

Seattle Human Services Department - 2020 Priorities

Overview

The Seattle Human Services Department (HSD) is one of the largest contributors to Seattle's safety net by investing nearly \$170M in contracts to more than 150 community organizations and programs that support strong and healthy communities. HSD has nearly 400 employees and is organized through five divisions designed to deliver outcomes that work for community, promote innovation, and advance racial equity. These divisions are [Youth and Family Empowerment \(YFE\)](#), [Mayor's Office on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault \(MODVSA\)](#), Leadership and Administrative Division ([LAD](#)), [Aging and Disability Services \(ADS\)](#), and [Homelessness Strategy and Investment \(HSI\)](#).

2020 Priorities

Stand Up A New Regional Authority: HSD's divisions are leading the way with impactful work that touches every community in Seattle. One of HSD's top priorities is to stand-up and launch the new [King County Regional Homelessness Authority \(KCRHA\)](#). This includes transitioning HSI staff to a co-location space with their County peers this spring, followed by CEO on-boarding and development of a staffing plan. This big structural change not only impacts the City's efforts, but also requires an employee-centered approach to ensure services are delivered while ample time and support is provided to staff interested in transitioning to the KCRHA or pursuing a career elsewhere with the City.

Re-Envision HSD: With homelessness response transitioning to the KCRHA, HSD will redefine how it exists within the human services space. HSD is working with staff, service providers, and clients to co-create a roadmap for the future. This extensive work will examine form and function, culture, and future HSD outcomes. Ultimately, we want HSD to attract and retain the most talented people, while positioning HSD's programs as a national leader in addressing poverty.

Outcomes that Impact Community: The collective work of YFE, MODVSA, LAD, ADS, and HSI work in concert to support [HSD's key impact areas](#). Here are the top outcomes HSD's divisions are working towards in 2020:

- **Strong stewardship of tax dollars** by working with Council and Mayor's Office to identify administrative, staffing, and indirect costs associated with increased investments. Continue to reduce administrative burden for service providers, resulting in stronger equity outcomes with community.
- **Prepare youth for success** by developing Seattle's young people through the [Seattle Youth Employment Program](#) by serving 400 participants this summer and 200 participants during the school year, increasing investments in youth development, investing in safety to reduce youth violence, and expanding healthy food access in out-of-school programs for kids in need.
- **Help make Seattle more affordable** by providing excellent customer service and expanding the [Utility Discount Program](#), which seeks to continue providing discounts to over 34,000 qualifying household and leading \$5 million effort to reduce sugary beverage consumption to address hunger and advance food justice.
- **Promote healthy aging** and housing stability through access to supportive services for 38,000 older people, adults with disabilities and caregivers in conjunction with the [Area Agency on Aging Plan](#), and in partnership with the [King County Veterans Services and Human Services Levy](#) to better serve communities of color. Maximize independence for 14,000 vulnerable older people and adults with disabilities who receive critical long-term supports to remain at home.
- **Respond to gender-based violence** by managing investments totaling over \$10.8 million and raising awareness through leading the first-of-its-kind [Gender-Based Violence Conference](#) in 2020 and by organizing a creative art exhibition at City Hall during Sexual Assault Awareness Month.
- **Promote public health** by investing in [Seattle King County Public Health](#) initiatives that address gun violence and reduce opioid abuse in communities across Seattle and the region.
- **Respond to homelessness** by delivering effective services that ultimately house people, while laying the foundation for KCRHA success. Continue to improve and support the [Navigation Team](#) model that connects vulnerable people to shelter. Respond to Council and Mayor's Office requests and continue to provide critical data updates and milestones for stakeholders. Continue identifying additional shelter and resource capacity to better serve people living unsheltered.