

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
Minutes Commission Special Meeting
July 28, 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sriram Rajagopalan called the meeting to order at 6:06pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chair Sriram Rajagopalan, Commissioner Gabriela Lopez Vazquez, Commissioner Kobey Sage Chew, Commissioner Shannon Quinn, and Youth Commissioner Eric Dodd.

Excused Absences: Vice Chair Cristian Liu.

Commissioner Jory Hamilton arrived at 6:16pm.

Staff Present: Human Services Manager Jen Boone, Human Services Supervisor Becky Gilley, Human Services Coordinator Anny Smith, Human Services Coordinator Regi Schubiger, Human Services Coordinator Amanda Judd, and Human Services Office Specialist Kerry Lam

Meeting Recorder: Human Services Office Specialist Kerry Lam

3. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Commissioner Gabriela Lopez Vazquez read the land acknowledgment. Youth Commissioner Eric Dodd will read the land acknowledgement for the August 13th meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Sriram Rajagopalan requested a motion to approve the July 9, 2026, minutes, Commissioner Shannon Quinn motioned for approval, Commissioner Kobey Sage Chew seconded. Motion carried (Yes: 5; No: 0; Abstention: 1).

5. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

No public comment.

6. BUSINESS

a. 2027-2028 Deferred Application Review

The Commission reviewed 13 deferred applications from the 2027–2028 Human Services Grant cycle, originally set aside during the first review process. Staff summarized updated information for programs with outstanding questions, and Commissioners discussed each application using the ShareOne App portal and the Communities Rise Stoplight Tool to support an equity-centered review. Commissioners referenced the City's Community Goal Areas and current funding priorities to guide their discussion.

The following applications were discussed:

1. Consejo Counseling and Referral Services-Pathways to Healing Program
2. Essentials First-World Food Program
3. Evergreen Social Impact (acting as fiscal sponsor for Pride Across the Bridge)- Rainbow Resilience Network
4. Friends of Youth-Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder Services Program
5. Friends of Youth-Youth Case Management Program (Formerly Youth Employment Program)
6. Friends of Youth-The Willows Youth Services center (WYSC)
7. Friends of Youth-Youth Haven
8. Hopelink-English for Work (Previously Adult Ed)
9. Hopelink-Financial Capabilities
10. Overlake Christian Church-Financial Aid & Assistance Program
11. Overlake Christian Church-Safe parking and Day Center Emergency Shelter
12. Porchlight-Housing Navigation
13. Sound Generations- Volunteer Transportation Services (VTS)

b. 2027-2028 Grant Funding Overview

The Commission received an overview of the 2027–2028 human services grants budget to prepare for upcoming funding recommendations to City Council. Staff highlighted the base budget of \$1,819,668 per year and explained how Options A, B, and C may be structured, including potential one-time supplemental funding. Commissioners discussed historical funding trends, current funding sources, and Council's guidance from the April 7 joint meeting. This foundational review will support development of draft grant recommendations ahead of the August 13 meeting.

c. Eastside Human Services Commissions' Equity Workshop Debrief

The Commission debriefed the Eastside Human Services Commissions' Equity Workshop, held jointly on May 12, 2026, and reviewed the related post-work materials. Staff summarized the training's goals and emphasized how Commissioners applied an equity lens throughout the 27–28 grant application review process. Commissioners discussed insights from the pre-work, in-person session, and post-work facilitated by Communities Rise. This conversation supports continued development of equitable practices in future funding cycles.

7. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

a. 2027 Community Development Block Grant Allocation

The Commission received an overview of the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and Kirkland's estimated 2027 allocation. Staff outlined how CDBG funds are distributed through the King County Consortium and reviewed eligible uses, including capital projects, public services, and administration benefiting low- and moderate-income residents. Commissioners also discussed the timeline leading up to the August 25 public hearing and resolution proposed at the September 15 City Council meeting. This presentation prepares the Commission for upcoming recommendations on the City's CDBG funding distribution.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Gabriela Lopez Vazquez reported that she volunteered at a legal clinic hosted by 4 Tomorrow. Commissioner Shannon Quinn attended the Bellevue Arts Fair and learned about the Furniture Repair Bank. Commissioner Sriram Rajagopalan reported that he is working with the 988 system's "lived experience" subcommittee to help develop a document that helps educate the community.

b. Staff Reports & Announcements

Human Services Coordinator Anny Smith reported that the next meeting will be held on August 13 in the Rose Hill Room at City Hall. She reminded the group that a group photo is planned but will need to be rescheduled due to Commission availability. Staff also reminded Commissioners that a special study session is scheduled for September 15, during which City Council will review the grants, and staff will present their recommendations.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Sriram Rajagopalan asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Kobey Sage Chew motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Youth Commissioner Eric Dodd. Meeting was adjourned at 8:46 pm.