

2023 Seattle City Council Budget Action

Council Budget Action: Agenda

Tab	Action	Option	Version
HSD	040	A	001-2023

Budget Action Title: Add \$101,000 GF (2023) and \$124,000 GF (2024) in HSD to fund wage parity across crisis responders

Ongoing: Yes Has Budget Proviso: No

Has CIP Amendment: No Has Attachment: No

Primary Sponsor: Dan Strauss

Council Members: Lisa Herbold, Andrew Lewis

Staff Analyst: Ann Gorman

Council Bill or Resolution:

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

Summary of Dollar Effect

See the following pages for detailed technical information

	2023 Increase (Decrease)	2024 Increase (Decrease)
General Fund		
General Fund Revenues	\$0	\$0
General Fund Expenditures	\$101,000	\$124,000
Net Balance Effect	\$(101,000)	\$(124,000)
Total Budget Balance Effect	\$(101,000)	\$(124,000)

Budget Action Description:

This Council Budget Action would add \$101,000 GF in 2023 and \$124,000 GF in 2024 (ongoing) to the Human Services Department (HSD) to increase funding for its contract with the Downtown Emergency Service Center (DESC). Funding provided in the City's contract with DESC is no longer sufficient to pay the labor costs of DESC's Crisis Response Team (CRT).

DESC CRT members are mental health professionals who work alongside Seattle Police Department (SPD) officers, deploying in a co-responder model to provide a holistic approach to law enforcement encounters with individuals experiencing behavioral health issues. The CRT, which has five members, is a subunit of DESC's 81-member Mobile Crisis Team (MCT). DESC receives funding from the City of Seattle, King County, and the State to support the work of the MCT. The CRT, uniquely among MCT subunits, is funded solely by the City. In April 2022, King County increased funding in its contracts with

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DESC in order to increase crisis responder pay rates, seeking to align their compensation with that of Designated Crisis Response Professionals (DCRPs) who perform Involuntary Treatment Assessments.

The City did not increase the pay rates in its crisis-response contracts in tandem with King County. Because CRT members and other MCT members perform very similar work that requires the same credentials and certification and that imposes the same risk, DESC and its employees' union bargained to increase CRT members' compensation to the same level as that of their colleagues.

HSD's contract with DESC for the CRT no longer covers the cost of labor. In 2022 DESC experienced staff vacancies on the MCT such that it was able to absorb this funding gap, but the organization anticipates that it will be fully staffed in 2023, and \$101,000 in additional funding will be required to continue providing wage parity across its team of crisis responders. Without the funding increment that this Council Budget Action would provide, DESC must permanently reduce the size of the CRT from five to four members.

Budget Action Transactions

#	Transaction Description	Position Title	Number of Positions	FTE	Dept	BSL	Fund	Year	Revenue Amount	Expenditure Amount
1	Add funding to support DESC's Crisis Response Team		0	0	HSD - HS000	HSD - BO-HS-H7000 - Promoting Public Health	00100 - General Fund	2023	\$0	\$101,000
2	Add funding to support DESC's Crisis Response Team		0	0	HSD - HS000	HSD - BO-HS-H7000 - Promoting Public Health	00100 - General Fund	2024	\$0	\$124,000