EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Human Services Needs Update 2013-2014

City of Bellevue
Parks & Community Services Department
www.bellevuewa.gov
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Special thanks to all of the human services agencies that provided photos for this document.
Understanding Our Neighbors’ Needs

Every two years, the City of Bellevue publishes a Needs Update documenting the human services needs of people in our community. Understanding what people need, and how those needs are changing over time, is a key part of a deeply-held, citywide commitment to helping the most vulnerable of our neighbors. The most recent recession has officially ended, but it continues to take a toll on many residents, financially, physically and emotionally. These are individuals who come from all walks of life. Through this report, we hope to provide a broad vision and context for understanding human services needs and ultimately inspire action that will ameliorate barriers to achieving a high-quality life for all Bellevue residents.

A conceptual model called “Collective Impact” is being used more frequently as a framework for planning these days, in human services, education, transportation, city planning and other service areas. Simply, collective impact refers to the commitment of a group of people from different sectors to a common agenda and shared measurement for solving a specific problem. Eastside Pathways, an expansive Collective Impact initiative which began in Bellevue in 2011, has the goal that every child in the Bellevue School District will have a chance at success in school and in life. Community partners include the Bellevue School District, the City of Bellevue, the Bellevue Schools Foundation, Bellevue College, and numerous human service and other non-profits that want to support children youth and families in Bellevue to achieve this goal. Collective Impact is referenced throughout this report with the hope that it slowly becomes ingrained in the work of all those who touch the lives of Bellevue residents.

We begin gathering information for the Needs Update by convening community conversations, asking the community to complete a variety of surveys and conducting one-on-one interviews. We also analyzed data using information from the 2010 U.S. Census, the 2010-2012 American Community Survey, King County, United Way of King County, and other local and national public and non-profit sources. The result is a rich picture of our community that allows us to understand what is happening and then take action.

Key Issues for 2013-2014:

Five issues came up repeatedly in our research and in our conversations in the community. (Note: these are not in priority order.)

- The Affordable Care Act – Implication for Bellevue
- Affordable Housing
- Employment
- Support for Older Adults
- Diversity

This Executive Summary presents a snapshot of each of these five key issues—some current conditions and trends, and our response, or “What Are We Doing?” as a community. Other areas that need our attention, such as domestic violence and low cost legal services, are equally important; more information about these and other areas can be found in the full report, available at: www.bellevuewa.gov/humanservices_needs_update.htm
Community Profile
As our data review shows, Bellevue is changing.
- Since 2000, population growth in Bellevue slowed to about 1% annually, but some census tracts within the downtown and southeastern part of Bellevue are experiencing higher rates of growth. In 2013, Bellevue’s population was estimated at 132,100.
- The population is growing older. According to the 2010 Census, 13.9% of Bellevue residents were 65 or older. Bellevue has the highest proportion of older adults compared to Washington State, King County, and Seattle.
- The population is growing more diverse, with non-White residents making up almost 41% of the population in 2010. Bellevue is more racially diverse than the county overall and has the highest percentage (36%) of foreign-born residents in the county, State, and U.S.
- More people are living in poverty. Bellevue’s median income is higher than King County’s, but poverty levels for individuals have increased from 5.6% in 1990 to 7.5% in 2012. However, the poverty rate is higher for families with a female householder, no husband present with children under 18 years old (11.4%).

Bellevue Population: 1953 - 2013

Bellevue’s population since incorporation in 1953 to April 2013.

Key Issues for 2013-2014

The Affordable Care Act - Implications for Bellevue
In 2010, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA)was passed. The implementation of this act will have significant implications for Bellevue residents, businesses, and social service agencies.

- The ACA requires most citizens and legal permanent residents to have health coverage as defined by the federal government. Employers, with 50 or more employees, are required to provide health coverage or pay a fee of $2000 per employee by 2015. State Medicaid has expanded to cover all people under age 65 who have income up to 138% of the federal poverty level. King County estimates that 80,000 currently uninsured residents will be eligible for the Medicaid expansion.
- In Bellevue, about 11,500 adults (14%) under age 65 are uninsured.
- Open enrollment in the new health care system began on October 1, 2013, and will continue until March 31, 2014.
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services provided $150 million for “In-Person Assisters” to help people navigate their health plan options under the ACA. Public Health Seattle-King County is partnering with local communities and organizations to provide In-Person Assisters at public events.

What We Are Doing: City of Bellevue staff worked with Public Health Seattle-King
County to provide free space in Bellevue City Hall and community centers for In-Person Assistants to assist residents in enrolling in either Medicaid or one of the plans offered through the Washington Health Benefits Exchange. Bellevue has also coordinated with other East King county cities to hold enrollment events at regular intervals in the region.

**Affordable Housing**

Although home prices fell nationally beginning in 2009, they have started to rebound in Bellevue and are still high enough that affordable housing remains an issue for 51% of residents according to the phone/online survey. The rate is down from two years ago when 61% reported affordable housing as a community concern, but it is still the number one reported issue in Bellevue.

- The median price for all Eastside homes and condos in April 2013 was $600,000. This is a 38% increase compared to $412,000 in November 2011, which is still significantly more than the median-income family could afford.
- The Eastside continues to have the highest average rents compared to other parts of the county. The average rent has continued to increase with fewer incentives such as rent reductions offered.
- Nearly 37% of Bellevue renters and 38% of homeowners pay more than 30% of their income for housing. The rate of cost-burdened renters has lowered slightly, while the rate of cost-burdened home owners has risen slightly.
- Housing for older adults and people with disabilities is even more challenging given these populations have special needs and often, lower income status.
- The annual One Night Count of the Homeless in 2013 found 197 unsheltered individuals in East King County, a rise from the 138 found in 2012.
- In September, 2013, the Bellevue School District reported 120 homeless students, compared to 83 at the same time in 2012.

**What We’re Doing:** Bellevue participates in A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH) and, since 1993, about 3,480 units of affordable housing have been created or will soon become available on the Eastside due to ARCH’s contributions. In 2007 the YWCA opened a day drop-in center for homeless women on the Eastside; in 2008 The Sophia Way, a women’s shelter, was created initially under the umbrella of Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council (EISCC). The Sophia Way served 103 women and 27 children in the winter of 2012-2013. In 2012 Bellevue helped create or preserve 91 low income units and 11 moder-
The aging of a large segment of the population profoundly impacts and shapes the type of services and supports that will be needed in our communities. In Bellevue, 13.9% of residents are 65 years of age or older. Within the group of older adults, the largest percentage are 65-74 years of age, this is 51.3% of the population, followed by the 75-84 year age group, at 33%

**Employment**

The unemployment rate rose sharply between 2007 and 2009 as the recession created significant job losses. Nationally, the rate went from 4.7% in 2007 to almost 10% in 2009 and has dropped to 7% in the years following the recession. In Bellevue in November 2013, the rate was 5.6%. In 2013, over 35% of Bellevue residents reported that unemployment was a significant community problem, decreasing from 50% in 2011.

- Though Washington State has the highest minimum wage in the nation, it still is not a living wage, defined as the minimum income needed to purchase the basics without assistance from public programs.

- In Bellevue, it has been estimated that a single adult with two children needs to earn about $30.37/hour to make ends meet. However, many jobs available in this economy pay less than that and do not provide benefits.

- Childcare rates are the highest in East King County. For a family with an infant and a pre-schooler in full-time care, it can cost between $22,932 and $29,744 annually. Subsidies are needed by many families who cannot pay the full cost of quality care, but State and Federal funding for this purpose is decreasing and eligibility guidelines are tightening.

- Support for employment training is important to help people retrain for jobs that are available in the new economy. Especially important are programs that include ESL classes with job-related content and technology skills for older workers.

**What We’re Doing:** We provide low-income families who do not qualify for State childcare subsidy scholarships so they can continue to work. We work with a number of agencies to provide vocational ESL that includes childcare. We support job training programs for adults, including newly unemployed people and people with disabilities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2012 Living Wage Comparison</th>
<th>Bellevue WA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family Type</strong></td>
<td>Alliance WA State Avg.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Single Adult</td>
<td>$16.13/hr.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$33,544/yr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Single Adult with a school aged child (6-8 years)</td>
<td>$21.47/hr.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>$44,644/yr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Single Adult with a school-aged child and a toddler (12-24 months)</td>
<td>$28.71/hr.</td>
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<td>$59,715/yr.</td>
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<td>Two Adults (both working) with a school-aged child and a toddler</td>
<td>$29.42/hr.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$61,188/yr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two Adults (one working) with a school-aged child and a toddler</td>
<td>$38.21/hr.</td>
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<td>$79,478/yr.</td>
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**Supporting Older Adults**

The aging of a large segment of the population profoundly impacts and shapes the type of services and supports that will be needed in our communities. In Bellevue, 13.9% of residents...
of the population and then 85 years and over, 15.6% of the population.

- Older adults may need additional services and assistance as they age in place, and may not have the resources to pay for them given the high cost of living and the decreasing value of their retirement assets and savings.

- The need for long term care options is increasing as older adults live longer. Continued cuts to State funding for adult day health services and transportation has created challenges for older adults and people with disabilities, as well as their caregivers who need respite and support.

- The recession has been especially challenging for many older adults who live on fixed incomes. More are returning to the workforce to make ends meet.

- Transportation is a major access issue for older adults. About 13% of Bellevue residents over 65 do not have a vehicle. Requests for volunteer transportation rides are on the rise.

- Older adult abuse reports are increasing Statewide. Estimates are that for every report of abuse or neglect, about five go underreported.

- There is also a need for affordable and accessible housing for older adults. Housing affordability is defined as paying 30% or less of one’s income towards housing. It is estimated that in Bellevue, in 2008-2010, over 54% of older adult renters paid 30% or more of their income on housing.

- Many older adults are raising grandchildren. The rate nationally of grandparents raising grandchildren rose 46% between the 2000 and 2010 census. In Bellevue, 180 individuals identified themselves as parenting grandchildren during 2010-2012.

**What We’re Doing:** We’re working with the Bellevue Network on Aging and Seattle/King County Aging and Disability Services to help older adults and support caregivers. We are funding services such as adult day health, volunteer chore services and Meals on Wheels to help older adults live at home as long as they are able. We participate in the Eastside Easy Rider Coalition and the King County Mobility Coalition, organizations that both work to improve mobility options for all people, in particular older adults and people with disabilities.

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*Bellevue Age Distribution by Race/Ethnicity*

Source: 2010 Census
Diversity

According to the 2008-2010 ACS, nearly 37% of Bellevue residents spoke a language other than English at home. As of October, 2013, 84 languages and dialects were spoken by Bellevue School District students.

• There is an ever increasing demand for English as a Second Language classes for adults who come here from other countries around the world. Language barriers are one of the biggest issues for many new arrivals in obtaining jobs, finding housing and services, and becoming involved in their children’s early learning and education.

• Health care provided in culturally and linguistically appropriate ways is critical for the growing multi-cultural population; this includes mental health and other social services.

• Human trafficking, which includes labor and sex trafficking, is a modern day form of slavery. In Washington State, as well as King County, there has been a concentrated effort to raise public awareness and also help the victims, and punish the perpetrators. Victims are from all populations, but often refugees and immigrants are more at risk.

What We’re Doing: Bellevue supports the East-side Cultural Navigator Program which helps newly arrived residents learn about the culture and get help. Bellevue funds a variety of human services agencies to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services. The City’s Cultural Diversity Program uses email alerts, television and radio to give information to its diverse residents on cultural forums, workshops and business events.

Other Areas of Need

Other needs came up in our community conversations and research. These are discussed in the full report of the Needs Update. Some examples include:

• Early learning opportunities. Research is clear that high quality early learning opportunities including home visiting programs help children succeed in school and in life. Healthy Start, a home visiting program for young families and their children birth to three, provides support and parenting education to at-risk families. Head Start preschool programs in Bellevue in the Bellevue School District and Bellevue College offer quality care but have experienced cuts due to the federal Budget Control Act of 2011. This has caused some elimination of transportation and likely future reductions in class sizes. Quality childcare is vital to helping children be ready for school.

• Veterans. About 22.1% of veterans who reside in King County call East King County their home. Older vets are the largest group represented. Many vets are returning home from the current conflicts with Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome, Traumatic Brain Injuries, Military Sexual Trauma, and other needs for services that are beginning to impact local service providers. Some of the vets’ families may also need help, such as mental health counseling and domestic violence services.

• Mental health & substance abuse services for adults, youth and children. Organizations that provide counseling and treatment for children and youth are seeing more clients than ever before, including more from immigrant families. The increased usage of heroin by both youth and adults is
affecting the number of people seeking substance abuse treatment. The Crisis Clinic’s Teen Link phone line handles about 1,500 crisis intervention calls annually, 27% in North and East King County. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning youth are among a very high risk group for mental health issues. Access to programs for youth, during the school year and the summer break, are important sources of support and connection.

- **Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence treatment and prevention.** King County Sexual Assault Resource Center reports that they are seeing increased requests for basic needs as well as legal assistance. LifeWire reports that for every family requesting emergency housing, 35 are turned away. Reports of human trafficking are increasing in King County, and some cases have been identified in East King County and Bellevue.

- **Emergency shelters and transitional housing for young adults ages 18-23.** An increasing number of young people who are homeless need help learning to live on their own, including developing job skills and securing housing. Many of these young adults have grown up in foster care and have aged out of the system without support; some have a history of physical abuse, some sexual abuse, and are struggling with substance abuse issues.

- **Services for people with disabilities.** There is an increase of people with disabilities living in our communities, from young children who are identified by early screenings to older adults with developmental disabilities who are still being cared for by elderly parents. Funding from the State and County is insufficient for a variety of services needed by these populations, including in-home care and caregiver support.

- **Low-cost legal services.** Victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, immigrants and refugees, and homeowners facing foreclosure are among the groups that most need dependable, affordable legal assistance.

- **Adult Misdemeanant Probation.** Many offenders have a demonstrated need for one or more services as a result of their offense (e.g. substance abuse treatment, housing, or mental health counseling) but are ineligible for subsidies or unable to pay. Providing these services has been proven to help reduce recidivism and help offenders become productive members of the community.

**Next Steps**
Our Needs Update will help us plan the best uses for City resources as the region continues to recover from the recession.

- **Human Services Commission.** Bellevue’s Human Services Commission will consider the issues identified in the Needs Update as it proceeds with the 2015-2016 funding cycle. Our investments must effectively meet real needs, many of which are an ongoing result of the economic downturn, must be planned and delivered using a “collective impact” approach, show real results and leverage new resources.

- **Regional Efforts.** Human services needs reach beyond our city boundaries. We work closely with other governments and non-profit, community, foundations, and faith-based organizations around the region to improve mental health services, develop affordable housing, work to end homelessness, increase children’s readiness for school, and many other community issues.

- **Community Presentations.** The Needs Update is based on conversations in the community, and our work continues as we share it through community presentations. Please contact Alex O’Reilly, Human Services Planner, at 425-452-2824 or via email, aoreilly@bellevuewa.gov for more information.
Human Services Agencies
Funded in 2014 by the City of Bellevue

The City of Bellevue does not provide human services directly. Instead, we partner with community-based organizations that help us serve our neighbors in need:

- A Regional Coalition for Housing
- Asian Counseling & Referral Service
- Assistance League of the Eastside
- AtWork!
- Bellevue College
- Bellevue School District
- Bellevue Boys & Girls Club
- Catholic Community Services
- Child Care Resources
- Children’s Response Center – Harborview
- Chinese Information and Service Center
- Congregations for the Homeless
- Consejo Counseling & Referral Service
- Crisis Clinic
- Eastside Baby Corner
- Eastside Legal Assistance Program
- Elder and Adult Day Services
- Emergency Feeding Program
- Friends of Youth
- Healthpoint
- HERO House
- Hopelink
- Imagine Housing
- Jewish Family Service
- Jubilee REACH Center
- Kindering Center
- King County Housing Authority
- King County Sexual Assault Resource Center
- KITH
- LifeWire
- NAMI Eastside
- Refugee Women’s Alliance
- Renewal Food Bank
- Sea Mar Community Health Center
- Senior Services
- Solid Ground
- Sophia Way
- Sound Mental Health
- The Salvation Army
- Therapeutic Health Services
- YMCA
- Youth Eastside Services
- YWCA

For more information about other human services programs, call the Community Information Line: 2-1-1.

www.bellevuewa.gov