

2011-2012 Human Services



Needs Update



City of Bellevue
Parks & Community Services Department
www.bellevuewa.gov

Acknowledgements

Human Services Commission

Stefanie Beighle, Chair, 2011
John Bruels, Vice-Chair, 2011
Cyrus Habib
Olga Perelman
Brian Plaskon, M.D.
Jan Stout
Michael Yantis

Parks & Community Services Department

Patrick Foran, Director
Shelley McVein, Deputy Director
Shelley Brittingham, Assistant Director
Terry Smith, Assistant Director
Emily Leslie, Human Services Manager
Alex O'Reilly, Human Services Planner
Joseph Adriano, Human Services Grant Coordinator
Sam Ezadean, Home Repair Loan Specialist
Teri Ekstrom, Administrative Assistant
Sonoko Paulson, Administrative Assistant
Evita Almassi, Human Services Intern
Megan Farwell, Human Services Intern
Kimberly Walker, Human Services Intern

Lead Project Staff

Alex O'Reilly, Project Manager
Megan Farwell, Human Services Intern
Kimberly Walker, Human Services Intern
Teri Ekstrom, Project Support

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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 the most vulnerable of our neighbors. Over the last four years, as a result of the economic crisis called by many the “Great Recession”, the faces of those who are considered vulnerable has changed significantly. Even though the recession has officially ended, it continues to take a toll on many residents, financially, physically and emotionally. These are individuals who come from all walks of life. Many have never had to ask for help before, have never lost their jobs, or been without health insurance. The demand for basic needs continue to increase dramatically while fewer financial resources are available to provide that help. 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 high-quality life for all Bellevue residents.

Crises often present unique opportunities to respond in creative and collaborative ways, including improving the way services are provided and forming new partnerships with neighbors in the community to help meet the needs. In 2009, the City of Bellevue launched a multi-pronged initiative called “Bellevue Cares. Additional strategies that have continued in response to the recession include: providing an information clearinghouse, which is primarily web-based, allowing payment plans for utility bills, engaging community partners, maintaining close communications with human service providers, and finally, providing city employees with opportunities to give. Other efforts, such as the Eastside Timebank which encourages people to share their talents and skills and also use the talents and skills of others, emerged to nurture the sense of community and assist each other.

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 2008-2010 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 2011-2012

Six issues came up repeatedly in our research and in our conversations in the community. These were the same as were reported in the 2009-2010 Needs Update.

- The Ongoing Effects of the Economic Recession
- Affordable Housing
- Health Care
- Employment
- Support for Older Adults
- Needs of Immigrants and Refugees

This Overview presents a summary of each of these six 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 services for children and youth, 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

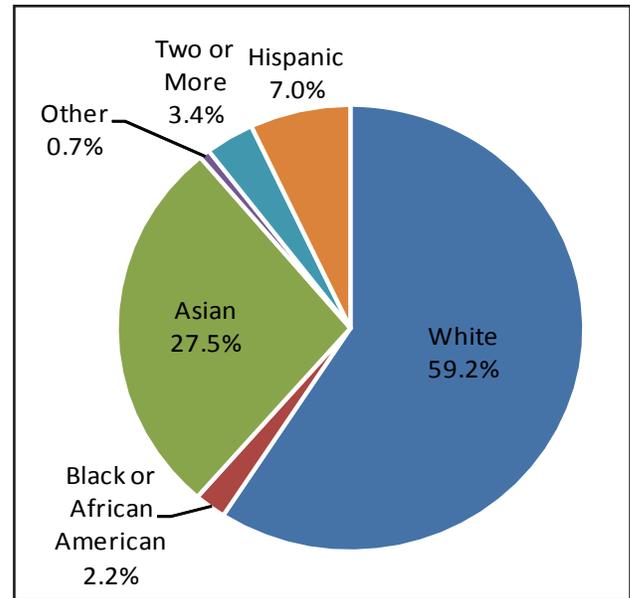


Community Profile

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 2011, Bellevue's population was estimated at 123,400.
- 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 (33 %) 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 5.8 % in 2010. However, the poverty rate is higher for families with a female householder, no husband present with children under 18 years old (10 %).



Race/ethnicity distribution in Bellevue 2010

Key Issues for 2011-2012

Ongoing Effects of the Economic Recession

Many Bellevue residents still continue to be affected by the ongoing effects of the economic recession. Data from local non-profits and state agencies demonstrate the increased number of people in need.

- Coordinated Food Drives such as Eastside Month of Concern for the Hungry have continued to help address the need for more food with the participation of East King County cities of Bellevue, Kirkland, Mercer Island, Redmond, and Sammamish. This has benefited local food banks and emergency feeding programs. The average monthly visits to food banks was 44 % higher than previously recorded in 2007.
- The Basic Food caseload grew by nearly

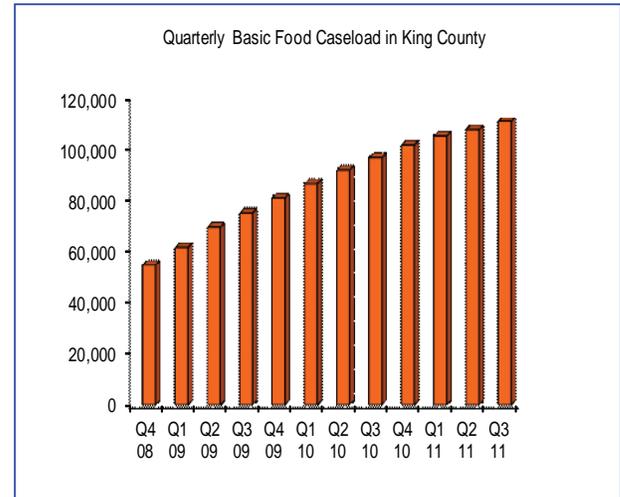
150 % between October 2007 and October 2011.

- In the Bellevue School District in October of 2011, 22.8 % of students qualified for a free and reduced cost lunch compared to an average of 17 % in previous years.
- Reports of domestic violence increased, which typically happens when unemployment is high and families are under more stress. Requests for counseling, for both adults and children and youth also rose, at a time when more people have lost their health insurance and are unable to pay for counseling.
- In 2011, three new questions were added to the phone/online survey to measure the impact of the economic recession on residents. Overall the survey found that 64 % of Bellevue residents have been negatively impacted by the economy.

- Non-profit agencies are also feeling the effects of the recession in the decrease in the number and dollar amount of grants from public sources as well as foundations, individuals and businesses. However, city councils from five major cities in East King County-Bellevue, Kirkland, Redmond, Issaquah and Mercer Island, all approved increases in funding for human services in 2011.
- Although corporate profits are on the rebound, most say that it will be some time before they can give as much to non-profits as they did before the recession. The same is true for many foundations and individual donors.

What We Are Doing: Many efforts in the community are ongoing to assist those in need. The City of Bellevue launched the Bellevue Cares Initiative in March 2009 to address some of the

issues. This includes providing an information clearing house to help find resources on the Bellevue Cares website (www.bellevuewa.gov/recession-community-resources.htm.) and allowing people to have payment plans for utility bills, more lenient shut-off policies, and extended discount and rebate programs.



Source: Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

Affordable Housing

Although home prices continued to fall nationally beginning in 2009 and have continued their decline, prices in Bellevue are still high enough that affordable housing remains an issue for almost 60% of residents according to the phone/online survey.

- The median price for all Eastside homes and condos in November 2011 was \$ 412,000. This is a 13% decrease compared to \$476,000 in June 2009, 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, as well. The average rent has continued to increase with fewer incentives such as rent reductions offered.
- The number of foreclosures continues to rise in King County but is down by 30% when compared to April of 2010. Foreclosures increased to 4,701 as of May 2011, but dropped 24% compared to May of 2010. The number of Notice of Trustee Sales through the second quarter of 2011 appears to show a reversal of this upward trend.

- Nearly 39% of Bellevue renters and 31.3% of homeowners pay more than 30% of their income for housing.
- 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 2011 found 146 unsheltered individuals in East King County, similar to the 141 found in 2010.

What We're Doing: Bellevue participates in A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH), and since 1993, about 2,965 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 Sophia Way, a women's shelter, was created by Congregations for the Homeless. The Sophia Way served 172 women between 2009-2010; by the end of 2010, the program had placed 478 women in housing. Between 2005-2011, Eastside affordable housing develop-

ers and service providers created 99 housing units for families, 25 units for youth and 179 units for single adults. In 2008, Bellevue initiated a Severe Weather Shelter which has evolved into an Eastside Winter Shelter supported by many

Average Rents in King County and the Eastside (\$), 2001 - 2011					
	3/07	3/08	3/09	3/10	3/11
Eastside	1,130	1,221	1,259	1,165	1,222
King County	946	1,026	1,065	1,017	1,049
Difference	184	195	194	148	173

Eastside cities and run by Congregations for the Homeless and The Sophia Way.

Health Care

Health care has been a key national concern for the last twenty years and, as such, has an impact on Bellevue residents. Health care's rising costs, language barriers, transportation issues, and cultural competency are obstacles for some residents to obtain the quality of health care they need. According to our phone/online survey, almost half of Bellevue residents believe affordable medical insurance is an important issue for our community. Now, with high unemployment, even more people lack health care, which puts many at risk for more serious, preventable problems.

- In Bellevue between 2005-2009, approximately 8.4% of adults ages 18-64 lacked health insurance coverage. Over a five year average from 2004-2008, 7% of Bellevue residents reported that they did not see a doctor due to the cost.
- Many low-income families qualify for Medicaid and youth are eligible for state children's health insurance, and those with higher incomes are more likely to have employer provided insurance. There is a gap in coverage however for the working poor, many of whom earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but whose employers do not offer benefits.
- In 2010, HealthPoint, a community health clinic, provided medical care to more than 1,200 Bellevue residents, a slight increase from 2009. HealthPoint reports an increase in both uninsured patients and moderate

income clients. In 2010, Eastgate Public Health Center served 2,900 low-income women for Maternity Support Services, 5,000 for Family Health, and 4,200 for the Women, Infant and Child Program.

- Over half of those who responded to our consumer survey reported not being able to pay for dental care. This is also a growing problem for older adults as Medicare does not cover dental care.
- Therapeutic Health Services reports seeing more unemployed and working poor clients needing substance abuse treatment than in previous years, including an increase in those struggling with prescription drug addiction.
- Bellevue's ongoing increase of immigrants means that many people need interpreters, translated information and culturally relevant health care. These address disparities that exist for certain health outcomes and indicators for people of color.

What We're Doing: Bellevue continues to provide funding for a number of non-profit health care and mental health agencies, including Youth Eastside Services, Sea Mar, Sound Mental Health, and Asian Counseling and Referral Service. It also provides funding for Therapeutic Health Services for drug and alcohol treatment. Bellevue is represented by a City Council member on the Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD) Oversight Committee.

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 remained near 8% or more since. In Bellevue in

November 2011, the rate was 8.3%. In 2011, over 50% of Bellevue residents reported that unemployment was a significant community problem compared to only 16.7% in 2007.

- 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 \$27/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 \$22,048 and \$29,172 annually. Subsidies are needed by many families who cannot pay the full cost of quality care, but State 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 subsidies 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.



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 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% 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

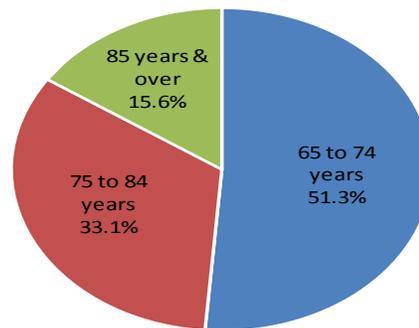
incomes. More are returning to the workforce to make ends meet. During 2008-2010, 6.9% of older adults over age 65 were living below the poverty line compared to 5.8% of the total Bellevue population.

- 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 58% of older adult renters paid 30% or more of their income on housing.

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.

Age Distribution of Bellevue's Older Adults (2010 Census)



Immigrants & Refugees

Between 2000 and 2010, the ethnic and racial diversity of Bellevue increased by 62%. In 1990, the U.S. Census reported 86.5% of Bellevue residents indicated a single race. In 2010, this percentage dropped to 59.2%, a higher level of diversity than in King County.

- The Asian community in Bellevue is a substantial portion of the overall population at 27.5%; Bellevue has the highest percentage of Asian residents of any city in the State.
- In 2010, Hispanics/or Latinos comprised 7% of Bellevue's population, and is one of the fastest growing in the city, more than doubling between 1990 and 2010.
- According to the 2008-2010 American Community Survey, approximately 37% of Bellevue residents speak a language other than English at home. Students in Bellevue schools speak 82 languages and dialects. Top languages are Spanish, Chinese-Mandarin, Korean, Chinese-Cantonese, Russian, Japanese, Vietnamese, Telugu, Hindi, French, Tamil, Arabic, and Farsi (Persian).
- Immigrants and refugees may need help with translation, health care including dental

and mental health, food assistance as well as culturally appropriate nutrition, job search, legal assistance for immigration issues and navigating daily tasks in their new culture.

- Requests for English-as-a-Second-Language classes and citizenship classes continue to increase especially in a tight job market.

What We're Doing: Bellevue has supported the Eastside Refugee & Immigrant Coalition's Cultural Navigator program for residents from other cultures. We've also sponsored parenting groups, provided websites and other services in multiple languages. Our "Wrap Around Services Program" at Lake Hills and Stevenson Elementary Schools and Odle Middle School focuses particularly on families whose first language is not English. An exciting "crib to career" effort that began in March 2011, Eastside Pathways, has the goal to help all children in the Bellevue School District succeed in school and in life; many of the children who will benefit most are those who are new to our culture and school system.

Other Areas of Need

The six issues summarized in this Overview represent the biggest concerns for Bellevue residents. But 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 wait lists; they are only serving 59% of the eligible low-income children due to lack of federal funding.

- **Veterans.** About 23% 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 services for children and youth.** Organizations that provide counseling and treatment for children and youth are seeing more clients than ever before, including more from immigrant families. The Crisis Clinic's Teen Link phone line handles about 1,000 crisis intervention calls annually, about one quarter in North and East King County. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning youth are among a very high risk group for mental health issues. Bullying has become an increasing problem that the school district and parents are working hard to address.
- **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. Eastside Domestic Violence Program reports that for every family requesting emergency housing, 18 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 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 decreasing for a variety of services needed by these populations, including 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.

Next Steps

Our Needs Update will help us plan the best uses for City resources especially during these hard economic times.

- **Human Services Commission.** Bellevue's Human Services Commission will consider the issues identified in the Needs Update as it proceeds with the 2013-2014 funding cycle. Now, more than ever, our investments must effectively meet real needs, many of which are an ongoing result of the recession, must be delivered more collaboratively and must 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 2012 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
Consejo Counseling & Referral Service
Crisis Clinic
Eastside Baby Corner
Eastside Domestic Violence Program
Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council
Eastside Legal Assistance Program
Elder and Adult Day Services
Emergency Feeding Program
Friends of Youth
Food Lifeline
Healthpoint
HERO House
Hopelink
Jewish Family Service
Jubilee REACH Center
Kindering Center
King County Housing Authority
King County Sexual Assault Resource Center
KITH
NAMI Eastside
Refugee Women's Alliance
Sea Mar Community Health Center
Senior Services
Solid Ground
Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Sound Mental Health
St. Andrew's Housing Group
The Salvation Army
Therapeutic Health Services
World Impact Network
YMCA
Youth Eastside Services
YWCA

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

www.bellevuewa.gov

