

Human Services Element

GOAL:

To create a community in which all members have the ability to meet their basic physical, economic, and social needs, and the opportunity to enhance their quality of life.

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. In order to address these needs, the City of Bellevue uses five community goal areas which hold that all community members should have:

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.

OVERVIEW

Bellevue is a city that has experienced many changes over the past three decades. The city's population has grown dramatically and has seen increasing diversity in the age,



Bellevue supports human services to diverse individuals.

ethnic, cultural backgrounds, and economic status of its residents. Increasing numbers of senior citizens, refugees and immigrants from Asia and Eastern Europe, and families in poverty comprise part of the Bellevue community today. 2000 Census data indicated that Asian-Americans constitute the largest minority group in the city, with Hispanic/Latinos and Eastern Europeans the fastest growing. Household size continued to decrease and families are more diverse as evidenced by the increased numbers of seniors (age 65 and older) and single parent families in Bellevue.

These changes have resulted in the growth and increasing complexity of human service needs.



Seniors are an increasing proportion of Bellevue's population.

In response to these changes and the realization that partnership with local government is critical to addressing human services concerns, in 1986, the Bellevue City Council formally adopted policies establishing human services as an appropriate city function. The policies define human services, outline the city's role and objectives, and establish a Human Services Commission. The Commission provides the focal point for community participation in human services and advises the City Council on policy and funding matters. The Commission listens to

community concerns, assesses current human services needs, forecasts future needs, and makes recommendations to the Council on allocation of the city's human services and Community Development Block Grant funding.

The city is uniquely positioned to provide leadership, influence community awareness and decision making, and allocate resources. Human service involvement is focused in the following areas:

- **Planning** - assessing and anticipating needs and developing appropriate policy and program responses;
- **Facilitating** - convening and engaging others in community problem-solving to develop and improve services;
- **Funding** - disbursing Community Development Block Grant and General Fund dollars to support a network of services which respond to community needs; and
- **Informing** - promoting awareness of needs and resources through effective marketing and public relations activities.

The city recognizes that although the private human services network is the major provider of human services in the community, an array of human services provided by local government, private employers, school districts, and other governmental entities also affects and improves peoples' lives. The city's Parks & Community Services Department not only houses the human services planning and funding activities, but also provides a variety of education, recreation, prevention, and intervention services as well as Adult Probation services. The Police Department

assists the community with a variety of human needs from helping residents locate human services to providing drug education to youth. The city is recognized for its model Police Department domestic violence program which coordinates police response with prosecution, probation, and other community-based services, including school officers in middle and high schools.

In locating services, the city will be sensitive to the need for all residents to be able to access them. The city will balance consideration of geographic distribution with consideration for efficient service delivery and ready access by residents.

The city places a high priority on partnership in responding to human services issues on a local and regional level. The city values broad community support in funding individual projects and views governmental cooperation and partnership with the private sector as critical to solving many human service issues.

The city recognizes that its greatest resource is its people and that the success and vitality of the community depends upon a strong, healthy, and productive population. Prevention and early intervention are critical to its human services program. Balancing responses to current needs with strategies which invest in healthy children, individuals, and families are vital to enhancing the quality of life in the Bellevue community.

POLICIES

POLICY HS-1. Anticipate human services needs and provide leadership in the development of community responses.

POLICY HS-2. Identify opportunities and develop strategies that are preventive in their approach to human services needs.

POLICY HS-3. Assess local human service needs and promote community awareness of needs and resources available to meet them.

POLICY HS-4. Allocate funds and other resources, for services which address the full spectrum of community needs and meet the city's funding criteria by requesting program proposals from community-based non profit agencies providing direct services to low- and moderate-income residents.

POLICY HS-5. Maintain the city's role as a human services planner and facilitator for the community by continually engaging service providers and community organizations in dialogue regarding the functioning of the present service systems, the emerging needs of the community and the building of a complete system of services.

POLICY HS-6. Support the development and operation of facilities housing human services agencies and, where appropriate, seek opportunities to achieve efficiencies through agency co-location and coordination.

POLICY HS-7. Facilitate and encourage broad community participation in planning, providing, and promoting human services.

POLICY HS-8. Support and actively coordinate with local, regional, and national efforts that address local human services needs and ensure that local programs complement programs provided at the state and federal level.

POLICY HS-9. Encourage the development of partnerships among the city, schools, human services providers and others, to address the needs of children and families within the school setting.

POLICY HS-10. Encourage cooperation with the school district in the development and utilization of schools as a focal point for the identification of needs and delivery of services to children and families.

POLICY HS-11. Encourage services that respect the diversity and dignity of individuals and families, and foster self determination and self-sufficiency.

POLICY HS-12. Foster a community free of discrimination and prejudice.

POLICY HS-13. Encourage services to become accessible to all in the community by removing any barriers, including but not limited to architectural, cultural, language, communication, or location.

POLICY HS-14. Encourage services to efficiently use public and private resources and develop a broad base of community support.

POLICY HS-15. Provide leadership and work in partnership with community agencies to encourage and promote the development and expansion of the supply of affordable, accessible, and quality child care which meets the diverse needs of the community and is encouraged in all areas of the city.

POLICY HS-16. Encourage services that support employees in maintaining or advancing their employment opportunities including, but not limited to, transportation and child care.

POLICY HS-17. Consider the human services impacts of proposed legislation prior to formal adoption and provide mechanisms that encourage human services objectives in developing city regulations and codes.

POLICY HS-18. Facilitate the community response to human service needs. Involve the city in direct delivery of human service needs when delivery is consistent with a department's mission or as a last resort when:

- The city is the most equitable and effective provider, or
- There are no other qualified providers.

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