Seattle Office of Housing Annual Investments Report - 2018 Attachment 1

Seattle Housing Levy

March 2019



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The 2016 Seattle Housing Levy provides \$290 million over seven years for housing production, preservation, and assistance. The current Housing Levy builds on a history of voter support that has provided a significant, consistent resource for affordable housing in Seattle for the past 35 years. Housing Levy funding has attracted substantial investments by other public and private fund sources and created affordable housing that serves thousands of Seattle residents each year. This report presents the Levy-funded housing only; a full summary of City housing investments can be seen in the **Office of Housing 2018 Investments Report.**

Rental Production and Preservation

The program awarded \$26.6 million in Levy funds six housing development projects that will provide 508 affordable apartments. The availability of significant capital leverage funding, particularly Low Income Housing Tax Credit equity and funds available due to the Washington State Convention Center expansion, helped the program exceed annual production targets for the second year of the levy. Funded projects will begin operations in 1 to 3 years when buildings permits are issued and construction is completed.

Operating and Maintenance

The program made its first awards in 2018. This funding supports five Levy-funded buildings that will serve extremely low-income and homeless residents. The funding awards of up to \$15.4 million will provide annual operating subsidies for 308 rental units. This funding is provided as an "up to" amount demonstrating OH commitment to the project but recognizing that other operating subsidies will be secured, so O & M funds can be made available for future projects.

Homelessness Prevention and Housing Stability Services

Seattle's Human Services Department provided \$2.15 million in Levy funds, combined with other City funds, to community-based agencies for homelessness services and rent assistance. The program assisted 553 households at imminent risk of eviction and homelessness to maintain stable housing, and 180 households to move into housing after living in their car, shelter or on the street – exceeding the program's annual targets.

Homeownership

The program funded two developments for low-income, first-time buyers, one that will construct a 68-unit multifamily building with family-sized homes, the program's first limited equity cooperative. The second project will purchase homes and sustain affordability by applying resale restrictions so that they will be sold at affordable prices to future homebuyers. The program also provided grants for urgent home repairs to 14 low-income homeowners unable to access home repair loans.

Acquisition and Preservation Loans

The program funded four acquisition loans for a total of \$20.3 million. These acquisitions included preservation of two affordable, occupied buildings – one with expiring subsidies and the other a private market building – and site acquisitions for two future rental housing developments. The four projects and are anticipated to produce and preserve 406 affordable rental units.

Administration

The Housing Levy ordinance sets aside 9% of revenues for administration. In 2018, OH expended \$3.065 million for overall Levy administration and the Human Services Department expended \$81,110 to administer the Homelessness Prevention and Housing Stability Services Program. Unspent funds are reserved for later years of the Levy when inflation is expected to push administrative costs above the annual allocation.

Seattle Housing Levy - Two-Year Summary of Funding and Production

	Funding		Housing O	Status:	
Levy Program	7-year Levy Funding 2017-23	2-year Funds Committed 2017-18	7-year Levy Goals 2017-23	Housing / Households 2017-18	Meeting or Exceeding Goal
Rental Production and	¢204 M	¢57.26.M	2,150 units added	1,031	√ +
Preservation	\$201 M	\$57.26 M	350 units reinvestment	233	√+
Operating and Maintenance ¹	\$42 M	\$15.4 M	510 units	Up to 308	✓
Homelessness Prevention / Housing Stability Services	\$11.5 M	\$3.3 M	4,500 households	1,622	✓
Homeownership ²	\$14.3 M	\$7.56 M	280 households 105		✓
Acquisition and Preservation ³	Up to \$30 M	\$28.2 M	NA	634	NA

¹ Operating and Maintenance Program makes preliminary funding commitments to enable projects to proceed with pre-development. For some projects the units and funding amounts will be reduced as rental vouchers and other operating subsidies are secured.

² Homeownership Program funding includes \$9.5 million in 2016 Levy funds and \$4.5 million carried forward from the 2009 Levy; additional funds may become available from loan repayments or reprogramming unspent funds.

³ Acquisition & Preservation Program makes short-term loans for acquisition of buildings or development sites, using other Levy program funds that are not yet needed for projects.

RENTAL PRODUCTION AND PRESERVATION PROGRAM

The largest Levy program provides approximately \$29 million annually in capital funds to support development and preservation of affordable rental housing. Levy funds provide affordable opportunities in neighborhoods throughout the city and leverage other public and private investment for housing development and operations.

 The program funds new construction, building acquisition and rehabilitation to preserve low-cost housing, and reinvestment in affordable housing when major upgrades are needed. The housing serves eligible residents for a minimum of 50 years.



Housing Levy Impact Rental Production & Preservation

7-year Goals: 2,150 rental units added and 350 reinvestment units

2-year Outcomes: 1,031 units added and 233 reinvestment units

- At least 60% of total Levy rental housing funds must serve extremely low-income households below 30% AMI. This policy is met by reserving all Operating and Maintenance funds to serve this income group and awarding at least 52% of Rental Production and Preservation funds to housing set-aside for extremely low-income residents.
- Physical inspections and annual compliance reporting ensure that the housing is well maintained, serves the intended resident population, and is financially viable.

2018 Summary

OH awarded \$26.6 million in Housing Levy funds, and \$4.14 million in other City funds, to six new development projects that will produce 508 affordable rental apartments. An additional \$2.1 million in Levy funding was awarded to a 2017 project because OH's available funding in 2017 was insufficient to fully fund the project.

With these new funded projects, the Rental Housing Program is continuing to make substantial progress toward the Levy's 7-year production goals. The 508 new units funded exceeds the benchmark of 307 units per year, bringing total production to 1,031 affordable apartments.

Funding awarded in the first two years of the levy will primarily serve extremely low-income households: 72% of program funds awarded to date will support housing for people with incomes at or below 30% AMI, which exceeds the required 52% of capital funds. The balance of funds will support housing for people at or below 50% AMI and 60% AMI.

This level of production reflects continued success in leveraging other key sources of public and private capital investment. The six Levy-funded projects funded in 2018 leveraged \$5.71 in other capital investment for each City dollar, and some projects will also leverage significant operating and services funding. In 2018 \$30 million was available for housing production as part of the Convention Center expansion. Private equity investment through the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program continued to be the largest fund source, particularly for supportive housing and other housing serving homeless and extremely low-income residents.

Project Name		Affordability			Capital Funding	
Project Sponsor Location	Project Description	<30% AMI	<50% AMI	<60% AMI	Total City \$	Levy Funding
Bryant Manor FAME Housing Association Central Area	Redevelopment of subsidized housing serving low-income families in 1, 2, 3 and 4-bedroom apartments; service, retail space	58			\$2.4 M	\$2.4 M
Chief Seattle Club ?al ?al Housing Chief Seattle Club Pioneer Square	Construction of studio apartments to serve homeless and low-income individuals, with Native American focus; health care clinic, art gallery and retail	60	20		\$5.8 M	\$5.1 M
K Site Housing Plymouth Housing Queen Anne	Construction of studio apartments to serve formerly homeless individuals on City- owned property; nonprofit arts studio organization space	91			\$6.91 M	\$6.91 M
Northaven Senior Housing Northaven and HumanGood Affordable Housing Northgate	Construction of 65 studios and 20 1-bedroom apartments for low-income seniors; PACE health and social services center	21	43	21	\$7.1 M	\$4.66 M
Yancy Street Housing Transitional Resources West Seattle	Construction of supportive housing serving homeless and low-income individuals with serious, persistent mental illness	44			\$1.5 M	\$1.5 M
Yesler Family Housing Seattle Chinatown International District PDA and Capitol Hill Housing Yesler Terrace	Construction of 1, 2, 3 and 4- bedroom apartments serving low-income families on Seattle Housing Authority owned site; child care/early learning center	92		58	\$6 M	\$6 M
TOTAL		366	63	79	\$30.7 M	\$26.6 M
Prior Commitment to 2017 Project						
Filipino Community Village HumanGood Affordable Housing and Filipino Community of Seattle Rainier Valley	Low-income seniors	24	25	60		\$2.1 M

Rental Rehabilitation Loans

OH announced the availability of a new loan product in 2018 for rehabilitation of private market rental housing as authorized in 2016 Housing Levy. In exchange for the low-cost loan, owners will agree to maintain a proportion of rental units at affordable rents. A Notice of Funds Available was open throughout the year. OH contacted rental housing organizations as well as several business district organizations, with a focus on

neighborhoods with relatively lower rents where rising housing costs threaten displacement of current residents. OH did not receive any applications or award any rental rehabilitation loans in 2018.

OPERATING & MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

The Operating & Maintenance (O & M) Program provides annual subsidies for buildings that serve extremely low-income and formerly homeless residents who pay very low rents. Levy funds, along with other critical operating subsidies, help ensure the housing is well maintained and financially viable.

 Funds are available only to housing that received Housing Levy capital funds. O&M funds are typically matched with other funding for building operations and resident services.



7-year Goal: 510 rental units

2-year Outcome: up to 308

rental units

• Projects receive a 20-year operating support commitment. Funds are allocated each year to fill the gap between project income and expenses, up to a maximum of \$2,500 per unit in the first year, with annual adjustments for inflation.

2018 Summary

In 2018 OH awarded O & M funds along with rental housing development funding in a single, competitive application process. Projects awarded capital development funds in 2017 or 2018 were eligible for O & M funds. Providing O & M funding commitments earlier in the development process was intended to assist project sponsors to secure other capital and operating funding. These funding awards set the maximum number of housing units that will be supported; the final awards may be lower and will be based on the final number of eligible units affordable at or below 30% of median income, other operating subsidies secured, and projects' operating budgets.

Project Name Project Sponsor	Population Served	Supported Units (maximum)	First Year Funding Estimate	Funding Award (20 years)
Chief Seattle Club ?al ?al Housing Chief Seattle Club	Homeless and low-income individuals, Native oriented	60	\$150,000	\$3 M
22 nd Ave Supportive Housing II Downtown Emergency Services Center	Homeless individuals with chronic disabilities	92	\$230,000	\$4.6 M
K Site Housing Plymouth Housing	Formerly homeless individuals	91	\$227,500	\$4.55 M
Northaven Senior Housing Northaven and HumanGood Affordable Housing	Low-income seniors	21	\$52,500	\$1.05 M
Yancy Street Housing Transitional Resources	Homeless and low-income individuals, serious and persistent mental illness	44	\$110,000	\$2.2 M
TOTAL		308		\$15.4 M

¹ No O & M funds were awarded in 2017.

Operating Support Using Seattle Housing Authority Vouchers

In addition to Levy O & M Program funds, projects that receive Levy capital funding may apply for vouchers from Seattle Housing Authority. SHA has committed 300 Section 8 vouchers to the 2016 Housing Levy, which will be "project-based" to provide ongoing building operating subsidies. OH will make vouchers available through a competitive funding process, with final approval by SHA. Awards are generally made the year before the building will begin operations, one or two years after capital funding. No awards of Section 8 vouchers have been made yet, as none of the 2016 Housing Levy funded buildings have reached the operations phase.

SHA will allocate additional vouchers to replacement housing at Yesler Terrace that receives Levy capital funding. The Yesler Family Housing project, funded in 2018, will receive 92 project-based vouchers.

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND HOUSING STABILITY SERVICES PROGRAM

The Seattle Human Services Department (HSD) administers the Homelessness Prevention and Housing Stability Services Program which serves families and individuals who are at imminent risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness.

The Program provides case management and rental assistance for eligible households at or below 50% of area median income. Funding can be used for rent assistance, security and utility deposits, move in costs, rental and utility arrears and case management services.

2016 Housing Levy Impact
Homelessness Services

7-year Goal: 4,500 households

assisted

2-year Outcome: 1,622 households

- The Program funds two distinct interventions:
 - Homelessness Prevention serves households at imminent risk of homelessness to maintain their housing. Households seeking homeless prevention services access services via referrals from 2-1-1, walk in or direct contact with the agencies
 - Rapid Rehousing serves households experiencing homelessness to move into stable housing after living in a car, shelter or a place not meant for human habitation. Household access Rapid Rehousing via the Coordinated Entry for All (CEA) System.
- Program activities and performance are monitored with the region's Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS) called Clarity.

2018 Summary

In 2018, seven different community-based nonprofit agencies were awarded \$2,148,552 in Housing Levy funds. Each agency offers rich culturally and linguistically relevant services, targets services to historically underserved communities and communities with emerging needs and provides specialized programs for a range of household types. In total, 733 households received rental assistance and case management in six homelessness prevention and two rapid rehousing programs. During this period, 517 households exited the programs and 234 were still enrolled going into 2019.

Homelessness Prevention	Levy Investment
Neighborhood House	\$491,173
YWCA	\$256,849
InterIm Community Development Assoc	\$373,714
El Centro de la Raza	\$144,813
Muslim Housing Services	\$160,300
St. Vincent de Paul	\$225,000
HP Total	\$1,651,849
Rapid Rehousing	Levy Investment
ccs	\$267,074

YWCA	\$229,629
RRH Total	\$496,703
Total Housing Levy Funding	\$2,148,552

Homelessness Prevention

The programs assisted 553 households who were at imminent risk of homelessness. Households were enrolled an average of 90 days from initial case management appointment until both case management and rental assistance ended. Direct financial assistance averaged \$1,686 per household, which was fully funded with Housing Levy funds. Performance measures include:

- **Retention of permanent housing**: 99% of households successfully maintained their housing when they exited the program.
- Housing stability at 6 months: Of those households who received prevention assistance in 2018, 98% retained their housing during the 6 month period after receiving that assistance. We can report on a 12-month outcome for housing stability for these households in July 2019.²
- **Housing stability at 12 months:** Of those households who maintained their housing after receiving prevention assistance in 2017, 95% retained their housing during the 12 month period after receiving that assistance, as reported in July 2018.

Rapid Rehousing

The programs assisted 180 households with children who were experiencing homelessness -- living in a car, shelter or a place not meant for human habitation -- to move into stable housing. Households were enrolled an average of 208 days from the initial case management appointment until rental assistance and case management ended. Direct financial assistance averaged \$1,390 of Housing Levy funds per household; households received an average of \$2,279 in assistance including all funds administered by HSD. Performance measures include:

- Exits to Permanent Housing: 80% of households successfully achieved permanent housing upon exiting the program
- Housing stability at 6 months after exit: Of those households who exited to permanent housing in 2018, 3% returned to using the homeless system within 6 months of their program exit. We can report on returns to the homeless system for these households in July 2019.³

² Based on HMIS data of the 381 households that exited a Prevention program and maintained their current housing situation at least 6 months prior to the end of 2018. The 12-month return rate could increase up until 12/31/2019 as this is a full 12 months after the last possible exit to permanent housing in 2018. Data captures if a household subsequently enrolls in a program in HMIS that indicates they are experiencing homelessness (e.g. enrolls in an emergency shelter). This number only includes individuals who consent to sharing their personally identifiable information in HMIS.

³ Based on HMIS data of the 105 households that exited a Rapid Rehousing program to a permanent destination (e.g. Rental by client, no ongoing housing subsidy) at least 6 months prior to the end of 2018. The 12-month return rate could increase up until 12/31/2019 as this is a full 12 months after the last possible exit to permanent housing in 2018. Data captures if a household subsequently enrolls in a program in HMIS that indicates they are experiencing homelessness (e.g. enrolls in an emergency shelter). This number only includes individuals who consent to sharing their personally identifiable information in HMIS.

Household Demographics	Homelessness Prevention ³	Rapid Rehousing ⁴
Households below 30% AMI	88%	77%
Households with minor children	39%	98%
Head of Household less than 25 years of age	5%	11%
Percentage of participants that are minor children	36%	58%
Head of Households Living with a Disability	48%	39%
Head of Household with Race other than White	73%	75%
Head of Household with Race as White	24%	18%
Head of Household with Ethnicity as Hispanic/Latino	9%	10%
Race Data Unknown, Refused, Not Collected	3%	7%

^{3.} Based on households providing demographic information

HOMEOWNERSHIP PROGRAM

The Homeownership Program creates and sustains homeownership opportunities for low-income Seattle residents. Approximately \$1.4 million in new funding is available annually, plus funds carried forward from the 2009 Housing Levy and down payment loan repayments from prior housing levies. Funds support:



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7-year Goal: 280 households

assisted

2-year Outcome: 105 households

- Development: Acquire or construct homes that are sold to first-time homebuyers with income up to 80% AMI, and are resale-restricted to be available and affordable for eligible buyers for a minimum of 50 years
- **Purchase Assistance:** Assist first-time homebuyers with income up to 80% AMI to purchase a home anywhere in Seattle. Buyers access Levy funding through participating nonprofit housing agencies and mortgage lenders. Upon resale or refinancing, loans are repaid to the Program to assist additional homebuyers.
- **Home Repair:** New in the 2016 Levy -- Grants to homeowners with income up to 50% AMI who need to make critical home repairs and are unable to access a home repair loan. Repairs improve living conditions, help owners access weatherization grants, and help preserve the home.
- **Foreclosure Prevention:** New in the 2016 Levy -- Assist homeowners with income up to 80% AMI to pay housing-related costs that are necessary to avert foreclosure and remain successfully in their homes and communities.

2018 Summary

The program awarded \$5.19 million for housing development and nearly \$90,000 in home repair grants; these activities are tracked for program performance. Demographic and income information for all assisted homeowners is reported in the Office of Housing Investment Report. The 2018 Program milestones:

- 71 permanently affordable homes will be constructed and preserved using development funding
- 3 new homebuyers purchased a home using purchase assistance loans (Note: these loans were funded wit 2009 Levy funds)
- 4 new homebuyers purchased a home through the resale of permanently affordable homes previously funded by the Program
- 14 low-income homeowners received grants for urgent home repairs

Homeownership Development

Project Name <i>Sponsor</i>	Description	Housing Units	Levy Funding
Othello Square Building D Housing Cooperative HomeSight	Development of the first City-funded limited equity cooperative, part of HomeSight's Othello Square campus near the Othello light rail station. The multifamily building includes 24 one-bedroom, 36 two-bedroom and 8 three-bedroom homes.	68	\$4.92 M*

^{*} Includes reprogramming of \$339,000 in previously awarded Purchase Assistance funding that was projected to assist six homebuyers under the 2009 Levy.

Permanently Affordable Homeownership Resales

The purpose of permanently affordable homeownership is to provide ownership opportunities for incomeeligible buyers for many years to come. Resale restrictions allow a modest return to the homeowner at the time of sale, limit the sales price to maintain affordability, and require sale to an income-eligible buyer. The Program has now invested in 196 permanently affordable homes, developed and stewarded by three nonprofit partner organizations. In 2018, four of these homes were sold to new eligible homebuyers.

Home Purchase Loans

During 2018, four new homebuyers received home purchase loans from participating lending organizations. These loans were made with 2009 Housing Levy funds and were counted as performance for that levy at the time funds were awarded to the participating lenders. As organizations begin to make loans with 2016 Levy funds, OH will report levy performance based on homebuyer loan closings during the calendar year.

Home Repair Grants

OH provided grants totaling \$88,452 to 14 low-income homeowners for small, urgent home repairs. The average grant was \$6,324; typical repairs were windows, doors, roofs, electrical, plumbing, siding, exterior painting, and flooring. Most homeowners had extremely low incomes (79% at or below 30% of area median income) and 71 percent had at least one household member aged 60 or above.

Foreclosure Prevention

The 2-year Homeowner Stabilization Pilot is designed to prevent displacement of homeowners at risk of foreclosure by providing an alternative to selling and allowing them to remain in their community. The goal is at least 20 loans. OH contracted with HomeSight in Spring 2018 to administer the program. HomeSight has actively marketed the program including ten community meetings, a training with local housing

counseling agencies, and cross-promotion with other Seattle housing organizations. They have received about 25 inquiries, including solid leads, but no loans closed in 2018. The main challenges are homeowners who are over-income, live outside of city limits, or are unable to meet the program's loan to value requirement. In addition, available foreclosure data suggests a steep decline in the number of homeowners in distress: there were 2,384 notice of trustee sales in Seattle in 2010, which has dropped to 114 in 2018.

ACQUISITION AND PRESERVATION PROGRAM

The Acquisition and Preservation Program provides short-term financing for strategic acquisition of sites for low-income rental or ownership housing development or preservation. Loan terms up to five years allow for strategic planning for use of the site, community engagement, formation of development partnerships, and securing funding for housing and other building uses.



Estimated Homes to be developed: 634

Up to \$30 million is authorized for A & P Program loans, using funds from other Housing Levy programs not yet needed for planned projects. Housing outcomes are tracked but the program does not have a housing production goal.

- Project sponsors must demonstrate that acquisition financing is necessary for the project to proceed. Loans can be made for land or buildings, including occupied buildings where low-income residents are at risk of displacement. A minimum 20-year affordability period is required.
- The loans are repaid when permanent project financing is secured. If City sources are awarded, affordability is extended to 50 years.

2017-2018 Summary

OH made four loans totaling \$20.3 million in 2018, which will produce 406 affordable apartments. Total lending is now \$28.174 million, with one 2017 loan outstanding.

Project Name Project Sponsor	Description	Housing Units	Loan Amount	Status
Mt Baker Family Housing Mercy Housing Northwest	Site acquisition for rental housing for families, including 94 \$3.34 Nomeless families		\$3.34 M	OH permanent financing 12/2017; Loan repaid 11/2018
Midtown Center Capitol Hill Housing and Africatown CLT	Site acquisition for rental housing, potential homeownership component, for families and individuals		Loan closed 10/2017	
Encore Apartments GMD	Site acquisition for rental housing for families and individuals	60	\$4.57 M	Loan closed 2/2018
Madison Apartments Southport Financial	Acquisition and preservation of expiring tax credit building	73	\$7.1 M	Loan closed 7/2018
Link Studios Mt. Baker Housing Assoc.	Acquisition of affordable newly constructed micro-unit building	60	\$3.017 M	Loan closed 8/2018
Willow Crossing GMD	Acquisition of development site; OH permanent financing not anticipated	213	\$5.656 M	Loan closed 9/2018
TOTAL		634	\$28.174 M	

LEVY FUNDING POLICIES AND ADMINISTRATION

Administrative and Financial Plan

Housing Levy programs are guided by policies in the Levy Administrative and Financial Plan adopted by the City Council every two years. The A & F Plan is prepared by the Office of Housing, with the participation of the Human Services Department and the Housing Levy Oversight Committee, and the involvement of community members and stakeholders for each of the Levy programs.

Allocation of Levy Funds

All Levy programs award funds through a competitive application process. The Rental Production and Preservation Program and Operating and Maintenance Program funds are awarded via a Notice of Fund Availability (NOFA) along with other rental housing funds administered by OH. Homeownership funds are also awarded to housing development projects and mortgage lending programs through a competitive NOFA process.

When a publicly owned site is available for affordable housing development, Rental and Homeownership funds may be awarded through a site-specific Request for Proposal. The competitive RFP selects the developer for the site and awards OH development funding. The RFP may be conducted jointly with another public agency, such as King County or Sound Transit, that is making the property available.

For the Acquisition and Preservation Program, applicants submit project proposals on a rolling basis rather than a set deadline, enabling project sponsors to take advantage of market opportunities. As these short-term loans are repaid, the funds are made available as permanent financing via the other Levy programs.

Homelessness Prevention and Housing Stability Services Program funds are administered by the Seattle Human Services Department, which selects service providers via a competitive Request for Investment process. The selected agencies assist households who are homeless or at risk of homelessness by providing housing stability services and making rent payments directly to the housing owner.

Housing Levy Oversight Committee

A Housing Levy Oversight Committee is appointed by the Mayor and City Council to monitor the progress of Levy programs. The Oversight Committee reports to the Mayor and Council and the public regarding program accomplishments and makes recommendations for policy changes in the Administrative and Financial Plan. The Oversight Committee typically meets quarterly and is staffed by the Office of Housing.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the Seattle Housing Levy, contact the City of Seattle Office of Housing or visit www.seattle.gov/housing/levy.

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