



MEMORANDUM

Phone: 452-6884

Date: October 19, 2016

To: Mayor Stokes and City Councilmembers

From: James McEachran, Chair, Human Services Commission

Subject: Human Services Funding Recommendations for 2017-2018

Overview

The Human Services Commission has completed its work of reviewing and recommending grant awards for the 102 proposals that were submitted for the 2017-2018 Human Services Fund and the 2017 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 Study Session on November 7, 2016. A summary of the Human Services funding recommendations can be found in **Attachment A**. A summary of the CDBG funding recommendations is provided in **Attachment B**.

As in prior years, our task was challenging as we received over \$1,200,000 more in requests than we anticipate having funding available from the current funding formula for the Human Services Fund (inflation plus population growth) and the CDBG funds available for public services programs.

In summary, the Commission is pleased to recommend a total funding package of \$4,354,572 for 2017, including:

- \$3,431,425 from the Human Services Fund in 2017, based on the funding formula adopted by Council in 2002, as well as City staff charitable donations to the Human Services Fund. This amount also includes an additional \$150,000 for homeless services.
- \$923,147 in estimated 2017 CDBG funds, including prior years' funds and \$200,000 in estimated program income generated by repayments of CDBG loans.

For the second year of the biennium (2018), all Human Services Fund contracts will be increased by the rate of inflation and population growth, currently projected to be 2.29% and 1%, respectively, for a total of 3.29%. This is reflected in the column for 2018 recommendations in **Attachment A**. This increase is subject to the Commission's mid-biennium review of each program's 2017 contract performance. This increase does not apply to CDBG-funded programs.

Review Process

Our review of the 2017-18 grant applications was systematic, collaborative and thorough. The process began with the publication of the *2015-2016 Bellevue Human Services Needs Update*, which was presented to the Council in early 2016. The *Needs Update* provides the foundation upon which grant applications are reviewed. The Human Services Commission reaffirmed the City's policy of supporting the "full spectrum of community needs" (Comprehensive Plan Policy HS-4), and also emphasized the focus areas found in **Attachment D** in their review of new applications as well as previously funded programs. Those focus areas were selected because they address gaps that were identified in the *Needs Update*.

Human Services General Fund

A total of 97 applications were submitted for human service programs, including 28 applications for programs not previously funded. To sustain a stable core of services for Bellevue residents (also known as the safety net), the Commission placed a high priority on maintaining funding, and in a number of cases increasing funding, for the many programs that rely on this grant source for stable operating support. The Commission also recognized the increased need for services for those experiencing homelessness, such as shelters, day centers, and outreach services. The Commission recommends fully funding the requests for those services by using the additional \$150,000 that is included in the budget.

The Commission is recommending award levels above the projected 2017 inflation increase of 3.33% for 10 previously funded programs. These programs can be categorized as follows:

- 1) Housing with services, particularly for those moving from homelessness;
- 2) Early learning programs;
- 3) Services for seniors to help them remain in their homes;
- 4) Domestic violence programs;
- 5) Emergency food and other basic needs.

The Commission is recommending funding for six programs not previously funded. These new programs were identified because they addressed one of the focus areas and/or they met gaps documented in the *2015-2016 Human Services Needs Update*. They are as follows:

- **Application #3: Catholic Community Services Eastside Winter Shelter for Families** – Provides overnight shelter and an evening meal for up to 50 families experiencing homelessness. Although this is a new program for Catholic Community Services, the Eastside Winter Shelter for Families was funded in 2016 via The Sophia Way.
- **Application #5: Catholic Community Services New Bethlehem Day Center for Families** – Provides new day center services to homeless families including shelter referrals, showers, laundry facilities, and meals.
- **Application #15: Friends of Youth Homeless Youth Outreach & Drop-in Support** – Street outreach team travels throughout East and North King County to connect youth and young adults at risk of homelessness or experiencing homelessness.
- **Application #22: LifeWire Housing Stability Program** – A homeless prevention and diversion program pairing flexible financial assistance with advocacy services to help domestic violence survivors avoid or move out of homelessness quickly.
- **Application #47: India Association of Western Washington** – Provides a common identity to the Indian community and facilitates cultural, social and educational services and opportunities for cultural integration.
- **Application #83: AtWork! Community Access** – Provides support for adults with disabilities who are not working to engage in their community with non-disabled community members.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

The Human Services Commission made their 2017 CDBG funding recommendations based on an estimate of the City's 2017 entitlement amount (the estimate is the same as the 2016 entitlement). Because the exact entitlement amount will not be known until the first quarter of 2017, the Commission's recommendation includes a contingency plan (**Attachment C**) outlining how an increase or decrease in funding would be allocated. The City expects the 2017 entitlement amount to remain relatively flat.

Conclusion

We wish to thank the Council for recognizing the need to build the human services infrastructure in Bellevue, preserve the community safety net, and meet the increased need for services for people experiencing homelessness. The increase in demand for services and the City's increasingly diverse population add complexity and cost to the delivery of human services. The non-profit agencies are continually adjusting to new funding realities to promote Bellevue residents' access to food and shelter, support services for families, freedom from violence, mental and physical health services, and education and job opportunities.

cc: Human Services Commission
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