



AWARDS

Other Notable Projects

Hoquiam - Municipal Jail Reopens

Hoquiam reopened its city jail, closed for 10 years, after forming a unique partnership with the Department of Corrections. Corrections needed beds for felony probation violators in the region, but jail space in Grays Harbor was too limited to house the offenders running through the new "Swift and Certain" program that holds offenders immediately accountable (through jail time) for probation offenses. By housing the offenders in its empty jail, Hoquiam earns enough revenue to reopen the facility, improving public safety for the city and neighboring communities.



**PUBLIC SAFETY
INFRASTRUCTURE**

Tumwater - City Hall High School Interns

Tumwater knows that to get experience, youth need a first job. Why not at the city? To qualify for Tumwater's High School Intern program, which last three to four months, students must have no formal work experience, be in the Tumwater School District, have no relative employed by the city, and be willing to work for minimum wage. Students are referred by high school counselors and usually supervised by the executive assistant to the city administrator and mayor. Upon completion of the program, interns leave with a letter of recommendation, a résumé, and a professional reference.



**COMMUNITY BUILDING
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

SWEET SIXTEEN

A BROAD ALLIANCE TRANSFORMS HUMAN SERVICES CONTRACTING.

ONE ALLIANCE, 16 CITIES, and a shared process that delivers critical human services to vulnerable, low-income, and homeless residents: that's the Human Services Funding Collaborative (HSFC), an alliance of King County municipalities from Auburn to Shoreline. Together, they've created a common online funding application that allows them to independently allocate food security, housing and homelessness prevention, medical and dental services, youth services, and many other important resources to their own communities.

The HSFC came together in 2010 to find a more efficient way to fund and manage resources. Over a decade ago, city staff in the various communities realized they were working with the same nonprofits, putting a lot of stress on agencies that were already working with limited budgets and staff during the recession. Nonprofits were preparing multiple applications and countless supporting documents, mailing or

hand-delivering as many as 10 copies of an application to multiple cities with varying due dates. With so many conflicting steps to achieve the same goal, human services providers and cities began to push for more coordination.

A more efficient way to manage resources

The first step was developing a joint application that aligned the questions asked

and the reporting criteria. A separate group worked to develop a common contract-monitoring tool. And a long-term subcommittee (Bellevue, Kent, and Redmond) researched an online application tool that could take on the layers of 16 cities.

In 2012, HSFC launched Sharelapp. The system allows city staff, advisory boards, and human services commissioners to review and score applications online. The app is used to submit quarterly performance reports, generate invoices, and track outcomes. If an agency reports on four programs to 10 cities, it no longer has to fill out 40 reports each quarter; instead, it fills out only one report per program—four reports total—in the Sharelapp system. And cities can use the app to compare the costs of services county-wide, see opportunities for joint monitoring visits, reduce staff time on contract management, and improve communication among the alliance partners.

A recent change to the online system lets city staff comment on the quarterly reports and e-mail the agencies directly with concerns. A long-term subcommittee from four cities provides technical assistance to all participating cities, cross-trains users, and continues to work with the system developers to keep Sharelapp up to date. Each city pays a proportional share of the total costs, and Kent is the fiscal agent.

Getting 16 cities and their staffs to agree on one process—and feel confident that it works—shows the strength of their commitment not only to the process, but to the reason behind the process: bringing crucial services to the residents who need them most. **C**

