



SEATTLE FOUNDATION

the heart & science of philanthropy

BASIC NEEDS

VISION

All Greater Seattle residents have access to the essential components of an equitable community: affordable, stable housing and healthy food.

Hunger, homelessness and the lack of affordable housing have all increased in tandem with our region's dramatic growth. The demographics of persons experiencing homelessness reflect the stark inequity in our community. While only one third of the overall population, people of color constitute two-thirds of those who are in emergency and transitional housing in King County. Similar levels of inequity can be seen in access to affordable housing and healthy food: 1 in 5 kids in Washington state lives in a household that struggles to put food on the table.

The impact of going without meals is profound. Chronically hungry children suffer from increased illness, exhibit developmental problems and struggle to get through the school day. Similarly, without stable housing, individuals and families are thrown into a tailspin of uncertainty. Stuck in survival mode, finding work or thriving in school can be unattainable. We focus on stable housing and healthy food as pillars of security. Research demonstrates that meeting these basic needs allows children and adults to realize their potential.



Working Toward a Healthy Community

Seattle Foundation established the Healthy Community Framework to delineate the essential elements of a thriving community, and focus

philanthropy where it can have the greatest impact. Built on eight elements, the framework acknowledges the complex and interwoven nature of the challenges and assets in our community and allows philanthropists to consider more strategic investments in the causes they care about most.

■ For each element, we provide a vision for change, high-level context and analysis, recommended priorities, and proven actionable approaches to effective giving informed by research, data, community insight and technical expertise. These are designed to stimulate thinking and generate new approaches to making Greater Seattle a stronger, more vibrant community for all.

3 Priorities for Impact

1

Make homelessness a rare and one-time occurrence through investments in prevention, targeted services and rapid rehousing.

APPROACHES

- Prioritize securing affordable permanent housing for homeless families and individuals
- Advocate for tenant protections and fund wraparound support services and case management to help people remain stably housed
- Support programs targeted to people who are chronically homeless

2

Ensure an ample supply of safe, convenient and affordable housing by supporting preservation, development and advocacy efforts.

APPROACHES

- Preserve existing affordable housing and develop new units in neighborhoods near transit and amenities
- Support community-led advocacy that increases the choice and supply of affordable housing and prevents displacement
- Build community participation in developing policies that address housing equity

3

Ensure that affordable, nutritious food is readily accessible to all by funding efforts that grow and leverage existing food programs.

APPROACHES

- Foster collaboration among food programs and strengthen the operating capacity of food banks
- Increase and broaden access to healthy, fresh food for low-income people and people living in “food deserts” through community-led solutions
- Fully leverage federal, state and local hunger alleviation programs, such as food stamps and summer meal programs for children, through outreach and training