

**CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION**

Information and discussion regarding the Human Services Commission's recommendations for the 2023-2024 ARPA Critical Human Services Needs Funding and information on a Human Services Strategic Plan.

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*Parks & Community Services*

**DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL****DIRECTION**

Staff seek direction to prepare a resolution approving the Human Services Commission's recommendations for the 2023-2024 ARPA Critical Human Services Needs Funding for final action at a future meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Direct staff to prepare a resolution approving the Human Services Commission's recommendations for the 2023-2024 ARPA Critical Human Services Needs Funding.

**BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS****Background**

The City Council allocated \$10 million of the second tranche of American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funding for human services last fall. \$2.4 million was allocated for rental and mortgage assistance for immediate use and \$7.6 million was allocated for 2023-2024 with the adoption of the City's 2023-2024 budget. The \$7.6 million was allocated for four purposes. Approximately \$1.6 million was allocated to ensure the four 24/7 enhanced shelters received their full funding ask from the City of Bellevue; approximately \$2.7 million was allocated for additional funding for rental and mortgage assistance in 2023-2024; approximately \$3 million was allocated to address other critical human services needs in the community; and approximately \$300,000 was allocated to fund a limited-term employee (LTE) Human Services Planner to administer the funds including monitoring expenditures and required backup documentation.

Tonight, Council will review a presentation covering the Human Services Commission's recommendations for the \$3 million addressing critical human services needs in the community.

The City released an RFP in mid-January to address areas identified as the most critical human service needs of residents: basic needs; behavioral health services; child care; 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. In February, 35 agencies submitted 46 program applications requesting over \$7 million in funding. The summary table below shows the amount of funding available, the amount of funding requested and the number of applicants for each area of critical need.

**Applicant Summary for All Areas**

<b>Critical Area Need</b>	<b>\$ Available</b>	<b>\$ Requested</b>	<b># of Applications</b>
Basic Needs	\$115,804	\$444,849	7
Behavioral Health Services	\$277,154	\$650,613	6
Child Care ***	\$387,903	\$250,000	1
Civil Legal Aid	\$83,719	\$125,421	2
Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Survivor Services	\$228,594	\$266,420	4
Food Insecurity	\$294,961	\$895,970	8
Fostering Well-Being in the Face of Racial and Ethnic Discrimination	\$819,560	\$1,775,972	9
Homelessness Services	\$842,890	\$2,667,921	9
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$3,050,585</b>	<b>\$7,077,166</b>	<b>46</b>

\*\*\* Since there was only one request for childcare funding, the Commission recommends allocating the remaining dollars to Civil Legal Aid, Behavioral Health Services, Fostering Well-Being in the Face of Racial and Ethnic Discrimination, and Homelessness Services.

Of the 32 agencies applying for funding, six were from agencies not currently funded. Five of these new agencies are recommended to be funded, in addition to 23 previously funded agencies. A more detailed description of the Commission’s review process and funding recommendations is included in the attached Transmittal Letter from the Human Services Commission Chair in Attachment A. The Commission’s 2023-2024 ARPA Critical Human Services Needs funding recommendations are found in Attachment B.

**Human Services Strategic Plan**

In response to the increasing demand for human services and Council's expressed concerns about addressing these increased needs when pandemic funding is depleted, city leadership approved the Parks & Community Services Department to release an RFP for a consultant to complete the 2023-24 Human Services Needs Update and the City’s first Human Services Strategic Plan. The Human Services Needs Update provides a compilation of data identifying human service needs in Bellevue and the region. A human services strategic plan will provide direction on an actionable way to address the human services needs and gaps in services through strategies, goals, and actions. Input will be gathered from residents, including those who use human services; human services providers; the Human Services Commission; and Council on the development of the plan. Outreach efforts will be culturally-responsive, including language translation/interpretation, to ensure diverse members of the community are included.

**POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS**

**Policy Impact**

The Human Services Commission is governed by Chapter 3.61 of the Bellevue City Code, which states that it shall review all requests for funding of human services and make recommendations to the City Council.

HS-3 Identify opportunities and develop strategies that are preventative in their approach to human services needs.

HS-8 Make Bellevue a welcoming, safe and just community marked by fairness and equity provided to those disproportionately affected by poverty, discrimination and victimization.

HS-11 Encourage culturally competent service delivery that respects the dignity of individuals and families, and fosters self-determination and self-sufficiency.

HS-16 Provide leadership and work in partnership with community agencies to encourage and promote the development and expansion of the supply of affordable, accessible, and quality child care which meets the diverse needs of the community in all areas of the city.

HS-18 Support an intentional local community response to homelessness with housing and supportive services provided to families, youth and single adults.

### **Fiscal Impact**

The proposed resolution will authorize the allocation of the \$3,050,585 of the 2023-2024 ARPA funds to local human services programs as recommended by the Human Services Commission.

### **OPTIONS**

1. Direct staff to prepare a resolution approving the Human Services Commission's recommendations for the 2023-2024 ARPA Critical Human Services Needs funding for final action at a future meeting.
2. Provide alternate direction to staff.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Letter of Transmittal from the Human Services Commission
- B. 2023-2024 ARPA Critical Human Services Needs Funding Recommendations by Area

### **AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY**

N/A