

2022 Seattle City Council Budget Action

Council Budget Action: Agenda

Tab	Action	Option	Version
HSD	022	B	001

Budget Action Title: Add \$750,000 GF and a strategic adviser 2 position to HSD for expanded pre-filing diversion contracts with community-based organizations

Ongoing: Yes Has Budget Proviso: No

Has CIP Amendment: No Has Attachment: No

Primary Sponsor: Lisa Herbold

Council Members: Andrew Lewis, Lorena González

Staff Analyst: Asha Venkataraman

Council Bill or Resolution:

Date		Total	LH	TM	KS	AP	DJ	DS	AL	BC	LG
	Yes	0									
	No	0									
	Abstain	0									
	Absent	0									

Summary of Dollar Effect

See the following pages for detailed technical information

	2022 Increase (Decrease)	2023 Increase (Decrease)
General Fund		
General Fund Revenues	\$0	
General Fund Expenditures	\$750,000	
Net Balance Effect	\$(750,000)	
Total Budget Balance Effect	\$(750,000)	

Budget Action Description:

This Council Budget Action (CBA) would add \$750,000 GF to the Human Service Department (HSD) to contract with community-based organizations partnering with the City Attorney's Office (LAW) on pre-filing diversion for individuals 25 and older, support a portion of the cost of adding nine months of a senior grants and contract specialist position added in CBA FAS-005-C-001, and support the cost of adding nine months of a strategic adviser 2 position to staff new bodies of work in the safe and thriving communities division contained in this CBA and in CBA FAS-005-C-001.

LAW began a pre-filing diversion program in 2017 for individuals between 18 and 24 who are accused of committing low level misdemeanors, partnering with the non-profit organization Choose 180. In 2018, it expanded pre-filing diversion to support relicensing for all individuals accused of Driving While License Suspended in the 3rd degree (DWLS3), partnering with the non-profit organization Legacy of Equality,

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Leadership, and Organizing (LELO). In 2021, it expanded pre-filing diversion for individuals between 18 and 24 accused of non-intimate partner/family domestic violence, partnering with the non-profit organization Gay City. Contracts for these partnerships are currently held by LAW, but the current funding would go to HSD to decrease oversight of the funding by the criminal legal system.

The Seattle Reentry Workgroup Report, issued in 2018, recommended expanding the use of pre-filing diversion to individuals aged 25 and older. The Council adopted Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI) CJ-24-A-2 in the 2020 Adopted Budget, which requested that LAW evaluate the staffing and resources that would be needed to expand diversion to individuals 25 and over. The Council also provided funding for LAW to conduct a Racial Equity Toolkit (RET) assessing the concept. The SLI response and RET indicated a need for adequate funds so community organizations could handle the additional case volume coming in.

The pre-filing diversion RET identified a need for \$750,000 to fund at least five organizations. Based on volume from the existing pre-filing diversion program, LAW estimates that this amount of funding would support 277-347 cases annually for 23-29 cases/month (less than \$2,500/case). Given that it is unlikely that the program will begin on January 1, \$165,000 of the \$750,000 would support the two positions added in this CBA and in CBA FAS-005-C-001 to support the bodies of work described in these CBAs.

Budget Action Transactions

#	Transaction Description	Position Title	Number of Positions	FTE	Dept	BSL	Fund	Year	Revenue Amount	Expenditure Amount
1	Increase appropriations for community pre-filing diversion contracts and position support		0	0	HSD - HS000	HSD - BO-HS-H4000 - Supporting Safe Communities	00100 - General Fund	2022	\$0	\$750,000
2	Pocket Adjustments	StratAdvsr2,Human Svcs	1	1	HSD - HS000	HSD - BO-HS-H4000 - Supporting Safe Communities	00100 - General Fund	2022	\$0	\$0