

# Giving voice to residents in King County's unincorporated areas



Community Service Areas offer a new way for King County to engage with the 280,000 residents who live outside city boundaries.



*All unincorporated area residents should have the opportunity for meaningful involvement in the decisions that impact their communities.*

– Dow Constantine  
King County Executive



**King County**

# BACKGROUND



## **King County serves as the local government for residents of unincorporated areas.**

In adopting the 2011 budget, the County Council directed the Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget to develop a new approach for engaging with residents in unincorporated areas.

In April 2011, Executive Constantine submitted legislation to the King County Council to create a “robust public engagement program that informs,

involves and empowers people and communities” throughout the unincorporated areas.

In July 2011, the King County Council passed an ordinance establishing a new framework for public engagement in unincorporated areas. With guidance from the County’s strategic plan, the County is creating Community Service Areas to represent all unincorporated residents and communities.

## **Within each Community Service Area, King County will:**

- Identify a primary point of contact for residents,
- Assign an interdepartmental team to provide seamless and coordinated service delivery,
- Broadly advertise and host public meetings at least once each year,
- Provide opportunities for residents to interact with King County elected officials, and
- Annually develop a community work program, in collaboration with residents.

The Executive’s Office, through its Performance, Strategy and Budget Office is leading implementation of this new framework, which will include extensive involvement from unincorporated area residents and organizations.



## 2011-2012 Outreach and Engagement Plan highlights

- **Community Service Areas** that together cover all of unincorporated King County and that will serve as the foundation for participation, engagement and access to County programs and services.
- **Interdepartmental teams** to provide seamless and coordinated service delivery.
- **Annual work plans** for each area will be supported by existing staff from across the spectrum of County departments and programs.
- **Annual meetings** in each Community Service Area, with follow-up meetings as needed.
- **Unincorporated Area Grant Program** to support community-based projects and activities.
- **Website** with resources and information for residents and organizations.

## Guidance from the King County Strategic Plan

### **GOAL:**

*Promote robust public engagement that informs, involves, and empowers people and communities*

- **Expand opportunities to seek input, listen, and respond to residents,**
- **Empower people to play an active role in shaping their future, and**
- **Improve public awareness of what King County does.**



# NEXT STEPS



## 2011 ..... November-December 2011

- Initiate work on a Community Service Area website.
- Obtain input from unincorporated residents and organizations on Community Service Area boundaries, annual work plans, annual meetings and grant program.

## 2012 ..... January-February 2012

- Develop three potential Community Service Area boundary alternatives.
- Obtain input on the boundary alternatives, annual work plans, annual meetings and grant program.

### ..... March 2012

- Finalize all elements of implementation plan.

### ..... Spring 2012

- Send implementation plan to the King County Council.

### ..... Summer-Fall 2012

- Develop annual work plans for all Community Service Areas.
- Hold annual meetings.
- Initiate grant program.

### For additional information contact:

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