



Human Services Commission Special Meeting

Date: June 11, 2024

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Hybrid – Rose Hill Room, Kirkland City Hall, 123 5th Ave Kirkland, WA 98033

Webinar ID: <https://kirklandwa.gov.zoom.us/j/87253748348?pwd=BlhH9b3AITRmxTIN5K5NObbK6otUbH.1>

Passcode: 401152

The commission is directed by the City Council to advise the Parks and Community Services Department, City Manager, and City Council in leading the City's efforts to support a socially sustainable community through health and human services and programs that fulfill the basic needs of all people and enhance the quality of life in our city now and into the future.

AGENDA

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **ROLL CALL**
3. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - a. May 28, 2024
5. **ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE**
6. **BUSINESS**
 - a. 2025-2026 Grant Application Review Update
 - b. Annual Election of Officers
 - c. 2025-2026 Goal Areas 2 and 4 Grant Application Review
7. **COMMUNICATIONS**
 - a. Commissioner Reports
 - b. Staff Reports and Announcements
8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Upcoming Commission Activities:

Special Meeting June 25, 2024

Alternate Formats: Persons with disabilities may request materials in alternative formats. Persons with hearing impairments may access the Washington State Telecommunications Relay Service at 711.

Title VI: Kirkland's policy is to fully comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act by prohibiting discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin or sex in the provision of benefits and services resulting from its programs and activities. Any person who believes his/her Title VI protection has been violated, may file a complaint with the City.

To request an alternate format, file a complaint or for questions about Kirkland's Title VI Program, contact the Title VI Coordinator at 425-587-3011 or titlevicoordinator@kirklandwa.gov.

The City of Kirkland strives to accommodate people with disabilities. Please contact the City Clerk's Office at 425.587.3190, or for TTY Services call 425.587.3111 (by noon the work day prior to the meeting) if we can be of assistance. If you should experience difficulty hearing the proceedings, please bring this to the attention of the Chairperson by raising your hand.

**CITY OF KIRKLAND
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
Minutes Commission Regular Meeting
May 28, 2024**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jory Hamilton called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Commissioners Cristian Liu, Gildas Cheung, Sriram Rajagopalan, Kobey Sage Chew, Chloe Sow, Melantha Jenkins, and Vice Chair Gabriela Lopez-Vazquez.

Staff Present: Jen Boone, Human Services Manager, Regi Schubiger, Youth Services Coordinator, Antoinette Smith, Human Services Coordinator, and Amanda Judd, Human Services Coordinator.

Meeting Recorder: Regi Schubiger, Youth Services Coordinator

3. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Commissioner Chloe Sow read the acknowledgment. Commissioner Kobey Sage Chew will read at the June 11th Special meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Jory Hamilton requested a motion to approve the May 14, 2024 minutes. Commissioner Vice Chair Gabriela Lopez-Vazquez made a motion for approval. Commissioner Gildas Cheung seconded. Motion carried (Yes: 7 No: 0).

5. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Addressing the Human Services Commission were Cindy Charlebois Druschba, Michell Billing, and Deanna Davis.

6. BUSINESS

a. Annual Review of Code of Ethics & Conduct Agreements

Commissioners reviewed the code of ethics and code of conduct agreements signed to serve on the Human Services Commission.

b. 2025-2026 Goal Area 4 and 5 Grant Application Review

Goal Area 4 and 5 applications were reviewed by the Human Services Commission. A total of 16 applications were discussed.

Health Point – Dental Program, Health Point – Medical Program, IKRON – Behavioral Health Services, Friends of Youth – Mental Health & SUD Services, 4 Tomorrow – Mental Health Coordination & Gap Therapy, ACRS – Whole Health Oriented Mental Health, Bridge Disability Ministries – Meyer Medical Equipment, IKRON – Integrated Employment Services, YWCA – Eastside Employment Services, Hopelink – Employment, Kindering Center – ParentChild+, Washington Autism Alliance – System Navigation, Urban ArtWorks – Mural Apprentice Program, Old Friends Club – Dementia Social Respite Program, Boys & Girls Club Mental Health Initiative with Youth Eastside Services, ACRS-Children Youth & Families Program.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Sriram Rajagopalan reported out on the work the subgroup including Commissioners Cristian Liu, Gildas Cheung, and Vice Chair Gabriela Lopez-Vazquez have been doing to provide feedback on the City's Human Services Element of the Comprehensive Plan. Draft recommendations will be sent to Commissioners on Wednesday, May 29th for review. Reviews and comments are due by Friday, May 31st.

Commissioner Sriram Rajagopalan reported out on attending the Planning Commission public hearing for the Human Services Element of the Comprehensive plan last week.

b. Staff Reports and Announcements

Human Services Manager Jen Boone shared an update on the City's Response to Homelessness and Resolution-5631.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Jory Hamilton asked for a motion to adjourn meeting. Commissioner Gildas Cheung motioned and was seconded by Commissioner Sriram Rajagopalan. Meeting was adjourned at 9:01 pm.



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Department of Parks & Community Services
123 5th Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3300
www.kirklandwa.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: Human Services Commission

From: Jen Boone, Human Services Manager
Regula Schubiger, Youth Services Coordinator
Antoinette Smith, Human Services Coordinator, Equity

Date: May 21, 2024

Subject: 2025-2026 GRANT APPLICATION REVIEW UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION

That the Human Services Commission receive updated staff recommendations for the application review schedule and number of applications to be reviewed by the Commission.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION

The City of Kirkland received 128 applications for the 2025-26 human services grant cycle. The total number of applications was a 17% increase from the previous cycle in 2023-24.

Staff Review

Following direction from the Commission, staff conducted a preliminary review of all applications received to identify and remove any applications that may not require Commission review and discussion. The criteria applied by staff used to review the 128 applications submitted is outlined below:

- Human services organization and/or services: if a program does not provide human services or does not have a 501(c)(3) and/or fiscal sponsor
- Incomplete application: if substantial information was missing that was required
- History of funding: if a program did not receive funding in the past and there were no substantive changes nor alignment with Commission priorities
- Kirkland residents served: if the program offers services in a location that is difficult for Kirkland residents to access or serves a small number of Kirkland residents

At the [May 14, 2024 meeting](#), staff recommended 20 applications be removed from the Commission review schedule and subsequently grant funding consideration. Of the 20 applications, the Commission has requested more detailed rationale regarding eight applications, staff responses are in **Attachment A**.

The Commission will have opportunity for discussion before a vote to include or remove from the application process.

ATTACHMENT A – 2025-2026 Staff Recommendations for Application Removal from the Review Process

2025-2026 Staff Recommendations for Application Removal from the Review Process

Organization Name	Program Name	Removal Criteria and Justification
Athletes For Kids	Athletes for Kids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not funded last few cycles • No alignment with HSC priorities • No changes made to programming from previous cycle.
Cornerstone Medical Services Foundation	Korean Immigrant Senior Center Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incomplete application, service units and residents served missing • Unable to assess service to Kirkland residents and services provided with the above elements missing. • Locations are in Lynnwood and Federal Way • No Kirkland or nearby sites to access making travel challenging.
Essence Health and Research Foundation (EH&R)	Lift Up Campaign Program: Healthcare Services for Chronic Disease, Trauma/Rape/PTSD, Addiction, Mental Health, & General Health Conditions for Low Income Individuals/Families (Free Services)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not funded last cycle • No alignment with HSC priorities, health education not health services • Outcome lists Mental Health as a service but it is not listed in program proposal • Lists one Kirkland resident served • Service Unit measurement (kits) to be used are purchased by clients • Translation services rely on Google translate or client must navigate on their own
Essence Health and Research Foundation (EH&R)	Goals for Health Program: Healthcare Services for Chronic Disease, Trauma/Rape/PTSD, Addiction, Mental Health, & General Health Conditions (Discounted Services)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not funded last cycle • No alignment with HSC priorities, health education not health services • Outcome lists Mental Health as a service but it is not listed in program proposal

ATTACHMENT A

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lists one Kirkland resident served • Service Unit measurement (kits) to be used are purchased by clients • Translation services rely on Google translate or client must navigate on their own
Essentials First	Volume Distribution Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incomplete application, service units and residents served missing • Scope is not in alignment with HSC priorities
Indian American Community Services (IACS)	Small Business Support Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope does not provide human services, focus is on economic development • Human Services funding does not cover small business support programs
Lake Washington Schools Foundation	LINKS Lunch Buddies Mentoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not funded last few cycles • No alignment with HSC priorities • No changes made to programming from previous cycle.
Washington Poison Center	Emergency Services and Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not funded last few cycles • No alignment with HSC priorities • No changes made to programming from previous cycle.



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Department of Parks & Community Services
123 5th Avenue Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3300
www.kirklandwa.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: Human Services Commission

From: Jen Boone, Human Services Manager
Antoinette Smith, Human Services Coordinator, Equity

Date: May 28, 2024

Subject: ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Human Services Commission conduct elections to fill the positions of Chair and Vice Chair for the 12-month period of June 2024 through May 2025.

BACKGROUND:

Kirkland Municipal Code 3.70.080 states that the Human Services Commission Chair and Vice Chair will be elected annually to serve a 12-month term. The Chair may be re-elected to serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. No such term restriction is applied to the position of Vice Chair.

The Chair will be responsible for presiding over Commission meetings. Additionally, the Chair and/or Vice Chair may be called upon to attend other meetings with members of City Council, the community, or staff. The Vice Chair will be responsible for performing the duties of the Chair in the event the Chair is not present.

Parliamentary procedure will be followed to conduct the election. The meeting facilitator will call for nominations from the floor for each position separately. At the close of nominations, Commissioners in attendance will be asked for a voice-vote on two motions separately: 1) election of Chair; and 2) election of Vice Chair.

Terms of newly elected officers will commence immediately.



CITY OF KIRKLAND

Department of Parks & Community Services
123 5th Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3300
www.kirklandwa.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: Human Services Commission

From: Jen Boone, Human Services Manager
Antoinette Smith, Human Services Coordinator, Equity

Date: May 28, 2024

Subject: 2025-2026 HUMAN SERVICES GRANT APPLICATIONS REVIEW – GOAL AREAS 2 and 4

RECOMMENDATION

That the Human Services Commission review application submissions that meet the Goal Areas 2 and 4 objectives in preparation for the June 11, 2024 meeting.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION

To prepare for Goal Areas 4 and 2 review, the Commission is asked to review the 20 applications that meet the **Goal Area 2: Supportive Relationships within Families, Neighborhoods and Communities** and **Goal Area 4: Health Care to be Physically and Mentally Fit as Possible** objectives. Applicants in these Goal Areas include agencies offering services and programs focused on providing health care services that include dental, medical, and behavioral/mental health and programs that enhance supportive relationships within families, neighborhoods, and communities.

The Commission is requested to do the following to prepare for the June 11, 2024 meeting:

1. Complete review of the 20 Goal Areas 2 and 4 applications assigned in the Share One app review portal.
2. Submit individual ratings in the ShareOne app review portal **by noon on June 11th**
3. Email application questions to Human Services Coordinator, Antoinette Smith at amsmith@kirklandwa.gov or call 425-587-3307 for more urgent concerns.

Grant review tools, group expectations, and funding priorities are included in the attachments listed below. For a summary of agency programs currently funded for the 23-24 cycle, please refer to the [Kirkland Human Services Dashboard](#). Of the 20 submitted applications for Goal Area 2 and 4, three applications are first-time requests. First-time requests are in bold in **ATTACHMENTS A and B**.

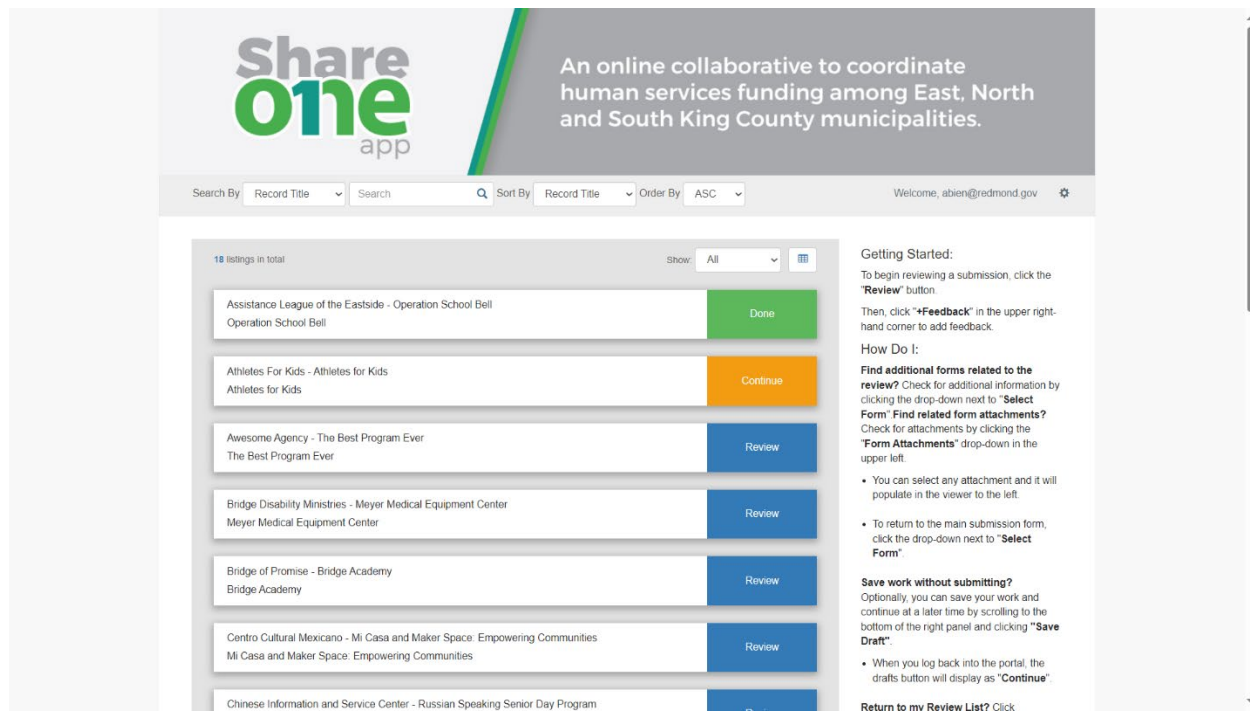
Staff will compile Commissioner individual recommendations to prepare for the discussion.

ATTACHMENT A: 2025-2026 Goal Area 4 Application Summary
ATTACHMENT B: 2025-2026 Goal Area 2 Application Summary
ATTACHMENT C: ShareOne Review Portal Login Instructions
ATTACHMENT D: Stoplight Equity Tool
ATTACHMENT E: Group Expectations
ATTACHMENT F: 2025-26 Human Services Funding Priorities

GOAL AREA 4 - CONTINUED		
Organization Name	Program Name	Brief Description
Indian American Community Services (IACS)	Mental & Behavioral Health Services Program	Provides culturally-nuanced, linguistically relevant mental and behavioral health services for Asian Indian families through weekly support groups, wellness classes and individual counseling sessions, as well as quarterly community conversations and events to raise awareness and address the stigma surrounding accessing behavioral health services.
International Community Health Services	Behavioral Health	Provides mental health and substance use disorder services at four full-service clinics and two school-based health centers in King County.
Medical Teams International	Care & Connect Mobile Dental Clinics for Underserved & Low-Income Communities	Mobile dental clinic providing free oral health care services for persons living below 200% of FPL who are uninsured, underinsured and/or have no access the oral health care.
NAMI Eastside	Youth Mental Health Programs	Community Mental Health Education and Peer and Family Support Services
NAMI Eastside	Community Mental Health Education & Support	Youth Mental Health Program
Porchlight	Behavioral Mental Health	Same-day, on-site mental health and substance abuse services to men in PorchLight's emergency, rotating, and hotel shelter programs, as well as their permanent supportive housing programs.
Therapeutic Health Services	Substance Use & Mental Health Treatment	Provides strengths based, culturally appropriate, evidence-based substance use disorder treatment (including medication assisted treatment for opioid addiction), mental health counseling and case management services.
Youth Eastside Services	Behavioral Health Care for Children & Youth	Comprehensive program for those ages eight to 22, and their families, that intervenes, stabilizes, supports and empowers children/youth/families with the skills needed to improve social-emotional well being and self-regulation.
Youth Eastside Services	Early Childhood Behavioral Health	Provides early childhood intervention aimed at restructuring the parent-child relationship to support the infant's/child's healthy social, emotional and cognitive development.

GOAL AREA 2		
Organization Name	Program Name	Brief Description
4 Tomorrow	Life Services Program	Comprehensive case management program which provides trauma-informed care to households in East King County. Supports individuals in achieving short- and long-term goals as well as navigating complex systems.
Assistance League of the Eastside	Operation School Bell	Provides funds for students in need to make purchases at local Fred Meyer stores that support the individual needs of students and their families.
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Puget Sound	Community Youth Mentoring Program	Supported 1-to-1 youth mentoring to increase protective factors and unlock youth potential.
Boys & Girls Clubs of King County	Out-of-School Youth Development	Kirkland Boys & Girls Club Out-of-School Youth Development Programming
Brazilian Community Services	Next Level Skillset Accelerator	Accelerate "Emergent Brazilian immigrants" to build english and small business skills along with providing Youth and Family Well-Being Services.
Catholic Community Services of King County	Volunteer Services	Supports low-income older adults and adults with disabilities by providing volunteers to assist them free of charge with housework, laundry, minor home repairs, transportation, yard work, and shopping throughout King County.
Centro Cultural Mexicano	Mi Casa & Maker Space: Empowering Communities	Programs for youth and family engagement, education, resources and empowerment.
Chinese Information and Service Center	Russian Speaking Senior Day Program	Creates community & connection for isolated Russian-speaking seniors through culturally & linguistically reflective programming around: 1) healthy aging, 2) socialization with a group of their peers, 3) interactive cultural activities & events, and 4) connections & referrals to community resources and programs.
Chinese Information and Service Center	East King County Family Resource Center	Provides low-income, LEP Chinese, Vietnamese & Russian-speaking families a single-entry point to obtain free cultural & systems navigation support around health, education, housing, employment, training, legal issues, benefits, programs to strengthen families, advocacy to get immigrant voices heard, & meeting basic needs for all members of the family.
Communities In Schools of Greater King County	Integrated Student Support	Works directly inside K-12 schools focusing on students who are furthest from educational justice in 39 elementary and secondary schools within the Seattle, Renton, Tukwila, Lake Washington, and Issaquah school districts. Students are referred for a variety of reasons including challenges related to low-socioeconomic status, such as food and/or housing instability; students who feel disengaged from school; live in unsafe environments; lack a caring adult in their life; have high absenteeism; are struggling academically; or experiencing trauma. The evidenced-based model of Integrated Student Support is firmly grounded in the research on child and youth development and is designed to promote educational, social and emotional development of students and position them to succeed both inside and outside the classroom. This model is delivered in three tiers: Tier 1: school-wide services; Tier 2: targeted programs; Tier 3: individualized support.
Eastside Legal Assistance Program	Pooled Cities General	Provides free civil legal aid to low-income residents in King County. Everyone should have access to legal help.




1. Go to <https://webportalapp.com/portal/review25-26>
2. Enter your email (associated with your Commission correspondence) and click Continue.
 - a. You will receive an email from Web Portal App no-reply@webportalapp.com.
 - b. Click the **Confirm Your Email To Get Started** link.
 - c. Create a password following the rules listed.
 - d. Click **Create Account**.
 - e. In the future, just log in with your email and password.
3. The home screen will display applications that have been submitted to your city.



4. You can sort All applications in the **Show** drop down menu: Review (you have not viewed the application), Continue (you have viewed the application), and Done (you have successfully submitted feedback).
5. Click on a record.
6. To make comments, click the blue **+Comments** button.
7. Use the drop down to **Select Form** to view: Application Narrative or Agency Profiles.
8. Click the **Form Attachments** drop down to view attachments related to that form.
9. Click **Save Draft** unless you are completely done with the review. When you log back in, the draft will have an orange **Continue** button.
10. When review is complete, click **Submit**.
11. Use the blue **Listings** hyperlink to go back to the listing of all applications.

“How do we, as individual reviewers and as a group, advance equity?”



 Red Light	 Yellow Light	 Green Light
I am reading this application as a judge looking for reasons that they should not be funded.	I am reviewing this application as both a judge and an advocate.	I am reading this application as an advocate of this organization and the community it represents.
I am unaware of what my implicit biases are as I begin this application review process.	I am just beginning to or practicing my skills in identifying and discussing my implicit biases.	I am aware of and can name to my peers how my implicit biases may impact my analysis of an application.
I am judging a program’s effectiveness on their prior ability to attain grants.	I am starting to recognize some systemic reasons for an organization’s lack of prior funding.	I am able to recognize the systemic reasons that a program may have been historically excluded from funding opportunities.
I am assuming mainstream solutions are the best way to solve the issue being addressed in this application.	I prioritize mainstream solutions but am open to additional ideas.	I am open to new ideas and solutions and recognize that organizations that are closest to the issue are best suited to solve it.
I am looking for only weaknesses represented in this application.	I catch myself looking critically at an application and push myself to look to identify strengths.	I am looking for strengths represented in this application.
I am looking for a broad overarching solution to meet the needs of our community.	I prefer broad solutions but am interested in adding on a few additional approaches.	I recognize the importance of multiple approaches and community-specific tailored approaches in working to collectively meet the needs of our community.
I am basing my assessment of the organization’s competency on their ability to communicate in written English.	My assessment of competency is influenced by how well or poorly this application is written.	I am not factoring in the writing style to my assessment of organizational competency.

ATTACHMENT D

<p>I am basing program evaluation and effectiveness exclusively on an organization's ability to collect comprehensive data.</p>	<p>I am basing program evaluation and effectiveness on connection with their community, but require data to support it.</p>	<p>I am basing program evaluation and effectiveness on an organization's connection with their community.</p>
<p>My review of applications results in a collective pool of grantees that does not reflect our target focus areas and goals.</p>	<p>My review of applications results in a collective pool of grantees that somewhat reflects our target focus areas and goals.</p>	<p>My review of applications results in a collective pool of grantees that reflects our target focus areas and goals.</p>
<p><i>(add your own!)</i></p>		

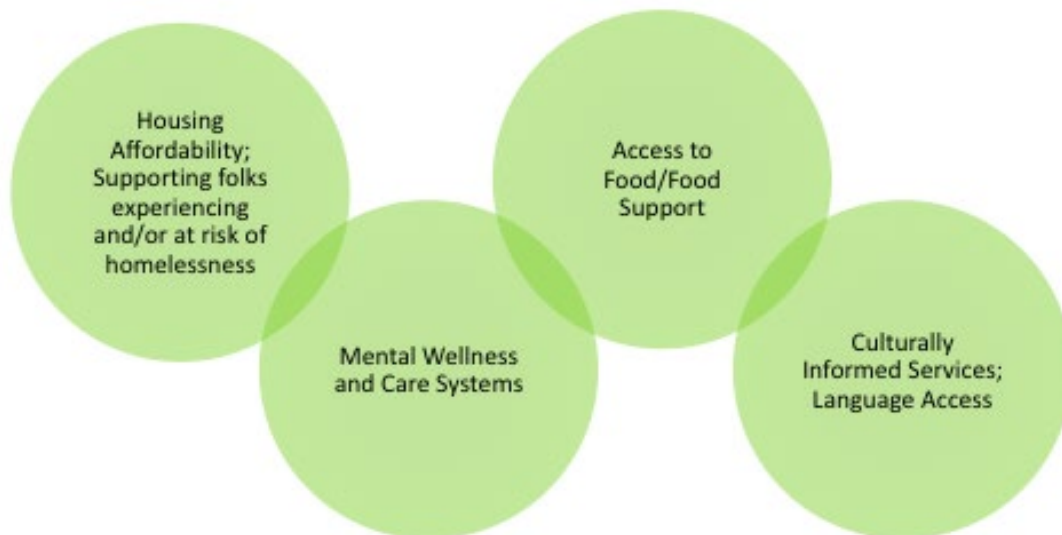
Equity Statements and Shared Funding Priorities

Redmond Human Services: “When we support well-being, we make sure that everyone can reach their potential and fully contribute to our community”

Issaquah Human Services: “Our work in Human Services is centered around the vision of Issaquah as a welcoming, inclusive, equitable and just community, with a broad range of social services where every person is respected, and where meeting basic human needs is a shared responsibility.”

Kirkland Human Services: “The City of Kirkland’s Human Services Division serves as coordinator, collaborator, facilitator, and funder for support systems that help people through economic and personal crises and provide low-and moderate-income persons with opportunities to succeed.”

Sammamish Human Services: “The City of Sammamish promotes a healthy community where every person is considered essential. Meeting basic human needs is considered a shared responsibility.”



Human Services Commission Group Expectations

Updated 05-14-2024

- Be curious, don't be afraid to ask questions
- Share ideas with respect
- Respect others' boundaries
- Reiterate goals to ensure we are on the same page
- Be open to constructive feedback
- Take care of yourself, take time and space as appropriate.
- Show compassion to others and yourself
- Assume positive intent and reflect back understanding with grace
- Be honest
- Speak your truth, and acknowledge there may be multiple truths
- Acknowledge feedback through verbal or nonverbal cues
- Receive feedback without taking it personally.
- Keep feedback focused on the idea not the person
- Agree to disagree
- Work together to find a solution
- Listen to understand, don't listen to respond
- Reflect back what you heard to ensure understanding
- Be open to taking a collective break as needed

**CITY OF KIRKLAND**

Department of Parks & Community Services
123 5th Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3300
www.kirklandwa.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: Human Services Commission

From: Lynn Zwaagstra, Director
Jen Boone, Human Services Manager
Antoinette Smith, Human Services Coordinator, Equity

Date: January 29, 2024

Subject: 2025-26 HUMAN SERVICES FUNDING PRIORITIES

RECOMMENDATION

That the Human Services Commission review the City's community goal areas and the most recent needs assessment to help inform and finalize the priorities discussed at last month's meeting.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION

The City of Kirkland seeks to enhance the quality of life for all citizens in the community, regardless of race, nationality, creed, ethnic background, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender, or age. The City recognizes that each person needs to have a sense of belonging, support in their community, and access to opportunities that fulfill the basic needs of life. The City has made a commitment to providing services and programs to those considered more vulnerable and/or at risk, including youth, seniors, and those with financial need, special needs, and disabilities.

The [City's Comprehensive Plan](#) specifies that Human Services are those efforts targeted directly to individuals and families to meet basic human needs, and can be represented on a continuum of services including intervention, prevention, and enhancement. To address these needs, the City of Kirkland has five community goal areas that all community members should be able to achieve. First developed by the United Way of King County, and later adopted by several local jurisdictions including Bellevue, Redmond, Seattle, King County, and Kirkland, these Community Goal Areas reflect the belief that all people should have:

Goal #1: Food to Eat and a Roof Overhead

- Food Security
- Emergency services if unhoused or experiencing housing instability

Goal #2: Supportive Relationships within Families, Neighborhoods and Communities

- Social Support
- Legal Assistance
- Access to services

Goal #3: Safe Haven from All Forms of Violence and Abuse

- Domestic Violence Survivor Support
- Support to Address Child Abuse & Neglect
- Sexual Assault, Rape, and Child Sexual Abuse Survivor Services

Goal #4: Health Care to Be as Physically and Mentally Fit as Possible

- Medical Care
- Dental Care
- Behavioral Health Care

Goal #5: Education and Job Skills to Lead an Independent Life

- Employment/Training
- Education
- Childcare

To learn how grant awards are reported out under the community goals, visit the [Human Services Dashboard](#).

Needs Assessment Data

The Community Needs Assessment released by Hopelink in June 2022 identifies four overarching themes of program and service needs on the Eastside. The needs all stem from having insufficient financial resources to meet one's needs in North and East King County. The themes are interrelated, and intersect with race, ethnicity, nativity, and personal history to shape the experience of poverty in the region. While the assessment uses the latest available data and reports, some data is based on pre-COVID findings and therefore is already outdated in assessing a hyper-current snapshot of needs. The themes are as follows:

1. Community members are challenged to meet their basic needs.
2. Lack of affordable housing is undermining household security and leading to displacement.
3. There are insufficient transit and transportation options for people with low incomes, particularly outside of urban centers.
4. There is persistent evidence of food insecurity and hunger.

In response to the request for data at the January 2024 HSC meeting, staff encourage the Commission to review the Needs Assessment to understand current trends and needs that impact the human services landscape. The full report released by Hopelink can be found [here](#) with the corresponding memo prepared for City Council in Fall 2022.

Human Services Commission Current Priorities:

The Human Services Commission (HSC) discusses the specific needs of the community emerging at the time of considering the next cycle of human services grants. Making recommendations on what programs to fund is difficult, recognizing the valuable services each respective organization provides to the community. Unfortunately, not all grant requests can be funded. Understanding current community needs and developing priorities helps guide the HSC in making their recommendations. The tentative priorities were identified at the [January 2024 HSC meeting](#) for use with the 2025-2026 grant application review process.

- Homelessness and Affordable Housing
 - Includes emergency shelter and associated wrap-around services
 - Affordable housing supports
 - Emergency financial assistance

- Access to Basic Needs
 - Food assistance
 - Healthcare access
 - Domestic Violence/Sexual assault survivors support and services
 - Legal assistance-of all kinds

- Behavioral Health/Mental Health services
 - Adults
 - Youth
 - Including Substance Use Disorder supports and treatment services

- Prioritizing programs and services offered by organizations and agencies that are new, small, and/or Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC)-led and serving. There will be an emphasis on funding programs focused on services and support to BIPOC community members, and/or those who identify as part of groups who have been historically marginalized.