

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

Discussion and information regarding the Human Services Commission's recommendations for 2021-2022 Behavioral Health and Housing Related Services Funds.

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DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL**DIRECTION**

Staff is seeking direction to prepare an Ordinance adopting the Human Services Commission's funding recommendations for the 2021-2022 Behavioral Health and Housing Related Services Funds.

RECOMMENDATION

Provide direction to staff to prepare an Ordinance adopting the Human Services Commission's funding recommendations for the 2021-2022 Behavioral Health and Housing Related Services Funds.

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

The City Council enacted Resolution No. 9826 on October 12, 2020, which allows the City to collect monies under Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 82.14.530. The State Legislature adopted House Bill 1590 during the 2020 legislative session to amend RCW 82.14.530, which allows for an increase of up to 0.1 percent sales and use tax to be imposed for housing and related services. During the 2021 legislative session, the Legislature adopted House Bill 1070, which modified RCW 82.14.530 by expanding the allowed uses of local tax revenue for housing and related services.

At least 60 percent of the funds must be allocated and/or spent for the following:

- Constructing or acquiring affordable housing, which includes emergency, transitional, and supportive housing and new units of affordable housing within an existing structure, or acquiring land for these purposes;
- Constructing or acquiring facilities providing housing-related services, or acquiring land for these purposes;
- Constructing or acquiring behavioral health-related facilities, or acquiring land for these purposes;
- Funding the operations and maintenance costs of new units of affordable housing;
- Funding the operation and maintenance costs of new facilities where housing-related programs are provided; or

- Funding the operation and maintenance costs of newly constructed evaluation and treatment centers.

In addition, RCW 82.14.530 mandates the above funding related to the affordable housing and facilities providing housing-related services in section 2(a)(i) of the RCW must serve only the following individuals whose income is at or below sixty percent of the area median income (AMI) of the county where the tax is imposed:

- Persons with behavioral health disabilities;
- Veterans;
- Senior citizens;
- Persons who are homeless or at risk of being homeless, including families with children;
- Unaccompanied homeless youth or young adults;
- Persons with disabilities; or
- Domestic violence survivors.

The remainder of the monies collected (no more than 40 percent) must be used for the operation, delivery, or evaluation of: (1) behavioral health treatment programs and services or (2) housing-related services. The AMI requirements and population requirements do not apply to the forty percent spending parameters.

Previous Direction

On May 3, staff sought direction from Council to initiate a Request for Proposals (RFP) process to fund behavioral health and housing-related services under the following priority areas of behavioral health services, supportive services, and rental assistance. Staff described a need for additional behavioral health and housing related services in the community to help individuals and families achieve housing stability, as these services were critically needed before the pandemic and this need has only grown during the pandemic. Council approved the RFP process as part of the work plan.

Behavioral Health and Housing Related Services Funds

The Human Services Commission reviewed 25 applications over two virtual meetings to draft their recommendations related to the RFP entitled “2021-2022 Behavioral Health and Housing Related Services” funding.

The funding requests that were received totaled \$3,314,008, which is over \$1.7 million more than the available budget of \$1.6 million. 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 (Attachment A). The 2021-2022 funding recommendations are in Attachment B.

Upon Council approval, funds will be awarded to local agencies operating programs that address the following service areas as specified by this funding source. These are:

Behavioral Health Services: Same day mental health and substance use disorder assessments and treatment; culturally responsive behavioral health services designed to meet historically underserved populations’ needs; services collocated at facilities and/or housing

properties; and behavioral health therapeutic case management.

Supportive Services: Case management that helps an individual or family achieve housing stability.

Rental Assistance: Rental assistance; funds to assist with move-in costs.

Additional outreach was conducted to agencies that provide services to support Bellevue's diverse populations, many of whom have been disproportionately impacted and historically underserved: people of color, LGBTQIA population, people with disabilities, older adults, and youth. The Commission applied an equity lens to all of the applications that they considered. Of the 25 applications reviewed, eight were submitted by agencies that are led by and for Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC). Of these, five were recommended for funding for a total of \$357,425, which represents 21.54 percent of all recommendations.

The Commission's recommendations reflect their particular focus on the increased need for culturally responsive behavioral health services. They also recognized that many Bellevue residents are still struggling to find rental and move in assistance and recommended that almost half of the available funds (48.8 percent) be allocated to community organizations for this purpose. Only four applications were received for the supportive services category and three were recommended for funding, acknowledging the importance of case management services that help individuals and families find and maintain housing stability.

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 Council. See BCC 3.61.070(B).

As part of the HB 1590 Interest Statement adopted by the City Council on February 1, staff presented a supporting document that brings together the adopted policies, identified needs, and strategies that guide the projects, programs, and services that may be implemented by funding under RCW 82.14.530. This consolidated policy document may be found in the Council Library.

Fiscal Impact

The proposed 2021-2022 Behavioral Health and Housing Related Services funding Ordinance will authorize the allocation of funding to community organizations as recommended by the Human Services Commission.

OPTIONS

1. Provide direction to staff to prepare an Ordinance adopting the Human Services Commission's funding recommendations for the 2021-2022 Behavioral Health and Housing Related Services Funds.
2. Provide alternate direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

- A. Letter of Transmittal from the Human Services Commission
- B. 2021-2022 Behavioral Health and Housing Related Services fund recommendations

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

HB 1590 Interest Statement
Consolidated Policies and Needs for the HB 1590 Interest Statement