

Funding Strategy 2017-2018

The Full Spectrum. The Bellevue Human Services Commission is committed to the City of Bellevue's policy of supporting the "full spectrum of community needs" ([Comprehensive Plan Policy HS-4](#)) and recommends that the City maintain continued support of the appropriate continuum of services. This will ensure that the critical human services infrastructure is available to all Bellevue residents. Accordingly, the full spectrum in HS-4 is expressed in the identified goal areas:

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.

Overarching Factors

Even though economic indicators are improving, such as employment and market rate housing growth, the Bellevue Human Services Commission recognizes that there are still many Bellevue residents who are vulnerable and continue to struggle to provide basic needs for themselves and their families. The Commission believes that a safety net of support rather than a system that operates in silos is needed to help residents be fully engaged and healthy members of the community. Engaged residents contribute strongly to the City's vibrancy and creates a great place to live, work, serve and play.

The Commission took into consideration the following overarching issues as they developed their Focus Areas for 2017-2018 (not in priority order):

- The need for affordable housing for low and moderate income residents is an urgent and timely issue in the county, Eastside, and City. Helping people maintain housing stability is critical to making homelessness rare, brief and one-time and requires affordable housing. Employment training and education opportunities that lead to a living wage are integral to this stability.
- Support is needed as the population of older adults in Bellevue grows and people with disabilities are living longer. Many older adults and people with disabilities may need more services to remain independent. Often this support is provided by family, friends and neighbors who need opportunities to obtain respite from caregiving.
- Culturally and linguistically appropriate services must continue to expand as Bellevue becomes increasingly diverse.
- To promote better stewardship of public funds, collaborative impact approaches are imperative. Investing in prevention and intervention programs that work to achieve common goals saves the City money in the long term. Agencies must work together in formal partnerships and/or collaborations to assist clients in

achieving long-term positive outcomes, without unnecessary duplication across programs.

- **Transportation:** Lack of accessible transportation to access human services and employment is an ongoing problem identified by residents and providers. Requests for funding should address the ways in which this lack of access will be mitigated to the extent possible.

Focus Areas for 2017-2018

- Housing with services, particularly for people experiencing homelessness, including prevention and intervention programs that intervene early to stabilize people at risk of experiencing homelessness.
- Support for employment and those skills and services that result in a productive, living wage workforce that has opportunities to move up the wage ladder, and includes affordable quality child care options.
- Services that allow older adults and people with disabilities to remain independent and secure in the community and their caregivers to be supported.
- A continuum of services for children, youth and their families aimed at helping them succeed in school and in life.

Further Considerations

- **Contract performance:** The Human Services Commission continues to be diligent about ensuring good stewardship and accountability of the City's investments in human services. They do this by assessing contract performance, e.g. particularly those services which have met or exceeded contract goals, and demonstrated the effectiveness of services through measureable improvement of outcome results. The use of evidence based and/or promising practices are encouraged. Bellevue funds high-performing agencies and programs and, where there are low-performing or non-compliant agencies, funding may be reduced or eliminated.
- **Leveraged funds:** Programs where Bellevue funds are used to leverage dollars from other sources will be given higher priority.
- **Alignment with regional and local initiatives:** To the extent possible, Bellevue's funding will align with the goals, recommendations, and funding of other regional and local initiatives, including but not limited to:
 - All Home (formerly, Committee to End Homelessness) – implementing the All Home Strategic Plan, e.g. Family Homelessness Initiative, and Homeless Youth & Young Adult Initiative Crisis Response strategies, etc. This is in recognition of the regional nature of homelessness.
 - SOAR - coalition to promote the healthy development of children, youth and families in King County.
 - Eastside Pathways-cradle to career initiative to insure all Bellevue children and youth succeed in school and in life.
 - King County Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD) Plan-sales tax to increase funds for mental health and substance abuse treatment and interventions.
 - King County Best Starts for Kids-an initiative to improve the health and well-

being of King County by investing in prevention and early intervention for children and youth.

- o Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative - helps individuals identify available transportation resources, organizations identify solutions to existing transportation challenges.
- o King County Mobility Coalition-a coordinated transportation network to all people to move freely around King County.
- o The King County Regional Veterans Initiative (RVI) – a project to increase coordination of and access to services for veterans and their families in King County.
- o The City of Bellevue also communicates with its neighbors on the Eastside to share information on common needs experienced by its population, through organizations such as the Eastside Human Services Forum. This often informs the Commission’s funding recommendations and is in recognition that residents of all Eastside cities cross city boundaries to obtain the services they need.
- **Other City dollars:** The City allocates funds from other departments/divisions for human service-related issues (e.g. recreation funding of youth programs). These funds will be identified and noted in staff reviews of proposals to give a more complete picture of City contributions to a program/agency.
- **Diversity and Cultural Competence:** The City of Bellevue’s Diversity Advantage initiative asserts: “Bellevue welcomes the world. Diversity is our strength.” Cultural competence must be demonstrated in all applications, for all forms of diversity, including race, language, ethnicity, gender, ability and age.
 - o The applicant program will show evidence of efforts to embed cultural competence within the organization (e.g. enacting policies and practices demonstrating that it values cultural competence);
 - o The applicant program will show evidence of significant effort to outreach to the growing diverse population in Bellevue (e.g. hiring and retaining staff with the needed language skills to engage the diverse communities), and to provide services that are linguistically appropriate and sensitive to various cultures (e.g. use of curricula and evidence based methods known to be effective with particular diverse populations).
 - o The applicant program will show evidence of how their board and staff mirrors the populations that the program serves.
 - o The applicant program will show evidence of how their staff help advocate for equity for their clients in the larger community. The practice of cultural competence is more than a non-discrimination policy.
- **Formal partnerships:** Programs which demonstrate significant formal partnerships with programs within or outside the agency, e.g. with public or private organizations, faith communities, etc. will be given priority. This includes programs which have written agreements in place and does not include programs which are linked only by simple referrals. Specific, detailed examples must be included about collaborations that are actively in place or are planned with other organizations. **Programs that seek sources of funding jointly to reach an identified need in the community, based on the Collective Impact**

model of combining resources to meet a common goal will be strongly considered. Examples include seeking improved education and employment opportunities for parents that will break the cycle of intergenerational poverty or increasing the health and safety of older adults by providing support for them and their caregivers.

- ***Access to health care, including behavioral health care (mental health and substance abuse treatment):*** The Commission recognizes that although many more Bellevue residents now have individual health care coverage, there are still many residents who are not eligible for health care provided through the Affordable Care Act. Gaps and barriers include: inability to pay for premiums, co-pays and out of pocket expenses, limited services or prescriptions depending on the individual health plan, and lack of specialists who are willing to accept lower fees. In addition, there is an increase of residents, including children, youth and adults, who have behavioral health needs for which services may not be readily available. Similar to transportation, funding requests are encouraged to include how access to all forms of health care could be improved.