

The City of Renton is currently developing a Strategic Plan for its provision of human services. This Human Services Strategic Plan will help the City address the 13 priority health and human service needs identified as part of the 2014 Community Needs Assessment for Human Service and Housing. We are writing to invite you to provide input on solutions for addressing these needs in Renton through natural, collaborative conversations with other stakeholders. We will be hosting five conversations, one for each category of need:

Conversation	Location	Time
Available, Quality Housing	Renton Housing Authority Offices	February 11 th 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Health and Wellness	Renton Senior Activity Center	February 23 rd 9:30 to 11:30 am
Neighborhood Opportunity	Meadowcrest Early Learning Center	February 27 th 2:30 to 4:30 pm
Basic Needs for Families	Renton High School	March 3 rd 3:00 to 5:00 pm
Economic Opportunity	Renton Technical College	March 4 th 6:30 to 8:30 pm

We hope that you will be able to join us for one or more of these conversations. Our consultants at BERK, will be in touch ahead of each of these conversations with more details.

If you cannot attend any of these events, but would like to provide comments or feedback on how the City of Renton can best support human services in Renton, please submit it to Human Services at HumanServices@Rentonwa.gov. Thank you for your willingness to support the City of Renton as we work to address our community's needs.



City of Renton Community Needs Assessment for Human Services and Housing

June 2014

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Renton, along with its partners, conducted the Community Needs Assessment to identify priority human service and housing needs in the City of Renton. The assessment provides an overall picture of community need for housing and human services within the City and examines the gaps in existing services.

Findings

The Community Needs Assessment identifies two broad values to guide the delivery of housing and human services: equity and dignity.

Equity is when social, economic and political opportunities are not predicated on a person's age, appearance, citizenship or national origin, employment classification, ethnicity, gender, gender identity or gender expressions, language, marital status, race, religion, faith, or spirituality, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, veteran status,

and visible or invisible disabilities.

Dignity refers to the experience of receiving housing and human services. To treat someone with dignity is to treat them as being of worth, in a way that is respectful of them as valued individuals.

In addition to these two broad values, the assessment identifies thirteen priority human service and housing needs across five major categories, including Economic Opportunity; Basic Needs for Families; Health & Wellness; Available, Quality Housing; and Neighborhood Opportunity:

Economic Opportunity

- Support for adults who face barriers to employment.
- Access to living-wage jobs and career advancement.

Basic Needs for Families

- Improved access to food.
- Day and night shelters for homeless families that

offer a range of services.

- Increased services to help prevent homelessness to help families stay in their homes.

Health & Wellness

- Better access to health and dental care for low-income residents.
- Early childhood screenings and parenting support.
- More mental health and substance abuse services.

Available, Quality Housing

- More rental units for very low income households
- More safe, energy efficient, and healthy housing for low and moderate income households.

Neighborhood Opportunity

- Improved mobility and transportation options.
- More high quality, out-of-school time opportunities for youth.
- Increased access to affordable, quality, early childhood education.

Approach

The assessment was conducted between July and November of 2013. Various methods for data collection and analysis were used to create an understanding of the City's human service and housing needs. The assessment covered the entire City of Renton, and in some cases used King County level data to provide the context for interpreting conditions in Renton. The assessment did not examine differences within Renton outside of stakeholder reports of how needs differed across the community. The two primary methods used in the assessment were: gathering and analyzing publicly available data from an array of sources and conducting stakeholder outreach and engagement.

Next Steps

Broad human service and housing needs were identified, that will require the City and its partners to address. Throughout the assessment process, community stakeholders spoke of the huge challenge that the City and its partners face in meeting the growing needs. By bringing focus to these needs, Renton is better positioned to collaborate on improving quality of life and living conditions for all City residents. Given the scope of needs, addressing them will likely require:

- Collaboration between City departments and partnerships with community organizations to address

existing needs and develop common strategies to improve the delivery of services, increase resources in the community, and possibly help expand the capacity of agencies to meet the growing needs.

- As a community, focusing resources (funding, volunteers, in-kind donations) on needs.

- Further analysis and exploration of specific needs to identify and evaluate policy options.

- Advancing a common vision for the future human services system and services in Renton.

- Developing strategies to address needs in an equitable and sustainable manner in Renton and across the region, by using current partners and developing new partnerships.

The Community Needs Assessment will be used in several ways. It is the foundation for the Renton Human Services Strategic Plan, which will be done in the fall of 2014 and 2015. That plan will develop the steps that will need to be taken, to get from the current state of human services to what is desired in the future. The stakeholders that were part of the needs assessment want to be engaged in identifying solutions.

It will help the City of Renton Human Services Advisory Committee in responding to changing needs and allocation of funds.

The data in the Community Needs Assessment will be used to help create the goals and policies for the Housing and Human Services Element of the City's Comprehensive Plan, which will be completed in 2015. Many of the needs cross over with other Elements of the Comprehensive Plan, such as Economic Development, Land Use, and Transportation. It is critical that the City has a clear and consistent vision for housing and human services that is in all the relevant elements, and that the City departments jointly develop strategies to accomplish the goals.