



City of Bellevue

450 110th Avenue NE
Bellevue, WA 98004

Meeting Agenda - Final Human Services Commission

Monday, June 15, 2026

6:00 PM

Room 1E-121

The Bellevue Human Services Commission will be conducting a special meeting on Monday, June 15, 2026.

Members of the public are welcome to observe the meeting in-person at Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Ave. NE, Bellevue, 98004 - Room #1E-121.

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of Minutes

- a) [26-413](#) Approve for draft minutes from June 1, 2026

4. Oral and Written Communications

Oral public comments will not be taken at this meeting, however, if you wish to provide written comment to the Human Services Commission please use the email below:

humanservicescommission@bellevuewa.gov

5. Communication from City Council, Boards and Commissions

6. Staff and Commissioner Reports

7. Information for the Commission

8. Old Business

9. New Business

- a) [26-414](#) Human Services Application Review

10. Adjournment

For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable modification requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-6884 (voice) or email humanservices@bellevuewa.gov. For complaints regarding modifications, contact the City of Bellevue ADA, Title VI, and Equal Opportunity Officer at ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov.

Rules of decorum for public communication and conduct at meetings were adopted by the City Council in Ordinance 6752. Copies of this ordinance can be found on the city's website, and are also available from the City Clerk's Office.

CITY OF BELLEVUE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

June 1, 2026
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-113

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chair Phan, Commissioners Besana, Hays, Gonzalez, Singh
COMMISSIONERS REMOTE: None
COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Commissioners Perelman, Rashid
STAFF PRESENT: Christy Stangland, Camron Parker, Donna Adair, Ruth Blaw, Gysel Galaviz, Department of Parks & Community Services
COUNCIL LIAISON: Not Present
POLICE LIAISON: Not Present
GUEST SPEAKERS: None
RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Phan who presided.

2. ROLL CALL

At the roll of the call, all Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioners Perelman and Rashid.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. May 18, 2026

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Chair Phan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Singh and the motion carried unanimously.

4. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Phan took a moment to note that under Ordinance 6752, the topics about which the public may speak during a meeting are limited to subject matters related to the city of Bellevue government and within the powers and duties of the Human Services Commission. Additional information about the new rules of decorum governing conduct of the public during meetings can be found in Ordinance 6752.

There were no members of the public wishing to address the Commission outside of the public hearing.

5. COMMUNICATION FROM CITY COUNCIL, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS – None
6. STAFF AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS – None
7. INFORMATION FOR THE COMMISSION – None
8. PUBLIC HEARING
 - A. Human Services Needs in Bellevue

Chair Phan explained that community testimony will be used to inform the human services funding recommendations as well as the Community Development Block Grant annual action plan recommendations.

A motion to open the public hearing was made by Vice Chair Hays. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Singh and the motion carried unanimously.

Anthony Myers, Program Director for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue, described having a personal connection to the organization having participated in its programs while growing up in Bellevue before later becoming a staff member. The organization’s mission is to enable young people to develop into caring, responsible, and productive community members. The focus is particularly on those from low- and moderate-income households. The Boys & Girls Club provides a safe environment where youth can participate in sports, attend field trips, discover new interests, and build important life skills. The examples shared included an all-girls flag football team that developed through the club’s programs, and a situation in which staff successfully helped two youth resolve a conflict through communication and empathy. The importance of partnerships was stressed, particularly among families, schools, community organizations, and public agencies in support of youth development. The Commission was thanked for its role in making opportunities possible.

Tim Motts, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue, thanked the Commission and city staff for prioritizing youth services. The organization serves approximately 18,000 youth annually and provides critical services such as affordable childcare, meals, academic assistance, sports, and STEM programming. The Boys & Girls Club will become the sole provider of on-site childcare services for the Bellevue School District beginning next school year, and that will result in a significant expansion from one to 14 preschool locations, and the addition of approximately 2400 childcare spaces. The demand already exceeds the available capacity, and many of the new spaces will be filled before implementation. Also emphasized was the importance of ensuring access for children from lower-income households. There is a planned investment of approximately \$1.15 million to support the childcare expansion. The Commission was thanked for its continued partnership and for recognizing that community collaboration is essential to meeting growing service needs.

Rahima Somji, Programs Director for Bellevue LifeSpring, expressed appreciation for the city's prior support. Bellevue LifeSpring's mission is to ensure that children's basic needs are met so they can succeed academically and personally. Continued support for three primary programs was requested. The Breaktime-Mealtime nutrition program provides grocery vouchers to families during school breaks when free and reduced-price school meals are unavailable. The program currently serves 4726 students, representing a significant growth over recent years. The emergency rental assistance program is designed to prevent families from becoming unhoused. Requests for rental assistance tripled during the previous six months. Stressed was the importance of early intervention in preventing homelessness and maintaining family stability. The third program is a newer family support program that provides individualized guidance to help parents navigate complex systems, build workforce readiness, increase income, and achieve long-term self-sufficiency. The Commission was thanked for its consideration and ongoing support of Bellevue families.

Bhavana Pahwa spoke on behalf of the City of Bellevue's Network on Aging and emphasized the city's commitment to supporting older adults through programs that promote social connection, learning, and wellness. Citing city data, it was stated that nearly one-quarter of Bellevue residents are age 55 or older and that the population continues to grow. The 2025 Human Services Needs Update found that nearly one-third of senior renters are severely cost burdened, spending more than half of their income on housing. Housing instability creates not only financial hardship but also significant mental health challenges, contributing to isolation, reduced social connectedness, and increased behavioral health needs. The Commission was urged to prioritize funding for integrated behavioral health services within housing programs; culturally and linguistically responsive mental health outreach for older adults; homelessness prevention efforts tailored to seniors on fixed incomes; and expanded programs designed to reduce loneliness and social isolation among older residents. Strategic investments are needed that will allow older adults to remain secure, connected, and healthy within the community.

Kaya Wojcik, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Project Be Free, described the organization's work serving individuals affected by the full spectrum of domestic violence, including intimate partner violence, family violence, and generational trauma. Issues such as homelessness, mental health challenges, substance abuse, and domestic violence are often interconnected and require coordinated responses. Although Project Be Free is a relatively young organization, there is a growing demand from Bellevue residents and an increased number of referrals for services. Particular emphasis was placed on the organization's culturally responsive approach, noting that staff collectively speak 23 languages and they reflect the diverse communities served. A previously funded domestic violence advocacy program exceeded its service goals by 275 percent, demonstrating the substantial unmet demand. The organization is also seeking support for Project Be Fit, a youth-focused initiative intended to strengthen prevention efforts and provide long-term support. While the infrastructure, partnerships, and staffing plans are already in place, additional resources are needed to build organizational capacity and sustain services.

Troy Christensen, Executive Director of Porchlight, said the organization is the primary provider for the men's shelter in East King County, which operates up to 150 shelter beds nightly and

serves as many as 450 meals per day while also providing showers, laundry facilities, case management, behavioral health services, outreach activities, and supportive housing. More than half of the men served by Porchlight last resided in Bellevue. The organization helped nearly 100 individuals secure housing and employment during 2025. There are significant financial challenges resulting from federal funding reductions totaling nearly \$500,000. The organization's increased funding request reflects efforts to offset those losses. The organizations serving adult men often face greater difficulties attracting philanthropic support than agencies focused on women, children, and families, making government funding particularly important. Porchlight's plays a role in helping individuals experiencing homelessness to regain stability through housing, employment, and social support.

Miriam Clithero with Mary's Place described the organization's mission of addressing family homelessness throughout King County through emergency shelter, mobile outreach, and homelessness prevention services. Although Mary's Place no longer operates its former family shelter in Bellevue, the organization remains committed to serving Bellevue families through outreach and prevention programs designed to help families avoid homelessness altogether. Families with children represent one of the most vulnerable and rapidly growing populations experiencing housing instability and require specialized, family-centered interventions rather than individual shelter services alone. Previous experiences of homelessness are among the strongest predictors of future homelessness, and homelessness during early childhood can have lasting negative effects on growth and development. Investments in prevention and stabilization services will yield long-term benefits for children and families.

Rachel Bergman, Director of Government and Community Grants for Friends of Youth, explained that the organization has served children, youth, and families throughout East King County for more than 75 years and currently provides support to young people facing homelessness, foster care involvement, and behavioral health challenges. Appreciation was expressed for the City of Bellevue's ongoing financial support. Human Services funding helps sustain mental health services, emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, parent support services, and other critical initiatives. There is an increasing demand for services during a time of significant funding uncertainty. Particular attention was given to the Willows Youth Services Center, the only youth-specific shelter program in East King County, which experienced a 13 percent increase in shelter bed utilization and a nearly 27 percent increase in drop-in visits between 2024 and 2025. The service demand remained high throughout the first half of 2026 and emphasized that each interaction with a young person provides an opportunity to improve stability, emotional well-being, and long-term outcomes. The gratitude of the organization was expressed for the Commission's partnership and a commitment to continue serving Bellevue youth and families through comprehensive support programs.

Gina Finley, Executive Director of the Domestic Abuse Women's Network (DAWN), thanked the Commission for its leadership and support, noting that DAWN began receiving City of Bellevue funding in 2025 and that the investment has already expanded access to critical services for survivors of domestic violence. DAWN serves more than 1600 survivors annually throughout King County and handles approximately 4300 crisis and support line calls each year. Bellevue is one of the highest-demand communities within DAWN's service area, consistently generating the largest number of referrals and advocacy caseloads. In response to the need, DAWN has

expanded its presence in Bellevue through on-site advocacy services and increased accessibility for Eastside residents. An example was shared illustrating the importance of trauma-informed mental health services in the case of a survivor who was able to successfully connect with supportive therapists after previously feeling retraumatized by providers lacking specialized domestic violence expertise. DAWN's extensive partnerships with other service organizations was highlighted and the importance of a coordinated and culturally responsive support network was emphasized. Continued and expanded funding was requested to sustain and deepen services for survivors seeking safety and stability.

Jack Edgerton, Executive Director of KidVantage, explained that KidVantage is Washington's oldest and largest basic needs bank, focused on reducing the effects of poverty and inequity by providing essential supplies to children from birth through age twelve and to expectant parents. The services include distributing diapers, wipes, car seats, clothing, hygiene products, school supplies, and other critical items that support child health and family stability. The organization assists more than 19,000 children annually and has maintained a long-standing partnership with the City of Bellevue. The demand for services continues to increase significantly, with the first-quarter activity in 2026 showing an 18 percent increase over the same period in 2025. The distribution of diapers increased by 10 percent, while wipes and baby formula increased by 12 percent. Inflation and tariffs have further heightened the need for essential goods. Supported by more than 5600 volunteers and a network of 80 partner organizations operating through over 200 distribution sites, KidVantage continues to reach underserved families throughout Bellevue and the surrounding region. Appreciation was voiced for the City's recognition that meeting children's basic needs is fundamental to their ability to learn, play, and fully participate in community life.

Deidre McCormick Martin, Executive Director of Family Law CASA of King County, described the organization's mission of advancing equity by providing free advocacy services for children involved in family law cases, connecting families with support services, and promoting systemic change. Serving King County since 2002, the organization currently assists Bellevue residents through multiple active cases involving children. Family Law CASA serves as the independent voice for children in family court proceedings, particularly in complex custody disputes where the courts often lack the resources necessary to fully investigate family circumstances. Through trauma-informed and strength-based investigations conducted by trained volunteers and professional staff, the organization provides judges with objective information that helps ensure children's safety and well-being. A recent Bellevue case involving allegations of domestic violence and child abuse within a Russian-speaking family was presented as an example of the organization's impact. After nearly two years of investigation, reporting, and court proceedings, the judge adopted recommendations that included domestic violence treatment requirements and supervised visitation arrangements, decisions made possible through the organization's extensive involvement. The services are provided free of charge and are uniquely available through Family Law CASA. Continued partnership and funding is needed to help create safer and more stable homes for children and families in Bellevue.

Viju McAllister, a Bellevue resident and board member of The Sophia Way, said the Bellevue-based nonprofit organization is dedicated to ending homelessness among women in East King County through shelter, housing, and supportive services. Reference was made to the

organization's recent impact report and strategic plan, which outlines both current accomplishments and future goals. More than 500 women accessed services during the previous year and over 140 women successfully transitioned into stable housing. The organization provides a continuum of care that includes emergency shelter, resource center services, vehicle outreach, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing. Emphasized was the importance of individualized case management in helping each participant overcome barriers to achieve long-term housing stability. Recognizing homelessness as a regional challenge requires regional solutions, and it was noted that Bellevue's investments support critical programs such as Helen's Place and Sophia's Place, ensuring that women have access to shelter, housing navigation, and supportive services. Continued funding support is needed. Approximately one-quarter of the women served by the organization originate from Bellevue and the demand has increased as other shelters in the region have closed.

Dr. Janis Clark, founder of Safe Homes and its Women Veterans Division, said the organization has celebrated its 31st anniversary. The focus is on women veterans, a population described as frequently overlooked in human services planning despite experiencing significant challenges. Women veterans face higher rates of homelessness, trauma, economic instability, military sexual trauma, domestic violence, food insecurity, and behavioral health concerns than many of their peers. Particular attention was given to women veterans who are single parents and those who encounter barriers to accessing technology, benefits, housing applications, and employment opportunities. Safe Homes provides a trauma-informed continuum of care aligned with Bellevue's priorities in basic needs, behavioral health, childcare, homelessness prevention, and equitable access to services. A request was made that women veterans be recognized as a priority population within future funding decisions. Partnering with the city will improve access to safety, stability, and opportunity for the underserved group.

Mark Oommen, Executive Director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Eastside, thanked the city for its ongoing investment in mental health services and described the continuing mental health crisis that is affecting youth, families, and community members. NAMI Eastside served more than 1000 Bellevue residents during the previous year through support groups, educational programming, and youth initiatives. The organization's programs are grounded in lived experience, which allows participants to connect with peers who have faced similar challenges. The peer-based approach is particularly effective in reducing stigma and creating hope for individuals who may be reluctant to seek traditional clinical services. The testimony highlighted youth mental health data that is concerning in terms of high rates of anxiety and suicidal ideation among middle and high school students. The importance of prevention programs such as NAMI's classroom presentations was stressed. There is a close relationship between housing instability and mental health challenges. NAMI's support groups, classes, mental health first aid training, and de-escalation workshops help residents better support one another during times of crisis. Appreciation was voiced for Bellevue's leadership, and a desire to continue the partnership in future years was expressed.

Debbi Halela, Director of the Agency-Based Counseling Program at Youth Eastside Services (YES), explained that YES has provided behavioral health services to children, youth, and families on the Eastside for more than 55 years. The organization delivers services in schools, community settings, teen centers, and clinical offices while focusing on reducing barriers to care.

Fifty-seven percent of the direct-service staff speak a language other than English; services are currently available in 12 languages. The organization's trauma-informed and integrated approach recognizes the connection between mental health, family stability, education, and community support. Efforts are underway to improve access to services through multilingual intake assessments and the addition of a bilingual Spanish-speaking cultural navigator who assists families in navigating services and connecting with community resources. The organization also offers a range of evidence-based therapeutic interventions tailored to individual needs and ensures that services remain available regardless of a family's ability to pay. Gratitude was expressed for Bellevue's continued support and partnership.

Ciara Madden with Plymouth Housing stressed the importance of housing and homelessness services. Plymouth Housing provides permanent supportive housing to nearly 1500 formerly homeless individuals throughout King County and recently established Plymouth Crossing in Bellevue, the first permanent supportive housing development on the Eastside. Plymouth Crossing currently houses 92 residents and offers case management and supportive services alongside permanent affordable housing. Bellevue's Human Services Needs Update points out that housing affordability and homelessness remain among the city's most pressing concerns, with many households experiencing financial strain and housing instability. Rising living costs, job loss, and a shortage of affordable housing options were identified as key factors contributing to homelessness. Stable housing serves as the foundation upon which other challenges can be addressed. The Commission was urged to prioritize investments in safe parking programs, shelters, and permanent supportive housing. There is a clear need to expand system capacity to meet the growing community demand.

Ngoc Nguyen, Chief of Staff for the Eastside Legal Assistance Program (ELAP), thanked the Commission for its previous funding and described ELAP's broad range of free legal services, including approximately 30 clinics each month addressing family law, employment issues, disability matters, immigration concerns, housing stability, and domestic violence. ELAP also engages in legal advocacy that adapts to changing community needs. During the pandemic the organization focused on eviction protections, and current efforts are focused on safety planning for families concerned about immigration enforcement actions. Through examples involving unsafe housing conditions and domestic violence situations, the critical role of civil legal aid was highlighted in protecting vulnerable individuals and families. ELAP's culturally responsive approach includes extensive interpretation services in 35 languages and a diverse staff reflective of the communities served. Bellevue residents received hundreds of hours of legal assistance during the previous year and more than 200 Bellevue residents directly benefited from ELAP's programs. The Commission was asked to continue providing support and to recognize the essential role legal services plays in promoting housing stability, safety, and access to justice.

Dawn McGeorge, a board member of Family Law CASA of King County. McGeorge described the organization's commitment to improving the long-term outcomes for children and families experiencing economic hardship and who are involved in complex family law proceedings. The testimony highlighted Family Law CASA's role in providing free advocacy services for children, connecting families to support resources, and advancing systemic change. The organization served multiple Bellevue families in both 2025 and the first quarter of 2026 and anticipates a significant increase in Bellevue-based cases during the current year. Emphasizing the harmful

effects of prolonged exposure to conflict, domestic violence, neglect, and abuse, it was noted that many parents involved in family court proceedings lack legal representation and struggle to navigate an often-complex judicial system. Judges frequently must make critical decisions affecting children without access to complete information about family circumstances. The Commission was thanked for its prior support, and hope was expressing for continued funding to help create safer, healthier, and more stable homes for children and families.

Liz Achi, Policy and Advocacy Administrator for International Community Health Services (ICHS), requested support for the organization's medical, dental, and behavioral health funding applications. ICHS is a nonprofit community health center serving more than 36,000 patients throughout the region. Current City of Bellevue funding has helped support nearly 4,500 Bellevue residents. ICHS provides care regardless of a patient's insurance status or ability to pay and offers interpretation services in more than 90 languages and dialects. The organization operates a full-service medical and dental clinic in Bellevue. It is the Bellevue School District's only school-based health center, and mobile health clinics visit schools throughout the city. There are several barriers currently affecting access to care, including Medicaid funding reductions, rising health insurance costs, and fears related to immigration enforcement. ICHS's integrated care model, which connects primary care patients directly with behavioral health specialists, reduces stigma and increases access to treatment. ICHS recently became a licensed behavioral health agency capable of providing long-term therapy and medication management services. The Commission was asked to continue its partnership with the organization in order to ensure that low-income and underserved residents can continue accessing essential health care services.

Armando Estrada, Mentor Development Manager for Rainier Athletes, spoke in support of the organization's funding application. Rainier Athletes is a Bellevue-based nonprofit serving students who face economic and social barriers, many of whom qualify for free or reduced-price meals, speak languages other than English at home, and identify as Hispanic or Latino. Emphasized was the importance of culturally responsive mentorship. Students often benefit most when mentors share similar cultural backgrounds, languages, and lived experiences. The organization seeks to provide Spanish-language materials and family communications, and to intentionally match Latino students with Latino mentors. The organization's staff is predominantly composed of individuals from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds, and recruitment efforts focus on identifying mentors who can relate to the experiences of participating students and families. The focus builds trust, fosters belonging, and encourages young people to envision positive futures. The Commission was urged to fund the application request.

Amanda Lopez-Castanon, Director of Food Programs at Hopelink, offered testimony regarding the growing community needs throughout the region. The Commission was thanked for its longstanding support. Hopelink served more than 74,000 individuals through its community services and transportation programs during 2025, including more than 6000 Bellevue residents through community services alone. The demand for food assistance has reached record levels, with approximately 10,000 people visiting Hopelink food markets each month, including roughly 2700 Bellevue residents. Highlighted was the substantial unmet demand within financial assistance programs where many households seeking support cannot currently be served due to

limited resources. The speaker described encounters with unemployed workers, seniors struggling to afford both rent and medication, families facing utility shutoffs, and young adults attempting to establish financial stability. The testimony emphasized the organization's commitment to maximizing the impact of public funding through housing assistance, energy support, food access, employment services, and case management. The importance of continued collaboration among community organizations was stressed in light of the increasing level of need. Continued support for Hopelink's services was sought from the Commission.

Someireh Amirfaiz with the New Americans Alliance for Policy and Research, shared a personal background as an immigrant from Iran and described more than 25 years of experience serving refugee and immigrant communities. Drawing on previous leadership roles in refugee-serving organizations, the speaker explained that the New Americans Alliance for Policy and Research was established from a belief that direct services alone are insufficient without community mobilization, advocacy, and systemic change. The testimony focused on the challenges faced by refugees, who often arrive with professional backgrounds and significant skills but encounter language barriers, discrimination, trauma, and limited employment opportunities. Refugees are frequently misunderstood or overlooked in public data and discourse, making it difficult to fully address their needs. There is a risk of intergenerational poverty when families struggle to achieve economic stability and social inclusion. Support was sought for the organization's efforts to partner with refugee communities, promote prosperity and inclusion, and help newcomers become fully engaged and influential members of the broader community.

Tia Kennebrew, Program Director for New Bethlehem Programs in Kirkland, described the organization as one of the few family shelters serving the Eastside. It provides 24-hour shelter, wraparound services, meals, case management, and access to a day center where individuals can receive assistance with housing and employment challenges. The city was thanked for its longstanding support. During the previous year the organization helped secure housing for 32 families, including 132 children. The testimony emphasized the importance of providing families experiencing displacement with safe shelter, stability, and support services that allow children to remain in school, maintain personal hygiene, and avoid many of the negative consequences associated with homelessness. The Commission was asked to continue supporting families who are seeking to overcome barriers and achieve permanent housing.

Matthew Rowan, a member of Hero House Bellevue, was joined by a staff representative from the organization. The speaker focused on the impact of Hero House's supportive housing and employment programs, describing services that include housing assistance, budgeting support, benefits navigation, resource coordination, and supported employment through an evidence-based Individual Placement and Support model. The organization's philosophy centers on recovery through community and meaningful relationships, enabling participants to build stability from a foundation of trust. Speaking from personal experience, the speaker described the organization as a place that provides acceptance, friendship, hope, and support throughout a mental health recovery journey. Hero House was credited with helping secure housing and stability during a difficult period. A concern was expressed about the effects of Medicaid and federal funding reductions on the available services. Gratitude was expressed for the city's support, and a request was made for continued investments in the program.

Derek Sciba, Chief Executive Officer of Vision House, opened by describing the uncertainty and hardship experienced by children facing homelessness, and the difficult questions families confront when they lack stable housing. Vision House has served families experiencing homelessness for 36 years through transitional housing, diversion services, childcare, and comprehensive case management. Approximately 90 percent of families participating in the organization's transitional housing program move into permanent housing, while diversion services assist roughly 1000 families each year. The services include assistance with evictions, debt management, budgeting, employment searches, housing searches, counseling, food access, laundry facilities, and other support. Most families served are headed by mothers with children. Many participants are refugees or asylum seekers. Concern was voiced over a 60 percent increase in applications compared with the same month one year earlier and emphasized that the growing need is occurring at a time of significant funding challenges. A request was made for continued support to help families move beyond homelessness and maintain long-term housing stability.

Melanie Faure with Upwards Care spoke about the organization's work supporting in-home childcare providers through its Boost and Learn program. It was explained that the program provides personalized business coaching, childcare management technology, and access to a learning management system containing best practices developed over several years. The initiative is designed to help low- and moderate-income childcare providers strengthen and grow their businesses through improved marketing, enrollment management, financial planning, staffing practices, and operational efficiency. Previous city support enabled the organization to assist multiple Bellevue childcare providers, create new childcare-related jobs, and increase the number of available childcare slots. Despite the gains, childcare shortages remain a significant concern, with many young children lacking access to licensed care and providers facing financial instability, unpredictable enrollment, and substantial administrative burdens. The program's goal is to expand childcare capacity, support provider sustainability, and help families locate appropriate childcare options more quickly. The Commission was thanked for supporting childcare providers who play a critical role in Bellevue's workforce and economy.

Dan Fey, Associate Dean at Bellevue College and leader of the institution's Center for Career Connections, explained that the Center provides comprehensive employment-related services, including résumé development, interview preparation, professional networking assistance, personal branding support, professional headshots, and job search support groups. Serving more than 4000 job seekers annually, the Center assists individuals ranging from teenagers seeking their first employment opportunities to experienced workers reentering the workforce. Bellevue College is one of the largest higher education institutions in the state and its career services operation rivals those of much larger universities. The testimony highlighted the importance of city funding, without which support and the services could only be offered to enrolled Bellevue College students. Because of Bellevue's investments, the Center is able to serve job seekers throughout the Eastside, including individuals referred from other human service organizations. The closure of the WorkSource Redmond office created a significant gap in employment assistance services on the Eastside, making Bellevue College's expanded role even more important. The Commission was asked for continued support to ensure that community members can continue accessing free career development and employment services.

A motion to close the public hearing was made by Commissioner Singh. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez and the motion carried unanimously.

9. OLD BUSINESS – None

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. Officer Elections

Chair Phan reminded the Commissioners that under the newly adopted bylaws, the election of officers is to occur annually in the month of June.

The floor was opened for nominations for Chair

Vice Chair Hays nominated Commissioner Angela Fan.

There were no additional nominations for Chair.

Commissioner Fan was elected to serve as Chair on a unanimous vote.

Chair Phan nominated Vice Chair Hays to serve as Vice Chair.

There were no additional nominations.

Vice Chair Hays was elected to serve as Vice Chair on a unanimous vote.

Chair Phan reminded the Commissioners that the Commission would hold a special meeting on June 15 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in Room 1E-121. The meeting kick off the Commission's funding deliberations.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Phan adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &
Community Services

DATE: June 15, 2026
TO: Human Services Commission Members
FROM: Ruth Blaw, Human Services Manager
Parks & Community Services
SUBJECT: Human Services Application Review

Commissioners will discuss funding recommendations.

Background

At this special meeting, Commissioners will begin the recommendation process for 2027-2028 Human Services funding.

Commissioners will be reviewing applications for the following "Areas of Need":

- Shelter
- Fostering Wellbeing
- Food
- Financial Assistance

Att A. Human Services Funding Application Overview & Schedule

Att B. Human Services Commission Recommendation Guiding Principles

Att C. Commission Approach for Thoughtful Deliberations

**UPDATED 27-28 Human Services Commission Funding Application
Overview/Schedule**

Total Request	\$ 18,656,281
Applications received	192
Applications for new programs	73
Budgeted Human Services funds	\$ 5,402,422
budgeted BHRS funds	\$ 1,644,077
TOTAL Available	\$ 7,046,499

Special Meetings: DELIBERATION GROUP#1

COMMISSIONERS	DATE	AREAS OF NEED	# APPLICATIONS	Lead Staff/Notetaker
Phan Singh Rashid Besana	June 15	Food	19	Christy/Saada
		Financial Assistance	9	
	July 6	Navigation	67	Saada/Christy
	July 20	Navigation cont.		Saada/Stephanie

Special meetings: DELIBERATION GROUP #2

COMMISSIONERS	DATE	AREAS OF NEED	# APPLICATIONS	Lead Staff/Notetaker
Hays Gonzalez Perelman	June 15	Shelter	20	Andrew /Donna Donna/Andrew
		Fostering Wellbeing	11	
	July 6	Behavioral Health Housing Stability	18 6	Andrew/Donna Donna/Andrew
	July 20	Safety from Violence	11	Donna/Andrew Andrew/Donna Donna/Andrew
Childcare		8		
Medical Dental		9		

Human Services Commission Recommendation Guiding Principles

General Guidance

Council and emerging priorities:

- Youth, immigrants and refugees supports

Other guidance:

- Protect core funding for returning agencies in good standing.
- For agencies with multiple applications, prioritize meaningful and existing programs over partial funding and new programs.
- New programs must meet an emerging or critical need
- Deeper funding of requests is preferred over partial funding of requests
- Completed applications are prioritized over incomplete.

Specific Policy Guidance

Human Services Strategic plan:

- Expand equity-focused and data-driven decision-making that best addresses the most significant community needs, prioritizing investments in the areas of greatest disparities.
- Expand access for Bellevue residents to culturally and linguistically specific human services.

Council Strategic Target Area:

6.1 Advance Bellevue as a community in which each and every member has access and opportunity to meet their essential physical and behavioral health, economic, recreational, and social needs, feels a sense of belonging, and has an opportunity to thrive.

Council Priorities:

Priority #11: In alignment with the Human Services Strategic Plan, support human services programs to meet community needs and increase equitable access and outcomes.

Priority #12: Support programs related to homelessness prevention and programs that help quickly house individuals experiencing homelessness.

2025 Needs Update Priorities:

- Food, Shelter, financial assistance

Commission Approach for Thoughtful Deliberations

(Notes from 5/2026 Equity training)

- Create a welcoming and respectful space where all commissioners feel comfortable speaking and asking questions.
- Allow time for open discussion without rushing and make sure everyone has a chance to be heard.
- Encourage honest conversations, including difficult topics, while respecting different perspectives.
- Approach decisions with curiosity, kindness, empathy, and awareness of personal bias.
- Support one another throughout the process and recognize that learning and growth are part of the journey.