

2022 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Council Budget Action: Agenda

Tab	Action	Option	Version
OH	013	A	001

Budget Action Title: Request that OH and SMC work with the King County Regional Homelessness Authority and Seattle Housing Authority to report on prioritizing housing vouchers for individuals involved in the criminal legal system

Ongoing: No Has Attachment: No

Primary Sponsor: Andrew Lewis

Council Members: Lisa Herbold, Dan Strauss

Staff Analyst: Asha Venkataraman

Date		Total	LH	TM	KS	AP	DJ	DS	AL	BC	LG
	Yes	0									
	No	0									
	Abstain	0									
	Absent	0									

Statement of Legislative Intent:

This Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI) would request that the Office of Housing (OH) and the Seattle Municipal Court (SMC) work collaboratively with the King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA) and the Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) to provide a report to the Public Safety and Human Services committee or its successor about prioritizing individuals with involvement in the criminal legal system (CLS) for housing vouchers. This SLI was previously presented as HSD-023-B-001 but is modified to reflect a revision that has the Office of Housing and Seattle Municipal Court performing the requested work and not the Human Services Department.

The report should include the following elements:

1. The universe of housing vouchers and homelessness services available to the region through the federal, state, or City government or any other source (i.e., Section 8 vouchers, 498 emergency housing vouchers, new vouchers becoming available through federal legislation, state vouchers, City vouchers, and vouchers for rapid rehousing, diversion, and prevention) for individuals involved with the CLS;
2. Out of the universe of available housing vouchers in item 1, if there are any types that the City has the authority to prioritize or change eligibility criteria for and if so, which ones can be changed to serve individuals involved in the criminal legal system, including the type of voucher (i.e., if they are temporary/emergency, rapid rehousing, permanent, or permanent supportive);
3. The types of vouchers best suited to this population both generally and specifically based on the level of involvement with the CLS (i.e., criminal history; any CLS involvement; participation in a community court; participation in any court; coming out of short-term custody; or coming out of longer-term custody, etc.);
4. If the City has previously prioritized vouchers for individuals involved in the criminal legal system, which vouchers were used for the program, how many people the program served, data collected or used for evaluation of this program, and under what conditions vouchers were made available and/or prioritized for this population (i.e., level of involvement in the CLS, eligibility, and requirements to fulfill to access vouchers);
5. Any existing data and research on the efficacy of prioritizing access to housing vouchers through the CLS to connect this population to housing;

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6. Any existing data and research on the impact of housing the broader houseless population when conditioning access to housing vouchers on different levels of CLS involvement (i.e., criminal history; any CLS involvement; participation in a community court; or participation in any court; coming out of short-term custody; or coming out of longer-term custody, etc.), and whether conditioning vouchers on some level of CLS involvement incentivizes participation in the CLS to get access to these vouchers;
7. Policy proposals for better connecting individuals with CLS involvement to housing vouchers, affordable housing, and homelessness services and policies to serve this population through homelessness prevention and diversion; and
8. If vouchers do end up being prioritized for individuals with CLS involvement at some point in the future, recommended metrics to assess the effectiveness of the program.

Responsible Council Committee(s):

Public Safety & Human Services

Date Due to Council:

July 31, 2022