



# City of Bellevue

## MEMORANDUM

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**DATE:** June 29, 2021

**TO:** Human Services Commission Members

**FROM:** Alex O'Reilly, Human Services Manager, 425-452-2824  
Human Services Division  
Parks & Community Services Department

**Agenda Item for July 7, 2021 Commission Meeting**

**NOTE: DUE TO THE HOLIDAY THIS MEETING IS BEING HELD ON WEDNESDAY NOT TUESDAY**

**Distribution of the Amazon Donation to the Bellevue Human Services Fund**

**Background**

At the June 1, 2021 Human Services Commission meeting, staff led a discussion with Commissioners related to the purposes Amazon designated in their recent gift of \$1 million to the City of Bellevue Human Service Fund. The three service areas that Amazon designated which need to be honored are:

- Funding those programs that were not funded during the 2021-2022 General Fund Grant Cycle that were identified by the Commission that they would like to fund if additional dollars were available;
- A pilot capacity-building cohort model to support small and/or minority-led community organizations
- Remaining funds to be added to the Human Services Fund budget for the 2023-2024 funding cycle.

During the discussion regarding capacity building, staff shared a proposal that was submitted by Communities Rise, a non-profit organization that focuses on providing capacity building to BIPOC communities that could fulfill the related aspect of Amazon's donation. The proposal outlined Communities Rise's Cohort Capacity Building Program that could be offered to agencies funded by the City of Bellevue using a portion of the Amazon gift.

**Discussion at the July 7<sup>th</sup> meeting**

- Toni Esparza, Assistant Director, will review the areas that Amazon specified for their gift.
- Commissioners had a number of questions about the Communities Rise Proposal budget and program which will be discussed on July 7<sup>th</sup>. Jodi Nishioka, Executive Director of Communities Rise, will be present at this meeting to address the previously raised questions and answer any additional questions.
- Commissioners will have a discussion based on the new information they have been presented.
- Commissioners will be asked to endorse the use of the funds for the purposes required by Amazon in order that the funds can begin to be contracted.

