

## Kirkland Health Through Housing Frequently Asked Questions

Updated: August 14, 2024

---

### **Q: How soon will the site open for occupancy?**

A: The building is slated to welcome the first residents in mid-to-late 2025.

### **Q: How many people will be housed at this location?**

A: Plymouth will develop a gradual, phased approach for housing 100 individuals at this site.

### **Q: Who will be considered to live in the building?**

A: The target population is adults whose income is at or below 30% of the area median income and who are experiencing or at risk of chronic homelessness. 35-65% of units are prioritized for individuals with local community ties.

### **Q: Will the building have 24/7 staffing?**

A: All Health Through Housing buildings have 24/7 on-site support staff and comprehensive, wraparound services, including:

- Employment services
- Behavioral health services available
- Assistance with enrollment to Apple Health and other public benefits
- Transportation assistance

### **Q: Will Plymouth provide these services?**

A: Plymouth will provide in-house property management and 24/7 support staff. Plymouth will also partner with King County's Department of Community and Human Services, the City of Kirkland's Human Services Division and Homeless Assistance and Response Team, and local service providers to provide additional wraparound services.

### **Q: Will there be security?**

A: All Health Through Housing sites have 24/7 on-site staff who are experienced and trained in trauma informed care, crisis support, and de-escalation techniques. As an evidence-based model, permanent supportive housing does not feature security guard services, but it does require clinically trained staff to be on-site and on-duty around the clock. Further, Plymouth will be responsible for developing a Safety and Security Plan in consultation with the City of Kirkland Police Department, as required by the Kirkland Permanent Supportive Housing Health Through Housing Service Agreement authorized in Kirkland Resolution R-5522.

### **Q: What support does King County have from the City of Kirkland?**

A: The City of Kirkland supports this regional approach and is working in partnership with the County to bring more people inside. This support looks like approving an operational agreement, coordinating a local referral process with support from the City's Homeless Outreach program, and working to ensure that community input is used to inform future success for the program, participants, and surrounding neighborhood.

### **Q: What is the plan for community engagement?**

A: King County and the City of Kirkland will form a Community Advisory Group. This group will help

create the Community Relations Plan that details a structure and frequency for ongoing community engagement and commits King County, the City of Kirkland, Plymouth, and the local community to a collective agreement that describes how the parties will communicate and resolve concerns when they arise.

**Q: When did King County purchase the building?**

A: King County bought the Kirkland La Quinta in February 2022. This was the 10<sup>th</sup> property purchased for the Health Through Housing Initiative, which now includes 16 locations.

**Q: Why has it taken so long to open the building?**

A: Each building in the portfolio is unique and the building opening is reliant upon several factors. In Kirkland, the City Council passed Resolution R-5522, which established requirements for siting and use of permanent supportive housing and shelter. King County continues to work with the City of Kirkland on permitting, community engagement, building improvement design and construction, and the necessary agreements to make the building and welcoming its residents a success.

**Q: What is the City of Kirkland's role in the building?**

A: The City of Kirkland is the host city for the Kirkland Health Through Housing location and will work with King County to bring the building online and operational. The City of Kirkland was involved with the procurement process leading to the selection of the operator, Plymouth, and will be coordinating with the County and Plymouth to ensure that the necessary agreements and terms set forth in R-5522 are met. This includes partnering with King County and the operator to develop necessary policies, procedures, and plans, such as a Community Relations Plan; and establishing a local referral network to fill up to 65% of the rooms with local referrals.

**Q: What kind of community engagement took place after the building was purchased?**

A: King County conducted door-to-door outreach to local businesses and residents, held virtual town halls, Kirkland City Council briefings, and worked with the City of Kirkland on soliciting feedback from the community. Now that an operator is selected for the building, the next phase of community engagement is set to begin.

**Q: How did King County select an operator?**

A: In 2021, King County developed and approved a pre-qualified list of providers who can apply to operate any one or more Health through Housing sites. King County's procurement process was informed by community feedback, which included input from the community through a town hall, virtual meetings, and a focus group. For the Kirkland site, the procurement process started in December 2023 when the County released a Request for Bids (RFB). King County led efforts on operator selection with participation from City of Kirkland. Plymouth was selected as the operator for this site based on their qualifications and ability to meet the requirements of the RFB.