

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPIC

Ordinance authorizing the execution of a sub-contract (and supplements if necessary) with the Dispute Resolution Center of Kitsap County, as lead fiscal agent for Resolution Washington, to accept grant funds in the amount of \$618,714 from the Washington Department of Commerce (Sub-Grantee Contract S26-34445-001) for staffing and administrative costs associated with delivery of conflict resolution services offered through the Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center.

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Community Development Department

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**ACTION**

This Ordinance authorizes an agreement with the Dispute Resolution Center of Kitsap County, fiscal agent for Resolution Washington, to accept reimbursable grant funds for staffing and administrative costs associated with Conflict Resolution Services offered through the Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center. The agreement will reimburse the City of Bellevue for authorized expenses, up to \$618,714, incurred between July 2025 through June 2027.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Ordinance No. 6862

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The mission of the Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center (BCRC) is “to increase the problem-solving capacity of Bellevue’s community.” This is accomplished by providing conflict resolution services that address community disputes between neighbors, businesses, and public entities. Services provided are confidential, voluntary, and free, available to people who live, work, or go to school in Bellevue, and are provided by staff and trained volunteers from the community.

The BCRC is a dispute resolution center formed under Chapter 7.75 of the Revised Code of Washington to provide equal access to justice. The center is an active, funded member of Resolution Washington, a consortium of 21 dispute resolution centers. Volunteers are certified according to the standards of the Uniform Mediation Act.

In June, the Washington State Legislature confirmed its commitment to access to justice by renewing a state-wide grant to Resolution Washington, administered by the Department of Commerce, in the amount of \$9,975,000/year for the next two years. This grant has been distributed to members of Resolution Washington through its fiscal agent, the Dispute Resolution Center of Kitsap County. The allocation for the BCRC is expected to be \$309,357 for each of the next two years.

These grant funds will pay for two trained staff members, one to provide a variety of tasks related to program administration, and the other to coordinate the Housing Accord Program. Grant dollars will

also help offset the costs of other program needs, such as supplies, events for volunteers, and trainings. Details can be found in the Statement of Work portion of the Grant Agreement.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

Bellevue City Code 4.28.200 requires Council approval to execute grant contracts that exceed \$350,000.

The acceptance of this grant and authorization of the funding agreement is consistent with the following policies:

Neighborhood Element of the Bellevue Comprehensive Plan:

- N-7. Support the capacity of local neighborhood communities to actively engage and respond to changing internal neighborhood needs and external stresses.
- N-11. Enable neighborhood-tailored solutions to localized issues while ensuring that they meet Citywide responsibilities.

Fiscal Impact

This action authorizes the City to accept funds in the amount of \$618,714 for reimbursement associated with Conflict Resolution administration and program activities. The 2025-2026 budget for the Operating Grants and Donations Fund already includes sufficient appropriation for this biennium. Appropriation for the contract value in 2027 will be submitted to Council via the 2027-2028 budget process.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Ordinance authorizing the execution of a sub-contract (and supplements if necessary) with the Dispute Resolution Center of Kitsap County, as lead fiscal agent for Resolution Washington, to accept grant funds in the amount of \$618,714 from the Washington Department of Commerce (Sub-Grantee Contract S26-34445-001) for staffing and administrative costs associated with delivery of conflict resolution services offered through the Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center.
2. Do not adopt the Ordinance and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

A. Sub-Contract under Master AOC Contract Number S26-34445-001 between the Dispute Resolution Center of Kitsap County, as lead fiscal agent For Resolution Washington, and ERPP Centers within Resolution Washington
Proposed Ordinance No. 6862

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

N/A