



# Crisis Care Centers Levy



*Connecting the behavioral health crisis system to be more effective, more accessible, and more equitable so every person in King County can thrive.*

## It Takes People to Treat People— Supporting and Growing our Behavioral Health Workforce

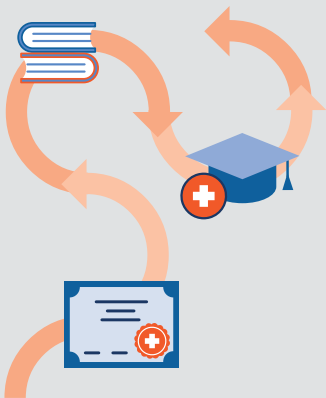
King County has an opportunity to create a robust, representative, and well-supported workforce of the future. Together, we can reset the benchmark and have a sustainable behavioral health system that meets the needs of King County residents.

Too many behavioral health workers cannot afford to live in the communities they serve. Too few people are joining this profession, and too many people are leaving it.

**The Crisis Care Centers Levy will support the behavioral healthcare workforce through investments like these:**

### Keeping our workers:

- Promote career pathways to access higher education, credentialing, training and wrap-around supports



### Increasing worker wages:

- Provide equitable and competitive compensation for workers at Crisis Care Centers
- Invest in retaining more, and more representative, people in community-based behavioral healthcare



### Recruiting new workers:

- Invest in apprenticeship programs with funding for mentors, books, and tuition



### Reducing costs for workers:

- Reduce costs of living, such as insurance, childcare, caregiving, or fees or tuition associated with training and certification, where possible



### Currently

The 2021 King County nonprofit wage and benefits survey showed that many nonprofit employees delivering critical services earn wages at levels that make it difficult to sustain a career doing community-based work in this region.



### Currently

A 2021 King County survey of member organizations of the King County Integrated Care Network found that job vacancies at these community behavioral health agencies were at least double what they were in 2019.



### Currently

Providers cited professionals' ability to earn more in medical systems or private practice, and the high cost of living in the King County region, as the top reasons their workers were leaving community behavioral health care, in the same member survey.



*"I help my clients during the day, and then in the evening I'm looking for a place to live and using the same services I recommend to my clients."*

- **Behavioral health peer**, who is homeless despite having a full-time job, at a roundtable discussion with Executive Constantine



*"Choosing to do work we care about should not mean sacrificing a living, thriving wage. By committing that these centers will open with wages that recruit and retain workers, rather than the low wages that exist in the field today, we are righting a wrong."*

- **Kristen Badin**, Crisis Counselor, SEIU 1199NW.

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