

# Findings of 2021-22 Human Services Needs Update

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# Direction Needed from Council

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Information only; no direction required.



# Agenda

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1. History of Human Services
2. Role of the Human Services Commission
3. Regional Approach
4. Needs Update Overview
5. Methodology
6. Key Finding of the Human Services Needs Update
7. Next Steps



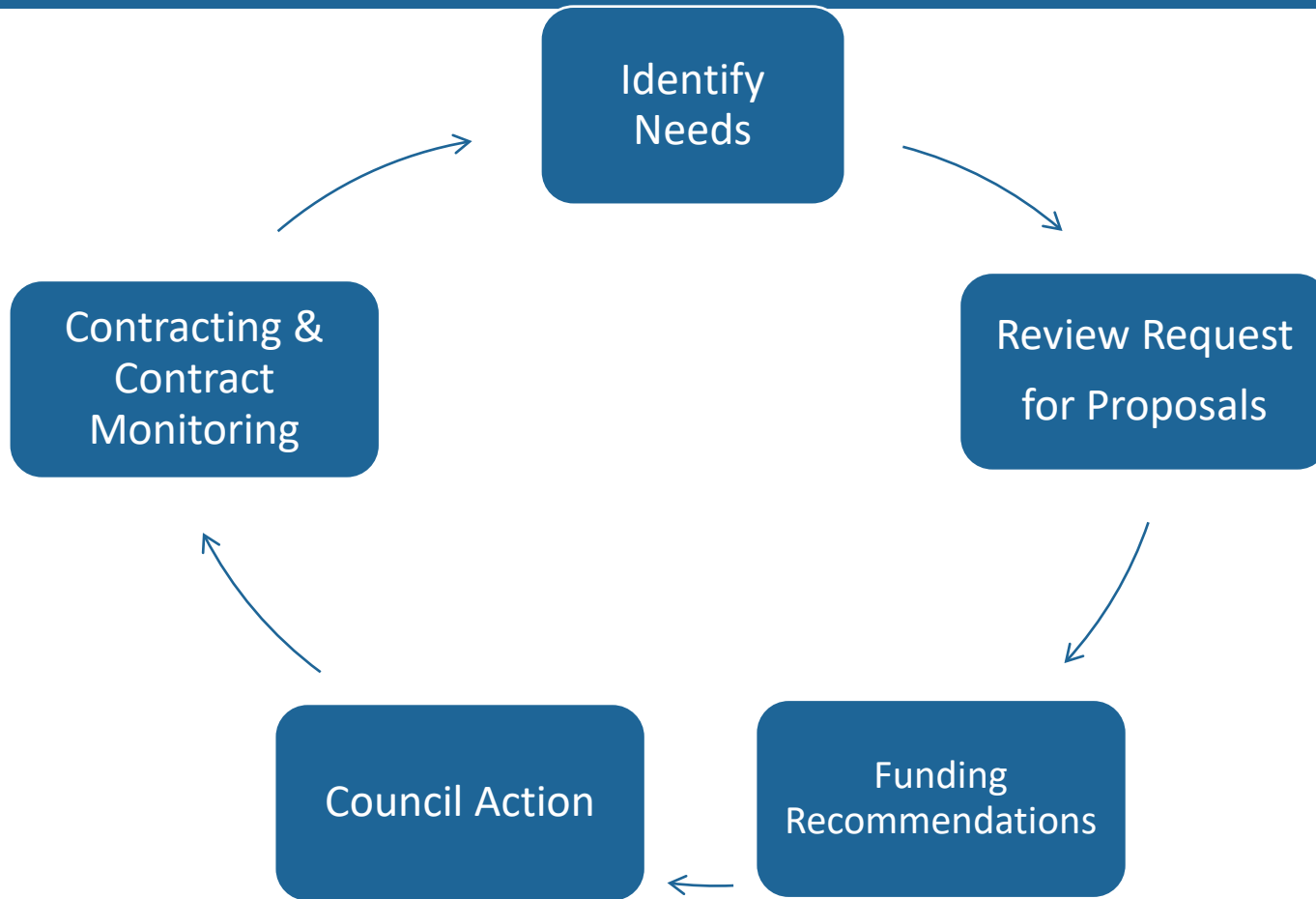
# History of Human Service

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- 1986: Council adopted human services policies; established the Human Services Commission.
- Defined role of City in Human Services: Planner, Facilitator & Funder.



# Role of the Human Service Commission



# Regional Approach

- Collaborate with Human Services staff from East King County Suburban Cities
- Joint Human Services Commission Meetings
- Ensure that Eastside voice is included in considerations for Regional Planning



# Needs Update Overview

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- Guides the recommendations of Human Services Commission for allocation of 2023-2024 Human Services Fund
- Directs the work of Human Services Division
- Provides information for providers, community groups and regional planning



# Methodology

- Phone/online survey
- Community conversations
- Provider surveys
- Consumer surveys





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# Key Findings



# Continuing Themes

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- Affordable Housing
- Living Wage
- Homelessness
- Behavioral Health
- Domestic Violence
- Transportation



# Emerging Themes



- Impact of COVID-19
- Culturally and linguistically responsive services
- Racial/ethnic discrimination and inequity



# COVID-19 Impacts



- Disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 for communities of color.
- Phone/online survey: Roughly 1 in 6 (16%) of Bellevue households experienced a decrease in their income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Human service providers continue to face increased capacity challenges. COVID-19 has caused a tremendous upsurge in service need, and a need to swiftly adjust how services are delivered.



# Affordable Housing

- Phone/online Survey: 74% rated *lack of affordable housing* as the number one community problem.
- Almost one in three (30%) of Bellevue renters are cost burdened.
- 31% of older adult renters pay more than 50% of their income towards rent.



# Living Wage

- Phone/online survey: 49% rated **people having jobs that do not pay enough for the basics** as a major or moderate community problem.
- Consumer survey: 36% of the respondents with an income below \$50,000 reported that they either rarely or never **can find work that supports themselves or their family.**



# Homelessness



- Phone/online survey: 46% identified homelessness as a major or moderate problem in the community.
- 2020 Count Us In: 446 unsheltered individuals in East King County counted. 32% increase from the 2019 count.
- Bellevue School District: 333 students qualified as homeless under the McKinney -Vento Act in the 2020-2021 school year.

# Behavioral Health



- Phone/online survey: 24% of respondents rated **anxiety, stress, or depression which interferes with your daily life** as a major or moderate issue.
- Provider's survey: 58% reported that their clients need mental health care but cannot access it.
- Rate of youth suicidal ideation and attempt has been rising over the last several years.
- In King County, the number of fentanyl-involved overdose deaths between March and June 2020 was triple the number in the same months of 2019.





# Domestic Violence



- Phone/online survey: 27% of respondents rated Domestic Violence as a major or moderate community problem, which is a 9% increase from 2019.
- Domestic Violence homicides nearly doubled in 2020 compared to prior years.
- DV providers report an increase in request for services. Bellevue Police Department recorded 1,137 incidents where Domestic Violence was indicated in 2020, which is similar to past years.



# Culturally & Linguistically Responsive Services

- Nearly 55,000 Bellevue households speak a language other than English at home.
- Bellevue School District reports 104 languages spoken.
- Phone/online survey: 26% rated **lack of services for non-English speaker in the community** was a moderate or major problem.
- Community conversations: Providers stated that there is a need for more diverse staff who are not only bilingual but also culturally competent, highlighting the importance for behavioral health services.



# Racial and Ethnic Discrimination

- Phone/online survey: 35% rated **racial or ethnic discrimination** as a major or moderate community problem.
- Hate Crimes & Bias Incidents:
  - Bellevue Police Department received the following reports: Between January and June of 2021: 10 hate crimes and 12 bias incidents
  - In 2020: 18 hate crimes and 5 bias incidents
- King County Coalition Against Hate and Bias received 87 reports of hate crimes and bias incidents in East King County between April 2020 and May 2021.

# Access to Transportation



- Provider's survey: 63% reported that transportation was a barrier to accessing services for their clients.
- Phone/online survey: 41% rated **inadequate public transportation** as a community problem and 41% rated **lack of other transportation option (besides public transportation)** as a community problem.



# Next Steps



- Continued coordination between departments and plans
- Funding application for Human Services Fund is available mid-March
- Completed non-profit applications due in mid-April
- Recommendations brought to Council Fall 2022.



# Direction Needed from Council

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Information only; no direction required.

