



# City of Bellevue

## MEMORANDUM

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**DATE:** September 30, 2020

**TO:** Human Services Commission Members

**FROM:** Dee Dee Catalano, Grant Coordinator, 425-452-6165  
Human Services Division  
Parks & Community Services Department

### **Agenda Item for October 6, 2020 Commission Meeting**

#### **Public Hearing on Preliminary 2021-2022 Human Services General Fund Funding Recommendations**

The Commission will hold a public hearing on their preliminary 2021-2022 Human Services General Fund funding recommendations. As staff finalized the draft recommendations, they identified a number of themes that stood out:

- The Commission applied an equity lens to all of the applications that they considered. That thoughtful process is reflected in the fact that of the 11 new programs that were recommended for funding, 5 are focusing on Black/Indigenous/People of Color, or people with disabilities. Addressing equity in providing access to these populations was a priority that was woven throughout the discussions.
- The Commission also noted in their discussions the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in all the services areas, but in particular those related to basic needs such as housing and food. They acknowledged the critical importance of the shelters and day centers serving single adults, families with children and youth experiencing homelessness and increased their funding recommendations to the greatest extent possible. This was done without harming the critical network of human services on a continuum that are needed to provide prevention, such as emergency financial assistance, and intervention services, such as mental health and substance use disorder.
- Knowing that the lack of affordable childcare is a gap now more than ever before, and that impacts the ability of parents and caregivers to work, the Commission recommended increased or full funding for almost all of the applications providing this service.
- Recommendations for behavioral health services, especially for youth who are experiencing additional stress due to the challenges related to the pandemic, were kept flat or increased whenever possible.
- With the potential for increased evictions and landlord-tenant conflicts, the Commission recommended investing in increased services for free legal assistance.
- Recommendations for funding for domestic violence programs were kept flat or increased to address the rising numbers of people needing these services.

Following the public hearing, the Commission will vote on their final 2021-2022 funding recommendations.