

**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPIC**

Presentation of the Human Services Strategic Plan with key objectives.

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*Parks & Community Services*

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY****DIRECTION**

Following discussion, staff is seeking direction from Council to return with a resolution adopting the Human Services Strategic Plan.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Direct staff to return to Council with a resolution adopting the Human Services Strategic Plan which provides direction for the City's human services funding allocations for the next six years.

**BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic lingers for all residents, particularly for those of low- and moderate-incomes, with disproportionate impacts still being felt by marginalized communities. Across the human services sector, the level of unmet need is increasing. In the 2023-2024 Human Services Needs Update, data from multiple sources, including the input provided by community members and providers, further described the impact this is having on the Bellevue community.

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, with 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 is developing its first Human Services Strategic Plan.

The draft Human Services Strategic Plan being presented to Council 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 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 fiscal impact associated with adoption of the Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan will provide data and information which is used by the Human Services Commission to direct their funding recommendations to Council.

## **OPTIONS**

1. Direct staff to return to Council with a resolution adopting the Human Services Strategic Plan which provides direction for the City's human services funding allocations for the next six years.
2. Provide alternative direction to staff.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Draft Human Services Strategic Plan

## **AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY**

N/A