

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Update on Human Services Program
DEPARTMENT:	City Manager's Office
PRESENTED BY:	Julie Modrzejewski, Assistant City Manager Rob Beem, Human Services Manager

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

This report reviews the Shoreline Human Services Program's accomplishments for 2004 and the opportunities for 2005. The reports will address:

- The City's overall strategy for increasing Shoreline resident's access to services.
- The Impact of the City's use of \$309,647 for the support agencies' service delivery to Shoreline residents.
- The City's role in identifying and addressing emerging issues including hunger and cultural diversity.
- The potential changes in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.
- The process to allocate HS funding for 2006.

RECOMMENDATION

No action is required. This item is for information only.

Approved By: City Manager QSS City Attorney N/A

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INTRODUCTION

The City human services funding and staff effort are targeted toward increasing Shoreline residents' access to services and to increasing service providers' responsiveness to and understanding of Shoreline. This update reviews the activities of the past 12 months and looks ahead to the topics and issues to be addressed in the coming year.

BACKGROUND

Human Services have been an integral function of the City since incorporation. The City's involvement in human services is guided by a mission that calls for "...fostering the development of a strong, safe and resilient community..." This is accomplished through:

- Direct funding to support and attract services to Shoreline.
- Organizing and mobilizing to focus the community's efforts to address specific needs.
- Planning to identify the local impacts of changing needs and trends in service delivery and support.

The key principles that underlie our work are that no one group or organization is positioned to meet all of a community's needs and that the most effective strategies support and enable people to meet their own needs.

DISCUSSION

Funding Sustains Services

In 2005, the City has allocated \$349,647 to fund community agencies' work to serve the citizens of Shoreline. These dollars fund 22 separate programs that will serve over 16,000 individuals.

The City has enhanced its response to local needs by expanding its direct funding in 2005. These enhancements include:

- Expand the support across the range of agencies.
- A particular emphasis on support for The Center for Human Services.
- Support five new programs:
 - Child Care Resources: Information & Referral Line.
 - Wonderland Developmental Center: Early Childhood Care.
 - Catholic Community Services: Volunteer Chore for Seniors.
 - Senior Services: Volunteer Transportation for Seniors.
 - Senior Services Minor Home Repair.

Each of the new programs respond to specific needs identified by the Ad Hoc Human Services Committee. As a result of these enhancements:

- Thirty-six (36) additional parents and children will have access to quality child care and twenty (20) child cares will receive additional training.

- Thirty (30) more seniors and their households will have access to “handyman” services for minor home repairs.
- Six (6) additional families and their children with disabilities will gain access to quality care and community resources.

In addition to the funding of agency program services, Shoreline uses a portion of its federal Community Development Block Grant funding to support capital projects. This year’s projects include home repair for up to 20 households, housing development of four units of independent living, and curb ramps.

Partners Extend our Reach

To facilitate greater involvement in human services, the City is actively engaged with many partners and agencies in the community. In addition to the agencies the City funds, key partners include the Shoreline Public Schools (SPS), United Way of King County (United Way), and the Shoreline/Northshore Network (Network). Working with these partners we have:

- Attracted over \$70,000 in additional funding to agencies serving Shoreline for programming at Ballinger Homes and in ESL classes and expanded family counseling offered in collaboration with Shoreline Police and Shoreline Public Schools (United Way and Network)
- Seen a wholesale expansion of early childhood services for families and child care providers including training for home day care providers, pilot testing of an assessment of school readiness for kindergarteners and expanded public information and awareness of child development resources (SPS and United Way).
- Enhanced VITA tax assistance to include Earned Income Tax Credit services to existing sites in Shoreline (United Way).
- Implemented the One Night Count of the Homeless in Shoreline.
- Improved connections between human service agencies and schools (Schools, United Way, and Network).
- Promoted expanded quarterly community trainings around race and culture involving over 200 people each year (Network).

Planning and Leadership to Address Emergent Needs

The needs in Shoreline continue to evolve. Three main factors affect needs in the community:

- **Demographics.** As the last census showed, Shoreline is getting somewhat older, with 14.8% of our residents over 65 and we have increasing numbers of low wage/lower income families with close to 20% of households earning less than 200% of poverty.
- **Proximity and access to services.** Access is often a function of where services are located. It is also affected by the degree to which regional agencies address the needs of our residents. An active element of our overall strategy is to promote the needs of Shoreline’s residents throughout North King County in order to encourage them to provide services to these residents.
- **Overall funding.** Agencies are dependent on funding from multiple sources to ensure their ongoing operations. Though specifics are unknown at this point, some of the major sources of funding are facing reductions. Examples include

Medicaid, mental health services, drug free communities and General Assistance Unemployed. Federally, reductions in the Community Development Block Grant and Section 8 housing vouchers will reduce the resources Shoreline's residents have to meet their needs.

During the past year, the City has been active in each of these areas on behalf of our citizens. Typical activities include:

- Convening community action to improve the community's response to hunger. A recent community meeting to address this issue attracted 40 participants representing congregations, service providers, neighborhoods and businesses.
- Convening discussions that increase people's skill working with diverse cultures.
- Recognizing our students' celebrations of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
- Using new funding to attract additional services to Shoreline. In the last five years we have attracted 15 service providers have focused attention on Shoreline. In the past year we have seen expanded services to seniors, children with disabilities, young children, English Language Learners and family support centers in Shoreline.
- Forging stronger connections with Hopelink to expand food bank hours and services.
- Developing information for City Council members to use in discussions in Washington D.C. about restoration of the CDBG.
- Advocating with State Legislators to retain full funding for public health and safety networks.
- Working with the United Way to support a legislative agenda that is working to save funding for the safety net services such as mental health services and General Assistance Unemployed.

Looking ahead, staff planning and leadership activities will include a focus on:

- Staving off funding reductions that impact Shoreline's service providers.
- Maintaining service effectiveness in light of funding reductions.
- Expanding the community's organized response to hunger.
- Continuing education of service providers and other funders as to Shoreline citizen's needs.
- Improving the effectiveness of connections between and among service providers, community groups, other governments, and schools.

Community Development Block Grant: Changes and Reductions

The Community Development Block Grant is a significant element of the City's overall human services funding and program. In 2005, the City has allocated a total of \$427,000 of CDBG revenues. The CDBG program is undergoing significant changes at the Federal and County levels. There are proposals in Congress to severely reduce or even eliminate the CDBG as a source of funding for Shoreline. Though the most drastic reductions in funding initially proposed do not appear likely to happen, the CDBG remains in flux. Shoreline, other cities, and King County anticipate that our revenues from the CDBG will decline over the next three years. In anticipation of this reduced funding, the cities and King County are planning for 2006 with the assumption that the CDBG amount will be reduced by up to 40%.

CDBG Program Changes

The City receives its share of the CDBG as a member of the King County Consortium. The Consortium is composed of small and medium sized cities throughout King County. The cities of Seattle, Kent, Bellevue, and Auburn do not participate in the Consortium. They receive their CDBG funds directly from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Consortium receives over \$7 Million/year in CDBG funds on behalf of the Consortium. Shoreline, Renton and Federal Way each are eligible to receive funding directly from HUD. These cities find it advantageous to have the Consortium administer their funding. At the reduced levels of funding, we anticipate it is no longer feasible to operate the Consortium as it has in the past. The cities in the Consortium and King County are now in negotiations about a new operating agreement.

A new agreement to govern the operation of the Consortium will be brought to Council in early summer. At that time the City will have the option of continuing to participate with the other cities and King County or to receive its share of the CDBG directly from HUD. As a direct entitlement recipient the City would gain some additional funding and would also undertake significant new responsibilities for total program administration. At this time, staff is evaluating which scenario will be most advantageous to the City in terms of decision making and local control, overall funding, and cost of administration.

Allocations for 2006

The City is in the middle of a two year cycle of funding for agency operating support. Capital funding using the CDBG revenues occurs on an annual basis. Recognizing that the overall funding for the CDBG is unknown and the status of the Consortium is under development, the calls for proposals from non-profit agencies will occur in mid summer. At that time, more will be known about each of these variables and we will be able to give agencies better guidance as they prepare applications. This schedule is delayed two to three months when compared to previous years.

Summary

The City uses its resources of funding and staff time to support activities that increase residents' access to human services. Our efforts in partnership with the agencies we fund are making a difference in the lives of our residents. In 2005, over 16,000 residents will be served by agencies making use of the City's funding. As a planner and catalyst, the City is engaging agencies and other partners such as the Shoreline Public Schools, Northshore/Shoreline Network and United Way to enhance the system of services in Shoreline. A key element of the City's funding, the CDBG, is expected to decline over the next three years. Currently, the Consortium which operates the CDBG in King County is being reformed. Pending decisions on the structure of the Consortium, the City will accept applications for capital projects to be funded in 2006.