

November 7, 2016

## **CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION ITEM**

### **SUBJECT**

Discussion and information regarding the Human Services Commission's recommended use of 2017-2018 Human Services Fund and 2017 federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

### **STAFF CONTACTS**

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### **POLICY ISSUES**

The Human Services Commission was established under Ordinance No. 3729 and adopted on November 17, 1986. This Ordinance directs the Commission to provide recommendations to the City Council on all requests for human services funding.

### **DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL**

#### **ACTION**



#### **DIRECTION**



#### **INFORMATION ONLY**



Council will review and discuss the Human Services Commission's funding recommendations for the 2017-2018 Human Services Fund and 2017 CDBG funding. Final adoption will take place as part of the adoption of the City's budget in December.

### **BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**

The Human Services Commission devoted nine meetings in 2016 to craft a recommended spending plan for a combined total of \$4,580,267 in Human Services Fund and CDBG funding. This amount breaks down as follows:

- \$3,431,425 through the Human Services Fund and
- \$1,148,842 through CDBG (includes Program Income and unspent prior year funds)

The Human Services Fund budget includes an additional \$150,000 for homelessness services. The Commission is recommending using this funding for emergency shelters for men, women, and families; day centers for men, women, and families; and for homeless outreach services. This additional funding addresses the increased need for homeless services on the Eastside.

In total, 97 applications were reviewed, including 27 applications for programs that are not funded in the current 2015-2016 cycle. Five of these new programs are recommended for funding in 2017-2018. At over \$4.4 million, total requests for funding were \$1.2 million more than the estimated amount available

to fund. A more detailed description of the process and the Commission's recommendation is included in the attached Transmittal Letter from the Human Services Commission Chair.

The Human Services Fund is adjusted according to Council's formula (base + inflation adjustment + population growth). The Fund has been steadily increasing since the adoption of the formula. Since 2003, the amount available for the Human Services Fund has increased by 80 percent.

In contrast, the amount of CDBG from the federal government has declined overall this past decade, from a high of about \$872,000 in 2003 to \$635,872 in 2016. CDBG funding for 2017 is estimated to be close to the 2016 entitlement amount.

The Human Services Fund is generally applied toward local organizations operating programs whose purposes address the "full spectrum of community needs" (Comprehensive Plan, Human Services Element, Policy HS-4). This spectrum of needs is divided into five community goal areas as identified in the Human Services Element of the Comprehensive Plan. They are:

1. Food to eat and a roof overhead
2. Supportive relationships within families, neighborhoods and communities
3. A safe haven from all forms of violence and abuse
4. Health care to be as physically and mentally fit as possible
5. Education and job skills to lead an independent life

The CDBG funds may be applied toward local organizations engaging in activities that are eligible under national objectives defined in the Code of Federal Regulations. For the City of Bellevue, funded activities customarily meet the national objective to benefit low and moderate-income persons and have included:

- Acquisition of real property;
- Rehabilitation/repair of housing units;
- Limited public services programs; and
- Limited planning and administration of CDBG.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

N/A

## **RECOMMENDATION**

An ordinance approving the funding plan for 2017 CDBG funds and the Human Services Fund recommendations will be considered by Council concurrent with its approval of the 2017-2018 Operating Budget in December.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- A: Letter of Transmittal from the Human Services Commission
- B: 2017-2018 Human Services Fund Recommendations
- C: 2017 CDBG Recommendations
- D: 2017 CDBG Contingency Plan
- E: Application Review Criteria

**AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL DOCUMENT LIBRARY**

N/A