

Kitsap Eviction Prevention Assistance (KEPA) – Data Summary

Report Date Range: September 1, 2020 - October 31, 2022

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted many families and has led to an unprecedented number of households being behind on rent. In response to this need, federal, state and local policy makers have appropriated funding for rent assistance to pay back rent, utilities, and some future rent to help people stay housed.

Kitsap County was granted emergency Eviction Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) in Sept 2020, and Treasury Rental Assistance Program (T-RAP) funding from the WA Dept. of Commerce in April 2021. In addition, Kitsap County applied directly to the Treasury Eviction Rent Assistance program (Treasury ERA). These funds were granted for the purpose of supporting activities that will reduce the likelihood of eviction among low income households, with a focus on ensuring that historically underserved populations have information about and access to this resource.

In Kitsap County the KEPA program relies on several community partners. These partners consists of rent assistance distribution organizations (Kitsap Community Resources, Housing Kitsap, Bremerton Housing Authority, The Coffee Oasis, and the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe) and 6 outreach partner organizations (House of Refuge/Hope360, Gather Together Grow Together (G2G2), Foundation for Homeless & Poverty Management, Mt Zion Church/PYA, Surviving Change, and Kitsap Immigrant Assistance Center).

Over \$27.5 million in rent assistance provided

Between September 2020 – October 2022, a total of 3,605 Kitsap County households have been provided a combined total of over \$27.5 million dollars of rent and utility assistance, paid to landlords and utility providers to prevent eviction.

Households with the greatest needs are assisted

KEPA funds are targeted toward households most likely to become homeless after eviction in Kitsap County. Qualifying households must be at or below 50% of Area Median Income (AMI), AND have at least 1 month of unpaid rent.

Qualifying households must qualify by: meeting income limits (at or below 50% AMI); be at risk of homelessness or experiencing housing instability; and have a financial hardship directly or indirectly due to COVID-19 which threatens the ability to pay rent due.

Households were provided with an average of 7 months of assistance

Households that are assisted by the KEPA program have been provided with an average number of 7 months of rent assistance. The average amount of rent provided was \$1,082 per month. KEPA rent assistance is able to pay for rent due, with limits of up to 150% of Fair Market Rent (FMR) for qualifying households for rent owed to the landlord.

Equity outcomes and benchmarks

The KEPA program promotes equity in who is served and focuses on populations that historically have not been provided equitable access to rent assistance, and those populations most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes ethnic and racial minorities, LGBTQ+, people with mental health or substance issues, people with limited English proficiency, and other people who may not have access to supports.

To reach these underserved and diverse populations, several outreach organizations assisted in targeted outreach within their communities to directly assist with applying for assistance.

Funding for this program includes a requirement to meet or exceed benchmarks based upon equitable access among these populations. Kitsap County far exceeded these requirements to work towards racial equity.

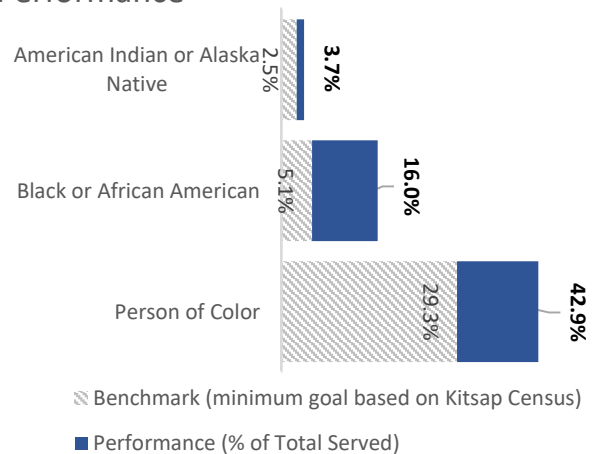
Over \$27.5 million in unpaid rental assistance paid to landlords for 3,605 most vulnerable low-income households at risk of eviction

69% of households served have incomes less that 30% Area Median Income

Household Size	30% AMI
1	\$21,630
2	\$24,720
3	\$27,810
4	\$30,870

Including rent, utilities, and other allowable housing costs, an average total amount of \$7,640 of assistance has been provided per qualifying household.

Racial Equity Benchmarks and Performance



Kitsap County Department of Human Services
 Housing & Homelessness Division
 345 6th St, Suite 400
 Bremerton, WA 98337

Kirsten Jewell, Division Manager
 360-337-7286
 kjewell@kitsap.gov
<http://kcowa.us/kepa>

Updated: 11/30/2022