

About Us



HOUSING AND HEALTH
TO END HOMELESSNESS

DESC is a national Housing First leader and licensed behavioral health agency in King County, WA. We support individuals with behavioral health disabilities experiencing long-term homelessness through crisis response, emergency shelter, mental health care, substance use treatment, and Permanent Supportive Housing. In 2024, we served nearly 7000 people throughout King County in these programs.

Panelists:

Dan Williams, Director of Housing Programs

Katrina Plewinski, Clinical Director of Mobile Response Division

Overview



- DESC's innovative STAR Center and Mobile Response Division Programs, HOST and MRRCT
- Working together to create a **pathway off the streets, into care, and out of homelessness**
- Serving "the hardest to reach"
- Focused on individuals who are **visibly homeless** and struggling with **severe psychiatric and substance use challenges**

DESC HOST & MRRCT

- **HOST** (Homeless Outreach Stabilization & Transition)
 - Integrated care teams find and build relationships with people who are currently homeless.
 - Statewide as of 2023, program created by DESC in 1994
 - Funded by:
 - City of Seattle HSD
 - King County Behavioral Health Recovery Division
 - Healthcare Association HOST/Substance Use Disorder
- **MRRCT** (Mobile Rapid Response Care Team)
 - Currently serving the Central Region of King County
 - Served as original mobile response team for entire county from 2012-2024
 - MRRCT expansion will allow DESC to focus its efforts on priority population, increasing response times and access to care



DESC STAR CENTER



STAR Center is a partnership between the City of Seattle and King County to fund enhanced shelter services for people living outdoors with untreated behavioral health conditions.



STAR will formally integrate shelter access for mobile crisis work, overdose prevention and post-overdose response, and behavioral health outreach and engagement programs, serving as a relief valve for Seattle Police and Seattle Fire Departments.



STAR will create a physical dedicated pathway off the streets, into care, and out of homelessness.

Mobile Response & STAR Center: Ending the cycle of crisis and creating a new path forward in our community

