

2013 - 2014 Seattle City Council Green Sheet

Ready for Notebook

Tab	Action	Option	Version
89	4	A	1

**Budget Action Title:** Add \$50,000 GSF to HSD in 2013 and \$51,150 in 2014 for legal assistance in family law matters for survivors of domestic violence.

**Councilmembers:** Clark; Conlin; Licata

**Staff Analyst:** Elaine Ko

**Council Bill or Resolution:**

Date		Total	SB	BH	TR	RC	TB	NL	JG	SC	MO
	Yes										
	No										
	Abstain										
	Absent										

**Summary of Dollar Effect**

See the following pages for detailed technical information

	2013 Increase (Decrease)	2014 Increase (Decrease)
<b>General Subfund</b>		
<i>General Subfund Revenues</i>	\$0	\$0
<i>General Subfund Expenditures</i>	\$50,000	\$51,150
<i>Net Balance Effect</i>	(\$50,000)	(\$51,150)
<b>Other Funds</b>		
<i>Human Services Operating Fund (16200)</i>		
<i>Revenues</i>	\$50,000	\$51,150
<i>Expenditures</i>	\$50,000	\$51,150
<i>Net Balance Effect</i>	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Budget Balance Effect</b>	<b>(\$50,000)</b>	<b>(\$51,150)</b>

**Budget Action description:**

Background

This green sheet would add \$50,000 GSF in 2013 and \$51,150 in 2014 to the Human Services Department (HSD) to provide legal assistance in family law matters to survivors of domestic violence (DV). Access to legal advice and representation in family law matters continues to be one of the most frequently cited unmet needs for survivors of domestic violence, both locally and nationally. Unrepresented DV survivors are often denied the safety provisions they badly need, they lose custody of their children, and many survivors find any financial resources they had depleted by costly court battles. In a 2003 study, Farmer and Tiefenthaler concluded that legal services for DV

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89	4	A	1

survivors was one of the factors that had the greatest impact on the decline in domestic violence statistics in the 1990's.

The funding provided by this green sheet would expand the domestic violence family law project currently provided through contracts with HSD by adding a full-time family law attorney. This attorney will provide legal assistance and representation to survivors of domestic violence involved in custody battles with violent and abusive partners, and will serve approximately 65 additional families per year.

The anticipated positive outcomes include:

- Increased safety and economic security for the survivor and his/her family.
- Criminal justice system and Children's Protective Services involvement decrease
- Children do better in school and less likely to become involved in the juvenile justice system because they grow up in a safe, supportive environment; and
- Improved health of all family members of the DV survivor

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### Budget Action Transactions

**Budget Action Title:** Add \$50,000 GSF to HSD in 2013 and \$51,150 in 2014 for legal assistance in family law matters for survivors of domestic violence.

#	Transaction Description	Position Title	Number of Positions	FTE	Dept	BCL or Revenue Source	Summit Code	Fund	Year	Revenue Amount	Expenditure Amount
1	Increase GSF support for legal assistance for DV survivors				FG	Human Services Operating Fund	Q5971620	00100	2013		\$50,000
2	Increase GSF support for legal assistance for DV survivors				HSD	General Subfund Support	587001	16200	2013	\$50,000	
3	Increase appropriation for legal assistance for DV survivors				HSD	Community Support and Self Sufficiency	H90CS	16200	2013		\$50,000
4	Increase GSF support for legal assistance for DV survivors				FG	Housing Operating Fund	QA-OHFUND	00100	2014		\$51,150
5	Increase GSF support for legal assistance for DV survivors				HSD	General Subfund Support	587001	16200	2014	\$51,150	
6	Increase appropriation for legal assistance for DV survivors				HSD	Community Support and Self Sufficiency	H90CS	16200	2014		\$51,150