

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPIC

Resolution adopting the Human Services Commission's recommended funding percentage allocation and contingency recommendations for 2027-2028 human services funding.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**ACTION**

Staff seek action approving the resolution adopting the Human Services Commission's percentage allocation recommendations and contingency plan for 2027-2028 human services funding.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Resolution No. 10585

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

As presented at the January 27 Council meeting, the HS Commission has made recommendations for percentages of allocations of available human services funds for the 2027-2028 human services funding cycle. The percentages will inform the detailed allocation of funds to the agencies applying for 2027-2028 funds.

The Commission's recommendations include several funding sources: the Human Services Fund, Behavioral Health and Housing-Related Services Housing Stability Program (BHHRHS) and potential Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

The 2025 Needs Update 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 Commission recommendations advance Council priorities by supporting human services programs to meet community needs and increasing equitable access and outcomes. The Commission's recommendations are based on policy guidance in the Comprehensive Plan, the Human Services Strategic Plan, the Diversity Advantage Plan and data from the Human Services Needs Update indicating the areas of greatest need and disparity.

The 2027-2028 funding recommendations are included in two attachments. Attachment A provides an overview of the percentage of funding the Commission has recommended to be awarded to each area of need. Attachment B is a contingency plan for the Commission if adjustments to percentages are needed and/or if additional funds become available.

At the January 27 Council meeting, councilmembers also reviewed the language defining the target investment area of culturally and linguistically specific services, which will guide the Human Services Commission’s work. Staff will present a recommendation for the Council’s consideration:

Original – From the Human Services Strategic Plan:

Culturally & Linguistically Specific Programs: Programs and services that are designed for a particular linguistic or cultural community and delivered by individuals from that community.

Recommended – Following the guidance of the Council dialogue on January 27, this has been updated to incorporate language from DAP 2035 E6.1 into the definition of culturally and linguistically specific programs:

Culturally & Linguistically Specific Programs: Programs and services that are designed for a particular linguistic or cultural community to meet the diverse and evolving needs of Bellevue communities and delivered through approaches shaped by the culture, language and lived experiences of those receiving the services.

Funding Sources

Human Services Fund: The base Human Services Fund budget is calculated according to a formula (base amount + inflation adjustment + population growth). The Human Services Fund is awarded to local agencies providing services that address the most significant gaps and disparities for Bellevue residents.

Behavioral Health and Housing-Related Services: The Housing Stability Program is funded via a council-adopted 0.1% sales and use tax. Council approved allocating approximately 15 percent of the annual revenue from the Housing Stability Program to behavioral health and housing-related services. Applications for this ongoing program must meet the criteria adopted by Council in the Housing Stability Program Framework.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG): The annual amount of CDBG funding received by the city is based on a formula calculated by the federal Department of Housing & Urban Development. Bellevue’s exact CDBG entitlement amount for 2027 will not be known until after the 2027 federal budget has been adopted. A cap of fifteen percent of the annual CDBG entitlement amount is designated for public service eligible activities. These funds are included in the commission’s recommended percentage awards.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

Comprehensive Plan, Human Services Chapter

HS-1: Make Bellevue a welcoming, safe and just community marked by fairness and equity provided to those disproportionately affected by poverty, discrimination and oppression including people with disabilities, people of color, people of all ages, religions, genders, gender expressions and sexual orientations, and other historically marginalized community members.

HS-20: Create a community where equitable outcomes exist for all by investing in services that address or eliminate inequities which may be experienced disproportionately based on a resident’s age, religion, race, ethnicity, disability, gender identity, sexuality, and neighborhood.

HS-13: Assess community needs and make recommendations to inform the city’s human services funding priorities and decisions.

HS-19: Allocate funds and other resources throughout the continuum of human service needs by soliciting proposals from community agencies providing human services benefiting low- and moderate-income residents.

HS-21: Encourage and invest in culturally and linguistically specific service delivery that respects the dignity and honors the strengths that Bellevue’s diverse individuals and families offer to the community, while supporting them to achieve their self-identified goals.

2024-2030 Human Services Strategic Plan:

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

Diversity Advantage Plan 2035

E6.1: Strengthen equitable access to human services in ways that meet the diverse and evolving needs of Bellevue communities, and are delivered through approaches that are shaped by the culture, language and lived experiences of those receiving the services.

E6.3: Provide accessible and culturally responsive programs and cross-cultural engagement opportunities that foster connection, learning and belonging across Bellevue’s diverse communities.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this resolution.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Resolution adopting the Human Services Commission’s recommended funding percentage allocation and contingency recommendations for 2027-2028 human services funding.
2. Do not adopt the Resolution and provide alternate direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. 2027-2028 Human Services Percentage Funding Recommendations by Area
 - B. Human Services Funding Contingency Plan
- Proposed Resolution No. 10585

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N/A