

2023 Seattle City Council Budget Action

Council Budget Action: Agenda

Tab	Action	Option	Version
HSD	020	A	002-2023

Budget Action Title: Add \$238,000 GF (2023) and \$238,000 GF (2024) to HSD for a dedicated phone line for crisis prevention and intervention services for first responders

Ongoing: No Has Budget Proviso: No

Has CIP Amendment: No Has Attachment: No

Primary Sponsor: Dan Strauss

Council Members: Lisa Herbold, Andrew Lewis

Staff Analyst: Asha Venkataraman

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	\$237,500	\$237,500
Net Balance Effect	\$(237,500)	\$(237,500)
Total Budget Balance Effect	\$(237,500)	\$(237,500)

Budget Action Description:

This Council Budget Action would add \$238,000 GF (one-time) in 2023 and \$238,000 GF (one-time) in 2024 to the Human Services Department (HSD) to contract for a dedicated 24/7/365 phone line providing crisis prevention and intervention services to first responders (police, fire, emergency medical) in Seattle and King County to connect patients with behavioral health needs who do not require immediate medical attention to more appropriate resources. Council has identified Crisis Connections for this funding and requests that the HSD Director waive the requirements of Seattle Municipal Code subsection 3.20.050.B, as authorized by subsection 3.20.050.C.

Such a phone line would connect first responders to a behavioral health expert prior to or when arriving at the scene of a police, fire, or emergency medical event to provide support and information including current and past mental health treatment, case management contact information, and psychiatric

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hospitalization history for an individual. This information can assist first responders in providing an appropriate therapeutic intervention to a person in crisis. This tool would also free first responders to move efficiently through calls and divert law enforcement from calls where an armed response is not needed.

Starting in 2019, Public Health - Seattle & King County piloted Crisis Connections One Call, a single portal referral service in the form of a dedicated phone line staffed by behavioral health specialists and specifically for first responders. One Call provided client information, helped problem solve, provided resources and information, assisted with mental health triage, and gave referrals to current and new mental health treatment. The pilot ended in April 2021 and OneCall is now intended to be an ongoing program.

The 2022 Adopted Budget included \$403,030 GF to contract with Crisis Connections for One Call for the dedicated line phone line, outreach, program expansion, law enforcement training, and facilitation of program effectiveness meetings. The contract was funded with one-time dollars and no funding remains in the 2023-2024 Proposed Budget for a dedicated phone line. The program budget for 2023 and 2024 for One Call is \$475,000 per year, an increase from the 2022 contract amount that reflects a cost of living increase and an increase in the projected volume of calls. The City would fund half of this contract in 2023 and 2024. Crisis Connection has requested that King County fund the other half for both years. The King County Council is currently in deliberations about the King County 2023-2024 Proposed Budget and whether they will fund this proposal to cover half the program costs is pending budget adoption in November.

Budget Action Transactions

#	Transaction Description	Position Title	Number of Positions	FTE	Dept	BSL	Fund	Year	Revenue Amount	Expenditure Amount
1	Add funding for crisis prevention and intervention phone line for first responders		0	0	HSD - HS000	HSD - BO-HS-H4000 - Supporting Safe Communities	00100 - General Fund	2023	\$0	\$237,500
2	Add funding for crisis prevention and intervention phone line for first responders		0	0	HSD - HS000	HSD - BO-HS-H4000 - Supporting Safe Communities	00100 - General Fund	2024	\$0	\$237,500