



SEATTLE HUMAN SERVICES COALITION

“An Assertive and Unified Voice Helping People Shape Public Policy to Meet Basic Human Needs in Seattle and King County, Washington.”

The Seattle Human Services Coalition (SHSC) was formed in 1987 to ensure that nonprofit human service providers have a unified voice to advocate for meeting basic human needs. Through 35 years of advocacy and collaboration, local public investments in human services have gone from zero to \$240 million a year in City of Seattle, plus over \$180 million a year in funding from King County. Decades of steadfast advocacy across the human service sector led to this degree of local investment and support for building well-being in our communities.

Today, SHSC continues this history of community-based advocacy. A multi-cultural coalition of over 200 human service agencies, SHSC organizes our members around issues like racial justice and wage equity to support a thriving nonprofit human service sector. Our member coalitions represent organizations dedicated to shaping public policy on issues like ending homelessness, hunger, domestic violence prevention, quality early childhood education, health care, issues affecting elders and the development of children and youth.

You can read more about our policy priorities [here](#).

What we do:

- **Coordinate education and advocacy to support local budget and policy decisions that help people reach their full potential.** SHSC members work together to monitor City policies, identify shared positions, and educate policy-makers on the impact of current issues such as public safety, racial equity, and funding priorities on our communities.
- **Continue to build on the success of our wage equity campaign.** SHSC secured funding from the City of Seattle to commission a study of nonprofit human service sector wages. The [2022 study from the UW School of Social Work](#) found that King County human service workers are paid at least 37% less than workers with comparable skill sets in other industries. This data has sparked action at the City of Seattle, which in 2023 dedicated \$5.1M in additional funding for wage increases. It also inspired King County to dedicate over \$70M in additional workforce development funds over the next several years. We are grateful for the progress made and look forward to continuing to engage providers, funders, and community members on this topic.

- **Develop support for stable, adequate funding for human services.** SHSC members connect with providers, allies, and local government officials to support increased local investment in community health and human services. Our members fight for the fair allocation of resources needed to support everyone in this great city.
- **Strengthen SHSC members' abilities to work collaboratively.** SHSC provides logistical and capacity support to its member coalitions. As a coalition of coalitions, SHSC strives to support each facet of the human service sector in addressing their unique needs and challenges. SHSC relies on funding and engagement from each of our member coalitions to be successful.

Your Coalition Representatives to SHSC's Steering Committee:

- Coalition Ending Gender-Based Violence: Amarinthia Torres, Aja Osita
- Community Health Council of King County: Kristina Hoeschen, Kelli Nomura
- County Early Learning Coalition: Jaymie McLaughlin
- King County Services for Seniors Coalition: Amy Lee Derenthal, Vedrana Durakovic
- Meals Partnership Coalition: Emily Penna, Darcy Buendia, Laurel Gray
- Seattle Food Committee: Marcia Wright-Soika, Joe Gruber
- Seattle Helpline Coalition: Kelly Brown, Cara Lauer
- Seattle-King County Coalition on Homelessness: Alison Eisinger, Hali Willis
- SHSC Co-Chairs: Jen Muzia, Amarinthia Torres
- Executive Committee includes Patricia Hayden & Tiffany Lamoreaux
- SHSC Staff: Jason Austin, Director of Organizing. Jerry Peerson, Director of Operations
- SHSC@shscoalition.org 206/325-7105

Member Coalitions

- * Advocacy, Organizing & Capacity Building Coalition * Coalition Ending Gender-Based Violence *
- * Community Health Council of Seattle King County *
- * King County Early Learning Coalition * Meals Partnership Coalition *
- * Seattle Food Committee * Seattle Helpline Coalition *
- * Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness * Services for Seniors *

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Key highlights in SHSC organizing and evolution, 1987-2023

1987, SHSC leaders link 3 coalitions (food banks, community clinics, shelter) to form the Seattle Human Services Coalition

1987, City of Seattle dissolves Survival Services Fund and creates Human Services Program

1998-2005, SHSC collects budget recommendations by service area from member coalitions and presents this as the Agenda for Meeting Human Need.

1992, City creates the Human Services Department

1993-2019- Held the Human Services Awards annually, holding up effective, exemplary providers

1998- SHSC internal revenue includes \$16,000 in member dues and \$42,000 in City of Seattle contract.

1999-2001, 2020 Vision Organizing Campaign: What would it take to meet basic human needs, including eliminating institutional racism by the year 2020?

2002, SHSC members responded to cuts to human services announced Exec Sims in Dec of 2001 by joining with providers across the county to form the King County Alliance for Human Services

2002, August SHSC began working with Jon Greenberg's Center School civics class

2004, SHSC advocates for and wins affordable housing zoning incentives, as part of a community alliance

2004-06, SHSC leaders create the Identifying Institutional Racism Folio utilized in Seattle and by agencies across the country

2006, Established structure of City Budget Task Force to lead Coalition on city budget advocacy, part of an evolution of establishing Coalition work groups to focus on complex tasks with guidance from the Steering Committee. The CBTF received recs from member coalitions and packaged with common messaging.

Dec 2010, SHSC one of 34 community groups who signed on to letter to Department of Justice asking for an investigation into police accountability and use of force

2012, SHSC part of a community alliance to pass Seattle's paid sick and safe time ordinance

2014, SHSC part of a community alliance to pass Seattle's \$15 minimum wage ordinance. SHSC also wins funding to mitigate the costs of increasing wages for human services staff.

2015, SHSC forms Justice League for ongoing work to build SHSC's capacity to work toward Racial Equity

2015, SHSC's CBTF opens up recommendation process so that any SHSC member can submit a recommendation without going through a member coalition.

April 2017, Published web resource page on SHSC site for human service providers about sanctuary, picked up by human service providers and coalitions around the country.

June 8, 2017, Celebrating Seattle Human Services Coalition's 30th Anniversary at Daybreak Star.

November 2017, Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy passes with 68.9% of vote, further expanding local revenue sources dedicated to community health and human services.

2018, SHSC and key allies increase allocation for affordable housing and services for homeless youth from county lodging tax by \$165m for a total of \$661million over 20 years.

2019, SHSC Messaging Team develops alternative narrative describing human services as an effective and vital component of building well-being in communities across Seattle

2019, SHSC and key allies win automatic annual inflation adjustment equal to cpi-w on all HSD contracts

2021, SHSC secures \$500,000 from the City of Seattle to conduct a pay equity analysis of nonprofit human service workers in King County. This coincides with the launch of the *Raising Wages for Changing Lives* campaign to galvanize action on wage equity. Wage Equity Leadership Team formed.

2022, Wage equity leaders create the Wage Equity Funding Roundtable, a first-of-its-kind collaboration of public and private human service funders to address wage equity. The University of Washington School of Social Work was selected to conduct pay equity analysis, working with SHSC member organizations to collect relevant data. SHSC engaged in Seattle budget advocacy, supporting a final budget that invests \$170M in community health and human services through HSD.

2023, UW School of Social Work completes wage equity study, finding King County nonprofit human service workers are paid 37% less than workers with comparable skill sets in related industries. Seattle City Council votes to adopt study recommendations by an 8-1 vote. SHSC hosted a Human Service Candidates Forum with over 100 in attendance.

Seattle Mayor and City Council sign 2024 budget which includes \$5.1M investment in wage equity for human service workers. The budget also restores over \$1.2M in funding for human services that were set to expire. 63 members gave public comments on the budget and over 600 supportive email messages were sent.

SHSC organized and hosted a comprehensive candidate forum which drew a capacity crowd and a 100% RSVP rate from candidates for City and County Council. SHSC's annual advocacy training also drew record numbers in attendance.



SHSC has helped grow City of Seattle investments in human services

1983 = \$500K in City's newly formed Survival Services Fund, 1st City of Seattle investment of city dollars for human services

1987 = Survival Services Fund increases to \$800K in 1987

1988 = \$900K in HSP

2000 = \$18M

2009 = \$54M

2017 = \$90M

2019 = \$103M

2022 = \$170M invested via HSD. With one-time federal COVID relief and recovery *plus* other fund sources= \$404M

2023 = SHSC advocacy resulted in over **\$6 Million** in additional human services support in the 2024 budget

Plus:

1986, SHSC leaders lead campaign for 1st **Seattle Housing Levy**, \$6.2m/yr in 1987-1994

1995, 2nd Seattle Housing Levy, \$8.4m/yr in 1996-2002

2002, 3rd Seattle Housing Levy, \$12.3m/yr in 2003-2009

2009, 4th Seattle Housing Levy, \$20.7m/yr in 2008-2015

2016, 5th Seattle Housing Levy, \$41.4m/yr in 2017-2023

Plus:

1990, Voters pass 1st **Families & Education levy**, \$8.5m each school year from 1991-92 through 1997-98

1997, Voters pass 2nd Families & Education levy, \$10m each school year from 1998-99 through 2004-05

2004, Voters pass 3rd Families & Education levy, \$16.7m each school year from 2005-06 through 2013-14

2011, Voters pass 4th Families & Education levy, \$33.6m each school year from 2012-13 through 2018-19



SHSC has helped grow King County investments in human services through KCAHS

2001 = \$18m total annual KC General Fund investment in Community Health and Human Services

Dec 2001, King Co Executive announces the county will be getting out of the business of human services

2002, Human service providers from across the county responded to cuts to human services announced by Exec Sims in Dec of 2001 by joining together to form the King County Alliance for Human Services, organizing assistance provided by the Seattle Human Services Coalition. The Alliance organized an earned media campaign to restore the 50% cuts slated for 2003.

2002, August SHSC began working with Jon Greenberg's Center School civics class

2003 = \$15m total annual KC funds (General Fund) invested in Community Health & Human Services

2004, Executive appoints Task Force on Regional Human Services to determine if there is enough county funding for human services. Their report shows more funds are needed.

2005, Executive appoints Healthy Families and Communities Task Force to determine how much is needed and possible revenue sources.

Nov 2005, 1st new revenue source, Veterans & Human Services levy, adds \$14m/yr in 2006-2011

2006 = \$40m local funds (GF & dedicated levy)

2007 = Cuts in GF due to budget structure come to pass, all hs funding now at \$32m/yr

Nov 2007, 2nd new revenue source, Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD) tax passes, adds \$50m/yr in 2008-2016

2008 = additional cuts in GF, at \$76m/yr (GF & dedicated sources)

2009 = final cuts in GF, now at about \$1m/ yr or less. Total at \$68m/yr (GF & dedicated sources)

2011 = voters renew VHSL

2015 = \$72m/yr (GF & dedicated sources)

2015 = 3rd new revenue source, Best Starts for Kids levy, passes, adds \$66m/yr in 2016-2021,

2016 = \$138m (GF & dedicated sources)

2016, King County Council renews MIDD, \$67m/yr in 2017-2025- (depending on sales tax revenue)

2017 = \$142m (GF & dedicated sources)

2017, 69% of voters approve expansion to Veterans, Seniors, & Human Services levy to begin in 2018

2018 = \$186m total annual hs funding (GF & dedicated sources)

2018, The Alliance and key allies win increased allocation for affordable housing and services for homeless youth from county lodging tax by \$165m for a total of \$661 million over 20 years.

2019, The Alliance creates six Advocacy Teams to focus on clusters of cities across the county and unincorporated King County in order to advocate for increasing *local* investments in community health and human services to help residents across the county reach their full potential.

2021, Alliance participants engaged in successful campaign to renew and increase Best Starts for Kids to include early childhood education subsidies.