

North Urban Human Services Alliance

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Hot Policy Topics Affecting North King County Spring 2010

Local City Human Service Funding

North King County Cities have shown a commitment to providing human service funding for programs in their communities. In 2010 the five cities will accept applications for two-year funding from community nonprofits.

NUHSA will continue to encourage cities to sustain funding at or above current levels, especially in these tough economic times. Local dollars, while modest in amount, leverage private and regional funds for a great multiplier effect and help create a sustainable network of services in communities across North King County.

County Funding Stabilization

Faced with growing budget shortfalls, King County has eliminated nearly all County general fund dollars for community human services in the 2010 budget. This funding included support for essential services like senior centers and adult day health, emergency food distribution, homeless shelters, and programs for youth at risk. In addition to serving our communities when they need it most, these preventative programs save the County money by reducing the need for emergency medical services and jails, and efficiently leveraging private donations and bringing in corporate support.

NUHSA Position: We urge the County Council to implement a new source of revenue and restore County funding to critical community human services.

10 Year Plan to End Homelessness

Started in King County in July 2005, this comprehensive and innovative plan puts housing first and aims to end homelessness in the county by 2015. All five north King County cities have signed on to the plan.

One of the original founders of the Committee to End Homelessness in King County, NUHSA is working with the Housing Development Consortium in North King County to find innovative and effective options for housing those in need and will continue to advocate for funding and other opportunities for engagement.

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Human Services Infrastructure

The cities in North King County are planning for redevelopment and growth, and many are in the process of shaping the center of their cities for years to come.

NUHSA advocates that human services are part of a healthy community and will encourage North King County cities to incorporate space for human services and centralized service centers into their redevelopment plans. NUHSA encourages the City of Bothell to take action to include these services into their final downtown design and development, and we encourage the City of Shoreline to consider vital services as a core piece of the city center.

For more detail on NUHSA's description of a healthy community, see our complete policy statement: [Human Services: Part of a Healthy Community at www.nuhsa.org](#), under "Taking Action".

Municipal Revenues

All five North King County cities support human services with general funds. The recession and tax limitation measures have the effect of reducing these cities' ability to continue this support. In 2010 several of these cities are considering placing revenue items on the ballot in order to maintain services.

NUHSA supports ballot propositions that cities place before the voters to raise local revenue that will allow them to sustain and or enhance funding to address the human needs of their residents. Support for these human services agencies is critical to enable them to function as quality of life partners with their local city.

For more information on these topics, on NUHSA's advocacy around these issues, and on how you can get involved, please contact NUHSA's Policy Committee Co-Chairs: Rob Beem (rbeem@shorelinewa.gov or 206-546-1933) and Kelsey Beck (KelseyB@fl.org or 206-545-6600).