THE VITAL PROGRAM aims to improve the lives of King County's most vulnerable individuals by shifting away from a criminal-legal response to homelessness and behavioral health crises to a coordinated health and human services response.

SERVING THE MOST VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS

Serving People:
- with frequent jail bookings,*
- with behavioral health or other disabling conditions,
- and experiencing homelessness or unstable housing.

* four or more bookings in a 12-month period, in at least two of three years

Primary race categories alone or in combination with other race categories
- 53% identify as Black/African American
- 16% identify as Native American/Alaska Native
- 75%+ of participants identify as persons of color

SERVICES

Intensive support from dedicated case managers with lower caseloads.

A limited number of permanent supportive housing resources.

Street-based primary health care and occupational therapy.

Treatment and consultation for mental health conditions and substance use disorders.

Prosecutorial resources for legal system navigation and case coordination.

Services are relationship-based and use a harm reduction approach, not requiring compliance with courts or treatment.
RESULTS

JAIL BOOKINGS
FOR 70% OF PARTICIPANTS
Jail bookings per 100 days in community
2.3
3 years prior to program
1.0
while in program

Median number of bookings in King County and municipal jails.

HOUSING SECURITY
45% OF LONG-TERM PARTICIPANTS ARE STABLY HOUSED
Participants with stable housing
0%
while in program

45%
while in program

Independent or supported housing among participants after two years.

EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS
FOR 60% OF PARTICIPANTS
Medicaid claims for emergency department visits
4.8
3 years prior to program
1.4
while in program

Median number of Medicaid claims per year of Medicaid eligibility.

The Vital Program is funded primarily through the Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy in partnership with:

REACH
King County
Veterans, Seniors & Human Services Levy

Seattle City Attorney’s Office

King County
Prosecuting Attorney’s Office
Department of Community and Human Services

UW Medicine
Harborview Medical Center

Plymouth Housing

For more information, visit www.kingcounty.gov/vital