



## CITY OF BELLEVUE HB 1590 INTEREST STATEMENT

*Adopted [DATE] by Bellevue Council*

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### Background

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Achieving Human Potential is one of the strategic target areas of the City Council Vision and Priorities. Bellevue is committed to providing a safe, welcoming, and caring community where all residents can enjoy a high quality of life. In a step to advance this vision, Bellevue City Council enacted Resolution 9826, which imposed a sales and use tax under amended RCW 82.14.530 with monies being used for housing, housing-related services, and mental and behavioral health services, as authorized by this RCW.

This law, adopted via House Bill 1590, requires for at least 60 percent of the funds to be spent on constructing affordable housing units and facilities providing housing-related services; and/or constructing mental and behavioral health related facilities; and/or funding the operation and maintenance of these constructed facilities. The remainder of the funds (not to exceed 40 percent) to be spent on operation, delivery, or evaluation of mental and behavioral health treatment programs and services or housing-related services. The constructed affordable housing and facilities providing housing-related programs must serve only the following individuals whose income is at or below 60% of the median income of the county imposing the tax: persons with behavioral health disabilities; veterans; senior citizens; homeless, or at risk of being homeless, families with children; unaccompanied homeless youth or young adults; persons with disabilities; or domestic violence survivors. Up to 10 percent of the funds may be used to supplant existing local funds.

The City of Bellevue has an opportunity to enhance the local and regional continuum of human services and directly support our most vulnerable families and individuals to achieve their potential and lead self-sufficient, healthy, and stable lives. Providing a variety of affordable housing choices (0-60% AMI) for these populations and supportive services that meet the needs of our changing community and workforce is critical to sustaining Bellevue's diversity, livability and economic vitality. Bellevue remains committed to addressing the root causes of housing instability, homelessness, and economic instability by filling our local and regional affordable housing gap and addressing the need for mental and behavioral health and/or housing-related services.

### Principles

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Bellevue is a dynamic, diverse, and vibrant city that is committed to providing equitable opportunities to our most vulnerable residents in order to enhance all residents' quality of life and support a thriving community. The City of Bellevue has current adopted policies, data, and identified needs that are relevant and applicable to this revenue source. This interest statement outlines the following principles that will be used along with the requirements under RCW 82.14.530 to guide the programs and policies implemented by use of HB 1590 funds:

**1. Focus on Closing the Affordable Housing Gap.** There is a significant housing affordability gap for households at income levels between 0-60% AMI. Existing funding for affordable housing is insufficient to meet the needs of households considered cost burdened, and those experiencing housing instability and housing displacement. This revenue source can help address this gap by creating additional affordable housing units to serve households and support equitable access to stable living for residents.

**2. Increase Housing Types and Opportunities**

Bellevue supports innovative and strategic methods to increase existing affordable housing opportunities throughout the city to achieve our housing goals and to provide an array of housing options. A broad range of housing choices helps serve households at various income levels between 0-60% AMI. Through increased investments in the production and ongoing operation and maintenance of affordable housing units, residents may access affordable and diverse housing options that fit their needs.

**3. Adopt a Citywide Approach.** Bellevue prides itself on its diverse community and commitment towards a spectrum of accessible programs and services. In this effort, Bellevue is committed to supporting a network of affordable housing and mental and behavioral health and housing-related services located throughout the city. Ensuring geographic distribution increases local access to services and allows individuals and households to develop vibrant community connections.

**4. Meet the Spectrum of Housing and Service Needs.** Bellevue recognizes that every resident should be able to access and participate in programs and opportunities that support their overall well-being and stability. In serving a variety of household income levels, as well as providing mental and behavioral health and housing-related services, Bellevue can contribute toward meeting the spectrum of identified needs in order to support a thriving community. The City will continue to be adaptive, responsive, and strategic towards the changing needs of our community, and ensure both economic and housing stability for our most vulnerable residents.

**5. Advance the Continuum of Human Services.** Bellevue is committed to funding the continuum of human services, including intervention, prevention, and enhancement. Affordable housing and mental and behavioral health and housing-related services can serve as preventive, “upstream” services that keep households from becoming homeless and/or resolve or stabilize a housing crisis that would otherwise lead to homelessness. By enhancing this interconnected safety net of programs and services, Bellevue can help prevent and respond to current and future housing crises, allowing residents to fully engage in the community and lead a high quality of life.

**6. Enhance Equitable and Accessible Housing and Supportive Services.** Bellevue celebrates its diversity, and also its action and commitment towards reducing barriers and disparities in order for all residents to prosper and achieve stability and self-sufficiency. By creating a range of housing choices and supportive services, Bellevue can help economically diverse households (0-60% AMI) lead healthy, stable lives.

Bellevue remains committed to identifying service gaps and inequitable practices in order to enhance accessibility for underserved, vulnerable residents and remains committed to addressing the racial disparities across homelessness and housing instability.

**7. Strengthen and Foster Self Sufficiency to Achieve Potential.** Funding for affordable housing, and mental and behavioral health and housing-related services should remove physical and systemic factors that have contributed to an individual and/or family's housing and financial instability; and can empower individuals to overcome their unique challenges and barriers to stable living. In delivering services that respect individual dignity and also address systemic inequities, Bellevue is committed to foster and enhance self-sufficiency through its programs and systems so individuals may achieve their full potential.

**8. Enhance Community Collaboration** To meet the affordable housing, mental and behavioral health, and housing-related service needs of the community, Bellevue should continue to build and encourage active partnerships with private and public institutions, businesses, community-based organizations, human services providers, faith-based communities, and other entities. These partnerships are essential to ensure local programs complement county, state, and federal programs; expertise and existing resources are leveraged within the community; and a broad base of community support and coordinated efforts are developed to address these needs.

**9. Be an Active and Collaborative Regional Partner.** Bellevue is committed to advancing local and regional strategic efforts towards addressing housing instability and the systemic factors, such as the gap in affordable housing and mental and behavioral health and housing-related services, that contribute to homelessness, and housing and economic instability. Bellevue recognizes that addressing these issues involves regional collaboration and coordination in order to align services and remain innovative in its efforts.