

# King County Open Budget Dashboard Glossary

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The King County Open Budget Dashboard is designed to increase transparency surrounding the County's budget and improve access to budget data. This glossary provides definitions for terms used throughout the dashboard.

**Revenue:** Revenues are sources of funding the County estimates to earn that can be used to fund expenditures. The County's revenue sources include property, sales, and business taxes, charges for services, permits, and licenses, interest earnings, grants, and more.

Revenue Accounts:

- **Charges for Services:** Revenues generated through charging for County services, such as bus fares, utility charges, and more.
- **Property Taxes:** King County regularly assesses the value of all properties within its boundaries and collects a percentage of the assessed value as a tax. This also includes levies, such as the Best Starts for Kids and Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services levies.
- **Retail Sales and Use Tax:** Tax revenue from the sale of retail goods and services.
- **Transfers:** Movement of money between funds.
- **Miscellaneous Revenue:** All other sources of revenue not defined elsewhere. Includes many revenues from other departments in the government.
- **Federal Grants Direct:** Grant funds received directly from federal government agencies.
- **Grants from Local Units:** Revenue received from local organizations, mostly local governments.
- **State Grants:** Money received from grants from Washington state government agencies.
- **State Entitlements:** Revenues that come from state distributions of funds to King County and other local governments that are mandated by state law.
- **Federal Grants Indirect:** Grant funds received by a third party from a federal agency and then subsequently awarded to King County. These funds often carry similar requirements to funds awarded directly by a federal entity.
- **Interest Earnings:** Interest earned from County funds.
- **General Obligation Bonds Issued:** Money borrowed by King County by issuing bonds.
- **Licenses and Permits:** Revenues received in exchange for the provision of licenses and permits.
- **Fines and Forfeits:** Revenues generated for financial penalties imposed for violations of the law.
- **Business and Other Taxes:** Tax revenues from taxes levied on business and other commercial activity including gambling, timber harvesting, and private leases of government property.

- Proceeds from Sale of Capital Assets: Revenues generate through the sale of capital assets (surplus vehicles, technology, etc.)
- **Federal Shared Revenues:** Federal revenues shared with King County
- **Non Revenue Receipts:** Budget-only revenue used as a placeholder for revenue that is contingent on certain other conditions being met like payment for additional services.
- **State Shared Revenues:** State tax revenues shared with King County
- **Intergovernmental Payments:** Payments made by one department to another for services.
- **Compensation for Loss/Impnmt of Capital Assets:** Financial compensation for the loss of or damage to the County's capital assets (vehicles, buildings, equipment, etc.)
- **Gains (Losses):** Increases or decreases in the value of County investments.

**Expenditure:** An expenditure is an expense that the County is authorized to make by a budget ordinance. Expenditures include salaries and benefits for staff, supplies, interest charges on County debt, capital improvements, and more.

Expenditure Accounts:

- **Wages and Benefits:** Salaries and benefits (medical, dental, and health insurance, Social Security, Medicare, etc.) for King County employees
- **Services – Other Charges:** Services purchased from non-King County entities. Includes services like graphic design, consultation from outside experts, and postage.
- **Intragovernmental Contributions:** Payments made by one department to another for their services. Includes payments for centralized services like accounting, human resources management, and IT support.
- **Interest and other Debt Service Costs:** Interest and fees accrued on loans taken out by the County.
- **Supplies:** Goods purchased by King County to accomplish government functions. Includes office supplies, vehicle parts, and IT equipment.
- **Capital Expenditures:** Spending on the construction, acquisition, and maintenance of capital facilities and equipment, such as buses, wastewater treatment plants, and more.
- **Principal:** Loan repayments for the original amount of the loan
- **Contingencies:** Budget placeholder for expenditures that are contingent on certain other conditions being met like demand for additional services.
- **Contributions Other:** King County contributions to support the work of other entities, generally trade organizations and other governments.
- **Applied Overhead:** Negative expenditure to offset the prorated cost of employee benefits for King County employee time spent supporting other departments or other projects within the department.

- **Special Budgetary Account:** Changes in budget to account for specific known circumstances. Sometimes used to allocate department specific overhead costs among divisions.
- **Contra Expenditures:** Reductions in budget to account for known reasons departments will underspend budget. Generally reduces budget to account for vacancies in budgeted positions.

**King County Fiduciary Organizations:** The department named “King County Fiduciary Organizations” (KCFID), is a grouping of budgeted revenues and expenditures that do not fall within any particular department. These include transfers from the General Fund to other funds, debt payments, and General Fund flexible revenues. It also includes the County’s Jobs and Housing program, which you can learn more about here: [King County Jobs and Housing Program - King County](#).

**Non-King County:** There are 2 employees who support King County’s Boundary Review Board and do not fall under a certain County department. The Boundary Review Board is a state-mandated entity that provides independent review for creation of or changes to boundaries by cities and special purpose districts (fire districts, water/sewer districts, etc.) within King County. You can learn more about the Board here: [About us - King County](#). Some expenditures are also allocated for the “State Examiner”, which are dollars set aside for paying the Washington State Auditor’s office for their annual audits of the County.

**FTE:** Positions allocated by the County’s adopted budget are measured on a Full Time Equivalent (FTE) basis. Positions may be full or part-time; a position budgeted to work 40 hours a week would be counted as 1 FTE, while a position budgeted to work 20 hours a week would be counted as .5 FTE, for example. *It’s important to note that the position data included in the dashboard represents how many positions are budgeted, not the actual number of people working at the County at a given time.*