

## Kirkland Senior Council Work Plan 2019 - 2020

Work Plan Projects structured within the outline of the City of Kirkland Human Service Goals and Policy Review, taken from the Kirkland Vision 2035 comprehensive plan.

**Goal HS 4:** Maintain and improve the quality of life for Kirkland residents 50 years and older.

**Policy HS-4.1:** Maintain and support the Senior Council.

- **Legislative Action/Advocacy** – The ongoing and essential engagement of the Senior Council in political Advocacy on behalf of seniors, in partnership with the Kirkland City Council and the Bellevue Network on Aging.
- **Documents Review** - Revisiting By-Laws, New Member Orientation, KSC Manual

**Policy HS-4.2:** Provide opportunities for residents 50 years and older to be active, connected, and engaged in the community.

- **Viva Volunteers** – The KSC Signature Annual Event providing Non-profit connections for volunteering opportunities for seniors and their families.
- **Art Show** – Annual Event - Highlighting Senior Talent with potential for outreach to and collaboration with Youth Council.
- **Connecting with Isolated Populations** – researching connections to isolated seniors to encourage active life engagement.

**Policy HS-4.3:** Provide access to information, resources, services, and programs for older adults.

- **Senior Service Resource Guide** – The Bi-Annual regional guide published with Grant funding support from EvergreenHealth and the City of Kirkland.
- **"Coming of Age Again"** Outreach effort of the KSC: Council member articles published in the *Kirkland Reporter* - Sound Publishing, Inc. KSC lead works with City's Communications Manager.
- **Health Fairs** – KSC Outreach efforts to connect to seniors in Kirkland and neighboring communities, including the Northshore Senior Center Annual Health Event, and Overlake Hospital's Bellevue Health Fair.
- **Insurance Forum** – A follow up event to the KSC successful 2018 Property Tax public forum. The 2019 / 20 forum will focus of the complex issue of Health Care for seniors.

**Policy HS-4.4:** Maintain a safe environment for older adults in the community.

- **Transportation/Eastside Easy Riders Coalition** – KSC participation in the regional transportation coalition to improve transportation options for seniors.

**Policy HS-4.5:** Encourage affordable and appropriately designed older adult housing.

- **Housing Advocacy** – The Senior Council will monitor activities related to the City of Kirkland’s Housing Strategy Plan & continue to advocate for affordable housing options in our high-cost community.
- **Age in Place/Universal Design** – Advocacy efforts to assure awareness of design features that allow folks to more easily age in place in their homes.

## **City of Kirkland Human Service Goals and Policy Review**

***Goal HS-4: Maintain and improve the quality of life for Kirkland residents 50 years and older.***

***Policy HS-4.1: Maintain and support the Senior Council.***

The Kirkland Senior Council's mission is to preserve and improve the quality of life for Kirkland residents 50 years and older by identifying their concerns, advocating for their needs and creating programs and services that advance their well-being.

The Senior Council offers people the opportunity to directly participate in the advocacy and creation of programs and services that meet their needs. The City should maintain the Senior Council and support its work.

***Policy HS-4.2: Provide opportunities for residents 50 years and older to be active, connected, and engaged in the community.***

Many people 50 years and older are active and thus prefer a wider range of recreational programs and services. They enjoy working, recreation, lifelong learning, and social engagement. Recognizing this, the Peter Kirk Community Center should provide a broad range of activities, classes and services for residents 50 years and older to engage and connect the residents with their community.

The City has developed partnerships with other community organizations and businesses to increase program opportunities and locations, and provide greater marketing abilities. These partnerships should continue and increase as the number of people 50 years and older increase.

***Policy HS-4.3: Provide access to information, resources, services, and programs for older adults.***

Older adults, their caregivers and family members often do not know where to turn for help for available programs, services, and resources. Many older adults and their adult children lack knowledge about in-home services, assisted living options, and the steps between living in their own homes and moving into retirement, assisted living or nursing homes. Also many older adults need support to increase independence through financial planning and utilization of technology to access information. The Parks and Community Services Department should continue to provide access to resources at Peter Kirk Community Center. The challenges are compounded for the non-English speaking seniors and their families. The Parks and Community Services Department should continue partnerships with agencies to offer programs and services with bilingual staff, so that non-English speaking older adults have the opportunity to participate in social, recreational and educational activities.

In addition, many older adults do not drive or own vehicles, so they depend on public transportation or safe pedestrian and bicycle connections to get them to their activities, shopping and medical appointments. The City should work with the regional transit providers to see that convenient and low-cost public transportation is provided throughout the City. A system of safe nonmotorized connections should also be provided from neighborhoods to business centers and public facilities as outlined in the [Transportation Element](#).

***Policy HS-4.4: Maintain a safe environment for older adults in the community.***

Older adults have the need for safe access to community facilities and services and for emergency responsiveness from both police and emergency medical services. The City should continue an ongoing dialogue to assure older adults that the City is committed to keeping the community safe while also offering a variety of personal safety programs.

The City should encourage partnership programs with various local agencies, such as the Gatekeeper program, to notify specified individuals when seniors fail to pick up their mail or newspapers, or when unattended problems are noticed at the home.

***Policy HS-4.5: Encourage affordable and appropriately designed older adult housing.***

Affordable and appropriately designed accessible housing are key issues for older adults in terms of what it will take for them to remain in Kirkland as they age. The City should support public and private efforts to create and preserve affordable housing, including accessory apartments, shared housing, small lots, cottages and one-story homes, as outlined in the [Housing Element](#). In exploring options for affordable housing for older adults, the City should utilize the expertise available through ARCH (A Regional Coalition for Housing), the King County Housing Authority, local faith-based organizations with housing programs, nonprofit and for-profit housing developers, and other resources interested in affordable housing for older adults. In addition, the City should identify the necessary changes in land use regulations and building codes that will make alternative housing easier to implement. Additional goals, policies and background information that support affordable and senior housing are found in the [Housing Element](#).