



Memorandum

Date: 2/2/2021

Meeting of: Committee of the Whole - Parks and Human Services

File No. CM 21-029

Type: Committee Memo

TO: Committee of the Whole - Parks and Human Services

FROM: Mayor Angela Birney

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR CONTACT(S):

Planning and Community Development	Carol Helland	425-556-2107
------------------------------------	---------------	--------------

DEPARTMENT STAFF:

Planning and Community Development	Alaric Bien	Senior Human Services Planner
------------------------------------	-------------	-------------------------------

TITLE:

Human Services COVID Response - 2020 Year-End Summary

OVERVIEW STATEMENT:

Human services staff have been working through 2020 and continue to respond to community needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The work has been focused on:

- Identifying emerging needs,
- Supporting non-profit partners to ensure continuity of services,
- Allocating additional funding available through federal and state sources,
- Advocating for equitable distribution of resources with partner agencies,
- Coordinating our efforts with other funding jurisdictions to maximize effective and efficient distribution of limited resources,
- Working with local partner agencies and the RPD in homeless outreach efforts; and
- Sharing critical information and resources with the broad community and agencies.

☒ **Additional Background Information/Description of Proposal Attached**

REQUESTED ACTION:

☒ **Receive Information**

☐ **Provide Direction**

☐ **Approve**

REQUEST RATIONALE:

- **Relevant Plans/Policies:**
Long-Term Disaster Recovery Plan
- **Required:**
N/A
- **Council Request:**
N/A
- **Other Key Facts:**

Staff has adhered to these overarching principles to guide our work in this unprecedented event:

- Ensure that we are supporting the most collaborative effort possible to prevent fragmented approach and response.
- To the extent possible, activate necessary resources to ensure continuity of operations and provision of critical services.
- Anticipate, plan for, and respond to other unexpected needs that arise during this time.

OUTCOMES:

Outcomes include:

- Regular collaboration with Eastside jurisdictional funders to assess needs, coordinate distribution of funds and advocacy,
- Strong partnerships with Police Department and local agencies and shelters to respond to upsurge in homeless needs and changing conditions; and
- Contract administration and compliance to disburse new federal resources, CARES Act Funding and Community Development Block Grant - COVID funding.

Human Services Situational Report for 2020 is provided in **Attachment A**

COMMUNITY/STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH AND INVOLVEMENT:

- **Timeline (previous or planned):**
March 2020 to present
- **Outreach Methods and Results:**
 1. Conducted a targeted provider survey to assess emerging needs and challenges due to COVID-19.
 2. Social media, email, web pages, Communications and Economic Development departments were used to disseminate critical information to the community in a timely manner.
- **Feedback Summary:**
 1. Feedback from the provider survey (nearly 100 respondents) was used to inform subsequent funding decisions for COVID response (e.g. nearly all providers indicated technology costs as a challenge).
 2. Local community-based partners reported receiving several grants from funding sources such as the Seattle Foundation and King County as a result of these communications. They also shared that they disseminated information to their respective constituents and were particularly grateful for information in languages other than English.

BUDGET IMPACT:

Total Cost:

N/A

Approved in current biennial budget: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

Budget Offer Number:
N/A

Budget Priority:
N/A

Other budget impacts or additional costs: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

If yes, explain:

Nearly 800 hours in staff time spent on COVID-19 related activities through the end of 2020. Navigating federal requirements for timely disbursement of dollars was critical, leaving limited staff capacity for other work during that time.

Funding source(s):
N/A

Budget/Funding Constraints:
N/A

☐ Additional budget details attached

COUNCIL REVIEW:

Previous Contact(s)

Date	Meeting	Requested Action
4/7/2020	Committee of the Whole - Parks and Human Services	Receive Information

Proposed Upcoming Contact(s)

Date	Meeting	Requested Action
N/A	None proposed at this time	N/A

Time Constraints:
N/A

ANTICIPATED RESULT IF NOT APPROVED:
N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: COVID -19 Pandemic Response Report