Moving Toward Age-Friendly Housing in King County

King County’s population is aging and becoming more diverse, while the cost of housing continues to increase rapidly. “Moving Toward Age-Friendly Housing in King County” analyzes these trends and makes recommendations for creating and ensuring safe, affordable, and accessible homes for a growing aging population in King County.

An Aging King County – By the Numbers

1 in 4
King County residents are projected to be 60 years or older by 2040.

25%
of older adult households cannot afford the average one-bedroom rent.

40%
of older adult households spend over 30% of their income on housing.

23%
of older adults are people of color.

Older Adult Housing Cost Burden

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>&gt;30% of Income</th>
<th>&gt;50% of Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural East County</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Urban &amp; North County</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South County</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Senior HHs in County</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Senior HHs in County</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key Recommendations

Increase Affordable Housing Supply
- Increase funding for housing development and preservation
- Focus on older adults making 0%–30% AMI
- Develop both intergenerational and senior housing options
- Expand availability of Housing Choice Vouchers

Strategically Locate Age-Friendly Housing
- Site new senior housing in areas within ¼ mile of services and public transit
- Promote infill housing in neighborhoods with nearby services
- Reduce barriers to construction of ADUs for intergenerational households

Expand Services that Facilitate Aging in Place
- Co-locate housing and services
- Fund home and community-based services and support caregivers
- Explore innovative approaches such as virtual villages

Ensure Accessible and Inclusive Housing
- Incentivize housing that meets accessibility standards
- Address the housing needs of diverse communities
- Provide age-friendly housing that supports LGBTQ older adults

Enhance Existing Services
- Promote and coordinate home repair and modification programs
- Provide training to housing staff on the needs and preferences of older adults and people with disabilities
- Connect more eligible widows and widowers to Veterans services

“I really don’t know what I would have done had this program and your team not been available, especially with all the rain we have been getting since the roof was replaced.”

− Housing Repair Program customer

“I could not live in my unit without my Section 8 voucher. So important. My income is $963 a month from Social Security and my rent would be $903 if I didn’t have Section 8”