



Date: October 17, 2018
To: Mayor Chelminiak and City Councilmembers
From: Judith Mercer, Chair, Human Services Commission
Subject: Human Services Funding Recommendations for 2019-2020

Overview

The Human Services Commission has completed its work reviewing and recommending grant awards for the 2019-2020 Human Services Fund and the 2019 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). We look forward to presenting our recommendations to you at your Study Session on November 5, 2018. A summary of the Human Services funding recommendations can be found in Attachment B. A summary of the CDBG recommendations is provided in Attachment C.

As in prior years, our task was challenging because we received over \$2 million more in requests than we have funding available in the Human Services and CDBG budgets. The Commission is pleased to recommend a total funding package of \$4,833,596 for 2019:

- \$3,653,598 from the Human Services Fund in 2019, based on the funding formula adopted by Council in 2002 (base funding + inflation + population growth), as well as City staff charitable donations to the Human Services Fund.
- \$1,179,998 in estimated 2019 CDBG funds, including unallocated prior year funds and \$175,000 in estimated program income generated by repayments of major home repair loans.

For the second year of the biennium (2020), all Human Services Fund contracts will receive a cost of living increase, currently projected to be 3.52%. This increase is subject to a mid-biennium review of each program's 2019 contract performance. The increase does not apply to CDBG-funded programs.

Review Process

Our review of the 2019-2020 grant applications was systematic, collaborative and thorough. The process began with the publication of the *2017-2018 Bellevue Human Services Needs Update*, which was presented to the Council in early 2018. The *Needs Update* provides the foundation upon which grant applications are reviewed. The Human Services Commission reaffirmed the City's policy of supporting the "continuum of human service needs" (Comprehensive Plan Policy HS-4) and emphasized the focus areas found in Attachment E in our review of new applications as well as previously funded programs. Those focus areas were selected because they address gaps identified in the *Needs Update*.

Human Services General Fund

A total of 100 applications were submitted for human service programs, including 26 applications for programs not previously funded. All applications received that same careful review, with currently funded programs receiving no advantage over new applications. In addition to supporting the continuum of human service needs, the Commission recognized the increasing needs in the following areas:

- Services for people experiencing homelessness, including shelters, day centers, and outreach;
- Education and employment training to prevent homelessness;
- Services to address the heroin and opioid crisis in our community; and
- Emergency financial assistance to prevent evictions and increase financial stability.

The Commission is recommending funding for five programs not previously funded. These new programs were recommended for funding because they addressed one of the focus areas and/or they met gaps documented in the *Needs Update*:

- *Application #5: Community Homes Housing Readiness Workshops for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities* – Provides workshops to educate families on housing options, resources and solutions to enable adult children with disabilities to live independently.
- *Application #43: Chinese Information and Service Center Eastside Russian Senior Program* – Connects isolated Russian seniors to culturally and linguistically appropriate programming and connections to community resources.
- *Application #47: India Association of Western Washington Cultural Navigator Program* – Provides navigation and information assistance to Asian-Indians with limited English language skills through interpretation of more than eighteen languages.
- *Application #74: NAMI Eastside NAMI in the Schools* – Provides mental health education to King County middle and high school students.
- *Application #93: IKRON Integrated Employment Services* – Combines employment readiness activities and job placement with other supports and behavioral health services.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

The Human Services Commission made their 2019 CDBG funding recommendations based on an estimate of the City's 2019 entitlement amount, estimated program income, and unallocated prior year funds. The detailed recommendations are in Attachment C. Because the exact CDBG budget will not be known until sometime in 2019, the Commission's recommendations include a Contingency Plan (Attachment D) outlining how an increase or decrease in funding would be allocated. The 2019 entitlement amount is expected to be similar to 2018.

Conclusion

We wish to thank the City Council for your ongoing support of human services in Bellevue. The City's funding is a crucial part of our nonprofit agencies' ability to help all of Bellevue's residents achieve their full potential.

cc: Human Services Commission
 Patrick Foran, Director
 Toni Esparza, Assistant Director
 Alex O'Reilly, Human Services Manager