

# MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks & Community Services

**Date:** January 21, 2026

**To:** Parks & Community Services Board

**From:** Ruth Blaw – Manager, Human Services

**Subject:** Report on key findings in the 2025 Human Services Needs Update  
For information only - no Board action requested

**Action Requested:** N/A

## BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Every two years, the city's Human Services Division of Parks & Community Services conducts an extensive human service needs assessment to obtain a comprehensive picture of the human services needs and issues affecting Bellevue's most vulnerable residents. The Human Services Needs Update provides data to identify the areas of need which are used by the Human Services (HS) Commission to inform the funding recommendations to Council. The Human Services Commission is governed by Chapter 3.61 of the Bellevue City Code, which states that it shall review all requests for funding of human services and make recommendations to the City Council. The Needs Update is also used extensively by community-based agencies and their boards, resident groups, City staff, staff in other local jurisdictions, and faith communities for planning purposes.

The 2025 Needs Update gathered input from more than 700 community members through focus groups, surveys of residents and service providers, and interviews with subject matter experts. Conducted during a year of significant federal funding cuts, the report identified substantial gaps across the human services continuum and four cross-cutting themes including persistent barriers to services that meet the cultural and linguistic needs of Bellevue's residents, provider strain and stigma and mistrust. The Analysis of the data revealed ten critical areas of need that informed the Commission's recommendations, including three life-sustaining priorities: food, housing and shelter, and financial assistance.

The complete Needs Update can be found here:

[https://bellevuewa.gov/sites/default/files/media/pdf\\_document/2025/2025-hs-needs-update.pdf](https://bellevuewa.gov/sites/default/files/media/pdf_document/2025/2025-hs-needs-update.pdf)