



City of Bellevue

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 12, 2020

TO: Human Services Commission Members

FROM: Alex O'Reilly, Human Services Manager, 425-452-2824
Human Services Division
Parks & Community Services Department

Agenda Item for August 18, 2020 Commission Meeting

Discussion: Shelter and Day Center Funding for 2021-2022

Background

With the increase in people experiencing homelessness throughout King County including the Eastside, there is a growing need for 24/7 shelters and day centers. This trend could potentially increase due to the COVID 19 pandemic, during which high unemployment resulting in lack of income to pay for rent might result in an unprecedented number of evictions leaving more people without homes.

More shelter beds for round the clock care and services create increased costs for staffing and other operational expenses for non-profit agencies. These costs are rising more quickly than the budgets that cities allocate for human services. Staff from the cities of Kirkland, Bellevue, Redmond, Issaquah and Sammamish have been in discussion over the past year on how to address the growth in agencies' requests for funding for shelters and day centers. Several ideas have been considered, including advocating for more county funding and reaching out to the business sector for increased support. While those efforts are in process and will continue, the current timeline for the funding cycle for presenting recommendations to the City Council is November, which means that the Bellevue Human Services Commission must have direction now about how to navigate shelter funding requests that total approximately 44% of available human service funding for the City of Bellevue.

Proposal

Staff request that the Human Services Commission identify a percentage of the City of Bellevue Human Service Fund to be set aside from which to make recommendations for funding requests from shelters and day centers. The following proposal is based on our best judgment on what would be a feasible increase for the shelters, while still maintaining funds to allocate to the rest of the continuum of human services. Shelters rely upon this spectrum of service providers, and the stability of the human service safety net is vital to prevent additional residents from experiencing homelessness. Staff recommend that this action be reviewed during every two-year funding cycle to determine whether such a set aside is still needed and if it is, to ensure that it is in alignment with city resources and community need.

Staff propose two options shown in the chart below for setting aside Human Services Fund dollars for shelters and day centers. In 2021 the total request from these agencies is \$1,718,908. The chart below indicates what 20% and 25% of the 2021 funds available would represent. Though both options are less

than the requested amount, either would represent a substantial increase over funding allocated to these agencies in 2020.

	2020	2021	
Total Human Services Budget	\$3,786,221	\$3,908,600	
Total 2021 Request for Shelters/Day Centers	N/A	\$1,718,908 (44%)	
% & \$ Funds Allocated to Shelters/Day Centers	15%	20%	25%
	\$536,864	\$781,720	\$977,150
\$ Increase Over 2020 Amount	N/A	\$244,856	\$440,286

Action

Staff request that Commissioners vote at this meeting to approve either of the percentages indicated or propose an alternative percentage of the Human Services Funds available for 2021-2022 to be set aside for shelters and day centers.

Next Steps

At the September 1 Human Services Commission meeting, Commissioners will make recommendations for the funding for the applications in Goal 1, with shelters and day centers having a separate amount of funds set aside from the entire amount to distribute.