



Pierce County

Human Services

# Pierce County Human Services

## 2021 Highlights





# Housing

The pandemic has had a major impact on housing and homelessness issues in Pierce County. Our housing programs support housing stability and fund community based agencies to people currently, or at risk for, experiencing homelessness. We look forward to an increase in funds to support continued efforts moving into the next biennium.



The South Sound Housing Affordability Partnership (SSHAP) has 14 local member jurisdictions committed to finding regional solutions to our housing challenges.



The **Affordable Housing** Fund awarded \$4.65M in funds to five projects, resulting in the creation or maintenance of 163 units of affordable housing.



The **Homeless Program** funded 220 additional shelter beds.



The **Rental Assistance Program** has prevented eviction for over 6,000 Pierce County families who fell behind on their rent as a result of the impact of COVID-19.





# Aging and Disability Resources



## Supporting our seniors and individuals with disabilities

Aging and Disability Resources (ADR) is the designated Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for Pierce County, responsible for local planning, coordination and administration of long term services and supports (LTSS) designed to address the needs and support community living for local frail older adults, adults with disabilities and their caregivers.



The **Family Caregiver Support Program** provided services for 239 unpaid family caregivers, including 37,798 hours of respite services, to help them continue providing care at home.



## **Aging and Disability Resources**

provided case management and nursing services to 7,176 seniors and individuals with disabilities participating in Medicaid-funded, in-home care programs.



## **Aging and Disability Resources**

funded 275,310 total meals to seniors and individuals with disabilities, provided farmers market vouchers to 2,066 eligible seniors, and distributed bags of groceries and essential supplies to 1,187 seniors and adults with disabilities.



## **The Aging and Disability Resource**

**Center** responded to over 18,865 calls to the helpline and participated in 130 community events (both in person and live/online) that reached an estimated 5,000 individuals.



# Specialized Communities



## Developmental Disabilities **Employment and Community Inclusion Services**

provided in-person and remote coaching and support for 538 participants who worked in community-based employment settings earning minimum wage or higher, 77 of whom started new jobs during the year. The School-to-Work Program supported an additional 24 students to gain employment during the year.



**Veterans Assistance Programs** provided 934 vouchers for assistance to 509 veterans, 61 of whom were new clients.



The **Special Needs Transportation Program** helped coordinate transportation for 15,512 rides in Pierce County through the Pierce County Coordinated Transportation Coalition.





# Children and Families



## Early Childhood Education

Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) is free, state-funded preschool that provides experiences geared to meet children's individual needs and skills. We have 9 ECEAP classrooms in 7 locations across Pierce County, including two dual language (Spanish/English) programs. Classrooms are located in Bonney Lake, Buckley, Eatonville, Orting, South Hill, Sumner, and University Place.



The Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) transitioned to hybrid programming and provided learning kits to support remote learning. All sites offered in-person programming opportunities for families who were comfortable with them.



## Developmental Disabilities **Early Support for Infants and Toddlers**

(ESIT) responded to 1,700 new referrals and provided developmental therapy and educational services to 2,030 infants and toddlers in their homes or community settings, either in person or remotely. The program experienced 14% growth in enrollment over the course of the year.





## Strong Partnerships

ChildReach is a unique program between Pierce County and the Puyallup Tribe that has been going strong for 25+ years. The program provides developmental screening in language, motor skills, concepts, and behavior development for tribal children aged birth to six years old.



**ChildReach** provided 30 resource sheets to support remote learning while Chief Leschi Schools' Early Learning programs, Puyallup Tribal Preschool, ECEAP, and FACE (Family and Child Education) were closed in response to the pandemic. Since May 2021, 41 children from these programs were screened for developmental milestones.



The **Energy Assistance Program** streamlined the process from application to award. As a result, applications were processed two months quicker than in previous years.



The Washington State University **Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)** reached 184 families, involving 748 family members. Of the EFNEP graduates, 97% made positive changes in their diet and 99% learned strategies to stretch their food dollars.



The Washington State University **4-H Youth Development Program** hosted an award-winning online shooting sports education series that served 349 traditional club members, 94 military club members and 1847 afterschool participants.

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