

8 HUMAN SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

Human services are those efforts targeted directly to individuals and families to meet basic needs and can be represented on a continuum of services including intervention, prevention, and enhancement. In order to address these needs, the City of Lynnwood uses the following objectives which hold that all people should have as human beings:

- ✓ Food to eat and a roof overhead
- ✓ Supportive relationships within families and communities
- ✓ A safe haven from all forms of violence and abuse
- ✓ Health care to be as physically and mentally fit as possible
- ✓ Education and job skills to lead to self-sufficiency
- ✓ Equal access to public services

The City of Lynnwood’s Human Services Commission works closely with its community partners, including other public and nonprofit funders and service providers, to understand current and emerging human service needs, and to create and invest in a comprehensive and integrated regional human services system. Lynnwood is a place where the richness of our diversity is valued, all of our communities thrive, and people grow up and grow old with opportunity and dignity.

Lynnwood is a partner with the Edmonds School District, Verdant Health Commission, local businesses, faith communities, service providers, and other organizations and jurisdictions to help strengthen a human services network that provides vulnerable persons the food, shelter, job training, child care, and other services that residents in our community may need to become self-sufficient. The Human Services Element describes how the City’s efforts in planning, funding, coordinating, and improving human services’ delivery contribute to reach community goals and enrich the quality of life in Lynnwood. It defines the City’s roles and describes many tools used to understand and address Lynnwood residents’ needs for human services. A few related tools are part of other Comprehensive Plan elements, such as Housing.

When people think about the kinds of services their city offers, they often think of roads, sidewalks, water, police and fire protection but perhaps not human services – services provided directly to persons having difficulty meeting their basic needs for survival, employment, social support, such as counseling and access to services. But building and supporting an infrastructure for meeting a continuum of human services needs is as important as the physical infrastructure of roads and bridges. A city’s vitality depends on the degree to which individuals’ potential is developed. An effective human services delivery system is a crucial component of any healthy community. It is difficult to imagine a city being in a financial position to meet the varied human service needs of its residents. This is particularly true in a city like Lynnwood where the need is larger than other cities may confront. However, many cities have become willing to bring organizational and financial resources to the table to work with agencies to meet those needs. It is only through joint venturing with organizations adept at leveraging funding resources that we can expect to make good progress and permanent change in meeting those needs.

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The City of Lynnwood’s primary role is as a catalyst to help build and sustain a comprehensive and affordable safety net of human services for residents whose income or current circumstances does not permit them to buy services in the marketplace. The City’s Human Services Commission has been empowered by the City Council to provide the public with opportunities to be involved, review all requests for funding, develop recommendations on priorities, and conduct studies on emerging issues and advise the City Council on how best to meet the needs of our residents. Lynnwood takes one of the following three roles in human services, depending on the need:

- **Planner:** assess and anticipate needs and develop appropriate policy and program responses
- **Facilitator:** convene and engage others in community problem-solving to develop and improve services
- **Funder:** disburse City grants to support a network of services which respond to community needs

HUMAN SERVICES GOALS AND POLICIES

GOAL

To connect residents with resources and solutions in times of need with the goal of achieving self-sufficiency and a quality of life deserved by all

HUMAN SERVICES

- Policy HS-1.** Support the provision of a continuum of human services to help Lynnwood residents achieve the greatest possible level of self-sufficiency and to prevent further or more serious problems in the future.
- Policy HS-2.** Monitor changes in local human services needs and priorities in an ongoing way and change the City’s response as appropriate.
- Policy HS-3.** Collaborate and partner with nonprofit agencies, churches, employers, businesses and schools to support human services.
- Policy HS-4.** Encourage cooperation and collaboration with Edmonds School District, Edmonds Community College and the Foundation for Edmonds School District in the development and utilization of schools as a focal point for the identification of needs and delivery of services to homeless children and families.
- Policy HS-5.** Support and actively coordinate with local, regional, state, and federal efforts that address Lynnwood human services needs and ensure that local programs complement programs provided at the county, state and federal level.
- Policy HS-6.** Continue the City’s active participation in the Alliance for Affordable Housing (AHA), Snohomish County Homelessness Task Force, Snohomish County Human Services, nonprofit groups, such as United Way of Snohomish County and Volunteers of America of Western Washington, the faith based community in Lynnwood, and other regional groups.
- Policy HS-7.** Make Lynnwood a welcoming, safe and just community marked by fairness and equity provided to those disproportionately affected by poverty, discrimination and victimization.
- Policy HS-8.** Build support for and awareness of human services to create a community that values diversity, responds to the needs of individuals and families, and shares the responsibilities and benefits of living in this City and region.

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1 **Policy HS-9.** Allocate City general funds for services that address the full spectrum of community
 2 needs. The Human Services Commission shall utilize adopted funding guidelines
 3 and evaluation criteria such as United Way’s collective impact reports and recent
 4 studies when making funding decisions for human services. In general, the
 5 Commission shall fund service providers with a proven track record of outstanding
 6 performance and impacts to the Lynnwood community.

7 **Policy HS-10.** Improve access to services throughout the City by removing physical and systemic
 8 barriers and empowering individuals to overcome other barriers that may exist.

9 **Policy HS-11.** Support the development and operation of facilities for human services, and where
 10 appropriate, seek opportunities to achieve efficiencies through agency colocation and
 11 coordination.

12 **Policy HS-12.** Coordinate with public and private community organizations and local media to
 13 inform residents of available services and resources.

14 **Policy HS-13.** The Human Services Commission shall refer to the City of Lynnwood Human
 15 Services Needs Assessment for programmatic responses in determining and
 16 prioritizing funding allocations for human services.

GOAL To provide funding to meet the full spectrum of human service needs.

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 18 **Policy HS-14.** The City will strive to allocate 1% of its annual General Fund to meet the service
 19 needs of our residents.

20 **Policy HS-15.** The City will actively seek grant funding from private foundations and external
 21 funders in addition to monies allocated from the General Fund.

22 **Policy HS-16.** When Lynnwood’s population exceeds 50,000 through growth and/or annexation the
 23 City will apply to become a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
 24 entitlement City. Until that time the City will be pre-actively represented on
 25 Snohomish County’s CDBG and HOME funding process through representation by
 26 the Community Development Department.



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