

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPIC

2025 Human Services Needs Update and Human Services Commission's percentage allocation recommendations for all 2027-2028 human services funding.

Michael Shiosaki, Director, 452-5377

Toni Esparza, Assistant Director, 452-5379

Ruth Blaw, Human Services Manager 452-4185

Parks & Community Services Department

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DIRECTION

Staff will present the 2025 Human Services Needs Update. Staff seek direction to prepare a resolution approving the Human Services Commission's percentage allocation recommendations and contingency plan for all 2027-2028 human services funding including the 2027-2028 Human Services Fund, 2027-2028 Behavioral Health and Housing-Related Services Housing Stability Program and 2027 CDBG Public Services funds.

RECOMMENDATION

Consider directing staff to prepare a resolution approving the Human Services Commission's recommendations for percentage allocations for the 2027-2028 human services funding for action at a future Council meeting.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Every two years, the city's Human Services Division of Parks & Community Services conducts an extensive human service needs assessment to obtain a comprehensive picture of the human services needs and issues affecting Bellevue's most vulnerable residents. The Human Services Needs Update provides data to identify the areas of need which are used by the Human Services (HS) Commission to inform the funding recommendations to Council. The Human Services Commission is governed by Chapter 3.61 of the Bellevue City Code, which states that it shall review all requests for funding of human services and make recommendations to the City Council. The Needs Update is also used extensively by community-based agencies and their boards, resident groups, City staff, staff in other local jurisdictions, and faith communities for planning purposes.

The 2025 Needs Update gathered input from more than 700 community members through focus groups, surveys of residents and service providers, and interviews with subject matter experts.

Conducted during a year of significant federal funding cuts, the report identified substantial gaps across the human services continuum and four cross-cutting themes including persistent barriers to services that meet the cultural and linguistic needs of Bellevue's residents, provider strain and stigma and mistrust. The Analysis of the data revealed ten critical areas of need that informed the Commission's recommendations, including three life-sustaining priorities: food, housing and shelter, and financial assistance.

The Commission makes recommendations that advance Council priorities by supporting human services programs to meet community needs and increasing equitable access and outcomes. The Commission's recommendations are based on policy guidance in the Comprehensive Plan, the Human Services Strategic Plan, the Diversity Advantage Plan and data from the Human Services Needs Update indicating the areas of greatest need and disparity.

For the 2027-2028 human services funding cycle, the HS Commission has made recommendations for percentages of allocations of available human services funds. The percentages will inform the detailed allocation of funds to the agencies applying for 2027-2028 funds.

The Commission's recommendations include several funding sources: the Human Services Fund, Behavioral Health and Housing-Related Services Housing Stability Program (BHHRS) and potential Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

The 2027-2028 funding recommendations are included in two attachments. Attachment A provides an overview of the percentage of funding the Commission has recommended to be awarded to each area of need. Attachment B is a contingency plan for the Commission if adjustments to percentages are needed and/or if additional funds become available.

Funding Sources

Human Services Fund: The base Human Services Fund budget is calculated according to a formula (base amount + inflation adjustment + population growth). The Human Services Fund is awarded to local agencies providing services that address the most significant gaps and disparities for Bellevue residents.

Behavioral Health and Housing-Related Services: The Housing Stability Program is funded via a council-adopted 0.1% sales and use tax. Council approved allocating approximately 15 percent of the annual revenue from the Housing Stability Program to behavioral health and housing-related services. Applications for this ongoing program must meet the criteria adopted by Council in the Housing Stability Program Framework.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG): The annual amount of CDBG funding received by the city is based on a formula calculated by the federal Department of Housing & Urban Development. Bellevue's exact CDBG entitlement amount for 2027 will not be known until after the 2027 federal budget has been adopted. A cap of fifteen percent of the annual CDBG entitlement amount is designated for public service eligible activities. These funds are included in the commission's recommended percentage awards.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

Comprehensive Plan, Human Services Chapter

HS-13: Assess community needs and make recommendations to inform the city's human services funding priorities and decisions.

HS-19: Allocate funds and other resources throughout the continuum of human service needs by soliciting proposals from community agencies providing human services benefiting low- and moderate-income residents.

HS-21: Encourage and invest in culturally and linguistically specific service delivery that respects the dignity and honors the strengths that Bellevue's diverse individuals and families offer to the community, while supporting them to achieve their self-identified goals.

2024-2030 Human Services Strategic Plan:

1. Expand equity-focused and data-driven decision-making that best addresses the most significant community needs, prioritizing investments in the areas of greatest disparities for Bellevue residents.
2. Increase the capacity of Bellevue's human services system by providing equitable access to human services funding opportunities, to support organizations in meeting the needs of and reducing disparities among Bellevue's most marginalized residents.
3. Expand access for Bellevue residents to culturally and linguistically specific human services.

Diversity Advantage Plan 2035

E6.1: Strengthen equitable access to human services in ways that meet the diverse and evolving needs of Bellevue communities, and are delivered through approaches that are shaped by the culture, language and lived experiences of those receiving the services.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this.

OPTIONS

1. Direct staff to prepare a resolution approving the Human Services Commission's recommendations for percentage allocations for the 2027-2028 human services funding for action at a future Council meeting.
2. Provide alternate direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. 2027-2028 Human Services Percentage Funding Recommendations by Area
- B. Human Services Funding Contingency Plan
- C. Letter of Transmittal from the Human Services Commission

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N/A