



## Invest in People First to Support the Economic Recovery of Seattle Residents

Seattle residents are still hurt from the recession and from cuts to the public infrastructure.

**For 2014 SHSC recommends budget policy that will maintain current, urgently needed services and mitigate the impact of the recession on the most vulnerable residents.**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Priority: Maintain current community-based health & human services**

Community health and human services help people with their *basic* human needs and requirements for survival. During this recession the Mayor and City Council have demonstrated ongoing leadership and vision by sustaining and even strengthening these critical investments.

At the same time, other key funders continue to make significant cuts to urgently needed services and the needs among Seattle residents have increased. **Any cuts to human services now put Seattle residents at serious risk.** This includes services cut through RFP processes that could shift resources away from investments that are essential to the health and safety of Seattle residents. This also includes maintaining current Mutually Offsetting Benefit (MOB) leases with senior centers.

**SHSC urges City of Seattle leaders to, first of all, sustain current services.**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Priority: New investment in community health and human services to mitigate the negative impacts of the economic downturn on vulnerable Seattle residents, including funding cut from other sources for vital services.**

This investment will allow community-based providers the ability to address some of the critical recession impacts on Seattle residents. This investment would not allow providers to meet all the needs in Seattle communities. Detail for these recommendations follow.

**Total minimal additional investment recommended is \$2,964,613 in 2014**

## **Human Services = Human Lives**

For more information contact the Seattle Human Services Coalition  
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## Budget to Support Economic Recovery of Seattle Residents

### OVERVIEW of RECOMMENDATIONS for 2014 July 29, 2013

Page	Goal Area #A: Food to eat and a roof overhead	2014 Investment to Help Meet the Need
1	Reinvest in dedicated emergency food system coordination and support	\$40,000
1	Closing the gap for services provided by non-profit meal programs	\$437,000
2	Increased investment in indoor/outdoor meal sites	\$130,000
2	Invest in safe places for youth during the day, including weekends*	\$50,000
3	Invest in year-round shelter for single women*	\$50,000
3	Invest in year-round co-ed shelter*	\$95,000
3	Support previous levels of day and hygiene services for adults*	\$100,000
3	Emergency shelter for families through vouchers and overnight emergency shelter*	\$199,613
3	Maintain outreach and case management for people who are homeless and mentally ill (provisional on upcoming loss of funding)	\$325,000
	<b>Total Goal Area #A Investment:</b>	<b>\$1,426,613</b>
	<b>Goal Area #B: Promote healthy development and academic success</b>	
4	Invest in afterschool activities for middle school youth	\$153,000
4	Restore funding the Child Care Health Program for 2.0 FTE staff	\$220,000
	<b>Total Goal Area #B Investment:</b>	<b>\$373,000</b>
	<b>Goal Area #C: End violence and abuse and promote safety</b>	
5	Establish and maintain supportive long-term housing for domestic violence survivors and their children in Seattle*	\$200,000
6	Invest in violence prevention for 18-24 year olds	\$240,000
6	Invest in brief services and representation to survivors of domestic violence in family law matters*	\$50,000
7	Invest in specialized legal advocacy for survivors of domestic violence seeking protections of their immigrant status*	\$15,000
7	Invest in advocacy and support for traumatized children of domestic violence agencies	\$120,000
8	Invest in direct assistance for sexual assault victims and their family members*	\$30,000
	<b>Total Goal Area #C Investment:</b>	<b>\$655,000</b>
	<b>Goal Area #D: Promote health and independence for vulnerable populations</b>	
9	Expand City MOB leases to include senior centers in need of space	\$0
9	Invest in essential senior programs*	\$450,000
	<b>Total Goal Area #D Investment:</b>	<b>\$450,000</b>
	<b>Goal Area #E: Provide effective service linkages and build capacity</b>	
10	Invest in making funds available to agencies for technical assistance in building their capacity to address structural racism*	\$60,000
	<b>Total Goal Area #E Investment:</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>
		<b>\$2,964,613</b>

\*partially addressed in 2013, additional action required

**TOTAL minimum recommended investment for 2014**

**\$2,964,613**

## Budget to Support the Economic Recovery of Seattle Residents

### GOAL AREA A: End Homelessness and Hunger

Recommendation that will Mitigate Impact of Economic Downturn or Mitigate Impact of Cuts in Public Investment	Community Impact of Recommendation	2014 Investment
<p><b>Reinvest in dedicated emergency food system coordination and support:</b></p>		
<p>Non-profit meal providers are a critical aspect of the Seattle emergency food system that serve a broad range of Seattle housed and un-housed residents. These services make food bank and meal program resources go further and provide resources at a highly reduced rate.</p> <p>The City has contracted with Solid Ground for a reduced set of services that have not meet the needs of Seattle based meal providers. This places the onus of providing outreach, information requested by community members as well as government officials on meal program staff, often meaning that these services go unmet. Providing funding for this program will create an invaluable resource of information and statics, outreach and coordination for meals programs, as well as networking and sharing of best practices.</p>	<p>A dedicated meal coordination system will maximize the efficiency of congregate meal and home delivered meal providers by increasing the access and availability of food as well as provide program infrastructure of safe and nutritious meals to those who would otherwise go hungry. The services that have been cut were previously provided by Meals Partnership Coalition which has been the dedicated Seattle meal provider support system since 1999.</p>	<p>40,000</p>
<p><b>Closing the gap for services provided by non-profit meal programs:</b></p>		
<p>Seattle non-profit meal programs provide 3,050,000 documented meals and an estimated 2,000,000 undocumented meals each year to those in need. Based upon the King County 2013 One Night Homeless Count and the King County McKinney-Vento Report for shelter availability, there are at least 7,000 people experiencing homelessness within the City of Seattle throughout the year. This number has increased by 2% since last year. Based on this data and the USDA nutrition guideline, approximately 7,550,000 prepared meals are required to ensure that every person who is considered homeless in Seattle receives adequate nutrition. In addition, there is an estimated need of 1 million additional prepared meals to supplement meals for those who have exhausted their food bank and food stamp benefits. Currently there is a gap of 3,500,000 meals within our community. An average no-cost meal delivered by a non-profit meal provider which meets USDA recommended nutritional levels cost \$2.50 per meal. To help close the gap in services we recommend an investment which would fill 5% of the current unmet need, and provide approximately 174,000 meals.</p>	<p>Through an increased investment into the Seattle meal provider system the City of Seattle would help create a more robust system that would have the ability to close the gap in services to un-housed populations experiencing hunger. With additional RFP's available to meal providers already working to meet the Seattle hunger need, established programs would have the ability to expand services or new programs could be developed to meet the unmet need in underserved areas of Seattle. This increased access to nutritious meals would increase the health and wellbeing of the populations accessing non-profit meal providers which would help to reduce associated social costs such as medical interventions for malnutrition and criminal justice cases related to theft.</p>	<p>437,000</p>

**GOAL AREA A: End Homelessness and Hunger (continued)**

Recommendation that will Mitigate Impact of Economic Downturn or Mitigate Impact of Cuts in Public Investment	Community Impact of Recommendation	2014 Investment
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**Increased investment in to indoor/outdoor meal sites:**

The City of Seattle has one outdoor meal site within the downtown corridor, and it is at capacity. This site provides a significant service to the community by providing a venue for safe and humane meal delivery. The secondary site would be placed within one of the currently identified food deserts of the City (areas with high concentration of need and no or few providers). Because the current site is serving at capacity, providers continue to go into downtown parks to serve meals without oversight. City, Police and Park officials have asked outdoor site management to perform outreach to bring these providers into the current outdoor meal site venue. However this single site currently has a waiting list of organizations wanting to provide no cost meals to the residents of Seattle, any new organizations would be placed on this wait list and not able to provide service immediately. A secondary location would allow additional providers to bridge the current service gap that exists in the City of Seattle, as well as better allocate resources throughout the city. An increased investment into this aspect of the emergency food system would allow an outdoor site similar to the first site located at 6th and Columbia Street.

Through an increased investment into a second outdoor/indoor collaborative meal provider location non-profit meal providers would have the ability to serve nutritious meals safely by taking providers out of the City parks and placing them into a managed environment reducing trash and nuisance rodent populations within the City parks. By creating a secondary location the City of Seattle would help to bridge the current service gap of 2.5 million needed meals within the non-profit meal provider system. A secondary meal site, as recommended by the Mayor's Meals Transition Task Force in Fall of 2012, would allow a more even geographic distribution of meals and address food deserts currently left by existing providers.

130,000

**Invest in safe places for youth during the day, including weekends**

Youth who are homeless or at a high risk of homelessness need safe places to be during the day as well as overnight. However, there are very limited daytime services and supports available on weekends and youth have identified this as an unmet need. Youth themselves often identify a need for a place to "get out of the weather" and "somewhere safe to rest" on weekends. Providers see that providing services when there is no other programming available could be a valuable way to engage with these youth.

Multiple service providers who work with youth and young adults in Seattle are reporting that there is a need to support young people on weekends by providing drop-in services in safe settings. While youth and young adult overnight shelters and evening meal programs are available seven nights a week, programming on weekends is extremely limited. Currently the only weekend day services for homeless and at-risk youth is a 3 hour arts-focused drop-in program in the University District which frequently is unable to accommodate the young people who want to participate, as well as a newly-opened Saturday lunch in downtown Seattle.

50,000

**GOAL AREA A: End Homelessness and Hunger (continued)**

Recommendation that will Mitigate Impact of Economic Downturn or Mitigate Impact of Cuts in Public Investment	Community Impact of Recommendation	2014 Investment
<b>Invest in year-round shelter for single women</b>		
In recent years, when the Winter Response Shelters have closed, unprecedented numbers of women have been turned away from the Women's Referral Center without a safe place to stay for the night.	This recommendation would continue the Winter Response Shelters through the Summer providing emergency shelter and staffing for up to 30 women May through September, every night.	50,000
<b>Invest in year-round co-ed shelter:</b>		
After a year of operations at City Hall, current funding levels are only able to provide shelter for 38 weeks out of the year. This recommendation would fill the 14 week gap (from June 15th-October 1st) in services for close to 80 adults per data from the Salvation Army.	Maintain year-round shelter for 80 men and women in the basement of City Hall. The City has already used this space "Behind the Red Door" successfully for one year of shelter. Maintaining year-round shelter minimizes overhead costs associated with creating a new shelter.	95,000
<b>Support previous levels of day and hygiene services for adults</b>		
Day and Hygiene centers are a vital part of the survival network for homeless people. Such programs offer case management, healthcare, housing and employment assistance and access to showers, toilets and laundry. They are often access points for people to engage with services.	This recommendation would support daily access to services for people who are homeless downtown and ensure that programs can continue to offer case management in support of housing, employment and benefits to all who need them.	100,000
<b>Emergency shelter through motel vouchers and overnight emergency shelter for families</b>		
Family Housing Connections (FHC) has concluded its first year of coordinated entry to emergency shelter and housing for families with the City of Seattle as a key partner. We now have data on the unmet need for immediate emergency family shelter as obtained through FHC. FHC is prioritizing the 7% of families who are staying in places not meant for human habitation (215 families) for emergency shelter. Currently families staying in places not meant for human habitation are waiting for months to get into emergency shelter due to the community's limited emergency shelter capacity for families.	This recommendation would provide emergency shelter nightly to 30 families serving 120 families annually. The shelter would have a rapid rehousing component serving and estimated 60% of clients (cost of this component not included here as part of a separate RFO).	199,613
<b>Maintain outreach and case management for people who are homeless and mentally ill (provisional on upcoming loss of funding)</b>		
State-only funding (non-Medicaid funding) to support skilled teams who work with people who are seriously mentally ill and homeless is likely to be lost. This is a serious threat to the community health and well-being of Seattle.	This recommendation would ensure on-going operations of crucial outreach and case management services to some of our community's most vulnerable members should state funding be lost.	325,000
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENT FOR GOAL AREA A:</b>		<b>\$1,426,613</b>

**GOAL AREA B: Promote Healthy Development and Academic Success**

Recommendation that will Mitigate Impact of Economic Downturn or Mitigate Impact of Cuts in Public Investment	Community Impact of Recommendation	2014 Investment
<b>Invest in additional after school activities for middle school youth:</b>		
<p>Summer activities focused on middle school youth will provide greater opportunity for healthy development for this highly vulnerable population. This investment will provide 5 sites with 2 full time staff to provide coordination and program leadership for 16 weeks of the summer.</p>	<p>The summer months are the most critical months of the year for young people to not widen the opportunity / achievement gap. While upper income youth make incremental gains in their academic skills in the summer time, low income youth fall behind. It is critical that we intervene and help prevent the "summer slide." There is a severe shortage of opportunity for these youth to have meaningful activities to keep them on track in the summer time.</p>	153,000
<b>Restore funding the Child Care Health Program for 2.0 FTE staff</b>		
<p>Providing high quality child care, especially for children with special needs, requires that child care providers have a deep knowledge of child development and how best to meet the social/emotional, physical and cognitive needs of children in their care. Seattle King County Public Health (SKCPH) has supported child care providers in this for a number of years through the Child Care Health Program (CCHP).</p> <p>The CCHP provides critical comprehensive consultative health services for the child care and early learning and school age care community of Seattle and King County. During the fiscal crisis of 2009 the program was reduced by approximately two-thirds. Staff layoffs led to a reduction of services. The HSD Early Learning division has recognized and supported the need for health, nutrition and Social/Emotional professionals to provide services to their programs including: Child care, ECEAP, Parks, and School-age. This has left many child care programs, particularly those providing school age and infant care without the consultation that they need.</p>		220,000
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENT FOR GOAL AREA B:</b>		<b>\$373,000</b>

**GOAL AREA C: End Violence and Abuse and Promote Safety**

Recommendation that will Mitigate Impact of Economic Downturn or Mitigate Impact of Cuts in Public Investment	Community Impact of Recommendation	2014 Investment
<p><b>Establish and maintain supportive long term housing for domestic violence survivors and their children in Seattle.</b></p>	<p>In surveys and focus groups held with DV survivors and human services providers in 2013, the lack of emergency and long term housing options was the #1 cited unmet need for DV survivors. The number of DV survivors turned away from one DV shelter is up 29% in the first several months of 2013. Another DV shelter is in danger of closing because of a 30% reduction in its HUD funds. Due to federal sequestration, other DV programs report that they have cut the kind of support (for ex. transportation, legal advocacy, and child care) they can offer survivors who are seeking or receiving housing services. While Seattle's investment in short term housing for victims of DV was increased in 2012, it could not offset the gaps created by funding cuts or the lack of long term housing options for survivors.</p> <p>DV survivors who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless will be safely housed in "permanent" units (meaning independent community-based housing where the survivor is a tenant under a lease and may continue the tenancy as long as he/she complies with its terms).</p> <p>Survivors will also receive voluntary, culturally competent domestic violence services and financial assistance to support safety, housing stability and economic self-sufficiency. There are only two limited pilot programs in Seattle offering the "housing first" model specifically for domestic violence survivors; this funding will help fill the gap in long term housing resources and help free up more housing space for DV victims . 50-60 families will receive long term housing and supportive services through this program.</p>	<p>\$200,000</p>

**GOAL AREA C: End Violence and Abuse and Promote Safety (continued)**

Recommendation that will Mitigate Impact of Economic Downturn or Mitigate Impact of Cuts in Public Investment	Community Impact of Recommendation	2014 Investment
<p><b>Invest in violence prevention for 18-24 year olds:</b></p>	<p>The Seattle Youth Violence Initiative stops services at age 18, though recent trends show that young people 18 - 24 need equal or more support to ensure they able to recover from the disease of violence. State and local budget cuts have resulted in this population of highly vulnerable youth to be left out of access to service efforts.</p>	240,000
<p><b>Invest in brief services and representation to survivors of domestic violence in family law matters:</b></p>	<p>Legal representation in family law cases continues to be one of the most frequently cited unmet need by domestic violence advocates, and that need has grown significantly with the economic downturn. When survivors don't have legal assistance, they all too frequently experience court outcomes that seriously jeopardize their safety, economic security, and the safety of their children. Seattle's Legal Assistance program provides a lifeline for many DV survivors; however they can not come close to meeting the unmet need. An additional .5 FTE attorney will provide brief legal services and representation to 35 survivors of domestic violence and go a long way towards bridging this gap.</p>	50,000

**GOAL AREA C: End Violence and Abuse and Promote Safety (continued)**

Recommendation that will Mitigate Impact of Economic Downturn or Mitigate Impact of Cuts in Public Investment	Community Impact of Recommendation	2014 Investment
<p><b>Invest in specialized legal advocacy for survivors of domestic violence seeking protections of their immigration status:</b></p>		
<p>.25 FTE specialized immigration paralegal (to bring a currently funded .75 FTE up to full time) will work with survivors of domestic violence, providing legal information, referral and support to the survivors and preparing and tracking cases for their immigration attorneys.</p>	<p>Immigrant victims of domestic violence face huge barriers to safety and autonomy, especially if their immigration status is dependent on their abusive partners. DV survivors who lack immigration status can apply for "U visas" that provide protection from deportation and removes barriers to self-sufficiency. However, it is almost impossible to obtain a U visa without the assistance of an immigration attorney. The current waiting list for free immigration legal assistance is 9 - 12 months. Additional funding will allow a legal services organization to restore a paralegal/advocate position to full time that was recently eliminated because of budget cuts. This would allow 20 more survivors per year to gain protection under the U visa program.</p>	<p>15,000</p>
<p><b>Invest in advocacy and support for traumatized children at domestic violence agencies:</b></p>		
<p>Four .5 FTE children's advocates will be hired to provide crisis intervention, support and therapeutic activities for children residing in domestic violence emergency and transitional housing programs, and parenting support and advocacy for their mothers.</p>	<p>Due to budget cuts and increasing numbers of children being served, there is a burgeoning need for increased levels of services for children at agencies providing emergency and transitional housing to survivors of domestic violence. At least two agencies have had to reduce children's advocate positions, and at least one has had to cut its housing capacity in order to ensure safe, adequate staffing levels for children. Funding half-time child advocates at four domestic violence agencies will result in decreased trauma, increased coping skills and improved emotional well being for 120 children and improved parenting and safety planning skills for 56 adult DV survivors. In addition to greatly enhancing the level and quality of services provided to housing residents, it would allow at least one agency to increase its housing capacity by 10 families.</p>	<p>120,000</p>

**GOAL AREA C: End Violence and Abuse and Promote Safety (continued)**

Recommendation that will Mitigate Impact of Economic Downturn or Mitigate Impact of Cuts in Public Investment	Community Impact of Recommendation	2014 Investment
<p><b>Invest in direct assistance for sexual assault victims and their family members in order to decrease barriers to receive services for the impact of their sexual assault:</b></p> <p>Sexual assault victims and their non offending family members can receive parking vouchers, bus tickets or in some circumstances related to victim safety, taxi vouchers to partially cover the cost of getting to services.</p>	<p>Victims and their family members have had to make choices in how their limited dollars are spent. Getting treatment for their assault often loses out to paying for food or other essentials. Assisting victims through partial covering of transportation costs will enable victims to receive much needed services which will mitigate the negative impact of their sexual assault. Transportation assistance would help 500 sexual assault patients and their family member receive medical treatment, in-person general advocacy and a full program of counseling for the effects of sexual assault. Over the past 2 years victims' requests for transportation assistance has risen and there has been an increase in unfunded transportation assistance to these victims and their family members.</p>	<p align="right">30,000</p>
<p><b>TOTAL INVESTMENT FOR GOAL AREA C:</b></p>		<p align="right"><b>\$655,000</b></p>

## GOAL AREA D: Promote Health and Independence for Vulnerable Populations

Recommendation that will Mitigate Impact of Economic Downturn or Mitigate Impact of Cuts in Public Investment	Community Impact of Recommendation	2014 Investment
<b>Expand City MOB (mutually offsetting benefit) leases to include senior centers that are in need of space:</b>		
<p>The MOB's have been critical for senior centers, allowing them to provide much needed services to older adults throughout Seattle. Parks Department has been in discussions with senior centers to collaborate more strongly but no formal space sharing collaborations have occurred yet. The request is that HSD support FAS and Parks in these collaborations and expand them where space and need are both available.</p>	<p>Thousands more seniors will receive services in community based settings. Funding can be focused on services rather than repairs and rent.</p>	0
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<b>Invest in essential senior programs</b>		
<p>Older adults in Seattle will double in number in the next 12 years. Maintaining the basic elements of social services supported by the General Fund is critical as we anticipate looming numbers of seniors in the very near future. Senior Centers leverage volunteers and financial support from their communities to serve three generations of elders and the people who care for them. Senior Centers make it possible for elders to stay physically fit, to continue learning, to contribute, to stay connected, to have fun, to receive low cost services, to have someone to lean on, and to maintain a sense of purpose and meaning. In the last three years organizations serving seniors in Seattle lost funding from a variety of sources, including King County, United Way of King County, foundations, and the state. This resulted in positions going unfilled, reductions in staff hours, and a larger reliance on volunteers. Funding cuts to senior services have made it challenging for agencies to serve three generations of elders with different values and desires. Some senior centers and programs for seniors are desperately trying to pull together a patchwork of funding just to be able to provide basic services.</p>	<p>Funding will allow for more Social services and wellness programs, and increased service hours. This will allow participants to age in the most healthy way, ultimately allowing them to stay in their communities as long as possible.</p> <p>Funding will also support neighborhood based programs and outreach, exploring creating "villages" or "aging in place" programming.</p>	450,000
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENT FOR GOAL AREA D:</b>		<b>\$450,000</b>

**GOAL AREA E: Provide Effective Service Linkages and Build Capacity**

Recommendation that will Mitigate Impact of Economic Downturn or Mitigate Impact of Cuts in Public Investment	Community Impact of Recommendation	2014 Investment
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**Invest in making funds available to agencies and/or their service area coalitions to get technical assistance in building their capacity to address structural racism:**

The goal of this investment is to ultimately benefit all community members by encouraging a greater number of service providers to become anti-racist, multicultural organizations and promote their ability to equitably serve an increasingly diverse population. In addition, it will provide service agencies with financial and consultative support to meet city grant/contract requirements.

Last year City Council allocated \$60,000 each year in 2013 and 2014 to non-profit human services organizations to provide anti-racism training and technical assistance to dismantle institutional and structural racism. The original recommendation was \$120,000 each year. \$60,000 is a good first step, and we recommend the additional \$60,000 investment begin in 2014 in order to expand support to other non-profit organizations, including other communities that are not yet represented, who want to expand their anti-racism work.

Programs and services deliveries grounded in core values and practices that align with anti-racism principles and strategies are more likely to be effective in eliminating racism. Examples of such organization and programs include the White Center Community Development Association, Got Green? and Community Coalition for Environmental Justice. These programs maintain accountable relationships with the communities served and practice collaborative, collective leadership with all stakeholders to be transformative gatekeepers. The positive impacts of building capacity among service providers to be able to execute anti-racism principles and strategies include opening up space and opportunity to recognize and harvest the strengths of everyone in the community and empowering individuals to work across all boundaries to successfully tackle the pressing issues the community face.

60,000

<b>TOTAL INVESTMENT FOR GOAL AREA E:</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>
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<b>TOTAL BALANCE of RECOMMENDED INVESTMENT for 2014 from 2013-14 package</b>	<b>\$2,964,613</b>
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