

# MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &  
Community Services

DATE: November 15, 2022

TO: Human Services Commission Members

FROM: Christy Stangland, Human Services Planner  
Parks & Community Services Department

SUBJECT: Services, Trends, and Issues for Older Adults

Commissioners will hear from a panel of subject matter experts regarding some of the services provided to the older adult population and the unmet needs that exist.

## **Background**

This is the first in a series of panels that will be provided to the Commissioners to prepare for future funding rounds.

Panel presentations will include an explanation of services provided to older adults then discussion on trends and issues/challenges they are seeing for Bellevue's older adult residents. Voices of both service providers and older adults have been included.

## Presenters

Dan Lassiter, Bellevue Community Services Supervisor, Bellevue Network On Aging  
Natasha Grossman, Bellevue Program Manager, Bellevue Fire CARES Program  
Olga Nikitina, Case Management Supervisor, Chinese Information Services Center (CISC)  
Lalita Uppala, Executive Director, Indian American Community Services (IACS)  
Dale Hoover, Brand Ambassador, Sound Generation

## Related information and data:

- 18% of Bellevue residents are 65 years of age and older
- 29% of this population speak a language other than English at home. The effects of a diverse older adult population in Bellevue continues to have an impact on service needs and delivery.
- Poverty and housing: About 8% of older adults in Bellevue age 65 and over had income below the Federal Poverty Level. In Bellevue there are only 400 affordable (below market) rental units specifically for low-income older adults; and almost one-third of senior renters in Bellevue spend more than 50% of their income on housing.

- Unmet needs: In the 2021 Bellevue Community Phone and Online Survey, 31% of the survey respondents rate lack of services for elderly persons as a major or moderate community problem. Bellevue Fire CARES reports that they have seen an increase in older adults who need help maintaining their homes and needing assistance for food insecurity.
- Disability: In King County, 32% of older adults age 65 and older have a disability. Data shows that disability increases with poverty. For example, in King County 45% of people age 65 and older who live in poverty have physical disabilities and in Bellevue 66% of people age 65 and older who are living in poverty have at least one disability.
- Elder Abuse: Approximately 1 in 10 Americans aged 60+ have experienced some form of elder abuse. The Bellevue's Police Department's data indicates an overall increase of Adult Protective Services (APS) referral. In 2020, there were 89 APS referrals involving potential financial exploitation and 138 allegations of abuse. Out of the 227 referrals, 61 cases were assigned to the BPD Detective for further investigation. Nationally, individuals aged 65 and older account for 20% of all suicide deaths.