

Economic

# Recovery Workgroup



King County

September 18, 2020  
Meeting Materials

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# AGENDA

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11:00 a.m.	<b>Convening</b>	Executive Dow Constantine Council Chair Claudia Balducci
11:10 a.m.	<b>Introductions</b>	All
11:20 a.m.	<b>King County Update</b>	Councilmember Jeanne Kohl-Welles Councilmember Reagan Dunn
11:35 a.m.	<b>Survey Presentation and Discussion</b>	
	Economic Recovery Workgroup Survey	Chair Balducci
	Greater Seattle Partners Survey	Greater Seattle Partners
11:55 a.m.	<b>Current Recovery Activities</b>	All
	What recovery planning or coordination is underway?	
12:15 p.m.	<b>Looking Ahead:</b>	All
	What is missing from current economic recovery efforts?	
	What are the most important things King County (or our government partners) can do to help your groups or constituencies recover?	
	Are there public and private partnership opportunities that will lead to a better recovery?	
12:45 p.m.	<b>Wrap Up and Next Steps</b>	Chair Balducci All

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# INVITED PARTNERS

## Community Partners

### Chief Seattle Club

Colleen Echohawk, Executive Director

### El Centro De La Raza

Estela Ortega, Executive Director

### King County Immigrant and Refugee Commission

Hamdi Mohamed

### Multi-Service Center

Robin Corak, CEO

### Partner in Employment

Hien Kieu, Executive Director

### Port Jobs

Heather Worthley, Executive Director

### Tabor 100

Ollie Garrett, President

### United Way of King County

Gordon McHenry Jr., President & CEO

### Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle

Michelle Merriweather, President & CEO

## Business Groups

### Auburn Area Chamber of Commerce

Kacie Bray, President/CEO

### Bellevue Chamber of Commerce

Joe Fain, CEO

### Challenge Seattle

Christine Gregoire, CEO

### Ethnic Chamber of Commerce Coalition

Mike Sotelo, President

### Greater Seattle Business Association

Louise Chernin, President & CEO

### Kent Chamber of Commerce

Zenovia Harris, CEO

### Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce

Markham McIntyre, Executive Vice President

## Economic Development Groups

### Greater Seattle Partners

Brian McGowan, CEO

### OneRedmond

Kristina Hudson, Executive Director

### Seattle Southside RTA

Katherine Kertzman, President & CEO

### Visit Seattle

Tom Norwalk, President & CEO

## Labor Groups

### MLK Labor Council

Nicole Grant, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

### Seattle Building and Construction Trades Council

Monty Anderson, Executive Secretary

## Government Partners

### City of Seattle

Jenny Durkan, Mayor

### King County

Dow Constantine, Executive

### King County Council

Claudia Balducci, Chair - District 6

### King County Council

Reagan Dunn, Vice Chair - District 9

### King County Council

Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Councilmember - District 4

### Port of Seattle

Stephen Metruck, Executive Director

### Public Health - Seattle & King County

Patty Hayes, Director

Kirsten Wysen, Policy Analyst

### Sound Cities Association

Deanna Dawson, Executive Director

# SURVEY QUESTIONS

## KING COUNTY ECONOMIC RECOVERY SURVEY

1

Submitter information, organization or sector

2

What are the top three ways COVID-19 has uniquely impacted the group or constituency you are representing?

3

What does “recovery” look like for the group or constituency you represent?

4

Is your organization conducting economic recovery work on behalf of the group or constituency you represent? If so, what kind of work?

5

Over the next year, what do you see as the three most significant “return to work” challenges or barriers faced by employees who work in sectors or at businesses your organization represents? What can be done to support them?

6

What are the most important things King County (or our government partners) can do to help your groups or constituencies recover?

7

What opportunities exist to make positive structural changes to the economy and society as we rebuild? How can government and community partners facilitate these changes?

8

What else would you like to share?

# SURVEY RESULTS

## KING COUNTY ECONOMIC RECOVERY SURVEY

**Broad themes and concerns identified by respondents included:**

### *Reimagining institutions for basic needs and services as we rebuild the economy*

- Broadband
- Health care
- Child care
- Valuing the work of essential workers

### *Concerns we heard*

- Safety of workers and customers
- Unemployment, lost income and debt, food insecurity and housing stability
- Remote learning, child care, and elder care
- Business closures, revenue reductions, liquidity challenges, market and sector changes
- Closure orders, clear plans for large-scale reopenings, enforcement of safety protocols

### *Unique challenges we heard*

- Tourism
- Small business
- Consumer confidence in safety
- Challenges for workers who are also caregivers



# SURVEY RESULTS CONT.

## KING COUNTY ECONOMIC RECOVERY SURVEY

### Summary of the most prominent issues raised for each question:

**Q2: What are the top three ways COVID-19 has uniquely impacted the group or constituency you are representing?**

#### Individuals

- Loss of job, reduced hours/income
- Housing instability
- Food insecurity
- Loss of child care or elder care
- Safety
- Health care access

#### Private/businesses sector

- Small businesses closures
- Sector-wide downturns, with acute impacts on travel, tourism, service, and others
- Revenue declines
- Addressing workplace safety
- Uncertainty

#### Public Sector

- Tax revenue decreases
- Fee based revenue decreases

**Q3: What does “recovery” look like for the group or constituency you represent?**

#### Individuals

- Forgiveness of accrued housing debt; living-wage income; and, some savings.
- Greater access to affordable housing.
- Greater access to affordable child care alternatives (at least while school is strictly online learning).
- Greater access to affordable health care.
- A good time to seek healthcare for all.
- We want this to be a turning point for how essential workers are valued in King County.

# SURVEY RESULTS CONT.

## KING COUNTY ECONOMIC RECOVERY SURVEY

### Private/business sector

- Helping our small businesses create positive cash flow as soon as possible.
- Creatively finding ways to help our small businesses market themselves.
- Stable income which means businesses re-opening.
- Greater diversification of living wage job opportunities, particularly in South King County
- Customers coming back; purchasing inventory; being able to pay rent.
- Continued recruitment for new businesses in the area.
- Increase hotel occupancy, increased visitor spending, maintaining number of jobs.

### Public sector

- Careful reopening of our facilities.
- Trimming budget based on current economic and financial challenges.
- Invest in capital facilities, trade and tourism and pertinent recovery initiatives to support small business and workforce development to stimulate recovery for the region.

### General

- Getting back to operating as close to pre-COVID as possible.
- A partial and incremental return to pre-COVID tourism demand by mid 2022 - would be considered recovery.
- Infrastructure investments should be Green New Deal style.
- Many have called this a dual pandemic of COVID and racism and we want to address racism in the recovery.

### Q4: Is your organization conducting economic recovery work on behalf of the group or constituency you represent? If so, what kind of work?

#### Nearly all participating groups were engaged in some form of economic recover work, including:

- Providing recovery resource information to small businesses.
- Facilitating applications for the Payment Protection Program and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program.
- Helping individuals find resources to meet essentials needs, including housing, jobs, food, and public assistance.
- Providing technical information on deploying PPE in the workplace.
- Targeting funding programs to spur recovery in acutely impacted sectors.
- Moving forward with long-term capital investments.

# SURVEY RESULTS CONT.

## KING COUNTY ECONOMIC RECOVERY SURVEY

- Conducting marketing and outreach to rebuild confidence in the sector.
- Advocating for public sector support to provide for individual basic needs.
- Providing direct aid and wrap-around services to support small businesses.

**Q5: Over the next year, what do you see as the three most significant “return to work” challenges or barriers faced by employees who work in sectors or at businesses your organization represents? What can be done to support them?**

### Infrastructure related challenges

- Actual and perceived safe and accessible public transit.
- Broadband access to support continued telecommuting.
- Insufficient infrastructure for remote learning and working from home.

### Childcare/school related challenges

- The need for childcare was included in four survey responses.
- One response specified: Affordable, reliable and culturally appropriate child-care and elder-care.
- Education options for parents who need to work.

### Health and safety related challenges

- PPE
- Vaccinations
- Affordable health care was mentioned in two responses.
- COVID testing.
- Exposure to COVID.

### Business/employer related challenges

- Getting employees the PPE and vaccinations they need.
- Restore public trust in healthy flying/travel.
- Health mandates and procedures.
- Continued negative national media on safety in Seattle.
- Bringing work teams back to work in the office safely.
- Business assistance/help for struggling businesses.
- Regaining customers to sustain operating costs/helping consumers to feel safe.
- Tourism/invest in tourism promotion by regional partners.
- Low wages.
- Being able to open-up; hiring back staff; replacing inventory.

# SURVEY RESULTS CONT.

## KING COUNTY ECONOMIC RECOVERY SURVEY

### Rent/housing assistance challenges

- Significant, ongoing rent assistance to help families.

### Q6: What are the most important things King County (or our government partners) can do to help your groups or constituencies recover?

#### Individuals

- Continued and enhanced rental assistance.
- Long-term basic needs grants; funding needed after the expiration of CARES Act.
- Increase availability of affordable housing.
- Enhanced broadband availability and affordability.
- Open school / childcare facilities.

#### Businesses

- Tax relief.
- Grants for PPE and safety compliance.
- Allow use of outdoor public space for commercial activities (such as gyms).
- Commercial rent abatement.
- Promote neighborhood tourism.

#### Everyone

- Increase availability of fast, cheap COVID testing.
- Enforce compliance with public health guidelines designed to prevent COVID spread.
- Identify opportunities to rebuild in an inclusive way that supports those most impacted by COVID.
- Facilitate the plan for safely re-opening schools and business on a large scale. Provide the resources to do so in a way that best protects public health.
- Begin planning for 2021 and anticipate how diminished tax resources can be best allocated to promote recovery.

### Q7: What opportunities exist to make positive structural changes to the economy and society as we rebuild? How can government and community partners facilitate these changes?

- Renew and expand Best Start for Kids. Public-private partnership so there is free/affordable technology for all King County residents living on low-income/moderate income.
- Foster innovation and entrepreneurs, work with private sector to create more affordable housing, increase economic development priorities in East King County.

# SURVEY RESULTS CONT.

## KING COUNTY ECONOMIC RECOVERY SURVEY

- Focus on equitable and inclusive recovery initiatives. Worker retraining programs a key component. BIPOC and ethnic communities must have a voice as recovery strategies are developed and implemented. Governments need to work together to make positive changes and ensure collective investments help those impacted and most in need. Support small businesses, revitalizing downtowns and commercial areas, and supporting our regional workforce will be key elements. SeaTac and Maritime terminals need to keep operating to drive equitable economic development across the region.
- Rethinking how we do business. More jobs can be done from home, eliminating some of the burden of child care costs. Diversifying the types of businesses and jobs that our communities offer. Some communities have a high proportion of jobs, such as food service and hospitality, that have been disproportionately impacted by pandemic. Many of these employees were not making a living wage to begin with. Need greater diversification of and access to living wage jobs. Time to revisit income inequity issues.
- Help with community safety, so customers feel comfortable out and about. The government can help by providing safe areas free from violence, creating a sense of security to consumers when in our communities.
- Fix the homelessness problem. Make our streets safer.
- Make broadband a public utility.
- Investing in small business, especially BIPOC, women and LGBTQ owned businesses; relaxing and streamlining regulations.
- Socialize medicine.