

Eastside Human Services Forum 2011 Priorities and Work Plan

REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL FUNDING

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

1. **Impact decision-making on regional funding initiatives** including the MIDD (Mental Illness and Drug Dependency fund), and especially concerning the renewal of the Veterans and Human Services Levy--with outreach and education efforts, by participating in County meetings, and inviting regional representatives to EHSF meetings. (Timeline: all year)
2. **Assist in convening county-wide discussions** (with United Way, King County, providers, and others) to identify the core infrastructure components for human services; explore opportunities presented in the midst of dwindling resources and increased need; tap available assets.
3. Continue efforts for **Eastside Social Sustainability Partnership**:
 - a. With combined funding from EHSF, Eastside Cities, and King County, hire a consultant to develop a business plan with options for generating dedicated sub-regional funding (i.e., endowment fund or community foundation). (Timeline for hiring: Jan. 2011 timeline for business plan: June 2011).
 - b. Research infrastructure and system support for sustainable East King County human services (i.e., possible sub-regional governance, strategic plan).
 - c. Explore the idea of a subregional innovations fund which could support entrepreneurial projects aimed at sustaining nonprofits.

[A **Regional and Subregional Funding Subcommittee** will be formed to carry out the above activities.]

RESPOND TO NEEDS IN THE ECONOMIC CRISIS

Objective: Highlight the needs of low income and vulnerable communities as part of effective messaging to advocate for human services and strengthen services to meet basic needs in East King County.

1. Monitor the efforts of “**Meeting Needs Together,**” the Emergency Financial Assistance Providers, and provide support as needed for their systems change goals. (Timeline: all year)
2. Support the **2011 Regional Food Drive** and provide quarterly updates. (Timeline: Fall, 2011)
3. Evaluate the **Eastside Helps** website through the end of 2011; assess need for the website beyond 2011 and explore options for continued maintenance if necessary. (Timeline: by 3rd quarter)

CREATE AND STRENGTHEN 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. Continue to build a strong partnership with **United Way**; organize a meeting between United Way and EHSF Board members with follow up on next steps. (Timeline: meeting by end of 1st quarter)
2. Build connections with the Veteran's Administration in support of Levy renewal activities and to increase our awareness of veterans' issues, funding/service delivery opportunities, etc.
3. Reach out to **school boards and hospitals** to explore common priorities and ways to collaborate; invite participation on the EHSF Board. (Timeline for filling Board seats: end of 1st quarter.)
4. To increase connections with the **business community**, share updates pertaining to our Regional and Subregional Funding activities with service groups (Rotary, Kiwanis and Lions) as follow-up to last year's presentations; Submit articles to Chambers of Commerce newsletters. (Timeline: all year)

[Debbie Lacy will organize activities with help from Board members. We'll coordinate with presentations WG members make on behalf of their individual organizations and provide them with a one-pager to use in speaking about EHSF.]

EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY

Objective: Coordinate activities and create consistent messaging to support EHSF's main goal areas.

1. **Advocate during the Legislative Session** 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. **Prepare proactive messaging** for the Governor's next biennium budget that's aligned with partner groups. (Timeline: Legislative Session, 2011 and late summer/fall for 2012 preparation)
2. **Promote local needs, opportunities, and solutions**; establish clear messaging around what EHSF is asking of legislators, local elected officials, providers, the business community, faith groups, and the community at large; develop the story and data to increase engagement across different sectors. Strategies may include an impact video, social media efforts, PSA's for local TV, articles, submissions to Chambers of Commerce newsletters, press releases, op eds, etc. (Timeline: all year)

[An **Education and Advocacy Subcommittee** will be formed to carry out the above activities, coordinating messages with other groups such as the Alliance of Eastside Agencies, the King County Alliance for Human Services, and the North Urban Human Services Alliance, including the Northshore Senior Center.]

3. Convene the annual **June event** on a topic relevant to current priorities for human services. Ideas will be explored in Work Group and Board discussions with a topic selected by the end of March.

[An **Ad Hoc Event Subcommittee** will plan and coordinate the June event.]

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), the Eastside Cultural Navigator Program
4. **Regional Funding:** King County Alliance for Human Services, United Way of King County, local foundations, King County government, Alliance for Eastside Agencies, North Urban Human Services Alliance
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, and Eastside Senior Centers
6. **Call to Caring:** Countywide effort to achieve the 2020 vision.
7. **TimeBanking Project:** Hopelink, Kirkland Conversations, and other local representatives working to expand the TimeBank to other Eastside communities after the pilot is completed in the first quarter of 2011
8. **Meeting Needs Together:** Network of Eastside social service organizations who provide emergency financial assistance.
9. **Transportation/Accessibility:** Eastside Easy Rider/King County Mobility Coalition
10. **Washington Anti-Trafficking Response Network (WARN):** This is a new coalition with no presence yet on the Eastside. EHSF will reach out to explore possible partnership in 2011.
11. **Leadership Eastside:** Regional leadership development program

2011 Legislative Agenda

Ensuring Access to Basic Needs

- Increase access to public benefits and services, such as basic food (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), the Earned Income Tax Credit, and mental health counseling.
- Allocate funding of \$3 million for the Washington Information Network (WIN) 2-1-1 from reserve funds in WTAP (Washington Telephone Assistance Program) to ensure accessibility to information about health and human services.

Preventing and Ending Homelessness

- Maintain the State investment in the Housing Trust Fund.
- Maintain the Washington Families Fund, a public/private partnership which provides funds to support families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Supporting Early Learning and School Readiness

- Maintain the current investment in home visiting funding and advocate for evidence-based home visiting programs such as Healthy Start by the federal government.
- Protect current investments in early learning for the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) and the Working Connections Child Care Program which provides subsidies for low-income working families or families seeking work.

Supporting the Most Vulnerable Older Adults

- Sustain Senior Citizens Services Act funding. SCSA is a primary source of funding for the critical Senior Information and Assistance Program operated through Area Agencies on Aging.
- Implement the Pierce County model for Aging and Disability Resource Centers statewide to promote better information access for older adults and their families.
- Support follow-up actions recommended by the “Washington State Abuse/Neglect of Older Adults who are Vulnerable Study Group.”

Please visit www.eastsideforum.org for a detailed Legislative Agenda which includes Eastside statistics and issues the Forum is monitoring in addition to the above items.