Centralized Diversion Fund: An Important, Necessary Tool for Addressing Homelessness in King County

The Centralized Diversion Fund (CDF) is a common-sense, cost-effective solution to homelessness that is transforming lives and strengthening communities in King County.

**HOW THE CDF OPERATES**
The CDF, operated by Africatown International, uses a standardized, client-centered process to expand housing options for people experiencing homelessness.

1. Providers fill out a simple CDF funding request form, which is accessible through the Africatown website.
2. Africatown processes the funding request and determines whether it should be approved or requests additional information from the provider.
3. Africatown disburses the funds to help the household exit homelessness quickly and successfully.

CDF funds are flexible—free of monetary caps and arbitrary spending restrictions.

**Top 3 Uses for Flex Funds**
- Move-in expenses
- Payment on a previous housing debt
- Relocation assistance

**WHAT PEOPLE NEED**
- Expands options for exiting homelessness
- Addresses racial disparities and systemic racism
- Gets people housed quickly
- Simplifies and standardizes processes

Vanessa Kukelemeya, Housing Navigator, Therapeutic Health Systems

I had a client, a mother with four kids, and the whole family was living in a car, sleeping in a car, because they had to immediately move out of the unsafe living situation they were in. She had to go to a friend’s house just so she could give her kids a bath. She had a job, but couldn’t afford the upfront costs to move into a new place. The lady calls me crying one day, and I’m able to tell her about this fund that can help her with those move-in costs. When the mom came to meet me, all four of her kids were with her, too, because they had nowhere else to go. About 24 hours after our meeting, I submitted a funds request to the CDF, and about eight hours later, the lady got her check. She was so happy. She hugged me and said, “OH my God, you saved my life!”

The infrastructure for the CDF is already in place, and it is already helping people. But unless more public and/or private funding is secured, our momentum will be lost.

**BENEFITS OF THE CENTRALIZED DIVERSION FUND**

**WHY IT WORKS:** FLEXIBLE FUNDS SUPPORT WHAT PEOPLE NEED

- Average amount disbursed per household: $2,135
- Top 3 Uses for Flex Funds

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