



City of Bellevue

Parks &amp; Community Services

DATE: May 1, 2023

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

FROM: Ted Mansfield, Chair, Human Services Commission

SUBJECT: The 2023-2024 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)  
Critical Human Services Needs Funding Recommendations

### Overview

The Human Services Commission has completed its work reviewing and recommending contract awards for the 2023-2024 ARPA Critical Human Services Needs funding. Eligible categories included basic needs, behavioral health services, childcare, civil legal aid, domestic violence and sexual assault survivor services, food insecurity, fostering well-being in the face of racial and ethnic discrimination, and homelessness services. Our task was challenging as 33 Agencies submitted a total of 46 applications requesting over \$7 million for the \$3,050,585 available. We look forward to presenting our recommendations to you at the May 1, 2023, Council meeting. A summary of the recommendations can be found in Attachment B.

### Emphasis on Equity

The Human Services Commission was committed to an equitable application process that removed as many barriers as possible to prioritize applications with services to communities disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. To achieve greater equity staff supported our process in the following ways:

- To reduce the burden of applying, they created an accessible application that only required information necessary to make funding decisions and ensure that agencies were qualified to receive federal funding.
- Staff required that agencies meet one-on-one to encourage small, grassroots organizations to learn about the application process and answer any questions.
- Before we reviewed the applications, the Diversity Advantage Team provided an overview of the City's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging work and human services staff began each deliberation meeting with a Creating a Culture of Equity moment to center our work.
- Staff offered technical assistance to agencies throughout the application and review process, which included support identifying services units and outcomes, completing the budget form, and answering any other questions agencies had during the process.

### Conclusion

We wish to thank the City Council for your ongoing support of human services in Bellevue. The COVID-19 pandemic has created significant disruptions in many Bellevue residents' lives and 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