

## Eastside Human Services Forum 2010 Priorities and Work Plan

### ACTION STEPS

#### REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL FUNDING

***Objective: Advocate for Eastside needs to be addressed through regional funding.***

1. Advocate during the Legislative Session with a coordinated message to ensure that our Legislative Agenda items are included in the State budget, coordinating with other agencies/cities to continue development of ongoing legislative messages. (Timeline: Legislative Session, 2010 and in late summer/fall for 2011 preparation)
2. Impact decision-making on regional funding initiatives (i.e., Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Funds, Veterans and Human Services Levy, United Way funding, etc.) by participating in County meetings and inviting regional representatives to EHSF meetings and King Co. Alliance for Human Services. (Timeline: all year)
3. Continue efforts for Eastside Social Sustainability Partnership:
  - a. Research options for generating dedicated sub-regional funding (i.e., endowment fund or community foundation). (Timeline: all year).
  - b. Research infrastructure and system support for sustainable East King County human services (i.e., possible sub-regional governance, strategic plan).
4. Track state and federal dollars, partnering with United Way; educate local elected officials and staff about challenges and resources, perhaps utilizing "Survey Monkey" to track specific impacts of funding cuts. (Timeline: all year )
5. Develop sub-regional expertise re: public/private grant opportunities. Create a systematic approach to following through so we don't duplicate each others' work unnecessarily. (Timeline: all year)

#### BASIC NEEDS IN AN ECONOMIC CRISIS

***Objective: Highlight the needs low income communities are facing during the economic recession, and strengthen services to meet basic needs in East King County.***

1. Monitor the efforts of "Meeting Needs Together," the Emergency Financial Assistance Providers. (Timeline: all year)
2. Continue the discussion/feasibility of the 2010 Regional Food Drive (Timeline: Set a meeting in early 2010)
3. Review the Eastside Helps website to ensure that content is current and consider enhancements to website (based on social media training). (Timeline: by 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter)

Participants: Brooke Buckingham, Rochelle Clayton-Strunk

## CREATE AND STRENGTHEN NEW PARTNERSHIPS

***Objective: Leverage the Forum's ability to assure a stable network of health and human services in East King County via effective and mutually beneficial partnerships***

1. To help create relationships between programs that have lost their funding and those who can help (i.e., congregations and other service groups), have an event or develop a report that describes local impact of budget cuts and highlights gaps. Gather data from Bellevue Human Services Needs Assessment and Communities Count, as well as input from school counselors and nurses. Find out what congregations and service groups are able to offer. (Timeline: March-April)
2. Work to strengthen ties with United Way; identify people to represent the Eastside for United Way of King County, in particular on the Strengthen Our Communities committee. (Timeline: by end of 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter)
3. Human Services/Housing 101 event for elected officials and human services commissioners. (Timeline: second quarter)
4. Convene a meeting of existing senior/aging councils on the Eastside. Kirkland and Bellevue will facilitate to describe how their efforts began and offer information to others who want to create similar groups. (Timeline: by third quarter)
5. Continue connections with Rotary, Kiwanis and Lions group with follow-ups to recent presentations. (Timeline: all year)
6. Submit articles to Chambers of Commerce newsletters. (Timeline: all year)

## COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS and KEY PARTNERSHIPS

*The Eastside Human Services Forum partners frequently with other organizations and groups whose missions are aligned with the Forum's mission and Work Plan.*

1. **Preventing and Ending Homelessness:** Eastside Homelessness Advisory Committee and the Committee to End Homelessness
2. **Getting School Ready:** Families and Children Early Support (FACES) and SOAR
3. **Improving Access and Services for Immigrants and Refugees:** Eastside Refugee and Immigrant Coalition (ERIC)
4. **Regional Funding:** King Co. Alliance for Human Services, United Way of King Co., local foundations, King Co. government, Alliance for Eastside Agencies
5. **Older Adults:** Bellevue Network on Aging, Kirkland Senior Advisory Committee, the Seattle King County Aging and Disability Services, the King County Coalition on Aging
6. **Call to Caring:** Countywide effort to achieve the 2020 vision.

7. **Time Banking Project:** Hopelink, Kirkland Conversations, and other local representatives working to launch a pilot of the Time Banking website.
8. **Meeting Needs Together:** Network of Eastside social service organizations who provide emergency financial assistance.

## 2010 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

### 1. Prevent and End Homelessness

- Restore the Housing Trust Fund to the \$200 million level.
- Stabilize Washington Families Fund

### 2. Promote Early Childhood and School Readiness Efforts

- Preserve and restore Home Visiting funds to 2009 levels for a continuum of programs such as Parents as Teachers and the Parent Child Home Program.
- Support training for child care professionals
- Change policies regarding state child care subsidy rates such as amount of co-pays, or frequency of eligibility reauthorization

### 3. Increase Access to Basic Needs

- Increase access to public benefits, such as Food Stamps and the Earned Income Tax Credit.
- Washington Information Network 2-1-1: Maintain current level of funding, improve quality and accessibility of services

### 4. Support Older Adult Population

- Restore funding for Adult Day Health including transportation.
- Continue current funding for the Senior Citizens Services Act (SCSA is a primary source of funding for the critical Senior Information and Assistance programs operated through Area Agencies on Aging.)

### Issues to Monitor

The Eastside Human Services Forum has identified three other issues that it will monitor in the 2010 session and provide support as needed:

- Simplify the process for cities to waive impact fees for affordable housing, by eliminating the current requirement of identifying alternative public fund sources
- Support maintaining the GAU (General Assistance Unemployable) policy recommendations
- Restore funding for out-of-school-time programs for school aged children and youth
- Designate county developmental disabilities base rate funding for each eligible child to address the increased demand for early intervention services
- Support state solutions to address the King County funding crisis
- Assure stable long-term funding for Public Health