



**King County
Housing
Authority**

WHILE IN SCHOOL HOUSING PROGRAM

A partnership for housing college students experiencing homelessness

Housing insecurity among college students puts their health, well-being, and academic potential at risk. Research shows students at two-year colleges are more likely to experience housing instability or homelessness than those at four-year colleges—about 1 in 3 experiences housing instability and 1 in 10 experiences homelessness.

Because stable housing is a prerequisite for better outcomes, in 2020 the King County Housing Authority (KCHA) and Highline College launched the **While In School Housing Program (WISH)**.



“I can focus on getting an education to better my life for my kids while also having a stable home. I would be homeless if it wasn’t for this program, and getting a degree would be impossible for me.”

— WISH participant

The WISH Model

KCHA and Highline College worked together to design a program that meets community needs. WISH leverages on-campus support and state grant funding to provide supportive services that prepare students for success in housing, social-emotional well-being, and academics.

Housing assistance from KCHA is available during the time needed to complete a degree or certificate, plus six months post-graduation. During this time, WISH participants must maintain satisfactory academic progress in a certificate or degree program.

Housing Assistance

KCHA leverages regulatory flexibility under the Moving to Work (MTW) program to make WISH possible.

- 🏠 KCHA provides a time-limited Housing Choice Voucher subsidy for up to 70 students.
- 🏠 KCHA provides help with first-time security deposit assistance.
- 🏠 Highline College provides outreach, housing search assistance, wrap around services, and ongoing case management through existing on-campus resources to address student needs beyond housing.

WISH Program Goals



Reduce homelessness among Highline College students



Ensure more students complete academic programs



Promote economic self-sufficiency after the program