

2021 Seattle City Council Budget Action

Council Budget Action: Agenda

Tab	Action	Option	Version
SPD	015	C	001

Budget Action Title: Cut \$450,000 GF from SPD for contracted mental health providers (MHPs) serving the SPD Crisis Response Unit (CRU), add \$450,000 GF to HSD for contracted MHPs serving the CRU, add \$1.0 million to HSD for other mental health outreach services, and impose two provisos

Ongoing: Yes Has Budget Proviso: No

Has CIP Amendment: No Has Attachment: No

Primary Sponsor: Dan Strauss

Council Members: Lisa Herbold, Kshama Sawant, Alex Pedersen, Andrew Lewis

Staff Analyst: Greg Doss

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

	2021 Increase (Decrease)	2022 Increase (Decrease)
General Fund		
General Fund Revenues		\$0
General Fund Expenditures	\$1,000,000	
Net Balance Effect	\$(1,000,000)	
Total Budget Balance Effect	\$(1,000,000)	

Budget Action Description:

This Council Budget Action (CBA) would transfer \$450,000 GF from the Seattle Police Department (SPD) to the Human Services Department (HSD) to fund an existing contract for five Mental Health Professionals (MHPs) who work as part of the SPD Crisis Response Unit (CRU). The action would also add \$1.0 million in funding to HSD to support other contracted mental health outreach work and impose two provisos.

MHPs at SPD:

SPD currently has one CRU unit, consisting of one MHP and one officer, in each of its five precincts. The teams respond to individuals experiencing both chronic and acute behavioral health issues. When

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responding to calls involving such issues, the 911 calls most often classified as ‘disturbances’ in which callers have voiced concerns about the words, actions, or behaviors of those in crisis. When CRU is responding to these types of calls, the primary role of the officer is to ensure overall ‘scene safety’ and then defer to the MHP’s for verbal engagement.

Increased support for mental health outreach work in HSD:

This budget action would add \$1.0 million to HSD to support the creation or expansion of neighborhood-based teams of mental health, medical, substance use disorder professionals to respond to individuals experiencing both chronic and acute behavioral health issues, particularly people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, such as the Downtown Emergency Service Center’s (DESC’s) Homeless Outreach Stabilization and Transition (HOST) team. The teams would focus on providing outreach and intensive case management and improving access to shelter. To the extent possible, team members should reflect the communities to be served, including Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) individuals.

This Council Budget Action imposes the following provisos:

“Of the appropriation in the 2021 Budget for the Seattle Police Department (SPD), \$500,000 may not be spent until the Chair of the Council’s Public Safety Committee files a certification with the City Clerk that SPD has provided a report that contains an analysis and recommendations on the issues identified in Executive Order 2020-10 Section 2B(i)(ii), with particular attention paid to a process that would allow mental health providers to respond without officers to 911 calls that identify persons in crisis or suffering from mental health related issues.”

"Of the appropriation in the 2021 Budget for the Human Services Department (HSD), \$450,000 is appropriated solely to contract for the services of five Mental Health Providers to assist the Seattle Police Department’s Crisis Response Unit and may be spent for no other purpose. The Council intends that HSD enter into a contract with an organization such as the Downtown Emergency Service Center (DESC) to continue to provide these services.”

Budget Action Transactions

#	Transaction Description	Position Title	Number of Positions	FTE	Dept	BSL	Fund	Year	Revenue Amount	Expenditure Amount
1	Add \$450,000 GF for contracted mental health providers for the SPD Crisis Response Unit		0	0	HSD - HS000	HSD - BO-HS-H4000 - Supporting Safe Communities	00100 - General Fund	2021	\$0	\$450,000
2	Increase appropriation for homelessness outreach services		0	0	HSD - HS000	HSD - BO-HS-H3000 - Addressing Homelessness	00100 - General Fund	2021	\$0	\$1,000,000
3	Cut \$450,000 GF for contracted mental health providers for the SPD Crisis Response Unit		0	0	SPD - SP000	SPD - BO-SP-P4000 - Collaborative Policing	00100 - General Fund	2021	\$0	\$(450,000)