

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPIC

Resolution adopting the Human Services Strategic Plan

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Parks & Community Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**ACTION**

Resolution adopting the Human Services Strategic Plan as directed at the February 12 Council Meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve Resolution No. 10359

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

At the February 12 Council meeting, staff presented an overview of the proposed Human Services Strategic Plan. Council directed staff to return with a resolution to adopt the Plan.

The Human Services Strategic Plan was informed by the data collected in the 2023-2024 Human Services Needs Update along with perspectives from City stakeholders, including Council and the Human Services Commission. While comprehensive in guiding strategy over the next six years, the plan was designed with the following key question as a focal point:

Given the upcoming end of COVID-19 funding and given the increase in the community's human services needs, what can we do differently with available resources to best address community need and make equitable investments in the human services system?

The Bellevue City Council has responded to the rising need in the community by investing an additional \$20.48 million dollars into the human services infrastructure, including one-time pandemic funding from multiple sources. As pandemic funding comes to an end, there is a need to evaluate and adapt the city's approach to human services to effectively address the current landscape. In addition, there is a growing need to evolve the city's current approaches to more effectively address systemic inequities that lead to disparities in human services needs. In response, the city developed its first Human Services Strategic Plan.

The Plan outlines the following four objectives with corresponding activities that will direct the work of Human Services staff and the Human Services Commission, driving changes that will increase equity, access, and community understanding of human services needs.

Objective 1

Expand equity-focused and data-driven decision-making that best addresses the most significant community needs, prioritizing investments in the areas of greatest disparities for Bellevue residents.

Objective 2

Increase the capacity of Bellevue's human services system by providing equitable access to human services funding opportunities, to support organizations in meeting the needs of and reducing disparities among Bellevue's most marginalized residents.

Objective 3

Expand access for Bellevue residents to culturally and linguistically specific human services.

Objective 4

Increase key stakeholders' awareness regarding the City's human service needs, including disparities by community, and serve as a catalyst to collaboratively address those needs.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS**Policy Impact**

The development of a Strategic plan aligns with Human Services element of the Comprehensive Plan:

- HS-8 Make Bellevue a welcoming, safe and just community marked by fairness and equity provided to those disproportionately affected by poverty, discrimination and victimization.
- HS-5 Maintain the city's role as a human services planner and facilitator by engaging service providers and community organizations in dialogue regarding the functioning of the present service systems, emerging needs, and the building of a complete system of services.

Fiscal Impact

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with this Resolution. The Strategic Plan will direction to the Human Services Commission in forming their funding recommendations to Council.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Resolution adopting the Human Services Strategic Plan.
2. Do not adopt the Resolution and provide alternate direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

A. Human Services Strategic Plan
Proposed Resolution No. 10359

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