

Funding Strategy

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

The Commission took into consideration the following overarching issues as they developed their Focus Areas for 2019-2020 (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.
- **High cost of living** in East King County makes it more important that people have living wage jobs. Employment training and education opportunities 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.
- 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 2019-2020

- 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 the 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.
- Heroin and opioid addiction is a growing crisis in the nation, and has deeply affected East King County and Bellevue as well.
- Need for on-demand treatment for mental illness and substance use disorder, including both in-patient and outpatient.

Further Considerations

- **Contract performance:** The Human Services Commission is diligent about ensuring good stewardship and accountability for the City's investments in human services. Contract performance, including meeting or exceeding contract goals and demonstrating the effectiveness of services through measurable outcome results, is taken into consideration for currently funded programs. The use of evidence based practices is also encouraged.
- **Leveraged funds:** Programs that use Bellevue funds 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 Strategic Plan
 - Eastside Pathways
 - King County Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD 2)
 - King County Best Starts for Kids Levy
 - King County Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy
 - Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative
 - King County Mobility Coalition
- **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, sexual orientation, ability and age.
 - The applicant should describe how its services are tailored to meet the culturally specific needs of targeted populations.
 - The applicant should provide examples of the specific knowledge and experience the organization has with diverse populations.
 - The applicant should describe how its knowledge and experience informs its services and staffing to serve diverse populations.
- **Collective Impact:** 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.
- **Partnerships:** Programs that demonstrate significant partnerships with programs within or outside the agency (e.g. with public or private organizations, faith communities, etc.) will be given priority. Specific, detailed examples must be included about partnerships that are actively in place or are planned with other

organizations.