

MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &
Community Services

DATE: February 1, 2022

TO: Human Services Commission Members

FROM: Toni Esparza, Assistant Director
Parks and Community Services Department

SUBJECT: Agenda Item for Tuesday, February 1, 2022
Planning for upcoming funding process

Staff will bring recommendations for the Commission's consideration on the following topics relative to the upcoming funding process:

- **Equity Priorities for the funding review process**

Bellevue City Council and the Human Services Commission have committed to ongoing process improvements that may increase equity in the funding process. To support this effort, staff have drafted the following Equity Priorities for the Commission's review and potential adoption, to be considered during the funding application review process.

DRAFT Equity Priorities

1. Data from the Human Services Needs Update shows inequitable access to services for residents of color.
2. Data from the Human Services Needs Update shows the need for linguistically and culturally specific services; this goes beyond an agency using a language line. Residents have identified a need for agencies that are designed to address the specific linguistic and cultural needs of their community.
3. Council has expressed a desire to see funding extended to small agencies and/or agencies that hold a specific expertise in serving a marginalized community.

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4. While the COVID-19 pandemic has had negative repercussions across the community, certain populations have been disproportionately impacted:
 - Residents of color
 - Individuals with disabilities
 - Low-income individuals
5. Human Services Agencies are experiencing staffing shortages, increased operating costs, and increased demand for services. Adequate support for agency operating expenses is crucial, to maintain the safety net of services in the community.

- **DRAFT Supplemental Information for Agencies**

Dee Dee Catalano, Human Services Grant Coordinator, will present a DRAFT of the Bellevue-specific Supplemental Information for agencies, and seek the Commission's input.

- **Mutual commitments for commissioners**

The Human Services Commission dedicates immense time during Commission meetings, and also outside of Commission meetings, during the funding application review process. As we will potentially have several new Commissioners participating in this year's review, staff suggest that the Commission adopt "Mutual Commitments" to provide clarity on what Commissioners feel is necessary to the process, and to ensure that new Commissioners feel informed and oriented.

DRAFT Mutual Commitments

1. Commissioners will read the Human Services Needs Update to inform recommendations
2. All commissioners commit to reading all applications
3. Commissioners commit to meeting at least one time with their "partner" outside of the regular meeting schedule to review assigned applications on a more in-depth basis