



Human Services Commission
Department of Public Health and Human Services



City of Columbia

FY2017 Social Services Funding Allocation Process and Contract Recommendations

Report to the Columbia City Council

December 2016

Background

For over 50 years, the City of Columbia has recognized that in addition to physical infrastructure and public safety, it must also make an investment in our community's social infrastructure. To this end, the City has both provided and purchased social services to ensure that adequate levels of these services are available to low-income residents of the City.

The social services provided and purchased by the City address some of our community's most challenging issues:

- homelessness
- unemployment and economic insecurity
- food insecurity
- at-risk children & youth and their families
- mental illness and substance abuse
- disabilities
- an aging population
- domestic violence

While the City's investment is not adequate to fully address any one of these issues, it does substantially increase the availability of services in Columbia and at the same time allows organizations to leverage additional, external resources which further increase the community's capacity to deliver social services.

In addition, this investment in social services directly supports the City's Strategic Plan which includes as strategic priorities and questions:

- Economy: Jobs that support families - How do we create more living wage jobs?
- Social Equity: Improving the odds for success - How can we strengthen our community so all individuals so all individuals thrive?

The City's Vision Plan also calls for high quality social services with the goals of:

- Supporting quality points of entry to access information for high quality and affordable social services to support children, youth, adults, seniors, persons with disabilities, and people with cultural barriers.
- All social services will be sufficiently funded to work toward the elimination of poverty.

Social Services Funding Allocation Process

The Human Services Commission (HSC) and the Department of Public Health and Human Services are charged, by ordinance, with making annual recommendations for the purchase of social services. In order to better target limited resources, social services funding is allocated to address five issue areas reflecting the funding priorities identified by the HSC and staff and approved by the City Council. "Requests for Proposals" (RFPs) and the resulting purchase of service contracts are issued by these issue areas in a staggered, three year cycle:

Issue Area	Target Funding Parameter	Funding Cycle Year
Basic Needs and Emergency Services	15-35%	1
Children, Youth and Families	15-35%	2
Economic Opportunity	15-35%	3
Independent Living	5-25%	3
Behavioral Health	0-20%	3

These targeted RFPs and the resulting recommendations are informed by analysis and prioritization of the issues, as well as an evaluation of the capacity of applicant organizations. This information is then used to develop progressively more informed and targeted RFPs and recommendations in order to strategically apply City resources and evaluate impact.

RFPs are issued at the beginning of July and proposals are due at the end of August. Proposals are submitted via a web-based grants management system, shared by the City, Boone County, and the Heart of Missouri United Way. This system allows for the automation of data collection, reporting, and analysis, resulting in easily accessible, real-time information to be utilized throughout the RFP process. Proposals are reviewed by the commission and staff in September and October. During this period, the HSC also conducts site visits of all applicant organizations in order to observe the proposed programming in the environment in which it will be delivered. Each program service proposal is rated by the commission using a [standardized rating instrument](#) (pdf). The HSC and staff then hold a work session in October in order to discuss the proposals, followed by a second work session in November in which contract recommendations are developed and made public. These recommendations are then presented to the City Council in December.

For detailed information regarding the social services funding allocation process, please reference the [City of Columbia Social Services Funding Policy](#) (pdf).

FY2017 Social Services New Contract Recommendations

On July 1, 2016, staff issued a RFP in the amount of \$249,400 for social services to address issues related to the issue of Basic Needs and Emergency Services, for the period of FY2017 - 2019. Twelve (12) responsive proposals were submitted requesting a total of \$387,800. Based on the review and rating of the proposals and the capacity of the applicant organizations, the HSC and staff are recommending the City establish twelve (12) new purchase of service contracts with nine (9) organizations totaling \$249,400. These recommendations are summarized in the [RFP FY2017 Social Services New Contract Recommendations](#) (pdf) document.

FY2017 Social Services Contract Renewals

Staff has renewed twenty-two (22) of twenty-three (23) existing purchase of service contracts to address issues related to Children, Youth, and Families; Economic Opportunity; Independent Living; and Behavioral Health. These are summarized in the [FY2017 Social Services Contract Renewals](#) (pdf) document.

Conclusion

The HSC and staff are pleased to present these recommendations for the City Council's consideration. Clearly, the amount of funding available is not enough to fully address the issues in our community related to Basic Needs and Emergency Services. Requests for funding again greatly exceeded the available resources. However, the commission and staff feel that these recommendations propose the best utilization of limited funds in addressing the most critical issues.

The members of the HSC and staff would like to thank the City Council for its longstanding support of investing in the social infrastructure our community.