



Community Needs Assessment

An assessment of the needs of the communities served by Solid Ground, conducted fall of 2018

MAILING ADDRESS

1501 North 45th Street, Seattle, WA 98103-6708

PHONE

206.694.6700

TTY

7.1.1

FAX

206.694.6777

EMAIL

info@solid-ground.org

WEB

solid-ground.org

BLOG

solid-ground.org/groundviews

Solid Ground Community Needs Assessment 2018

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	3
Introduction	3
Community Identified Needs	3
Key Findings.....	4
Responding to Community Identified Needs	4
Introduction	6
About Solid Ground	6
About the 2018 Community Needs Assessment	7
Regional Profile	7
Community Identified Needs	13
Health	14
Civic Engagement and Community Involvement	16
Housing	18
Income and Asset Building.....	21
Mobility	22
Resources and Opportunities in our Community	24
Key Findings.....	25
Whole Lives.....	25
Building Commitment in the Community to End Poverty	26
Internal Support.....	26
Responding to Community Identified Needs.....	26
Endnotes	31

Executive Summary

Introduction

Solid Ground believes poverty is solvable. Our communities are stronger when we support stability and break down the barriers to overcoming poverty. Solid Ground does both. We combine direct services with advocacy to meet basic needs, nurture success, and spread change.

Through our programs, people gain stability and build skills that equip them to move forward in their lives. Through advocacy, we work toward ending racism and other oppressions embedded in our institutions, policies, and society that hold people back from succeeding. We bring the voices of people experiencing poverty into the political process, furthering social justice and supporting our entire community to reach its potential.

People know best what they need and should be involved in decisions that affect their lives. We listen to and honor the input from people we serve, and believe in and trust their experience. We collaborate with partners to ensure our services support people to create the lives they want to lead.

Through a periodic Community Needs Assessment, Solid Ground assesses how well the needs of individuals and families living on low incomes in our region are being met. We are able to then identify barriers that limit our effectiveness and develop recommendations to enhance our community's ability to address these challenges.

In 2018, the agency conducted a Community Needs Assessment to better understand the needs of the individuals and families in our region. For the purposes of this assessment, we identified our geographic range as primarily the greater King County area. Information incorporated into this assessment includes both qualitative and quantitative information from members of our community as well as external research from partners and other institutions.

Community Identified Needs

After examining both quantitative data and over 700 pieces of qualitative information, five main service areas were of the greatest concern. For each of these service areas, three main challenges were identified.

Health: 1) Individuals lack accessible and affordable physical and behavioral medical care. 2) Families struggle with the ability to actively make healthy choices. 3) Increased healthcare barriers exist for people dealing with chronic homelessness.

Civic Engagement and Community Involvement: 1) People living on low incomes do not feel fully seen and valued as community members by neighbors of different class groups and sectors. 2) Individuals

living on low incomes feel social isolation and lack a feeling of community. 3) Individuals on low incomes feel a lack of power in being able to navigate systems meant to provide support.

Housing: 1) Families lack affordable housing options. 2) Families lack support when housing is at risk or when newly housed. 3) People in our community experience additional barriers when chronically homeless.

Income and Asset Building: 1) Income inequality creates a heavier burden on those who live on low incomes. 2) Families struggle with navigating financial hurdles when working with a fixed income. 3) Our community does not feel trained, ready, or supported to take on employment in jobs that provide a living wage.

Mobility: 1) Older adults and homebound individuals experience challenges related to a lack of transportation. 2) Our community lacks transportation options that work for different needs. 3) The community struggles with the high financial and time cost of transportation.

Key Findings

Through gathering information from people interacting with our organization in a variety of service areas, we were able to identify common themes that wove through the different service areas.

Whole Lives: People want their whole being to be addressed and seen when trying to prevent, mitigate, or recover from a challenging situation. Challenges across service areas such as ‘housing’ and ‘health’ are interconnected both systemically and how they manifest in a person’s life, and they often cannot be addressed in isolation. Community members are also looking for earlier and deeper support before they reach a state of crisis.

Building Commitment in the Community to End Poverty: People are frustrated by the overwhelming state of inequity. Some who could help feel like they do not know how to engage, and they therefore withdraw. Some who are struggling feel like they are mostly seen as a problem to their neighbors.

Internal Support: People taking the first step to access assistance experience barriers navigating large systems and institutions. There was a shared desire both for deeper, consistent support between nonprofits and individuals accessing services, as well as for agencies to examine how they can make internal changes and work with partners to help mitigate the impact of various program restrictions on participants.

Responding to Community Identified Needs

Information about the needs of people living on low incomes in our community comes to us both through specific opportunities like this Community Needs Assessment, as well as on an ongoing basis through surveys, listening sessions, and direct conversations between participants and staff. Our

agency works to respond to the changing needs we hear from people we work with by providing services that meet basic needs and nurture success.

Ongoing:

Health: The agency provides support to Seattle's emergency food system to increase access to healthy food for people living on low incomes. And because we know good nutrition is a building block for sustained success, we provide nutrition education to individuals living on low incomes.

Civic Engagement and Community Involvement: We engage and support communities to advocate for a world where everyone can thrive. Our advocacy partner, Statewide Poverty Action Network, mobilizes individuals on low incomes to advocate for public policy that addresses root causes of poverty. We also work to meet critical needs through connecting older adults with volunteer opportunities in their community.

Housing: A safe and stable home is foundational to ending poverty. Solid Ground provides support and case management to individuals at risk for homelessness or who are currently homeless. Additionally, the agency maintains residential support for individuals and families, including domestic violence shelter and support.

Income and Asset Building: The agency provides free legal services to assist families who are facing legal challenges with their public benefits.

Mobility: Transportation is an important lifeline to basic needs, essential services, and community. Solid Ground provides door-to-door transportation for people unable to access the King County Metro bus system and runs the free downtown Circulator bus, connecting individuals to health and human services locations.

New Initiatives:

Health: Solid Ground is working to partner effectively in 2019 with Foundational Community Supports as part of Medicaid Transformation work in Washington state.

Civic Engagement and Community Involvement: We listen to and honor the input from people we serve, and believe in and trust their experience. To lift and amplify the voices of our program participants, Solid Ground is establishing both a Sand Point Housing Residential Advisory Committee as well as a Community Accountability Council.

Housing: In 2019, our service model changes will allow people living on our Santos Place campus to have greater and longer support.

Income and Asset Building: Our society operates under a false narrative about poverty. We work to transform that narrative by shifting the focus from personal failings to structural barriers, such as laws or policies that marginalize people and communities. A recent example is our successful advocacy in support of the passing of HB 2667, leading to improved housing stability for very low-income seniors and people with disabilities. We also are able to expand our capacity, bringing on additional benefits support for individuals who are ready to engage with job searching.

Mobility: In 2018, Solid Ground was able to step in and begin to transport individuals from emergency day shelters to night shelters, and from a new housing location to services and events throughout King County.

Next Steps:

In 2019, Solid Ground will work on internal process improvements and capacity building to strengthen the effectiveness of our programming. As part of this process, we will begin working toward a new agency strategic plan, and will incorporate information learned from this community needs assessment into the planning process.

Introduction

About Solid Ground

Our communities are stronger when we support stability and break down barriers to overcoming poverty. Solid Ground does both. We combine direct services with advocacy to meet basic needs, nurture success, and spread change.

Each year, over 76,000 people in Seattle/King County participate in our programs and services. Through our programs, people gain stability and build skills that equip them to move forward in their lives. Through advocacy, we work toward ending racism and other oppressions embedded in our institutions, policies, and society that hold people back from succeeding. We bring the voices of people experiencing poverty into the political process, furthering social justice and supporting our entire community to reach its potential.

We dedicate ourselves to advancing race and social justice. Racist beliefs, policies, and practices are barriers to people reaching their full potential. Solid Ground raises awareness of all types of oppressions and works to undo racism within institutions and connected systems that are gatekeepers of opportunity. We invite partners, policymakers, and community members to join us in this important work

Speaking up is part of our DNA. A just world is possible when we speak up together. Solid Ground joins with community members to advocate for the rights and equitable treatment we all deserve. We are a persistent voice for change in the systems that serve us all.

Our advocacy engages people in the Washington state legislative process through opportunities to share their stories directly with legislators – helping win benefits for immigrants, secure protections from predatory lenders that target communities of color, and address many other barriers to equal opportunity.

As a direct result, people increase their well-being and stability, and our community is more equitable for future generations.

About the 2018 Community Needs Assessment

One necessary step to ensure our work advances our mission and addresses the needs of people living on low incomes in our community is to conduct a periodic Community Needs Assessment. Through this process, our agency can assess how well the needs of individuals and families living on low incomes are being met in our region – both families we currently work with as well as those we don't. The Community Needs Assessment provides the opportunity to identify barriers that limit our effectiveness and develop recommendations to enhance our community's ability to address these challenges.

Solid Ground's Community Needs Assessment was conducted in the fall of 2018, utilizing information from 2016-2018, to document and assess the needs, gaps, and opportunities in our community. This assessment specifically looks at needs in our community that intersect with our agency mission to end poverty and undo racism and other oppressions that are root causes of poverty. Information in this assessment will be shared back with community members and will directly inform both programming and strategic planning efforts the agency will undertake in 2019.

Solid Ground took a broad approach to the information collection process in order to include a diverse array of perspectives in the information-gathering phase.

The assessment includes findings from:

- a) research from government and nonprofit entities and partners
- b) surveys from program participants and partners
- c) listening sessions and focus groups of staff, partners, participants, and community members living on low incomes
- d) individual interviews with community members

The agency used the most recent complete data available to us for all aspects of this assessment.

Regional Profile

Solid Ground's core focus of work is in the greater King County area of Washington state. This region experiences a great deal of economic disparity compared to the country as a whole. The closer to the population center of the state, the more income disparities exist. Those living in poverty or on low incomes face increasingly challenging barriers to building their lives with self-direction and self-sufficiency.

2017 Households and Incomesⁱ

	National	Washington	King County	Seattle
Total Population	325,719,178	7,405,743	2,188,649	724,764
Total Households	120,062,818	2,840,377	876,639	329,671
Family Households	66%	65%	60%	46%
Non-family Households	34%	35%	40%	54%
Renter-occupied units	36%	37%	43%	53%

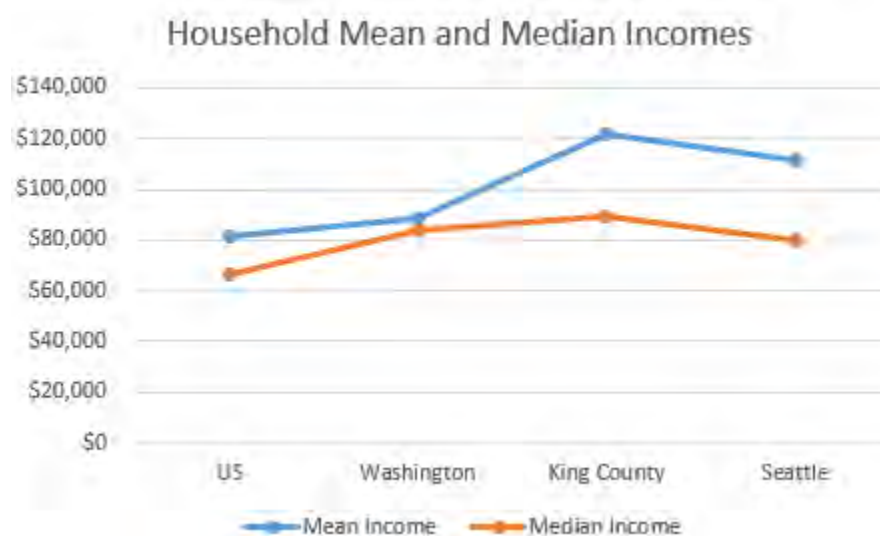
Race, Ethnicity, and Income

2018 Federal Poverty Guidelinesⁱⁱ

Single Individual	Household of Two	Household of Three	Household of Four	Household of Five	Household of Six
\$12,140	\$16,460	\$20,780	\$25,100	\$28,420	\$33,740

The yearly incomes above are the federal definitions of poverty for households of various sizes. In King County, the average household size is 2.46 people per familyⁱⁱⁱ.

People who live in or near metropolitan areas are more likely to live in households comprised of non-family members than those who live in suburban or rural communities. Additionally, compared to national, state, and county averages, more units closer to Seattle are occupied by renters rather than owners.

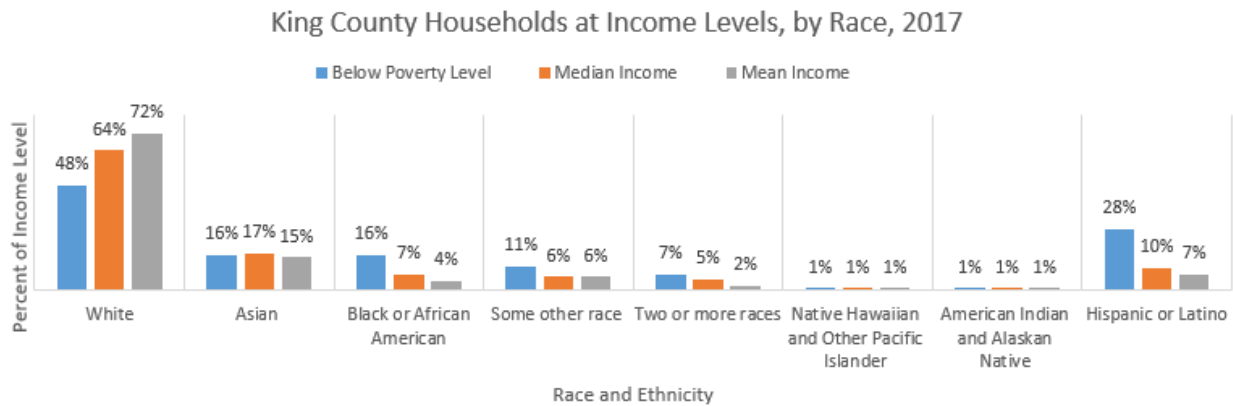


In Washington state, the mean (average) and median (middle) income numbers are fairly similar. These numbers grow farther apart in King County and Seattle, indicating an increasing disparity. In

the city of Seattle, the average household income is \$111,232 compared to \$88,563 on the state level, while the median income is \$79,565, slightly lower than the state as a whole.

In King County, 200,113 people (9%) live below the poverty level, 78,605 of whom live in the city of Seattle. At the same time, a total of 431,907 people (20%) live below 200% of the poverty line; 146,439 of these individuals live in Seattle.

The bar graph below breaks down households in King County living below the federal poverty line, at the median income for the county, and at the mean income for the county.^{iv} Each category shows the racial and ethnic distribution of the families at this income level.



In King County, White households make up a much larger (24% more) percentage of the average income level than the federal poverty line level. Conversely, Black or African American and Hispanic or Latino families make up four times the percentage of households at the poverty line income level than the county’s average income level.

Aging Population

In 2010, 10.5% of King County residents were 65 or older. By 2020, this percentage is estimated to reach 14.6%, and up to 18.3% by 2030. With an expected increasingly aging population, we can also expect both more challenges specifically associated with aging, as well as more individuals living on fixed incomes who need support for their lives that is not necessarily limited to employment or educational opportunities.^v

Aging King County analyzed trends among King County residents 60+ who are living in poverty.^{vi} Of those individuals:

- 23% identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native
- 18% identified as Black or African American
- 18% identified as Native Hawaiian
- 17% identified as Asian
- 17% identified as Hispanic or Latino
- 7% identified as White

The largest concentration in the county of people 60+ living in poverty is in the city of Seattle at 15%, followed by the south urban areas at 10%, and north county at 8%. The most common languages spoken by foreign-born adults 60+ are Chinese, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Korean, and Japanese.

Additionally, 59% of renters age 60+ in King County pay over 30% of their income toward housing costs. Of adults 65+ who live alone, 70% of are women – and 78% of adults 60+ in King County have one or more chronic health conditions.

Gender and Poverty

The chart below shows the percentage of those living under the federal poverty line who identify as women.^{vii} When comparing across geographic regions and years, there is a slight increase in women living in poverty in Seattle. This increase over the last few years moves the gender and poverty intersection of Seattle to more closely resemble that of larger regions such as the county, state, and national level.

Women Experiencing Poverty

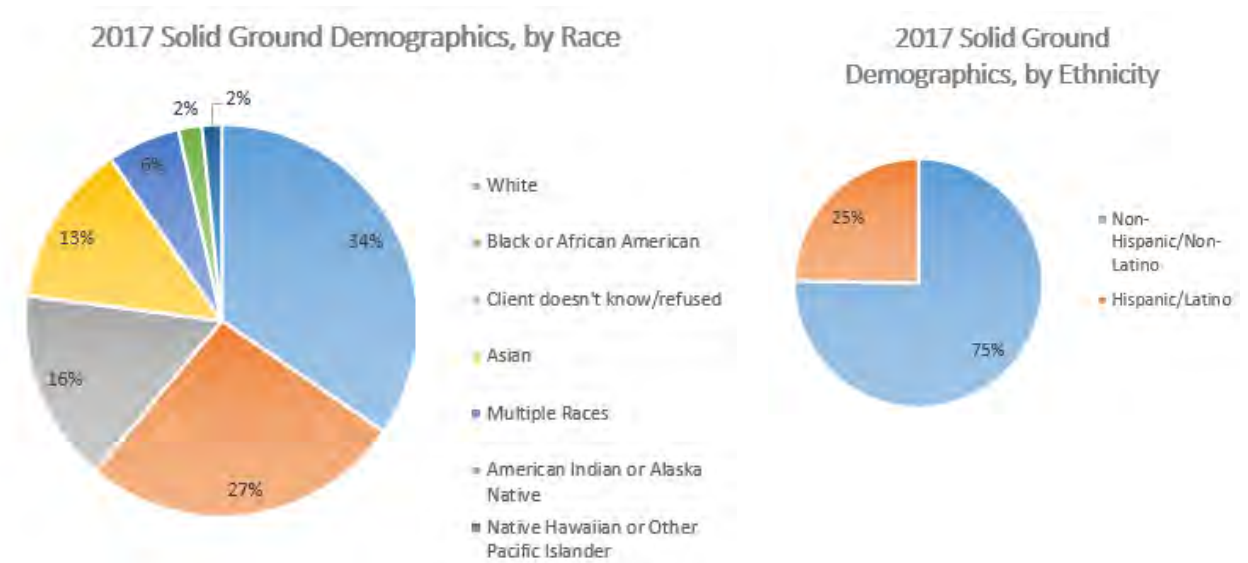
	National	Washington	King County	Seattle
2017	55.4%	53.8%	53.7%	53.3%
2016	55.4%	54.4%	53.9%	51.4%
2015	55.4%	54.0%	52.9%	48.6%
2014	55.2%	53.7%	54.4%	50.4%

The US Census only categorizes gender by male and female, so the information above is limited in its ability to provide information on individuals whose identities do not fit into one of these two categories.

In the *2015 U.S. Transgender Survey*^{viii}, the National Center for Transgender Equality examined input from transgender people living in Washington state. At the time, 28% were living in poverty, 14% were unemployed, and 37% of respondents experienced homelessness at some point. Of those who have experienced homelessness, 33% avoided staying in a shelter because of fear of mistreatment due to their gender. Additionally, 62% of respondents reported that none of their identification matched their name and gender identity, with cost being the largest barrier to changing the identification.

Solid Ground Community

The demographics of the general King County population give us a baseline which we can compare to the Solid Ground community population. The first set of pie charts below shows the overall percentages of individuals of different races and ethnicities living in King County.^{ix}



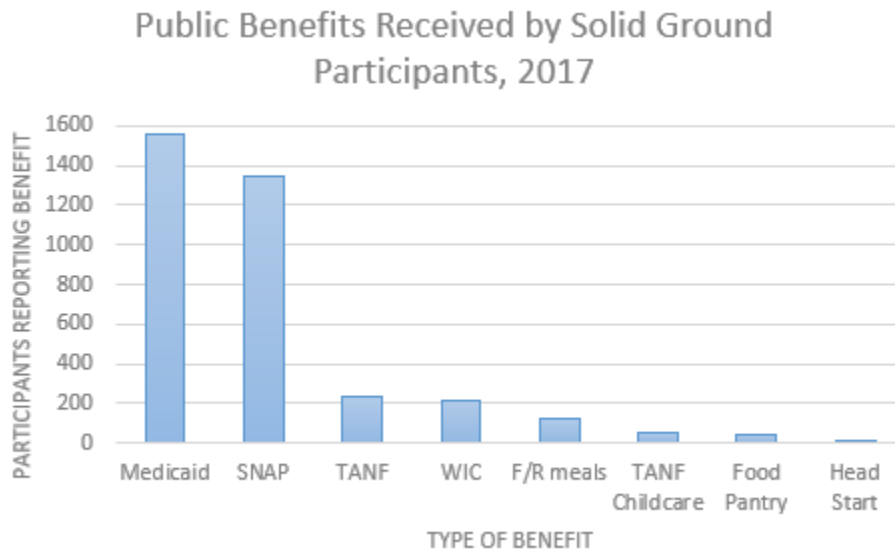
In 2017, 6,000 Solid Ground program participants volunteered to share their race or ethnicity with our organization. Of people accessing the organization's programs and services, 16% did not report their race. Additionally, 25% of participants identified as Hispanic or Latino. Of this group, some may have identified as another race or chose not to answer the question in the first chart.

Comparing the race and ethnicity of King County residents versus those served by Solid Ground, Solid Ground participants reflect greater diversity. For instance, 68% of the county population identifies as White, compared with 34% of Solid Ground participants, and 14% of the county population identifies as Hispanic or Latino, compared with 25% of Solid Ground participants. At 7% of the county population, people who identify as Black or African American make up 27% of Solid Ground participants.

As the "Race, Ethnicity, and Income" section above shows, while White families make up 68% of the overall county, they make up only 48% of families living under the federal poverty line in King County. Households of color make up 45% of the county, but 52% of those living under the federal poverty line. Lastly, while Hispanic or Latino households make up 14% of the county, they make up 28% of those living under the federal poverty line.

Solid Ground participants' race and ethnic makeup is more similar to the makeup of people living on low incomes in King County than it is to the total population of King County regardless of income. This indicates our services are reaching participants in need of support.

Public Benefit Usage



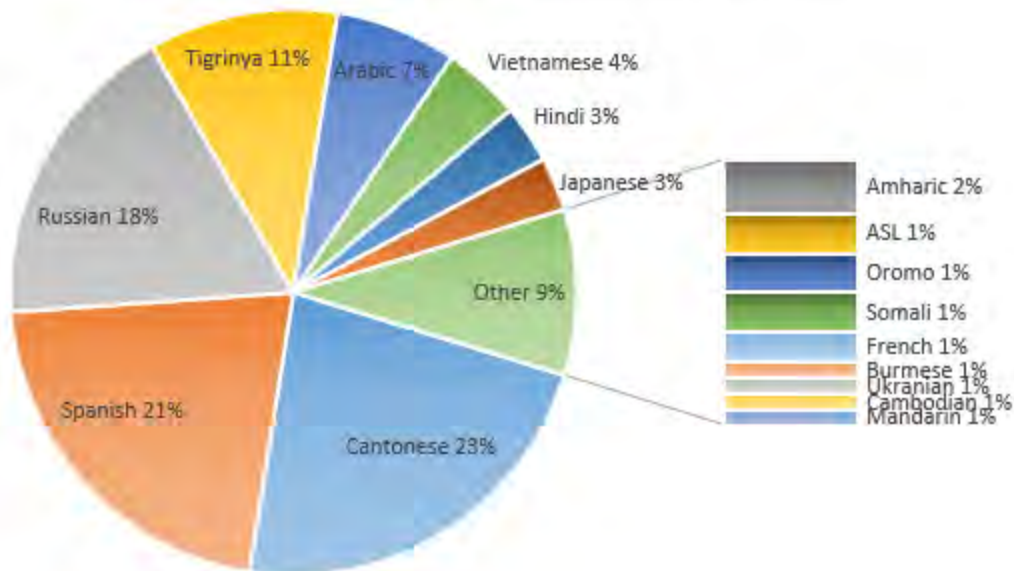
In 2017, 3,954 Solid Ground program participants shared with us whether or not they used public benefits. Of those, the two most common benefits accessed were Medicaid and SNAP – consistently the top benefits reported regardless of the program or service they participated in.

- 40% responded that they received Medicaid
- 39% responded that they received SNAP

Languages

In 2018, Solid Ground worked with individuals who spoke 17 different languages in addition to English. Of those, the top five groups the agency provided interpretation services for were 1) Cantonese, 2) Spanish, 3) Russian, 4) Tigrinya, and 5) Arabic. At the time of the last Community Needs Assessment in 2014, the most common languages were 1) Spanish, 3) Tigrinya, 3) Arabic, 4) Somali, and 5) Amharic. In response to the 2014 information, the agency hired additional bilingual Spanish-English staff members, which may explain the decrease in Spanish language need. After English, Cantonese was the most common primary language used by program participants in 2018, not seen at all in the 2014 Community Needs Assessment.

2018 Interpretation and Translation Requests



In 2018, 72% of all Solid Ground interpretation requests came through our Domestic Violence services, predominantly for women and their families. We work with approximately 400 domestic violence survivors a year, indicating a very large correlation between the diverse languages of the women and families accessing this particular service compared to the rest of the agency's services. We now have an opportunity to investigate the reason behind this large correlation, as there is some question as to whether it is related more to specific needs or to the ability of staff to access language services.

Community Identified Needs

In 2017, 80,201 duplicated members of our community accessed services at Solid Ground, often for simultaneous challenges they were experiencing in their lives. Of those individuals:

- 60,917 people sought links to essential resources
- 7,795 people took part in self-advocacy efforts
- 6,493 people signed up for life skills education and counseling
- 4,996 people requested help to stabilize their housing situation

When conducting the 2018 Community Needs Assessment, five large issue areas emerged as high priorities for the Solid Ground community:

- 1) **Health**
- 2) **Civic Engagement and Community Involvement**

- 3) **Housing**
- 4) **Income and Asset Building**
- 5) **Mobility**

While each sector of life is closely interconnected, there are nonetheless specific challenges identified for each of the five priorities. In the following section, we will examine the top five service area needs identified by the Solid Ground community, including community priorities and research from partners in this work.

Health

Within the Solid Ground community, 20% of responses to our Community Needs Assessment were regarding Health and Social/Behavioral Development. The three most commonly shared concerns were:

1) Individuals lack accessible and affordable physical, behavioral, and mental health medical care

Many participants on low incomes expressed frustration over not finding many behavioral/mental health resources available to them. Respondents mentioned additional challenges in trying to navigate healthcare systems, such as feeling a sense that they needed to relive their personal trauma to receive services. Many people expressed a strong appreciation for Medicaid, and fear of what would happen without it. The rising cost of healthcare was a strong concern for many.

2) Families struggle with the ability to actively make healthy choices

Many respondents felt that they did not have the tools, money, or knowledge to make day-to-day choices that could help with their own personal health and well-being. Many people didn't know where to start, or had trouble finding affordable, nutritious foods. Particularly from neighborhood to neighborhood, there were vastly different food and physical activity options available to participants.

3) Increased healthcare barriers exist for people dealing with chronic homelessness

For respondents with experience moving in and out of homelessness, additional challenges related to health exacerbated their situation. Often, available emergency food options are not ideal for people who do not have consistent access to a kitchen or source of heat. There was a sense that health needs had to be put off when being unsheltered, because the priority was to feel full and find a place to sleep for the night, leaving larger concerns to build up.

King County recently released its *2018 Health Needs Assessment*^x. Across King County, four major health inequities found were:

Chronic diseases: *“Adults with the lowest incomes were at least twice as likely as those with the highest incomes to have a disability, a diagnosis of diabetes, or asthma.”*

Mental health: *“Adults in the lowest income tier were almost 15 times as likely as high-income adults to have experienced serious psychological distress in the past month.”*

Hospitalizations: *“Residents in high poverty neighborhoods were most likely to be hospitalized for unintentional injuries and for suicide attempts.”*

Life expectancy and types of cancer: *“King County residents of low-poverty neighborhoods live longer than those in high-poverty neighborhoods.”*

As we heard from many of our program participants living on low incomes, their ability to access and navigate physical and mental healthcare systems was a huge barrier in finding health support. The four inequities above align with the experiences our community spoke of in terms of the intersection of income and health inequities and their short- and long-term impacts.

In terms of intersections with race, ethnicity, and health, the assessment looked at both health determinants as well as health outcomes.

Determinants:

- *“People of color in King County are more likely to be uninsured and to have poor health outcomes.”*
- *“Although health insurance coverage has improved overall, most communities of color remain disproportionately uninsured. In 2016, Hispanic adults were the least likely of all racial/ethnic groups to have healthcare coverage, with an uninsured rate nearly three times the county average. Black and Hispanic residents were most likely to report having unmet medical needs due to cost.”*
- *“Pregnancy, childbirth, and the first years of life: American Indian/Alaska Native, Black, Hispanic, and Native Hawaiian /Pacific Islander mothers were less likely than Asians and Whites to get early and adequate prenatal care.”*

Outcomes:

- **Chronic Diseases:** *“Diabetes rates among Black adults were significantly higher than the county average and nearly twice the rate among Asian adults.”*
- **Mental Health:** *“Hispanic, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, and multiple-race youth were more likely than Asian, Black, and White youth to experience depressive feelings. 30% of youth reported feeling sad or hopeless for two or more consecutive weeks, to the extent that they stopped doing some of their usual activities.”*
- **Suicide and Homicide Deaths:** *“Suicide deaths were higher than the county average for White and American Indians/Alaskan Natives in King County. Homicide deaths, however, were much higher for Black residents than for any other group, at more than five times the county average.”*

As people of color disproportionately live on low incomes, the racial inequities related to health show up in the lives of our program participants.

The *King County Health Needs Assessment* identified five health priorities:

- 1) Support for youth and families
- 2) Support for older adults
- 3) Equity and social determinants of health
- 4) Housing and homelessness
- 5) Access to healthcare

These health priorities reflect needs we hear from the Solid Ground community as well, and the issues are tightly connected. To focus on health is to also focus on housing, supporting families, and other aspects of someone's life.

In Feeding America's most recent study^{xi} of food bank customers across Western Washington, they found 18% of guests had at least one household member in poor health. Of those surveyed, 42% had a member with diabetes, 54% with high blood pressure, 24% lacked health insurance of any kind, and 54% owed payment on medical bills.

In terms of making food purchasing decisions in the last year, 70% of households chose between paying for food and paying for medical care, 50% chose between paying for food and paying for housing, 71% chose between paying for food and paying for transportation, and 77% chose between paying for food and paying for utilities. The least common decision was between food and housing, while the percentages were fairly even between choosing between food, medical bills, transportation, and utilities.

For many families among our program participants, housing becomes something that needs to be addressed first, whether it is nonnegotiable in a household budget, or a crisis state where it must be addressed in order to properly address other challenges. Without enough income to cover their bills, individuals and families are forced to make impossible choices about what to prioritize. Faced with these impossible choices, many families we work with seek support, tools, or other options to try to make the healthiest choices they can for their own lives.

Civic Engagement and Community Involvement

Within the Solid Ground community, 18% of responses to our Community Needs Assessment were regarding Civic Engagement and Community Involvement. The three most commonly shared concerns were:

- 1) People living on low incomes do not feel fully seen and valued as community members by neighbors of different class groups and sectors**

Respondents commented on the idea that in an increasingly economically divided region, people view each other less as neighbors who sometimes need help and more as ‘other,’ an inconvenience. Many respondents expressed a frustration with how they were seen and that they felt there was a need to address an ability to care that could not be solved simply with funding. Many others felt the public at large was overwhelmed by the extent of the challenges and didn’t know what the next step was to bring people together.

2) Individuals living on low incomes feel social isolation and lack a feeling of community

Many participants feel disconnected and that they are missing potential relationships and community. There was a strong shared desire for opportunities to connect with each other beyond service-based programming alone. Participants spoke to a sense of stigma about their lives, which keeps them feeling isolated.

3) Individuals on low incomes feel a lack of power in being able to navigate systems meant to provide support

Respondents want deeper, authentic relationships between service providers and those seeking services. There was a strong desire for more community voice in shaping systems and services, and ownership in conversations on changing systems that impact their own lives.

The *King County Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy*^{xii}, echoes this prioritization of social engagement.

“Social isolation is increasingly understood as not only a significant cause of emotional difficulty, but also as a potent risk factor for health-harming conditions. Actual and perceived social isolation are both associated with increased risk for premature death. The influence of social relationships on risk of death are comparable with well-established risk factors for mortality such as smoking and alcohol consumption, and exceed the influence of risk factors such as physical inactivity and obesity. Negative outcomes of social isolation include: unhealthy behaviors such as heavy drinking, smoking, and being sedentary; psychological issues such as cognitive decline, depression, and suicide; physical problems such as heart disease, stroke and falls; and other impacts such as rehospitalization and institution.

“Adults age 75 and older who are lonely, socially isolated, and inactive have a mortality rate of 53% compared to a mortality rate of 30% among adults age 75 and older who are not lonely, nor socially isolated, nor inactive.

...

“Often thought of in the context of older adults who become isolated as social networks fade and families change, isolation was also discussed extensively as a concern for veterans, persons with disabilities and their families, caretakers, survivors of traumatic experiences like domestic violence, and recent immigrants and refugees.”

The *King County Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy* points out the strong intersection between community involvement, social isolation, and health outcomes. This is another indicator of the tight connections between our five services areas. Many of our program participants have experienced a wide variety of trauma, and feeling this isolation can compound the struggles they face.

Housing

Within the Solid Ground community, 17% of responses to our Community Needs Assessment were regarding Housing. The three most commonly shared concerns were:

1) Families lack affordable housing options

The most common frustration expressed by respondents was that rents were becoming higher than incomes. There simply did not feel like there were any available housing options for people living on low incomes. These concerns account for 40% of all housing-related comments. Many people expressed discouragement at the prospect of searching for housing and being forced to move far away from access to needed resources and support.

2) Families lack support when housing is at risk or when newly housed

Once a respondent's housing was already at risk through eviction proceedings, it often became much harder to stay stabilized in their own home. Many asked about earlier stabilizing supports. Additionally, some expressed concerns that becoming housed was only a temporary situation, without longer-term support to get back on their feet, find help with moving, etc.

3) Our community experiences additional barriers when people are chronically homeless

Respondents noted greatly increased challenges when experiencing homelessness, especially people who were unsheltered. Participants mentioned the fear of needed items like identification being stolen easily, and the time cost of spending the whole day trying to access shelters and emergency support. Others spoke of the fear of being targeted for their gender or sexual orientation, drug behavior, or mental health.

In the 2016/2017 school year, there were 40,934 students living without a home across 18 school districts in King County.^{xiii} Of those, 10.46% attended Seattle Public Schools, with the next highest percentage of 3.03% attending Highline School District. The most common living situation for students in Seattle without stable homes was overcrowded doubled-up living situations, followed by shelters, motels, and living without a shelter. Traumas associated with the lack of stable housing increase struggles to create stability in the student's education and development.

In All Home's latest *Count Us In* report^{xiv}, they shared their 2018 findings on individuals experiencing homelessness in Seattle and King County.

"A total of 12,112 individuals were experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County on January 26, 2018. Fifty-two percent (52%) of the population was unsheltered, living on the street, or in parks, tents, vehicles, or other places not meant for human habitation. Compared to 2017, the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in Seattle/King County increased by 4% (469 persons). The unsheltered population increased by 15% (835 persons)."

Some key notes:

- *"The largest increase was observed among individuals living in vehicles. In 2018, there were an estimated 3,372 persons living in cars, RVs, and vans. This represented a 46% increase compared to 2017, when there were an estimated 2,314 persons living in vehicles.*
- *"Among the sheltered population, the number of persons residing in emergency shelter increased by 3% (94 persons) and the number of persons residing in transitional housing and safe havens decreased by 17% (460 persons).*
- *"Seventy-one percent (71%) of the county's unsheltered population identified during the street count were residing in Seattle."*

Race and Ethnicity: *"When compared to the demographic racial profiles of the county's general population, the largest disparities were observed among those identifying as Black or African American (27% in the Point-in-Time Count compared to 6% in the general King County population), as Hispanic or Latino (15% compared to 9%), and with multiple races (16% compared to 6%). Individuals in families identified as people of color at higher rates than individuals who were not in families, and family survey respondents reported encountering a language barrier when trying to access local services at a rate six times higher than survey respondents with no children.*

Domestic Violence: *"Thirty-six percent (36%) of Count Us In Survey respondents reported a history of domestic violence or partner abuse, and 7% reported that they were currently experiencing domestic violence.*

Sexual Orientation: *"13 individuals identifying as LGBTQ+ (55%), unaccompanied youth, and young adults under 25 years old (45%), and families with children (40%)."*

Foster care: *"Seventeen percent (17%) of Count Us In Survey respondents reported a history of foster care. Rates of foster care involvement were highest among unaccompanied youth and young adults under 25 years old (33%) and respondents of all ages identifying as LGBTQ+ (25%)."*

Health conditions: *"Approximately 70% of Count Us In Survey respondents reported living with at least one health condition. The most frequently reported health conditions were psychiatric or emotional conditions (44%), post-traumatic stress disorder (37%), and drug or alcohol abuse (35%). Twenty-seven percent (27%) of respondents reported chronic health problems and 26% reported a physical disability. Over half (53%) of survey respondents indicated that they were living with at least one health condition"*

that was disabling, i.e. preventing them from holding employment, living in stable housing, or taking care of themselves.”

Housing needs

- *“Ninety-eight percent (98%) of Count Us In Survey respondents said they would move into safe and affordable housing if it were offered.*
- *“Prior to losing their housing, 70% of Count Us In Survey respondents reported living either in a home owned or rented by themselves or their partner, or with friends or relatives.*
- *“Approximately 21% of survey respondents indicated that issues related to housing affordability were the primary conditions leading to their homelessness, including eviction (11%), inability to afford a rent increase (6%), family or friend could no longer afford to let them stay (2%), and foreclosure (2%).*
- *“When asked what would help them to obtain permanent housing, 80% of Count Us In Survey respondents cited more affordable housing and rental assistance as key to ending their homelessness.”*

Both OSPI data as well as the *Count Us In Annual Report* show an increasingly large number of people in King County experiencing homelessness, ranging from living in unsheltered conditions to overcrowded housing situations. William Evans, James Sullivan, and Melanie Wallskog’s study *The Impact of Homeless Prevention Programs on Homelessness*^{xv} investigated both the outcomes as well as the costs of homelessness prevention to address the situation before someone loses their housing.

The study found that families at risk of homelessness who received temporary financial assistance were 76% less likely to enter a shelter within six months, and for those whose incomes were lower than the median area income, they were 88% less likely to enter a shelter. The average cost per situation averted from a path to homelessness was \$10,300, offset by lower shelter costs, improved health and educational outcomes, and lower costs of other social and public services.

The *2018 Losing Home* report^{xvi} from the King County Bar Association examined evictions across the county.

Race and Immigration Status

“The court records analysis found evictions disproportionately impact households of color. In Seattle, 53.8% of households rent, and of these, 35.0% are people of color. While 30.8% of the Seattle population are people of color, over half of the individuals (51.7%) with evictions filed against them in 2017 were people of color. Black tenants, who represented 31.2% of tenants with evictions filed against them, faced the greatest disproportionality, experiencing eviction at a rate 4.5 times what would be expected based on their demographics in Seattle.

Further, people of color were more likely to be evicted for smaller amounts of rent owed compared to white tenants. Out of all cases filed for nonpayment of rent against people of color, 28.5% were filed for \$1,000.00 or less in rent. In contrast, out of all the nonpayment of rent cases filed against white tenants, 24.7% of those were filed for \$1,000.00 or less. Similarly, people of color (12.3%) were more

likely to face evictions for \$500 or less than white tenants (7.8%). Tenants of color owing \$500.00 or less were also more likely to vacate than white tenants owing the same amount. In addition, out of tenants evicted for lease violations, 53.1% were people of color.”

Seniors

“Older renters are disproportionately represented in court cases and among HJP’s clients. Out of the 272 cases that indicated a tenant’s age, the oldest tenant evicted was 85-years-old. Out of HJP Seattle clients that disclosed their age (823), 28.6% were 55-years-old or older, whereas the number of individuals 55-years-old or older who rent in Seattle was less than a quarter (21.4%) of all renter householders.⁸⁷ The disproportionate rate of seniors experiencing evictions could be connected to the inability to afford rent while living on a fixed income.”

The main factors they found that led to an eviction were:

- *Poverty and temporary unemployment*
- *Increasing unaffordability of affordable housing*
- *Rigid leases*
- *Domestic violence*
- *Health problems*
- *Other events outside a tenant’s control*
- *Lack of mental health support*

The largest impacts of legal counsel during evictions were:

- *“Tenants with counsel fared better than those without.”*
- *“The lack of adequate tenant protections further reduces the effectiveness of legal representation as compared to other jurisdictions.”*
- *“The imposition of legal fees and costs is a common barrier to tenants seeking to remain housed.”*

The *Losing Home* report highlights and demonstrates the importance for tenants to know their rights and options, and have effective support when housing is at risk. It also highlights the disproportionalities in the housing system that our program participants face, especially as relating to race, immigration, and age. They note the connections to other service areas, such as Income and Asset Building, with seniors who are living off of fixed incomes, and whose benefits are crucial to their staying housed, and lack of physical and mental health support leading to a loss of housing.

Income and Asset Building

Within the Solid Ground community, 15% of responses to our Community Needs Assessment were regarding Income and Asset Building. The three most commonly shared concerns were:

- 1) Income inequality creates a heavier burden on those in the community who live on low incomes**

Many participants expressed a strong sense that the high cost of living in the area meant they felt the strain on every day purchases like food, gas, and utilities in a way that higher wage earners did not. This led to many respondents expressing a need to make hard choices, often between equally necessary items. Across the board, whether a participant was seeking a path toward education or employment, or trying to obtain or maintain benefits, they expressed concerns about managing their budget and planning for the future.

2) Families struggle with navigating financial hurdles when working with a fixed income

Many people who we work with are unable to work for age or ability reasons and live within fixed incomes from public benefits. These participants often expressed the importance of being able to both retain their rightful benefits as well as being able to successfully navigate financially through the systems in their lives. Fear of losing access to any of these benefits created a sense that they felt out of control of their own lives.

3) Our community does not feel trained, ready, or supported to take on employment in a job that can provide a living wage

Many program participants are concerned with obtaining the tools needed to take the next step in their education or career to be able to increase their income. They desire more support in taking the first steps to make this happen. Respondents also spoke to the fear of losing necessary benefits when obtaining employment, and the financial risk involved.

In King County, 363,751 out of 2,153,700 individuals receive “Economic Services” support through DSHS.^{xvii} This includes benefits such as Aged, Blind, or Disabled Assistance, Basic Food Program, TANF, HEN, and similar benefits.

From 2014-2017, the national cost of living rose 3.5%^{xviii}. The Seattle metropolitan area, on the other hand, had an increase of 6.8% after already starting above the national average in 2014. Individuals and families are finding it increasingly challenging to afford basic goods and services with rising costs. This cost burden is exacerbated by the very strong income gap referenced in the regional profile above.

Mobility

Within the Solid Ground community, 8% of responses to our Community Needs Assessment were regarding Mobility. The three most commonly shared concerns were:

1) Older adults and homebound individuals experience challenges related to a lack of transportation

Respondents noted extra transportation challenges that occurred with specific needs. There was a strong sense that homebound seniors felt cut off from services they need. Respondents felt this led to these individuals receiving fewer services than those who could more easily navigate public transportation options.

2) Our community lacks transportation options that work for different needs

A common theme of few transportation options included a lack of rural transportation support and a lack of options for transportation to essential services. People also expressed concern regarding finding transportation to organizations in order to receive transportation support. For instance, an organization might have bus tickets available, but the person who needs a bus ticket does not necessarily know how to receive one without finding a way to come to the organization. Respondents felt that health or ability challenges made accessing available transportation more difficult.

3) The community struggles with the high financial and time cost of transportation

Many respondents commented on the cost burdens, including tolls, for people on low incomes who live farther outside of the city but need to commute in, the need to own a car, or the extra time cost of trying to meet basic needs.

In 2018, we ran a deeper survey with individuals who ride our Downtown Circulator Bus, providing free rides to people on low incomes who need access to downtown Seattle services. Through the survey, we learned that 22% of riders take it to medical appointments, 19% to find food, 19% to access other services, 18% to commute to work, 12% for housing services, and 10% for other reasons. While food and medical access were the largest reasons people needed the Circulator, the rides affected all aspect of their lives. Despite the limited nature of the Circulator compared to public transportation, over half of riders still found it met their needs better than discounted public transportation routes, due to cost and route. The biggest specific wishes our riders had were for weekend availability (38%), more routes (24%), and longer hours (21%).

In King County's latest *Transportation Plan*,^{xix} they examined current transportation trends and expected trends.

“Future transportation system users will include a wider range of ages and be more ethnically and racially diverse. As knowledge economy jobs increasingly locate into large city centers, alternative modes of travel, including transit and non-motorized modes, will become increasingly important.

“The Millennial Generation (people in their 20s and early 30s in 2015) has the potential to lead lasting change in regional housing and transportation choices. Current trends suggest this younger generation, nationwide, is less car-focused than older generations and values housing locations near mass transit or within walking or biking distance to work, thus making fewer trips by car. As the Seattle area ranks as a top destination for young professionals both locally and nationally, this could signal a greater change in transportation patterns in the region.

“The retiring Baby Boomer generation displays similarly more urban-oriented housing choices than past retiring generations. Retirees are increasingly downsizing from suburban homes to city apartments and small houses for pedestrian and transit oriented-access to cultural activities and lifestyle amenities.

“The region is and will remain a relatively affluent region, with higher wages led by technology companies and technology workers throughout the regional economy. Their willingness to pay for transportation choices that they value remains high, at least for now. In contrast, lower income populations will face increasing economic challenges as housing, transportation, and other living costs escalate. Uncertainty lingers, however, over the long-term effects on housing and transportation, given the newness of the younger and older generations’ lifestyle choices. In the long run, if these 2016 trends continue, the region’s demographics could increase demand for higher density housing in compact, walkable neighborhoods and a balanced transportation system that enables these land use patterns.”

The *King County Transportation Plan* points out the changing transportation needs and its intersection with other service areas, with more people living in denser areas, and a rising cost of living. Individuals and families on low incomes need more support. Many of them have specific needs related to transportation – whether ability, geographic, financial, etc. King County predicts that our region will choose to invest more in transportation. Investment in options that work for people at all ability and income levels is crucial for equitable transportation in this region.

Resources and Opportunities in our Community

While our region faces growing inequity and increased challenges resulting from inequities, there is a strong desire in the region to face these challenges and create a more equitable and just community.

Through participating in the Community Needs Assessment, many respondents took some time to think through the resources and opportunities that exist, allowing for potential new paths forward. They identified resources they already found valuable in their interactions with our agency in addition to broader community opportunities and resources.

Solid Ground programming helps people feel safe and willing to learn and move forward. Staff are often seen as knowledgeable in their subject matter, and the agency is thought of as working to create as many low-barrier program opportunities as possible. The team at Solid Ground was mentioned multiple times as reinforcing a sense of humanity with the person receiving services.

There is a strong community-wide desire for more opportunities for an individual to engage and easily enter a system regardless of wherever they may be in life. Respondents valued organizations and support that emphasized humanity in interactions, ownership of community, cross-class relationship building, and being able to access assistance early before the challenges become too great to navigate. Many people noted a need to look to increasing and deepening ways for organizations and different sectors to create partnerships that are truly collaborative and not competitive.

Many county-level reports, levies, plans, and assessments on specific issue areas point to the interconnected nature of issues rather than focusing exclusively on health, housing, transportation, or other services. This indicates a growing community-wide lens on working to support the entirety of a family or community's life. There are increasing opportunities for deeper, rich partnerships that can more fully support someone living on a low income to find their own form of success and support, and to more holistically support the communities we work with to feel strong and connected.

Key Findings

When reviewing both quantitative data as well as almost 700 pieces of qualitative input from our participants, partners, and community members, we found many common threads woven within the input, regardless of the respondent or the reason they were part of Solid Ground's community. These themes can provide us an opportunity to examine how we approach our work with individuals, on a broader community level, and internally within the agency itself. Through examining these themes, we will have the ability to make strategic choices in the future that allow us to help our neighbors increase their well-being and stability, and work to ensure our community is more equitable for future generations.

Whole Lives

With large numbers of our community members, a common theme was being seen and addressed as a whole person with a complicated life. Individuals and families do not experience only one issue in their life at a time, and these different issues can impact each other, creating greater challenges for the person.

For instance, one individual who came to Solid Ground this year had chronic health concerns which prevented him from working. Without a job, he was at greater risk for many other aspects of his life to lose stability. He was able to use Solid Ground's transportation for people with disabilities to attend our nutrition classes, and practice cooking, shopping, and food choices. After making life changes, his health improved enough that he was able to return to work. Now he takes our free Downtown Circulator Bus to work every day. His health, employment, and mobility challenges were interconnected, and needed to be addressed collectively, rather than as isolated issues. There is an opportunity for us to truly support someone's entire life.

There is also a great desire among community members for earlier and longer-term support. Often, by the time someone receives services, they are already in a crisis situation. There is a need to both destigmatize help and services, as well as provide clear paths for someone to be able to receive services sooner, before someone is in a crisis. Being able to provide support for more long-term prevention efforts is crucial to creating a more stable community.

Building Commitment in the Community to End Poverty

It is impossible to not see the growing inequity in our community. The vastness of the problem can feel intimidating and overpowering to many people. This can lead people to feeling disengaged entirely from anti-poverty efforts, which gives the impression to many of our respondents of a ‘lack of political will’ to effect change. Some community members stop seeing their neighbor as their neighbor, and start to see them as “other,” creating a sense of dehumanization for people in need of help. Other community members want to help but don’t know where to start or don’t feel like they have the tools or knowledge for how to engage. Across sectors, there is also a strong desire to engage, but not always a clear idea of how to effectively partner with both communities living on low incomes as well as agencies within these communities.

Many in our community feel a growing sense of stigma around needing support. A common theme with respondents was that they felt that this is a problem that more money cannot necessarily fix, given all the resources that the region currently has. Instead, there is a need for our region to really examine how we both approach community members who need support as well as community members with the capacity to help support their neighbors.

Internal Support

For a large number of Solid Ground program participants, navigating the system itself is a huge challenge. We have an opportunity to examine how we work with people receiving our services, as well as service delivery partners. There is an opportunity for our agency to raise up voices of our participants and create space for active participant involvement in decisions that impact their own lives. Building deeper relationships with participants and consistently supporting them in community building, advocacy, and other efforts to improve their situations will lead to a stronger Solid Ground community.

Different programs within Solid Ground and other agencies have a variety of eligibility restrictions that can ultimately create more challenges for program participants. We also have an opportunity to examine how we can effectively navigate those challenges internally and with our partners to reduce negative impacts on participants. There is a need to help make the system more navigable for someone who needs help but is not an expert in how to receive support.

Responding to Community-Identified Needs

Through analyzing the information in the 2018 Community Needs Assessment, we can examine how our current work meets the needs our community has identified both during this process as a

moment in time, as well through ongoing input throughout the years. We also can utilize this information to prepare to make planning and strategic decisions in the coming months.

In addition to the Community Needs Assessment and subsequent planning processes, Solid Ground works to stay responsive to community and participant needs and input as they arise and change. With a wide range of programs and services, we work to provide a variety of opportunities for feedback and input on what our community needs, including program-specific surveys, focused conversations with participants who utilize many of our services, and listening sessions with broader community members living on low incomes.

Additionally, we become aware of many issues and needs due to the connections and conversations our staff have with participants. For example, our benefits attorneys learned firsthand from their clients about some of the challenges they were facing with HEN and ABD, and our agency was able to take this information and directly inform our legislative policy priorities. In terms of our agency's current alignment and response to the top five community-identified need areas:

Health

Ongoing:

- Community Food Education promotes food justice and lifelong health through collaborations with gardens, schools, and community organizations. We develop and deliver curricula to expand participants' knowledge, skills, and confidence to grow and try new foods, and prepare healthy, affordable meals at home.
- Food System Support supports and strengthens Seattle's food banks through coordination, advocacy, and resources to streamline operations and increase capacity.

New Initiatives:

- In 2018, Solid Ground assessed alignment with Foundational Community Supports, including Housing and Employment Support services as part of Medicaid Transformation work in Washington state. In 2019, the agency plans to submit an application to partner in this work and determine how Medicaid Transformation resources could best support our participants.

Civic Engagement and Community Involvement

Ongoing:

- Statewide Poverty Action Network advocates for public policy that addresses the root causes of poverty, mobilizes voters, and engages communities to speak out on issues impacting them.
- Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) meets critical community needs by connecting individuals over 55 years old with volunteer opportunities throughout King County.

New Initiatives:

- To lift and amplify the voices of residents on our Sand Point Housing campus, Solid Ground developed a Resident Advisory Committee in 2018. This committee reinforces residents' rights and self-determination through input opportunities into policy and procedure development, encourages a stronger community through events and activities, advocates on behalf of residents, and supports conflict resolution and communication.
- Solid Ground is developing a Community Advisory Council (CAC) to provide input and recommendations regarding programming and more. The CAC allows us to center the voices of the people who are most impacted by poverty, and provides a means for Solid Ground to advance our anti-racism principles through shared decision-making power around "choice points" that influence outcomes for our community.

Housing**Ongoing:**

- JourneyHome provides case management and housing search to support homeless families with children overcome housing stability barriers.
- King County Housing Stability Project provides support for King County renters at risk of homelessness.
- Broadview Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing provides a safe, secure haven for mothers with children, with onsite support services, case management, and housing search.
- Family Shelter provides shelter for families with children and transitional housing for large families. It includes support services, comprehensive case management, and housing search assistance.
- Sand Point Housing provides transitional and non-time-limited permanent housing with comprehensive, onsite case management and support services for formerly homeless families and individuals.
- Coordinated Entry Regional Access Point helps people experiencing homelessness access King County's homeless housing system.
- Tenant Services provide counseling, information, resources, and tools to help Washington state tenants understand their rights and responsibilities as renters.

New Initiatives:

- In 2019, service model changes in our residential services will lead us to unify stays, lengthen them where appropriate, and improve outcomes for residents living in Solid Ground housing programs.

Income and Asset Building

Ongoing:

- Benefits Legal Assistance provides free legal services to help families and individuals get state benefits that have been reduced, terminated, or denied.
- Financial Fitness Boot Camp supports participants in taking control of their finances with workshops and coaching focused on budgeting, credit repair, banking, and goal setting.

New Initiatives:

- In 2019, we are able to increase our Benefits Legal Assistance capacity with an additional attorney, allowing us to effectively serve more clients.
- Benefits attorneys at Solid Ground learned from their clients that many lost their HEN housing support as they became permanently disabled and transitioned to ABD. In 2018, Solid Ground supported individuals we work with in testifying and advocating for HB 2667. The successful passage of this bill improves housing stability for very low-income seniors and people with disabilities. Because of this bill, people struggling with homelessness who are pursuing treatment for a substance use disorder will become eligible for housing assistance through HEN, as well as homeless recipients of ABD assistance.
- Through HIRED, Solid Ground connects households that are ready to engage in job search with Cares of Washington for a range of employment services. The impact on those experiencing homelessness means 120 program participants will be referred to Cares of Washington and the employment tools they offer.

Mobility

Ongoing:

- Downtown Circulator Bus offers free rides on a fixed route for people living on low incomes and those who access health and human services in the downtown Seattle area.
- Solid Ground Transportation provides door-to-door and curb-to-curb ACCESS transportation for anyone unable to ride the regular King County Metro fixed-rate bus system.

New Initiatives:

- In 2018, Solid Ground deepened a partnership between Center Park and King County Metro that started in the 1970s with the Center Park Shuttle. This service is designed to transport groups of residents to/from services and events throughout King County. The Center Park Shuttle currently serves all Center Park residents (seven days a week, anywhere in King County) in a specifically-designed bus that can transport up to six wheelchairs and 15 residents.
- On the 2018 winter solstice, King County opened long-shuttered Harborview Hall as a nightly shelter for up to 100 people (18+, all genders welcome, pets welcome, limited storage available). This shelter opens at 7pm and closes at 7am. As the shelter is for nights only, Solid

Ground Transportation provides morning and evening free shuttle service to and from the facility and day centers downtown.

Next Steps

To deliver effective services that meet the needs of people who come to us, we want to ensure that we look at our own internal systems as well as our specific programs and services.

Through growing our strategic information systems, we will bring programs online to measure impacts more deeply and incorporate continued improvement practices, ensuring we are better able to determine if our work is successful.

Through internal work focusing on administration efficiency, business development, succession planning, and relationship development, internal systems will strengthen and lead to increased program capacity.

In 2019, our agency will enter a new strategic planning cycle, where we will have the ability to take an additional look at how our agency continues to grow and adapt to meet the changing needs of the community we serve. Information learned from the 2018 Solid Ground Community Needs Assessment will directly inform the process.

Endnotes

- ⁱ US Census: <https://factfinder.census.gov>
- ⁱⁱ US Department of Health & Human Services: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>
- ⁱⁱⁱ US Department of Health & Human Services: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>
- ^{iv} US Census: <https://factfinder.census.gov>
- ^v Aging King County: <http://www.agingkingcounty.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/185/2016/09/WAagewave2000-2030.pdf>
- ^{vi} Aging King County: <http://www.agingkingcounty.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/185/2016/07/InfographicBooklet.pdf>
- ^{vii} US Census: <https://factfinder.census.gov>
- ^{viii} National Center for Transgender Equality: <http://www.transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/usts/USTS-WA-State-Report.pdf>
- ^{ix} US Census: <https://factfinder.census.gov>
- ^x Public Health Seattle King County: <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/data/community-health-indicators/~media/depts/health/data/documents/2018-2019-Joint-CHNA-Report.ashx>
- ^{xi} Feeding America: http://help.feedingamerica.org/HungerInAmerica/FB81_WA_Shoreline_report.pdf?s_src=W18CORGSC&s_referrer=google&s_subsrc=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.feedingamerica.org%2Fresearch%2Fhunger-in-america&_ga=2.52096681.1261714416.1546297524-1570980093.1539100370
- ^{xii} King County Community and Human Services: <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/community-human-services/initiatives/levy/VSHSLPlanning.aspx>
- ^{xiii} Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction: www.k12.wa.us/HomelessEd/Data.aspx
- ^{xiv} All Home King County: <http://allhomekc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/FINALDRAFT-COUNTUSIN2018REPORT-5.25.18.pdf>
- ^{xv} National Low Income Housing Coalition: <https://nlihc.org/article/homelessness-prevention-programs-improve-outcomes-and-save-money>
- ^{xvi} King County Bar Association: <https://www.kcba.org/Portals/0/pbs/pdf/Losing%20Home%202018.pdf>
- ^{xvii} Department of Health and Human Services: <http://clientdata.rda.dshs.wa.gov/Home/ShowReport2?reportMode=0>
- ^{xviii} City of Seattle Budget Office: <http://www.seattle.gov/financedepartment/cpi/cpi.htm>
- ^{xix} King County Department of Transportation: <https://kingcounty.gov/~media/depts/transportation/roads/transportation-planning/tnr2016/tnr-reporttext-2016.ashx?la=en>