

2013 - 2014 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Ready for Notebook

Tab	Action	Option	Version
104	2	A	1

Budget Action Title: Services for Out of City Homeless

Councilmembers: Bagshaw; Clark; Rasmussen

Staff Analyst: Traci Ratzliff

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

Statement of Legislative Intent:

Like many major cities, it is anecdotally reported that Seattle attracts people searching for better employment opportunities or better quality support services than they can find in other parts of the state or country. Unfortunately, sometimes the better job opportunities don't materialize and support services in the city maintain waiting lists. This problem is particularly acute when it comes to homeless individuals and families. In September, the Human Services Department (HSD) reported that to date in 2012, 47% of the families served by the Emergency Services Program reported a most recent permanent address out of state. This is compared to 2011, when 37% of the families served were from out of state. In addition, 2011 Safe Harbors annual data showed that at least 14% of individuals accessing single- adult shelter, and at least 28% of individuals accessing transitional housing, gave a last permanent address outside of the city.

Some cities, such as New York City, have developed policies regarding the types of services that are provided to homeless individuals and families who are residents of New York City versus those who are not. The goal of this differentiation is not to deny survival services to anyone, rather to match people to services that will get them into stable housing as effectively as possible in or out of the NYC region.

The Council requests the Human Services Department obtain further information regarding policy and program options concerning the provision of services for homeless individuals and families who have come from outside the city. HSD shall collect information from other jurisdictions that have implemented policies or programs to serve out of city residents.

In addition, HSD is requested to provide additional data on where individuals and families in Seattle's shelter system are coming from, as provided by Family Housing Connection, Safe Harbors data system, and social service providers. This includes information on individuals and families coming from out of state, or cities or counties within Washington State. The Council requests HSD

to provide this information to the Council by July 1, 2013, with potential recommended policy or program changes ready for implementation in 2014.

Responsible Council Committee(s): Housing, Human Services, Health, & Culture

Date Due to Council: July 1, 2013