



City of Bellevue

Parks & Community Services

DATE: October 24, 2022

TO: Mayor Robinson, Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis, and City Councilmembers

FROM: Ben Piper, Chair, Human Services Commission

SUBJECT: The 2023-2024 Human Services Fund, 2023-2024 Behavioral Health and Housing-Related Services Housing Stability Program and 2023 Community Development Block Grant Funding Recommendations

Overview

The Human Services Commission has completed its work reviewing and recommending contract awards for the 2023-2024 Human Services Fund, 2023-2024 Behavioral Health and Housing-Related Services Housing Stability Program and the 2023 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). We look forward to presenting our recommendations to you at your October 24, 2022, Council meeting. A summary of the recommendations can be found in Attachments B, C and D.

Our task was challenging because we received more than double the amount in requests than we have funding available in the Human Services General Fund budget. The Commission is pleased to recommend a total funding package of \$7,917,389 for 2023:

- \$4,821,131 from the Human Services General Fund in 2023, based on the funding formula adopted by Council in 2002 (base funding + inflation + population growth) and approximately \$500,000 of Amazon donation to the City; and
- \$1,751,658 from the Housing Stability Program in 2023; and
- \$1,333,800 in estimated 2023 CDBG funds, which includes \$249,995 in estimated program income generated by repayments of major home repair loans

For the second year of the biennium all Human Services Fund contracts and Behavioral Health and Housing-Related Services Housing Stability Program contracts will receive a cost-of-living increase, currently projected to be 4.7%. This increase is subject to a mid-biennium review of fund availability and each program's 2023 contract performance.

Emphasis on Equity

The Eastside cities Human Services Commissions were committed to an equitable application process that removed as many barriers as possible for smaller agencies that represent underserved populations. Bellevue participated in the following efforts:

- Created a more streamlined application that only required information necessary to make funding decisions to reduce the burden of applying.
- Encouraged small, grassroots organizations to meet one-on-one with staff to learn about application process, requirements and answer any questions.
- Offered technical assistance during the application process, which included support determining services units and outcomes, completing the budget form, and answering any other questions agencies had during the process.
- Participated in equity training for Commissioners and staff before applications were reviewed.
- Promoted acceptance of funding application in all languages and offered to have application translated to preferred language upon request.

Review Process

The foundation of our work was the *2021-2022 Bellevue Human Services Needs Update* which provided data that informed our review of applications and funding recommendations.

The *Needs Update* identified the following themes that emerged throughout the document:

- Increased needs will continue post-pandemic
- High cost of living in Bellevue
- Lack of access for certain groups
- Challenges experienced by human services agencies

The Needs Update identifies the following areas of need with a significant increase:

- Behavioral Health
- Homelessness
- Racial and Ethnic Discrimination
- Domestic Violence
- Legal Services

The Commission conducted a systematic and thorough review process.

- The Human Services Fund considerations emphasized the City's policy of allocating funds across the continuum of human service needs (Comprehensive Plan Policy HS-4).
- The Housing Stability Program focuses on behavioral health and housing-related services.
- The federal Community Block Grant Program allows the City to invest in the health of the City housing stock through its housing repair assistance program and support the development of small businesses through a microenterprise support program.

Conclusion

We wish to thank the City Council for your ongoing support of human services in Bellevue. The City's investment is crucial to support the community safety net and to provide the resources necessary for all of Bellevue's residents to thrive and achieve their full potential.

cc: Human Services Commission
 Michael Shiosaki, Director
 Toni Esparza, Assistant Director
 Leslie Miller, Human Services Manager