

HISTORY AND MODEL

In 1991, Friends of Youth, HealthPoint, Hopelink and Youth Eastside Services came together to purchase a former strip mall in downtown Redmond. These visionaries turned it into a supportive and affordable campus for nonprofits, creating the first co-located human services hub in the nation.

Today the 20+ nonprofits located at Together Center, a separate 501c3, assist over 30,000 Greater Eastside residents each year via a unique, systems changing model that benefits both the individuals and families seeking critical services and the dedicated nonprofits who serve them.

"Together Center is a postmodern version of what human services should be like. A unique space where different groups can come together, learn from one another, and power each other. Each organization functions as a different spoke of a whole wheel that creates a thriving community."

-Lalita Uppala, Executive Director, Indian American Community Services

ONE LOCATION, A SUITE OF SERVICES, FOR THE GREATER EASTSIDE

→ A full range of health and social supports under one roof; including:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|---|
| Health care | Behavioral health care | Child disability and learning therapies |
| Dental care | Peer support groups | Economic assistance |
| Mental health counseling | Advocacy services | Cultural navigation |
| Case management | Childcare resources | Job training |
| Addiction support | Disability services | |

→ In one location, three blocks from the Redmond Transit Center and five blocks from the future light rail station



MODEL & IMPACT

The Together Center model delivers:

To those seeking services:

- More effective whole-person, whole-family support and on-the-spot referrals resulting in more compassionate and comprehensive care
- Fewer service access burdens, such as transportation (both time and money), time off work, childcare responsibilities, etc.
- Less stress, fear, and frustration from seeking services within a complicated and fractured system

To nonprofits:

- Shared resources - agencies save \$250K-\$300K a year over market rates
- Operational stability - assurance they can continue providing services in the region via protection from skyrocketing commercial rents.
- Provider kinship - interagency trust building, collaboration, referrals, and comradery within a traditionally high-burnout, high-turnover industry

DOES THE EASTSIDE REALLY NEED SERVICES?

The prosperity myth of the Eastside: The narrative that East King County enjoys uniform prosperity, with little-to-no poverty, has long since been disproven, yet this mindset still dominates conversations about human services on the Eastside. Unfortunately, the prosperity myth holds the region back from addressing its deepest-rooted issues.

- 1,557 individuals were served by East King County shelters in 2018
- 73% of Hopelink’s Eastside clients report less than \$20,000/year in income and in 2019 they provided emergency food assistance to 15,436 clients with Eastside zip codes
- 1/3 of jobs in Redmond have salaries under \$50,000/year
- Over 40% of seniors in Redmond who rent spend more than 50% of their income on housing

Perhaps you’re a recent arrival to the U.S., and you and your family need language support to navigate the complex landscape of social programs and services.

Maybe you’ve recently exited homelessness, and you’re working on your mental health at the same time you explore job possibilities.

No matter who you are or what your needs, Together Center has a range of services and a community of collaborative providers who can instantly connect you with the care, referrals, and supports you need to achieve whole-person health.

Who accesses Together Center services?:

- Nearly 50% of the 30,000+ clients served each year come from historically disadvantaged communities
- Together Center serves the entirety of culturally diverse East King County - from Renton in the south, to Bothell and Kenmore in the north, to Duvall and Snoqualmie Valley in the East.
- Our service area is extended in part thanks to Together Center’s location. With one trip to a transit-accessible location those in need can access co-located services, saving them time, money and frustration from having to travel around the region to access often disparate services.

A powerful model in action - Imagine you’re a single parent of a child with newly diagnosed special learning needs. During your assessment at Kindering, you mention struggling to find a health care clinic that accepts Medicaid coverage and that it was tough to pay for your groceries last month because you had to take so much time off work for your child’s therapy. The Kindering team walks you down the hall to HealthPoint, who schedules you a medical appointment and then points you to Muslim Community Resource Center, who provides you with both a gas card and food card to ensure you have the essentials covered during this stressful time. You leave Together Center feeling relieved, supported and better able to focus on your child’s needs.

ON-SITE PROVIDER PARTNERS

4 Tomorrow
 A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH)
 Brightspark
 Cascadia College
 City of Redmond Outreach Services
 Community Health Plan of Washington
 Chinese Information and Service Center (CISC)
 Disability Empowerment Center
 Eastside for All
 Essentials First
 HealthPoint Medical & Dental Clinics

IKRON
 Indian American Community Services
 Jewish Family Service (JFS)
 Kindering
 Lake WA Tech - Workforce Development
 Lake WA School District Transition Academy
 Muslim Community Resource Center (MCRC)
 NAMI Eastside
 Open Doors for Multicultural Families
 SOUND
 Sound Generations