



# Human Services Needs Update 2025: Building a More Responsive Bellevue

A comprehensive assessment of critical community needs and service gaps to inform policy, funding, and program development for Bellevue's most vulnerable residents.

# A Note about Timing

The 2025 Bellevue Human Services Needs Assessment, conducted between January and June 2025, captures the state of human services during a period of sweeping reductions to federal funding.

While resident voices presented here reveal gaps and unmet needs across Bellevue, the immediate impacts of budget cuts are eroding the human services ecosystem. These hardships test our resilience, our compassion, and our collective will to protect the most vulnerable among us.



# Bellevue Community Snapshot



**59%**

Residents identify as  
People of Color



**40%**

Residents are  
immigrants  
and refugees



**15%**

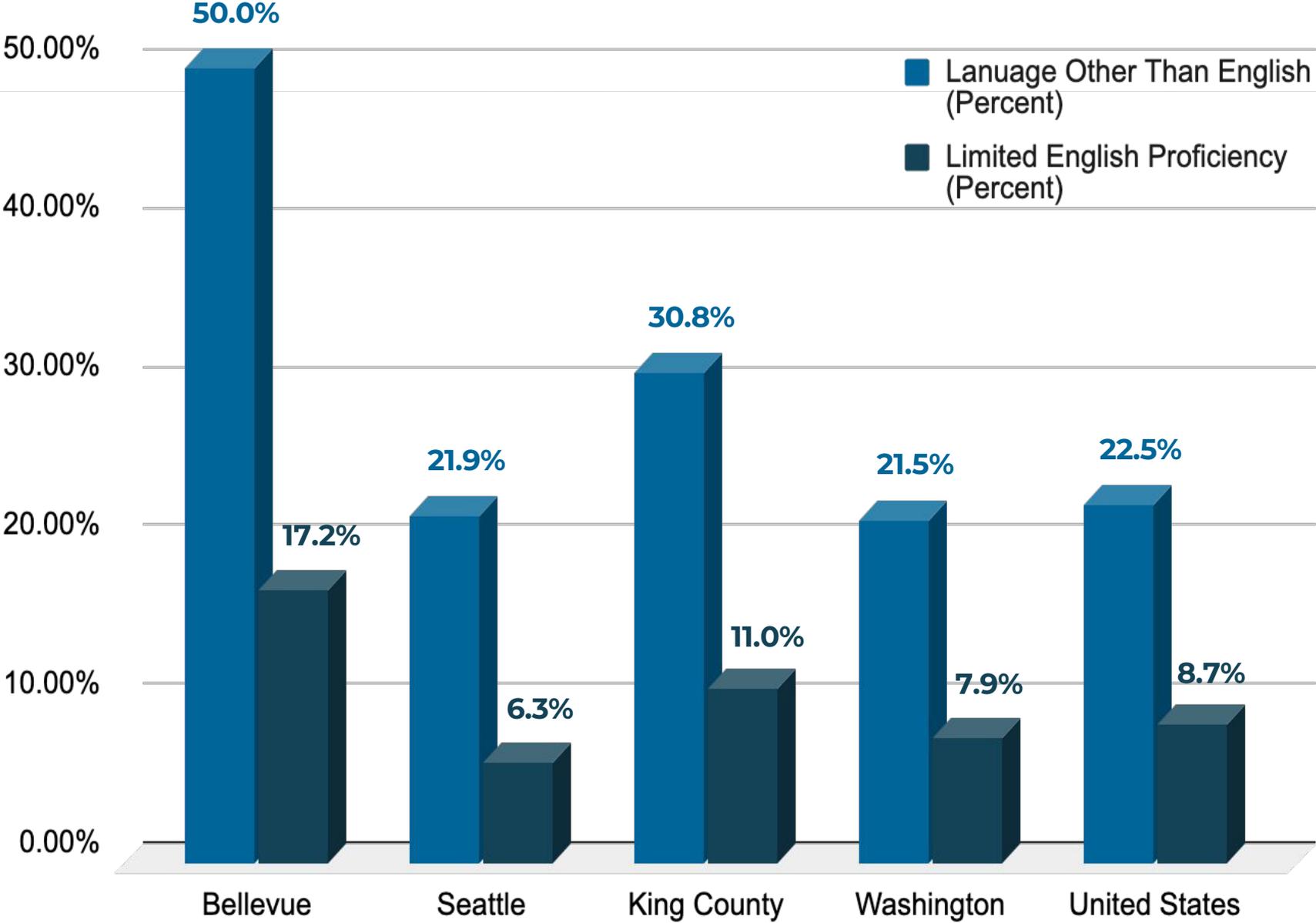
Older adult (65+)



**8%**

Residents have  
a disability

# Percentage of Residents by Primary Language Spoken & English Proficiency



Source: 2023 American Community Survey

# Community Engagement: More than 700 individuals

- 14 Subject Matter Expert Interviews

- 8 Focus Groups (118 participants)

- 535 Community Survey Responses (9 languages)

- 62 Provider Survey Responses

# Cross-Cutting Themes

Cultural and Linguistic Barriers

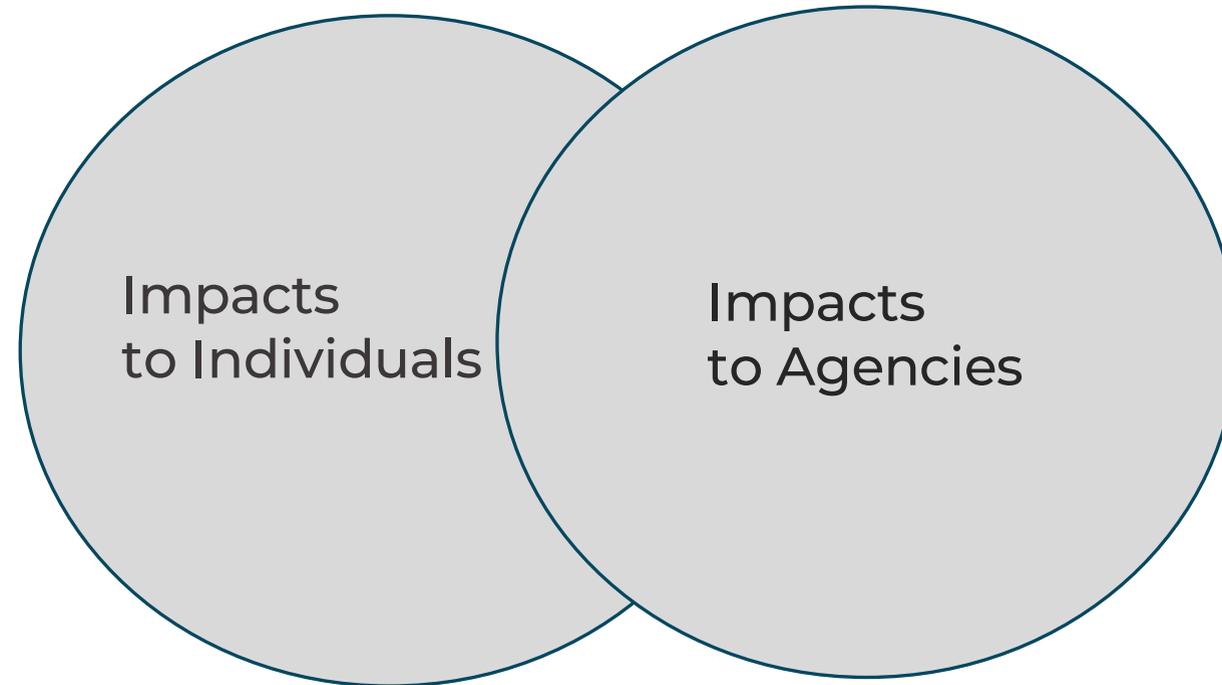
Access Barriers

Provider Strain

Stigma and Mistrust



# Federal Cuts & Impacts



Older adults, persons with disabilities, low-income families, immigrants, refugees and unhoused people are harmed the most.



# Areas of Need

Shelter & Housing Stability

Financial Assistance

Food & Basic Needs

Survivor Advocacy & Safety from Violence

Behavioral Health

Childcare & Early Learning

Medical and Dental

Navigation, Legal, Case Management  
& Other Supportive Service

Fostering Well-Being in the Face of Bias, Hate &  
Discrimination



# Critical Needs

These three areas are especially critical to sustain life given the impacts of federal cuts

Financial Assistance

Food and Basic Needs

Shelter



# Barriers to Services

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Survey respondents able to access a human services provider when needed	<b>54%</b>
Survey respondents able to access services that supported language and culture needs	<b>54%</b>

# Shelter

**56%**

Increase in  
chronic homelessness  
in King County

**651**

Students  
experienced  
Homelessness  
in Bellevue

**16,800**

Unhoused individuals  
in King County



A three-day count in 2024 identified 123 individuals residing in vehicles in Bellevue, about 38% were children.

# Homelessness: Recent Examples of City Investment and Response

- **294,423** shelter bed nights
- **41,055** day center visits
- **15,007** hours of case management
- **551** residents accepted services from City's Homelessness Outreach Team
- **109** of those residents secured housing
- **57** households served through City's Safe Parking Program

# Housing Stability

**32%**

Residents are  
cost-burdened

**23.8%**

Low and moderate income  
households

**5,000**

Unit shortage for affordable  
homes



“A community that has ample housing for all income levels, for example, where there’s not food insecurity—those are all part of what makes a community safe and healthy.” –Subject Matter Expert

## Housing Stability: Recent Examples of City Investment and Response

- **\$6.5 million** for Bridge Housing Spring District Project
- **\$1.6 million** for Congolese Integration Network's Amani Home
- **\$13.5 million** for Low Income Housing Institute's Aventine Apartments
- **\$221,579** for Catholic Housing's Maruice Elbert House
- **\$600,000** for Plymouth Housing Group's Eastside Permanent Supportive Housing
- **3,545** hours of case management
- **39** households with safe and stable home repair

# Financial Assistance

**\$795**

Max TANF benefits for  
family of 3

**51%**

Higher rent  
than the national  
average

**63%**

Of eviction filings  
resulting in eviction



“We make too much money to get food stamps. But we don’t make enough money to qualify for housing.” –Bellevue resident

# Financial Assistance: Recent Examples of City Investment and Response

- **\$1,746,365** distributed in rental assistance
- **826** financial aid awards to Bellevue households
- **~1000** residents supported by utility bill and energy assistance programs

# Food Security & Basic Needs

**25%**

Bellevue school-aged children qualifying for food assistance

**3,354**

Bellevue households qualifying for SNAP benefits

**42%**

Immigrant families reporting limited access to culturally relevant food options

⚠️ “It’s hard to think about your mental health or job when you don’t have food in the fridge.” – Subject Matter Expert



Food and Basic  
Needs:  
Recent Examples  
of City  
Investment and  
Response

- **1,122,576** meals served
- **33,937** bundles of essentials for babies and children
- **4,542** hygiene kits distributed

# Safety from Violence

**926**

DV cases  
in Bellevue  
in 2024

**49.5%**

Of crimes against  
persons were  
domestic violence  
offenses

**38%**

Federal funding  
decline for  
victim services



Fear of judgment, deportation, or custody loss deters many immigrants, LGBTQIA2S+ individuals, and low-income households, from seeking help.—Subject Matter Expert



# Safety From Violence: Recent Examples of City Investment and Response

- **4,443** hours of domestic violence survivor advocacy support
- **912** hours of sexual assault survivor legal and general advocacy services
- **649** hours of domestic violence survivor counseling
- **342** hours of sexual assault survivor counseling
- **96** hours of domestic violence support groups

# Childcare & Early Learning

**\$3,400**

Monthly cost for infant childcare

**46.7%**

Survey respondents finding affordable childcare

**54.2%**

Of childcare accommodation requests were provided



“Our families often have to make hard choices—pay for rent or childcare.” --Focus Group Participant



## Childcare & Early Learning: Recent Examples of City Investment and Response

- **13,524** days of Head Start early learning services delivered
- **7,295** months of childcare vouchers distributed to families
- **1,681** individuals assisted with finding childcare
- **948** hours of childcare consulting and training provided to childcare providers
- **22** home-based childcare businesses were provided technical assistance to develop and grow businesses

# Behavioral Health

**30%**

Of students' mental health led them to withdraw from usual activities

**1044**

Overdose deaths in King County in 2024

**69%**

Increase in treatment costs

“Clients with dual diagnosis issues—mental health and substance use—fall through the cracks.” –Subject Matter Expert



“We need more therapists that are culturally aware and speak multiple languages.” –Subject Matter Expert

# Behavioral Health: Recent Examples of City Investment and Response

- **Bellevue Fire CARES and CCAT Programs**
- **23,034** hours of counseling services completed
- **2,978** crisis phone calls answered
- **2,745** students received suicide prevention education
- **1,485** hours of behavioral health educational groups delivered
- **1,521** hours of behavioral health case management provided

# Medical & Dental Care

**11%**

**Of adults delayed care due to costs**

**20%**

**Residents on Apple Health did not have annual doctor visit**

**32%**

**Children in low-income households have untreated dental conditions**

**7,000**

**Preventable ER Visits due to dental conditions**



“People skip medications or don’t see a doctor because they don’t have insurance.” –Subject Matter Expert

Medical and  
Dental:  
Recent Examples  
of City  
Investment and  
Response

- **2,717** dental appointments
- **2,488** medical appointments
- **979** units of durable medical equipment distributed

# Navigation, Legal, Case Management, & Other Services

**81%**

Of survey respondents experience barriers to accessing services

**40%**

Of residents are immigrants or refugees.

**50,000**

Low-income residents supported by WA Office of Civil Legal Aid



"Case management is everything. Without someone to help navigate, clients get lost in the system."—Subject Matter Expert

# Navigation, Legal, Case Management and Support: Recent Examples of City Investment and Response

- **10,549** hours of employment services
- **6,391** hours of adult mentoring and drop-in services for children and youth
- **6,362** hours of adult day care services
- **3,086** hours of attorney services and civil legal aid presentations
- **2,858** culturally specific information and referral phone calls
- **2,201** hours of culturally specific youth development
- **1,943** visits to culturally specific senior programs
- **1,238** hours of volunteer chore services
- **510** hours of family case management

# Fostering Well-Being in the Face of Bias, Hate & Discrimination

**112**

Hate crime incidents in King County in 2023

**46.5%**

Of residents found well-being support that met culture or language needs

**223**

Housing discrimination complaints related to disability in WA in 2023



“We see a lot of hate, especially toward immigrants and LGBTQ folks. It wears people down.”—Subject Matter Expert

## Fostering Well-Being Bias, Hate & Discrimination

“It’s not just about access. It’s about belonging. True inclusion, requires more than translation—it demands cultural understanding, safety, and representation in both staff and service design.” –Subject Matter Expert

“I got to meet people that reflected my experiences...and I felt that they would understand me and not judge me.” –Focus Group Participant



# Fostering Well-Being: Recent Examples of City Investment and Response

- Bellevue Police Safe Place Program
- City of Bellevue International Festival
- Cultural Events
- Cross Cultural Center Without Walls Program
- **932** hours of case management
- **2,448** navigation and referral resources provided
- **71** community building group sessions



# Thank you

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to this project. Their insight, time, and collaboration were vital in shaping this assessment and advancing our shared commitment to equity and community well-being. The success of this work reflects the strength of our partnership and dedication to Bellevue's residents.