



Human Services Department

Responses to Statements of Legislative Intent

July 26, 2013 | Seattle Human Services Department | Catherine L. Lester, Interim Director

**Mayor Michael McGinn
Deputy Mayor Darryl Smith**

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Statement of Legislative Intent 104-1-A-1

REMOVING BARRIERS TO HOUSING FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES

Removing Barriers to Housing for Homeless Families

HSD Response to Statement of Legislative Intent 104-1-A-1

- Part I (March 2013): Prioritization policy for unsheltered families for referral and placement into emergency shelter.
- Part II (July 2013): Removing barriers to housing, a report on:
 - “...the extent to which issues, including but not limited to, different interpretations or definitions of homelessness, and strict eligibility criteria related to sobriety, were barriers to housing for homeless families.”
 - ✓ How families access services
 - ✓ Characteristics of Families
 - ✓ Regional efforts to remove barriers

Removing Barriers to Housing for Homeless Families

HSD Response to Statement of Legislative Intent 104-1-A-1

Organizations & Agency Partnerships

Committee to End Homelessness

Families are an investment priority.

- **City of Seattle**
Mayor McGinn,
Council Member
Licata, HSD,
Office of Housing

Family Homelessness Initiative (FHI)

- King County leads planning, coordination.
- Provider and Funding Partners, **including the City of Seattle.**

Family Housing Connection (FHC)

- Catholic Community Services implements FHC, the coordinated entry & assessment system.

Shelter & Homeless Housing

- 80+ publicly funded **Seattle & King County** programs.
- Agencies operating outside of FHC.

Removing Barriers to Housing for Homeless Families

HSD Response to Statement of Legislative Intent 104-1-A-1

How do families who are homeless access services?

2-1-1

*One phone call

- Families at-risk of homelessness.
- Households who are unsheltered in places not meant for human habitation.

Family Housing Connection

*9 locations throughout King County

- 4,145 assessments (thru mid-June '13)
- 3,487 on FHC waiting list.
- 248 families identified without shelter.

Shelter & Housing Referrals

- **224 emergency housing** (shelter) units
- **904 transitional housing units** in King County for families with children.

Removing Barriers to Housing for Homeless Families

HSD Response to Statement of Legislative Intent 104-1-A-1

Characteristics of Families Experiencing Homelessness

Many families are:

- Experiencing homelessness for the first time.
- Have very low incomes.
- Are young parents with young children.
- Disproportionately families of color.

Unsheltered families have heightened need for certain services.

Removing Barriers to Housing for Homeless Families

HSD Response to Statement of Legislative Intent 104-1-A-1

Identifying and Removing Barriers to Housing

Training & Technical Support for Shelter & Housing Providers

- ✓ Fair Housing Training & Tools
- ✓ Navigating complex rules and regulations of public funders and public housing authorities

Monitoring screening, referrals and denials

- ✓ Reviewing contract language
- ✓ Establishing policies and practice to guide FHC referrals

Working with Mainstream Systems

- ✓ Employment pilot programs: Career Bridge, Rapid Rehousing
- ✓ Asset building and financial empowerment



Statement of Legislative Intent 90-2-A-1

FOOD AND MEAL PROGRAM INVESTMENTS

Food and Meal Program Investments

HSD Response to Statement of Legislative Intent 90-2-A-1

“...outline of the service needs and performance expectations that will be the basis of a 2013 Request for Investment (RFI) for the Outdoor Meal Site and other food programs.”

- ✓ *Meal Program Transition Task Force Outdoor Meal Site recommendations are implemented*
- ✓ *Leveraging City funds with non-City funds is encouraged*
- ✓ *Number of meals provided in 2012 is matched or exceeded*

Food and Meal Program Investments

HSD Response to Statement of Legislative Intent 90-2-A-1

Meal Program Transition and Coordination

The Task Force Membership includes:

- Faith based agencies
- Local Pioneer Square businesses
- Alliance for Pioneer Square
- Current meal service providers
- Shelter directors
- Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness
- Seattle Parks & Recreation
- Seattle Human Services Department

Co-Conveners: HSD Interim Director & OPERATION: Sack Lunch Director

Food and Meal Program Investments

HSD Response to Statement of Legislative Intent 90-2-A-1

Preliminary Taskforce recommendations for Outdoor Meals Site (October 2012)

- **Education:** educating meal providers and recipients about food and meal sites for food insecure persons.
- **Increase coordination:** better coordination of meals and meal sites for people in need throughout the City. This includes coordination with schools.
- **Explore transition:** keep current site open while considering other indoor or outdoor sites

Food and Meal Program Investments

HSD Response to Statement of Legislative Intent 90-2-A-1

2013 Investments

Investment Area	# Programs	2013 Funding
Food banks	17 programs Including transportation	\$1,167,299
Food distribution	2 programs	\$910,805
Home delivery	8 programs	\$736,300
Meal programs	9 programs	\$492,397
Food system support	1 program	\$91,800
Total:	Seattle General Fund	\$3,398,601

Food and Meal Program Investments

HSD Response to Statement of Legislative Intent 90-2-A-1

2014 Funding Process Considerations

1. **Investment plan and outcome framework:** activities that yield results and advance access and equity
2. **Data review and analysis:** current programs, future demands
3. **Best and promising practices in food systems work**
4. **Community engagement:** meaningful and responsive dialogue
5. **Performance and outcomes:** setting realistic and informed goals
6. **Coordination and alignment:** across the region and across systems
7. **Investment process and funding:** contracts January 2015

Questions and Comments

