kent	56%	57%	1%
Renton	56%	65%	9%
Tukwila	50%	55%	5%
South Seattle	75%	78%	3%
All South King County (as listed above) Districts	57%	59%	2%

Table 11: High School Graduates Completing College Degree Programs

% of ALL High School Graduates from the graduating class of 2019 who completed a 2-or 4-year postsecondary degree by age 24 (or 6 years after high school graduation)			
By School District		By Race and Ethnicity	
All South King County Districts listed below	38%	Students	38%
Auburn	32%	Asian	54%
Federal Way	32%	White	44%
Highline	34%	Multiracial	37%
Kent	43%	Black/African American	28%
Renton	39%	Native American	20%
Tukwila	36%	Latinx	24%
South Seattle	45%	Pacific Islander	19%

Economic Opportunities & Housing Affordability

In Washington state's economy, it is evident that King County's labor market plays a major role. In 2024, when compared to all other Washington state counties, King County had the largest average annual employment at 1,449,797 workers. Additionally, King County also had the highest total wages paid in 2024 at $191,772,857,609. Further examination of King County's labor market highlights its strength as a diverse workforce. King County has a diverse workforce with industries in varying sects, from construction and manufacturing to government and educational services.

When comparing King County's workforce industries, in 2024, the highest average annual employment was in government at 178,581, bringing in $17,126,660,458 in total wages paid. The government industry is followed by healthcare and social assistance at 164,376 employed and $12,739,200,998 for total wages, as well as the professional, scientific, and technical services industry at 150,802 employed and $26,134,279,377 total wages.

Additionally, the number of 2024 WARN layoffs in King County was highest in the information sector, followed by manufacturing.

Post-pandemic, there has also been a shift in work location status in the central Puget Sound Region, as demonstrated by a regional survey. It was found that in 2019, most people worked fully in-person (77%), whereas few people worked hybrid (18%), and even fewer were fully at home (5%). In 2021, more people reported working hybrid (23%) and fully at-home (29%), and there was a decrease in people working fully in-person (48%). In 2023, there was an increase in people working fully in-person (63%), but it did not recover to pre-pandemic numbers.

Comparing August 2023 and 2024, unemployment rates in South King County demonstrated slight changes. Cities such as Auburn, Burien, Des Moines, Federal Way, Kent, Renton, Seattle, and in the overall King County region experienced slight increases in unemployment, whereas Maple Valley and SeaTac experienced slight decreases (Table 12). Examining a broader pattern, in both August 2023 and 2024, King County reported lower unemployment rates than Washington state by 0.3%. Despite unemployment trends improving in King County, further examination of 2023 data reveal clear disparities in unemployment by race and educational attainment. In 2023, the unemployment rate was highest for individuals identifying as Black or African American (7.8%), Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (6.6%), and are lowest for Individuals identifying as Asian alone (3.1%), and White (4.4%). In 2024, there is a similar disparity with the unemployment rate highest for individuals identifying as Black or African American (7.7%), and American Indian and Alaska Native (6.9%), and lowest for individuals identifying as Asian (3.4%) and White (4.7%).

Furthermore, in both 2023 and 2024, there is also a disparity with unemployment in relation to educational attainment in King County, with the unemployment rate decreasing as more education is attained. In 2024, the highest unemployment rate for those between 25-64 years old and have less than a high school graduate (7.4%), and lowest rate for those that have a bachelor's degree or higher (3.1%).

In addition to the disparities seen with unemployment, there is a similar trend with disparities regarding median household income. Examining the average median household income between 2019 to 2023 reveals that the median household income for all households was $122,148. Meanwhile, American Indian and Alaska Native as well as Black households had the lowest incomes at $62,961 and $65,975, respectively. This is compared to the highest medians for Asian households and White Non-Hispanic households at $151,589 and $128,016, respectively. The lower household incomes experienced by households of color is concerning, given that in Washington state for 2023, the annual household income that was needed to afford a two-bedroom home that is at HUD's Fair Market Rent was $75,556. This high cost of rent can be seen to be a burden to households of color in the King County region. In King County in particular, this high cost for renting a two-bedroom home places more burden on households of color who are renting, particularly Black, American Indian and Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian/Islander, who have a median household income less than $75,556. In addition to the housing burden, in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue region, the prices of goods and services continue to rise, adding an additional burden to families with lower incomes.



In addition to the high renting costs, in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue (metro) area, the lower the income, the fewer affordable homes available per 100 renter households. For example, for renters at extremely low income, there are 28 affordable homes available per 100 renter households, compared to renters at 100% AMI who have 102 affordable homes available per 100 households. This shows that in addition to facing high prices for consumer goods and services in Washington state, the lowest-income households are the most vulnerable to finding affordable housing. For example, for extremely low-income renter households, 79% are severely cost burdened, compared to middle income households with only 2% severely cost burdened.

In Washington state in 2023, we see that non-white households, particularly Black and American Indian or Alaska Native households, are more likely to be extremely low-income renters compared to White households. Lastly, this is also concerning given that in 2023, extremely low-income renter households in Washington primarily consist of vulnerable populations such as those that are seniors (35%) or have a disability (23%), in addition to those who are in the labor force (30%).

Table 12: Unemployment Rates

City Name	Unemployment Rate 2023	Unemployment Rate 2024
Auburn	4.30%	4.50%
Burien	4.30%	4.70%
Des Moines	4.70%	5.10%
Federal Way	4.60%	5.10%
Kent	4.40%	4.70%
Maple Valley	4.30%	4.20%
Renton	4.10%	4.30%
SeaTac	4.60%	4.40%
Seattle	3.90%	4.10%
King County	4.20%	4.30%

Table 13: Housing Affordability

City Name	Median Rent 2022	Median Rent 2023	Median Rent 2024*	Average Rent 2025*	% Increase in Median Rents 2022-2023	% Increase in Median Rents 2022-2025	% of 2023 Renters Paying More than 35% on Housing Costs	% of 2023 Owners Paying More than 35% on Housing Costs
Algona	$1,648	$1,839			12%		38.40%	31.00%
Auburn	$1,594	$1,713	$1,785	$1,866	7%	17%	40.70%	20.00%
Black Diamond	$1,417	$2,340			65%		22.40%	21.30%
Burien	$1,649	$1,742			6%		42.50%	23.10%
Covington	$2,085	$2,220			6%		46.80%	20.40%
Des Moines	$1,662	$1,727			4%		58.90%	23.50%
Enumclaw	$1,338	$1,672			25%		39.70%	11.60%
Federal Way	$1,660	$1,738	$1,907	$1,878	5%	13%	46.40%	24.60%
Kent	$1,742	$1,833	$1,991	$1,954	5%	12%	42.30%	24.40%
Maple Valley	$2,127	$2,189			3%		43.70%	20.10%
Normandy Park	$1,747	$1,781			2%		41.10%	24.00%
Renton	$1,864	$1,923	$2,096	$2,156	3%	16%	40.30%	26.10%
SeaTac	$1,626	$1,637		$1,787	1%	10%	43.10%	24.50%
Tukwila	$1,697	$1,786			5%		35.50%	29.90%
Seattle	$1,945	$1,998	$2,007	$2,252	3%	16%	35.30%	19.00%
King County	$1,950	$2,035	$2,110		4%		36.80%	20.60%



03. Summary of Survey and Focus Group Results

- Community needs survey results
- Insights and recommendations for South King County
- Food Bank customer outreach
- Veteran's focus group

Community Needs Survey Results

About the Survey

MSC partnered with Byrd Barr Place (BBP) to conduct a King County community needs assessment survey from August 2025 through April 2026. To encourage participation from the communities it serves, MSC distributed the survey through its social media channels, newsletters, an email to its donor base, and a tabling event at its food bank.

Using data from the broader King County survey, MSC focused its analysis on the following South King County ZIP codes:

98001, 98002, 98003, 98023, 98030, 98032, 98042, 98057, 98058, 98166, 98168, 98188, 98198

South King County Respondent Snapshot

The following metrics summarize participation among South King County (SKC) assessment survey:

103 South King County respondents
13 South King County ZIP codes represented.
29 minutes average survey completion time

All Survey Response Context

- Of the 220 total survey respondents, 168 (76.4%) reported living in a King County ZIP code.
- Of those 168 King County respondents, 103 (61.3%) lived in South King County ZIP codes. South King County respondents accounted for 46.8% of all survey respondents.
- South King County respondents represent communities experiencing southward displacement from Seattle's Central District.
- Average survey completion time was 26 minutes for King County respondents and 29 minutes for South King County respondents, compared with 23 minutes across all respondents.

Table 14: Top 3 South King County Zip Code Respondent Counts

Zip	City	Count	% of South King County
98003	Federal Way	27	26%
98023	Federal Way	25	24%
98032	Kent	10	10%

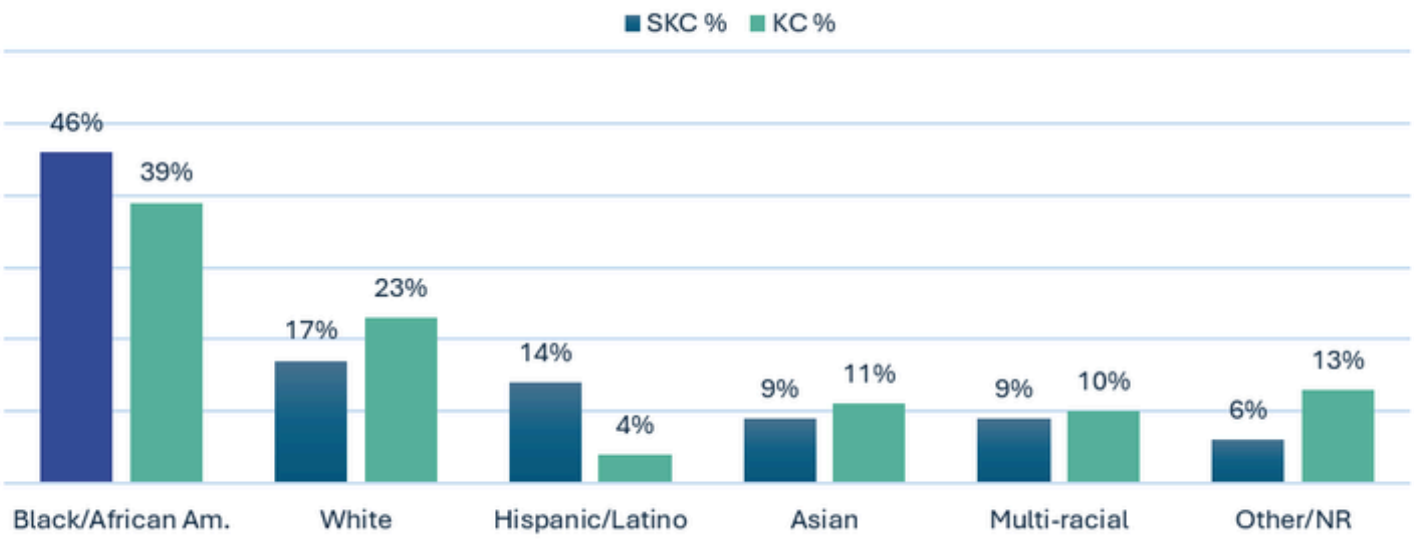
Demographic Comparisons

The gender distribution of South King County respondents closely mirrored that of King County respondents overall. In South King County, 71% identified as female, 26% as male, and 3% as non-binary or other, compared with 70%, 27%, and 3%, respectively, across King County.

Twenty-three percent of South King County respondents identified as LGBTQ+, compared with 20% of all survey respondents, a difference of three percentage points.

Additionally, 39% of South King County respondents reported a disability or chronic condition, representing approximately 40 of the 103 participants. This was six percentage points lower than the rate among King County respondents overall (45%).

Table 15: Racial and Ethnic Composition South King County vs. King County



Demographics: Age, Education and Income

South King County respondent profile compared to King County baseline.

Income Distribution of South King County residents participating in the survey.

- 14% of respondents earn less than $25,000 per year.
- 14% of respondents earn $25k - $49K.
- 21 % of the participants earn $50k – $74k.
- 5% of the respondents have no income.
- 19% of the respondents preferred not to answer.

Table 16: Age Distribution

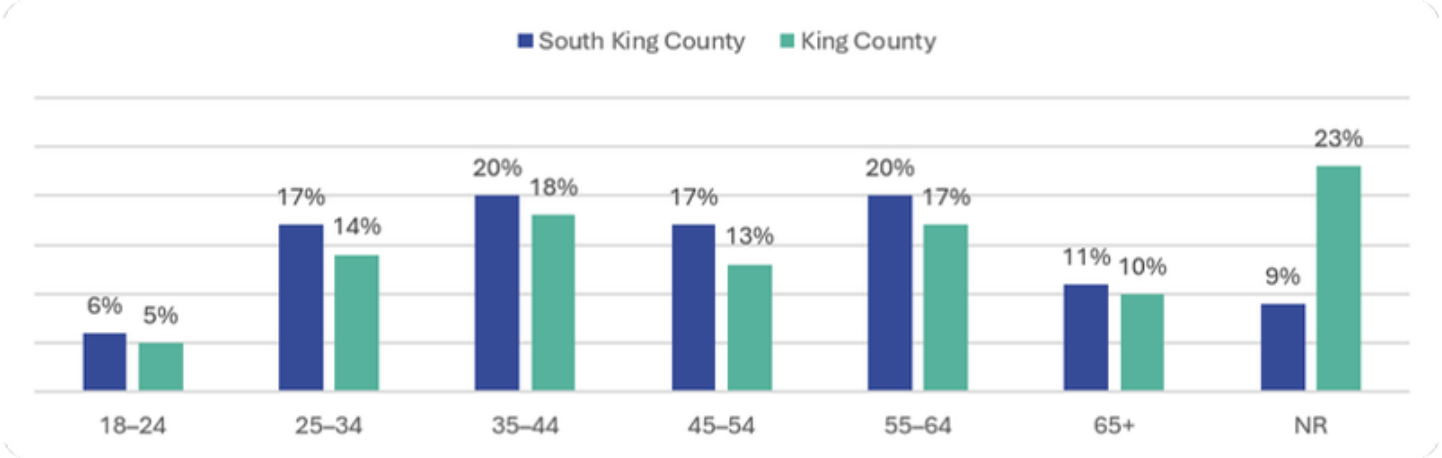


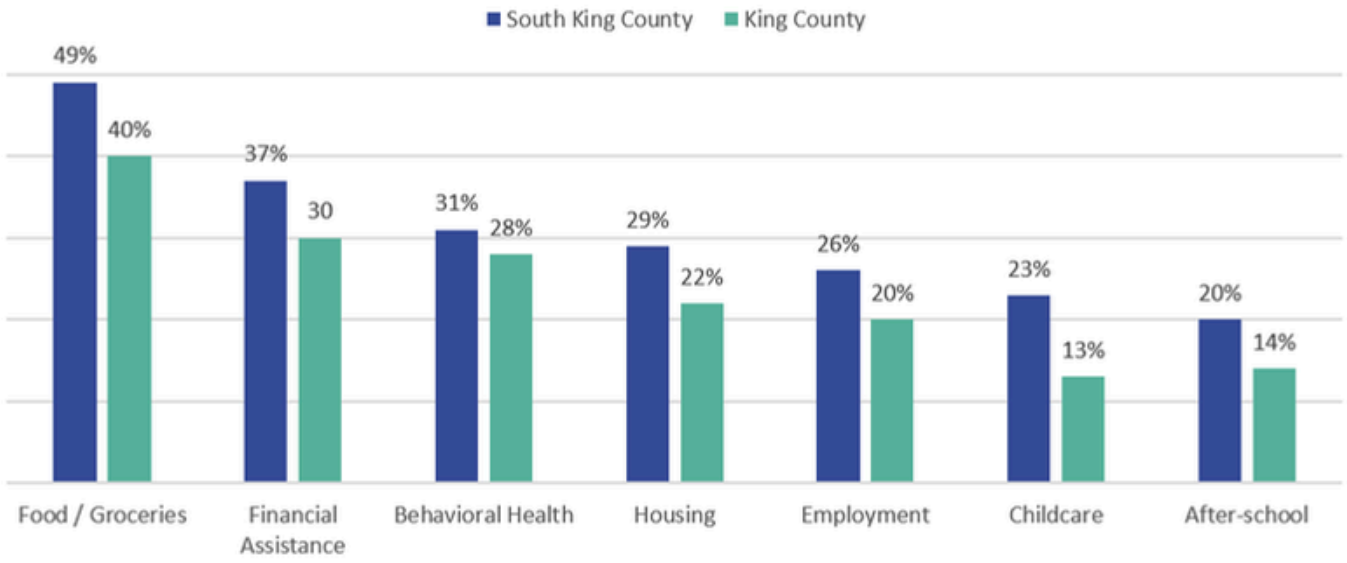
Table 17: Education Level

Level	South King County	King County
2-year Degree or Higher	36%	39%
Some College	3%	8%
High School/GED	22%	17%
Some High School	8%	5%
No Formal Education	1%	0%

Community Needs – South King County

Top service needs identified by South King County respondents, compared to all of King County.

Table 18: Community Needs



Food Insecurity is #1

- About 49% of South King County respondents identified food and grocery assistance as a top need—9 percentage points above the King County average. Communities in Auburn's 98001 ZIP code also reported food assistance needs among refugee and immigrant populations.

Housing Pressure Elevated

- About 29% of South King County respondents identified housing as a concern—7 percentage points above the King County average. South King County also serves as a destination for people relocating from Seattle's Central District.

Childcare Gap is Critical

- About 23% of South King County respondents identified childcare as a need—nearly double the King County rate. Responses from Somali-speaking residents in Kent's 98030 ZIP code highlighted a pronounced gap in childcare access. After-school programs were also identified as an elevated need.

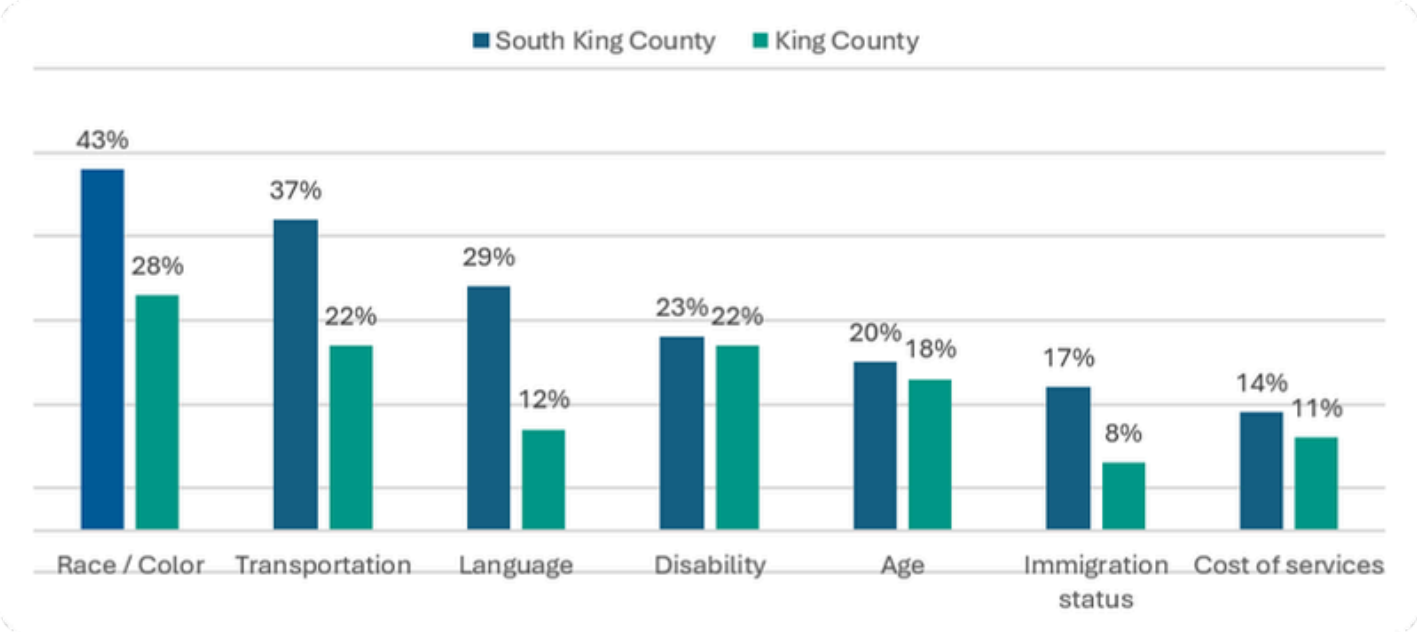
Behavioral Health is Persistent

- About 31% of South King County respondents identified behavioral health needs. Responses from Federal Way's 98023 ZIP code highlighted gaps in behavioral health services. Among Hispanic/Latino respondents, 43% identified behavioral health as a need.

Barriers to Accessing Services – South King County

Top barriers identified by South King County respondents.

Table 19: Barriers to Accessing Services



Race/Color
- Disproportionate for South King County (Black & Hispanic majority)

Transportation
- Major gap - South King County zip codes lack transit access.

Language
- Somali, Spanish speaking communities in 98030 and 98002.

Disability
- Consistent with King County average.

Age
- Primarily affects 60+ population.

Immigration Status
- Refugee and immigrant communities in 98001 and 98030.

Cost of Services
- Financial burden for low-income households.

Why South King County Respondents Moved to South King County

Current South King County residents who completed the survey moved to South King County for a variety of reasons with higher rates of cost burdens, eviction and better housing options.

Table 20: Why South King County Respondents Moved to South King County

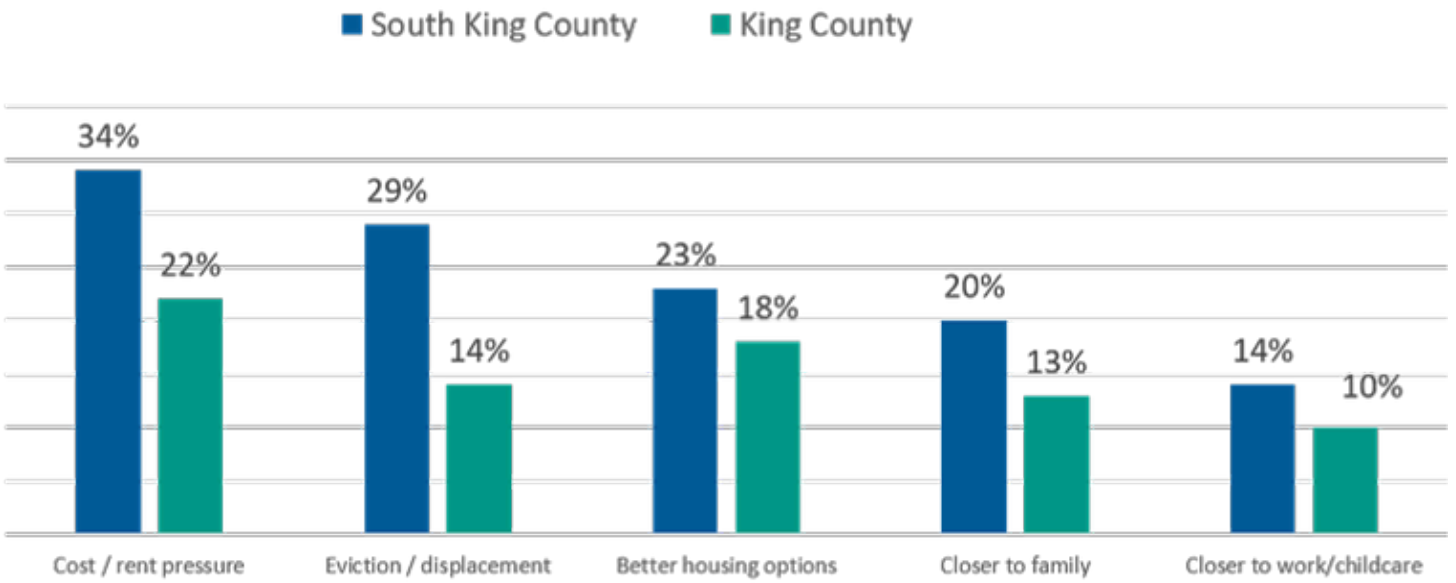
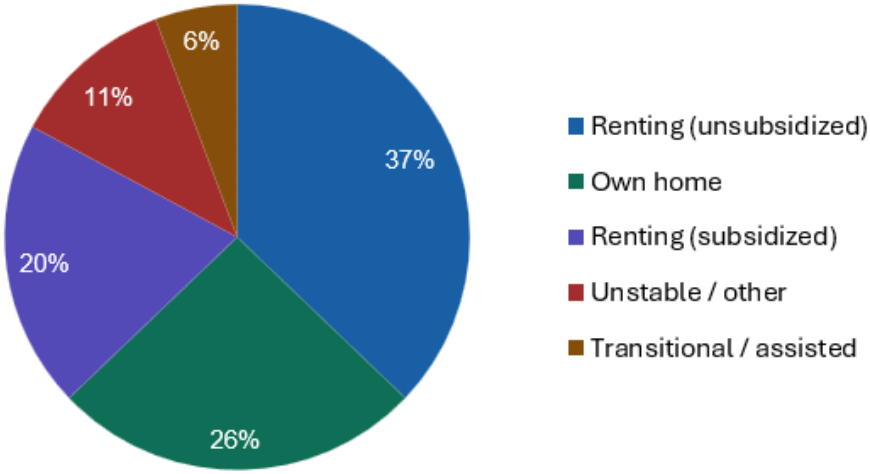


Table 21: Housing Status - South King County Respondents



Displacement Corridor

Central District (98122) →
Inner SE Seattle (98118, 98144) →
South King County:
98032 Kent
98001/98002 Auburn
98003 Federal Way

Key Finding

Black respondents are the most represented racial group across all three corridor zones. Rent pressure and eviction from Seattle's Central District are the primary drivers of southward movement into South King County communities.

Eviction/displacement rate in South King County: 29% vs. 14% KC average

Socioeconomic Disparities by Race – South King County

Key metrics for South King County 's racial groups - % of each group.

Table 22: Socioeconomic Disparities by Race - South King County

Metric	Black/ African Am.	Hispanic/ Latino	Asian	White	Multi-racial
Earning <$35K	42%	14%	53%	41%	64%
Financial Assistance Need	30%	0%	53%	24%	18%
Behavioral Health Need	25%	43%	16%	35%	36%
Housing Need	25%	14%	11%	22%	18%
Food/Grocery Need	34%	29%	47%	46%	36%
Employment Need	25%	29%	26%	5%	36%
Childcare Need	18%	14%	5%	5%	9%
Disability/Chronic Condition	22%	14%	21%	51%	45%
Race as Barrier	40%	57%	42%	3%	9%

Insights and Recommendations for South King County

Actionable findings from the South King County respondent cohort:

01 Co-locate Food + Financial Services

Food needs (49%) and financial needs (37%) often co-occur. South King County partners should bundle services by pairing food pantry access with financial coaching or help navigating utility assistance.

02 Invest in Multilingual Outreach

Language was identified as a barrier by 29% of South King County respondents—more than double the King County average of 12%. Offering surveys in Somali in ZIP code 98030 and in Spanish in ZIP codes 98002 and 98023 could help providers better understand these communities' needs.

03 Address Transportation as a Service Gap

Transportation was identified as a barrier by 37% of South King County respondents—15 percentage points above the King County average. These findings suggest a need to consider transit-accessible service locations or mobile service delivery in Federal Way and Auburn ZIP codes.

04 Targeted Childcare Support

ZIP code 98030 in Kent and other areas shows an acute childcare gap, particularly within the Somali community. Consider advocating for culturally responsive childcare programs and after-school services in this area.

05 Track Displacement-Driven Arrivals

Eviction or displacement was a reason for moving for 29% of South King County respondents—compared with the KC average of 14%. Consider adding intake questions to identify newly arrived households displaced from their previous homes and connect them with rapid stabilization services.

06 Continue Investment in Affordable Housing

One in three households faces housing affordability pressures. South King County service providers should continue investing in strategies that expand access to affordable housing.

Food Bank Customer Outreach

In July of 2025, MSC's food bank transitioned operations from the administration building in Federal Way on 336th Street to the new Redondo Heights Food Bank Market in north Federal Way. The Market at Redondo Heights allows community members to access food with more choice and dignity through weekly appointments, eliminating long-lines. Additionally, through the RDH Food Bank Market, MSC offers home delivery services and mobile food bank services at senior living communities.

Byrd Barr Place (BBP) staff, alongside assistance from MSC staff, conducted tabling events on January 27th and 29th of 2026 at RDH Food Bank Market. During food bank operations, BBP staff create a poster where residents could write their thoughts across 3 categories: biggest need right now, what do you love about your community, and where do you go when you need help. Responses were then categorized into common text themes, and key themes.

When asked what participants' biggest needs are right now, the top words were housing, rent, and help. The key themes identified for this question were housing and rent assistance, help with power bills, and financial support broadly. Additionally, when asked what participants loved about their community, the top words were MSC, family, and kindness. The key themes identified for this question were MSC Market as a central trusted role, family and relational bonds, as well as kindness and mutual aid/giving back. Lastly, when participants were asked where they go when they need help, the top words were family, internet, and MSC. The key themes identified were family or trusted personal relationships first, internet/online or self-directed problem-solving, and MSC as a trusted community-based organization.



Veterans Focus Group

Since opening in 2016, WJW has provided permanent housing for homeless or imminently homeless veterans and their families. Consisting of 44-one-, two- and three-bedroom units, all units are eligible for rental subsidies through the HUD VASH Program, in collaboration with King County Housing Authority. In addition to housing, WJW provides onsite assistance with case management, employment, mental health and substance abuse counseling, child advocacy, and various classes on financial management, technology, and job readiness.

BBP conducted a listening session at William J. Wood Veterans House (WJW) in February 2026. A flyer was placed in the building for one month, encouraging residents to attend. The listening session lasted 90 minutes, where residents discussed community needs and access to services. Conversations held during the focus group were not recorded for privacy. A total of 14 residents attended this listening session and shared their thoughts.

Residents expressed a desire for additional services and support including behavioral health, increased onsite security, substance and mental health resources and more access to food resources. Barriers included lack of transportation supports to access services, and feelings of distrust with certain systems including VA healthcare system. The residents are grateful for community events such as breakfasts onsite, long-term connections with their neighbors and the building itself providing a home for so many. Nearly 80% of attendees responded that they feel connected and supported by their community.





04. A Closer Look at the Top Three Concerns

- **Food and grocery needs**
- **Financial assistance**
- **Behavioral health**

Food and Grocery Needs

Food insecurity is a social and economic condition where a household can have uncertain or limited access to adequate, quality foods. The effects of limited access to quality foods can impact mental and physical conditions and can make it harder for families to exit the cycle of poverty due to a decreased ability to focus on work and education. Some root causes of food insecurity that make BIPOC households especially vulnerable include barriers to care, structural and institutional racism, and a white dominant culture in our society.

These root causes feed into other barriers to quality foods such as unstable housing, poverty, and no access to food. Through efforts by WSU and UW, key findings in the 2024 Washington State Food Security Survey were found regarding food security throughout Washington state. The survey found that 70% of respondents had to decrease their food quality and quantity due to high prices, while 84% of households that were food insecure reported mental health effects. For King County, 59% of respondents reported some form of low food security. Additionally, the survey found that food insecurity was most experienced by households with a high school education or less, lower income, children, and in households with living situations other than owning and renting. Additionally, food security was found lowest among Middle Eastern/North African and Black respondents.

Due to increasing costs in recent times, households who are more vulnerable to food insecurity may have a more challenging time accessing basic food needs. The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) provides data on the average change in prices for goods and services, when compared to the previous year. When examining the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue region's CPI-U 12-month % change on food and beverages, there was a 4.1% increase on costs from December 2024 to December 2025. These rising costs can make it more challenging for families who are struggling to pay for other necessities, to access quality foods.

For low-income families in King County, they may depend on multiple resources such as Basic Food (SNAP) benefits or the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women (WIC) to provide food for their households. In December 2025, 13.2% of all households in King County were reported to have received SNAP benefits. Meanwhile, 22,915 people were reported to be enrolled in WIC at the Public Health-Seattle and King County clinics. Additionally, through King County average measures from 2020 to 2024, the South King County region was reported to have the highest % of households receiving Basic Food benefits, when compared to other regions, at 13.5%. All within the South King County region, the top 5 neighborhoods/cities with the highest percentages of households receiving Basic Food Benefits include: 26% of households in Kent-West, 23% of households in Kent-Central, 22% of households in North Highline/White Center, 22% of households in Federal Way-North Corridor, and 21% of households in Tukwila.

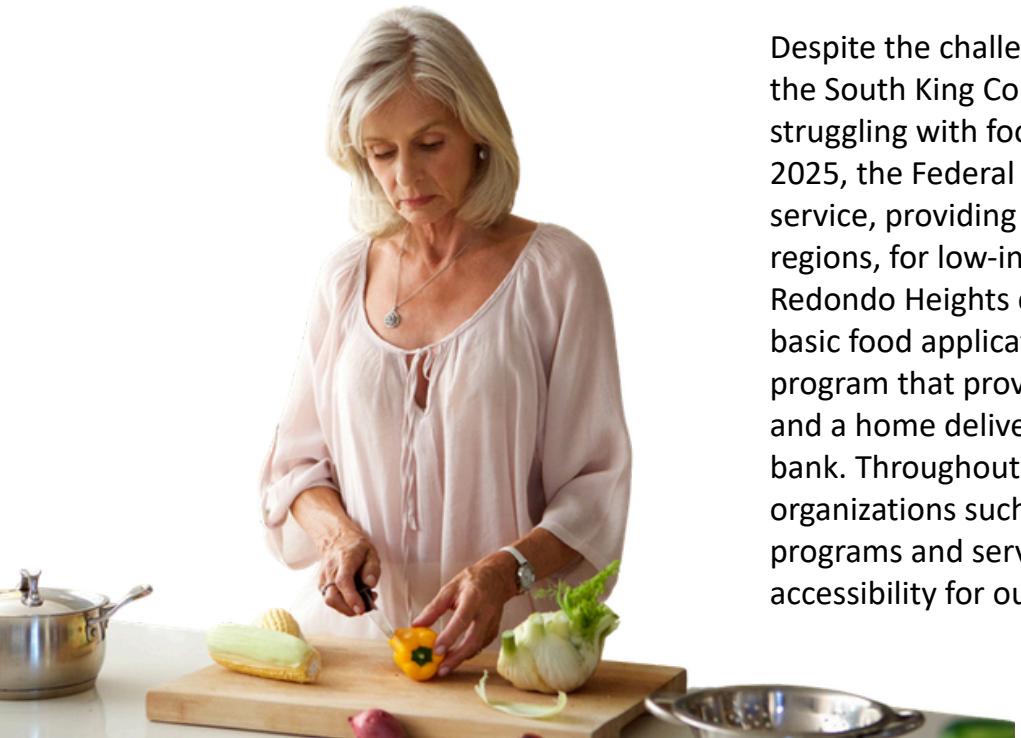


There were also racial disparities found with households relying on Basic Food benefits, with the highest percentages found with Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, Black and American Indian and Alaska Native households. Despite the current enrollment statistics, King County still had 184,923 people who were eligible for SNAP benefits but were not currently enrolled in December 2025. This can be due to complications with navigating the application for benefits and lack of information about eligibility, both of which are key areas that organizations can work to improve participation in our county.

There were also racial disparities found with households relying on Basic Food benefits, with the highest percentages found with Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, Black and American Indian and Alaska Native households. Despite the current enrollment statistics, King County still had 184,923 people who were eligible for SNAP benefits but were not currently enrolled in December 2025. This can be due to complications with navigating the application for benefits and lack of information about eligibility, both of which are key areas that organizations can work to improve participation in our county.

For these vulnerable populations and households that rely on SNAP benefits and already feel the stressors of expenses and food insecurity, there may be heightened stress regarding fears about the reductions of SNAP benefits. Under the 2025 reconciliation bill, individuals wanting to stay on SNAP longer than three months would need to meet either 80 hours of verified work each month, participate in SNAP employment and training program, or some combination of qualifying activities to meet the 80 hours. Additionally, protections were removed for vulnerable groups such as adults from 18 to 64 that are not employed, parents with children over 14, people without homes, veterans, young adults exiting foster care, as well as individuals with temporary and humanitarian protections.

This can leave vulnerable populations to experience heightened food insecurity and can pose challenges for organizations working to increase participation among households who already face barriers to the SNAP application system.



Despite the challenges, numerous efforts throughout the South King County region may help families struggling with food accessibility. In December of 2025, the Federal Way Link Extension was open for service, providing increased accessibility to other regions, for low-income families such as MSC's Redondo Heights community. Additionally, MSC offers basic food application assistance, a Food Bridge program that provides food for senior living facilities, and a home delivery program for food from the food bank. Throughout Washington state, alongside organizations such as MSC, numerous food assistance programs and services are working to increase food accessibility for our communities.

Financial Assistance

Looking at assistance more broadly, respondents were also concerned about receiving financial assistance. When examining the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue region's CPI-U12-month percent change on all items (not seasonally adjusted) in December 2025, the rate was found to have increased by 3.1%, showing a faster percentage increase than December 2024.

A 2025 King County Housing Needs Assessment by ECONorthwest revealed regional differences in Washington with income and housing. When compared to the Seattle and East subregions in 2023, South King County had a lower median wage for most industries, and fewer workers in higher wage sectors, given that a significant number of workers are in industries with a median lower than $30. Analyzing 2023 Self-Sufficiency Standard Data by the UW Center for Women's Welfare reveals that at the 40th percentile for Fair Market Rents (FMRs), for an adult and an infant living in South King County, the household would need a wage of $39.74 to meet basic needs. For many parents in South King County who work low-wage jobs that earn less than the self-sufficiency wage, it can be more challenging to afford basic needs for their household.

There are also disparities present within different labor industries, demonstrating how it can be especially harder for marginalized communities to afford basic needs. According to research at UW's Center for Women's Welfare, throughout Washington, people of color were overrepresented in industries that pay less than the standard wages. For example, of the industries paying below the standard, people of color were the most overrepresented in agricultural work.

Within agricultural work, 64% of people earned below the standard and people of color, especially women of color, earned less than their white counterparts. For households led by women of color that work in low-wage industries, they are rising costs of necessities seen throughout Washington state.

In addition to the lower household incomes and wages, households in South King County have disparities with cost-burdened households. The King County Housing Needs Assessment reported that in South King County, Pacific Islander, Black, and Hispanic households were overrepresented in households that were burdened or severely burdened by expenses. With the rising costs of basic necessities, including housing, these households of color and households with disabilities that already face challenges with accessing affordable housing that meets their needs are increasingly burdened with expenses.



In 2025, there was an increase in the number of evictions for rental nonpayment, demonstrating that households are struggling with meeting basic needs. For households of color who are burdened by rising costs, especially housing, they can have a higher chance of being unable to pay. Without affordable housing that meets their needs, households of color can risk being unhoused. In 2024 within King County, people of color were disproportionately unhoused, with the percentages of unhoused population greater than their percentage of total population.

Despite the challenges of accessing financial assistance in KC, organizations such as MSC have put efforts to create affordable housing, along with other services of financial assistance. For MSC, this includes rent and emergency assistance, employment assistance, housing for low-income families, seniors, and veterans, family shelter and homelessness navigation, and foreclosure prevention and counseling.



Behavioral Health

Behavioral health is a term that encompasses the state of general well-being, including social, emotional, and mental well-being.

Throughout Washington state, there are barriers to behavioral health support amongst different socioeconomic statuses and mental health conditions. In a 2025 report by the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA), the behavioral health needs throughout Washington state were examined. It was reported that in King County, during the state fiscal year of 2022, 48,119 Medicaid-eligible individuals needed mental health treatment, but only 52% received treatment. This means that nearly half of the low-income individuals requiring mental health support were unable to access treatment. This is a similar pattern seen across other behavioral health needs in the county. For example, among Medicaid-eligible individuals in the same and provide appropriate care.

Examining these barriers closer, a 2024/2025 King County Community Health Needs Assessment identified some aspects of community health that have been improving, as well as other aspects that need improvement. Some aspects of community health that have been improving in King County are adult smoking, e-cigarette usage, substance use, attempted suicide, and fall hospitalizations.

Meanwhile, some aspects that need improvement are drug-induced deaths, firearm-related violence, unintentional injuries, domestic violence, as well as mental health and suicide ideation. These improvement areas can help guide community leaders and organizations when developing resources to improve behavioral health in King County. Additionally, this assessment highlighted some general factors as well as key barriers that impact access to mental and behavioral health services. Some of these general factors include cost, cultural competency in a provider, and timely appointments. Additionally, some barriers identified were the lack of available providers, language barriers, stigma, scheduling challenges, insurance, documentation status, and lack of awareness. Regarding language barriers, the South King County region was reported to have a higher percentage of residents that have limited ability to speak English. Individuals who speak limited English may face more difficulty accessing behavioral health resources and culturally competent providers that can understand their cultural background.

Culturally competent care is especially important in helping individuals identify fears and stigma related to accessing behavioral health services. Furthermore, documentation status can act as a barrier to behavioral health services due to fears of government systems, financial challenges, as well as lack of insurance. Low-income individuals may also face significant challenges in finding resources as well as time to attend appointments, which can be heightened by the shortage of healthcare providers seen throughout Washington state.

Despite challenges accessing behavioral health services in KC, MSC is committed to increasing accessibility by offering permanent supportive housing for women in recovery at the Titusville location as well as the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program which advocates for the rights and safety of long-term care residents.



05. Strategies for Addressing Community Needs

- Summary of findings
- MSC 2024-2025 annual report overview
- Looking to the future: Statement from the CEO

Summary of Findings

Demographic, economic, and community information reflects the community needs and strengths that currently exist in South King County. South King County is comprised of a diverse population. The top social problems identified by the community were food and grocery concerns, financial assistance, and behavioral health. Other key concerns were housing, transportation, and childcare.



Food and Groceries



Financial Assistance



Behavioral Health

MSC's 2025-2026 Annual Report Overview

Between July 2025 and June 2026, MSC served over 137,500 individuals and over 50,000 households. Of those identifying their race and ethnicity, 23% were White/Eastern European; 18% were Black, African American, or African; 8% Hispanic; 29.5% Middle Eastern or North African; 5% Other/Multiracial; 13% Asian; 2.5% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander; 1% American Indian or Alaska Native. The remainder were unknown, either not disclosed or served by programs who do not collect this information. Of the individuals served reporting age data, 21.5% were under the age of 18; 6% were between ages 18 and 24; 46% were between ages 25 and 54; and 26.5% were age 55 or older. The population of age 55 and older community members served by MSC has increased nearly 6% since 2022, indicating growing needs among vulnerable seniors.

Of adults reporting education levels, nearly 1 in 4 or 25% had some college education or a college degree. Of individuals reporting gender, 55% identified as female and 45% as male (please note: less than 1% identified as Transgender, Non-Conforming/Non-Binary, or Other; and 75% were unknown/data not collected). Of those reporting, 3% reported that they had a disability. Regarding housing status, nearly 65% of reporting households were renters; nearly 30% own their home; less than 1% said that they are currently unhoused; and 5% reported some Other type of housing situation, or their housing status was unknown or not collected.

Almost 3 out of 4 (75%) of households that reported income were extremely low-income (at or below 30% of Area Median Income or AMI—currently no more than $49,300 per year for a family of four) and 21% of households were low income (between 31-50% of AMI). Area Median Income is a local measurement of the region's income distribution; half of families earn more than the median and half of families earn less than the median. Extremely low-income households have greater and more complex needs and struggle to meet their basic needs such as food and housing. Nearly 45% of households reporting income source data reported at least one member of the household as employed and earning a wage. Many families served by MSC are extremely low income and struggling financially even when one or more family members are working, indicating a potential lack of access to living wage employment opportunities.

After significant increases in households reporting that they receive no income or public assistance in years 2022-2024 (38% at the highest in 2023), significant decreases have been seen in years 2025-2026 (10% at the lowest in 2025; 12% in 2026). This is an interesting development given the more recent higher unemployment rates and slower job growth in 2025-2026; however, this may point to the critical importance of and the reliance of many low-income and senior households on other stable sources of income, such as Social Security, Pensions, TANF, Unemployment Insurance, and non-cash benefits such as Basic Food, LIHEAP, Housing Choice Vouchers, as well as utilization of Food Banks. Also growing are the numbers of households reporting "Other" sources of income such as Self-Employment / Independent Contractor work through companies such as UBER, LYFT, and Door Dash, and other forms of temporary or "gig"-based income. Many households still struggle to engage in the traditional employment workforce due to lack of childcare, transportation, and other resources.

Looking to the Future: Statement from the CEO

Multi-Service Center (MSC) places client voice at the heart of our work. As a Community Action agency, we conduct a comprehensive community needs assessment to listen closely and understand what individuals and families need to thrive. We then ask ourselves: How can MSC respond through our services—and where we cannot meet a need directly, how can we uplift, strengthen, and partner with organizations that can?

Together, we are building a strong, coordinated safety net that supports every member of our community. We believe everyone deserves to be housed, fed, warm, safe, and cared for. We believe our services must be shaped by the people we serve and grounded in the realities of our community.

Even in one of the most challenging funding climates we have experienced in recent history, we know the power of collective action. By bringing together diverse voices and organizations committed to preserving essential services, we can meet uncertainty with innovation, creativity, and partnership. Together, we can remain rooted, resilient, and ready to move forward through difficult storms.

The future of MSC is grounded in action. We will continue to live our values—not simply by naming them, but by embodying them in our work, strengthening our culture, improving the client experience, broadening our message, and cultivating deep, lasting partnerships.

When we listen to our community and act together, we create more than services—we create possibility, dignity, and a stronger future for everyone.

In community,

Kirsten York, CEO



06. Sources

American Community Survey. (2014, 2021). Demographic and Housing Estimates—Table DP05.

American Community Survey. (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023). Selected Economic Characteristics—Table DP03. https://data.census.gov/all

American Community Survey. (2022, 2023, 2024). Selected Housing Characteristics—Table DP04. https://data.census.gov/all

American Community Survey. (2023). Educational Attainment—S1501. https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2023.S1501?q=S1501:+Educational+Attainment&g=010XX00US_040XX00US53_050XX00US53033

American Community Survey. (2023, 2024). Employment Status—S2301. https://data.census.gov/all

City of Seattle. (2026). Food Insecurity—RSJ | seattle.gov. Race and Social Justice. https://www.seattle.gov/rsj/racial-equity-research/food-insecurity

Close the Gap Foundation. (2026). Opportunity Gap. Close the Gap Foundation. Close the Gap Foundation. https://www.closethegapfoundation.org/glossary/opportunity-gap

Communities Court. (2026, March). Median Household Income. Communities Count. https://www.communitiescount.org/median-household-income

Communities Court. (2026, May 7). Households Receiving Basic Food Benefits. Communities Count. https://www.communitiescount.org/households-receiving-food-benefits

Communities in Schools. (2026). What We Do. Communities In Schools of Greater King County. https://gkc.ciswa.org/what-we-do/

Community Center for education Results. (2023). Data Dashboard—Road Map Project. Road Map Project Data Dashboard. https://roadmapproject.org/data-dashboard/

Dworkin, N. (2025, November 25). New SNAP Work Requirements Start December 1: What They Mean for Washington Families. Northwest Harvest. https://www.northwestharvest.org/news-insights/new-snap-work-requirements-start-december-1-what-they-mean-for-washington-families/

ECOnorthwest. (2025, September). King County Countywide Housing Needs Assessment 2025. King County Department of Community and Human Services. https://cdn.kingcounty.gov/-/media/king-county/depts/dchs/housing/plans-reports/countywide-housing-needs-assessment_eco.pdf?rev=a66f2f17bb9a4712a4cb08312b2e9f7b&hash=228DF8755110CE051BDCC437E39FBC3D

Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee. (2025). 2025 Closing the Opportunity Gap in Washington's Public Education System. https://ospi.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/2025-02/eogoac-2025-annual-report_0.pdf

Employment Security Department. (2024). Covered employment (QCEW) | Employment Security Department. 2024 QCEW Annual Averages. https://esd.wa.gov/jobs-and-training/labor-market-information/employment-and-wages/covered-employment-qcew

Great Schools Partnership. (2013, September 3). Opportunity Gap Definition. The Glossary of Education Reform. https://www.edglossary.org/opportunity-gap/

King County Department of Community and Human Services. (2025). King County Countywide Housing Needs Assessment 2025. King County Department of Community and Human Services. https://cdn.kingcounty.gov/-/media/king-county/depts/dchs/housing/plans-reports/king-county-2025-countywide-housing-needs-assessment-overview.pdf?rev=20b05bcd9fc042a9903e299a5f58700d&hash=DD06983D16418150084B6CE76BA8FBD2

Kucklick, A., & Brolliar, S. (n.d.). Occupational Segregation in Washington State. Center for Women's Welfare, University of Washington. Self-Sufficiency Standard at the Center for Women's Welfare, University of Washington. Retrieved June 28, 2026, from https://selfsufficiencystandard.org/washington/wa_occupational_segregation/

Matthew Notowidigdo. (2018, July 24). Low-income Americans are missing out on the public benefits they're eligible for. Simple interventions can help. The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL). https://www.povertyactionlab.org/blog/7-24-18/low-income-americans-are-missing-out-public-benefits-theyre-eligible-simple

Mercer Health & Benefits LLC. (2025). Washington Thriving Quantitative Landscape and Gap Analysis Report. Washington State Health Care Authority. https://www.hca.wa.gov/assets/program/quantitative-landscape-and-gap-analysis-report.pdf

National Low Income Housing Coalition. (2023). Washington | National Low Income Housing Coalition. https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/oor/Washington_2023_OOR.pdf

National Low Income Housing Coalition. (2026). Washington | National Low Income Housing Coalition. https://nlihc.org/housing-needs-by-state/washington

Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. (n.d.). Healthy People 2030: Enrollment in Higher Education. Retrieved https://odphp.health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health/literature-summaries/enrollment-higher-education

Office of Disease Promotion and Health Promotion. (n.d.). Health People 2030—Food Insecurity. Retrieved June 28, 2026, from https://odphp.health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health/literature-summaries/food-insecurity

Otten JJ, Spiker ML, Dai J, Buszkiewicz JH, Beese S, Collier SM, Ismach A. "Food Security and Food Assistance in the Wake of COVID-19: A 5th Survey of Washington State Households" (February 2025). Washington State Food Security Survey. https://foodsystems.uw.edu/cphn/wafood/brief-16

Public Health - Seattle & King County. (2026, May 20). Food Assistance in King County. Workbook: Food Assistance in King County. https://tableaupub.kingcounty.gov/t/Public/views/FoodAssistanceinKingCounty/WIC?%3Aembed=y&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&%3Aorigin=card_share_link

Public Health - Seattle & King County, & King County Hospitals for a Healthier Community. (2024). King County Community Health Needs Assessment 2024/2025. https://cdn.kingcounty.gov/-/media/king-county/depts/dph/documents/reports/chna/2024-2025-hhc-chna-report.pdf

Puget Sound Regional Council. (2023). Household Travel Survey Program. Puget Sound Regional Council. https://www.psrc.org/our-work/household-travel-survey-program

RentCafe. (2025, October 19). Average Rent in Seattle, WA: 2026 Rent Prices by Neighborhood. https://www.rentcafe.com/average-rent-market-trends/us/wa/seattle/

Self-Sufficiency Standard at the Center for Women's Welfare, University of Washington. (2023). The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Washington 2023. Center for Women's Welfare, University of Washington. https://selfsufficiencystandard.org/washington/

The Workforce Development Council Seattle-King County. (2026). Workforce Index | Discover Insights. Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County. https://www.seakingwdc.org/workforce-index

United Way King County. (2025, December). Hunger Snapshot King County December 2025. https://static1.squarespace.com/static/64efdb03722fe12a630acda4/t/6983d4a5deb2da6f3d9cf2d0/1770247334008/King+County.pdf

United Way King County. (2026, February 11). Recent Spike in Evictions Underscore Need for More Investments in Prevention Programs. United Way of King County. https://www.uwkc.org/about-us/press-room/press-releases/recent-spike-in-evictions-underscore-need-for-more-investments-in-prevention-programs/

UnitedHealthcare Services, Inc. (2024, March 20). Investing in equity and access in Washington. UnitedHealthcare Community & State. https://www.uhccommunityandstate.com/content/state-profiles/washington-profile/investing-in-equity-and-access-in-washington

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2025, December). Consumer Price Index, Seattle area—December 2025. Bureau of Labor Statistics. https://www.bls.gov/regions/west/news-release/2026/consumerpriceindex_seattle_20260113.htm

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2026, April). Consumer Price Index, Seattle area—April 2026. Bureau of Labor Statistics. https://www.bls.gov/regions/west/news-release/consumerpriceindex_seattle.htm

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2025, June 9). About Behavioral Health. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Mental Health. https://www.cdc.gov/mental-health/about/about-behavioral-health.html

Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. (2021). Washington State Report Card. Tableau Software. https://tableau.ospi.k12.wa.us/t/Public/views/ReportCard_Enrollment/Enrollment_Summary_Dashboard?%3Asize=581%2C1&%3Aembed=y&%3AshowVizHome=n&%3Atabs=n&%3Atoolbar=n&organizationid=103300&SchoolYear=2025-26&%3AapiID=host2#navType=0&navSrc=Parse

Washington State Employment Security Department. (2023, 2024). Labor force (LAUS) | Employment Security Department. https://esd.wa.gov/jobs-and-training/labor-market-information/labor-force-and-unemployment/labor-force-laus


MSC
MULTI-SERVICE CENTER