



**CITY OF BOULDER
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM**

MEETING DATE: June 18, 2013

AGENDA TITLE: Consideration of a motion to accept the summary of the May 28, 2013 Human Services Overview Study Session.

PRESENTERS

Jane S. Brautigam, City Manager
Paul J. Fetherston, Deputy City Manager
Karen Rahn, Director, Human Services
Wendy Schwartz, Human Services Planning Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This agenda item presents a summary of the May 28 Study Session. ([The study session memo can be found here.](#))

The purpose of the study session was to provide information on the current city and community context of human services programs and investments, as background for the update to the Human Services Strategy (formerly Master Plan), beginning in mid-2013 and for the 2014 budget process.

Staff presented background information on this item followed by council discussion. Issues presented and discussed included:

- Background on the current Human Services Master Plan and role of the city in human services;
- External factors impacting the need for human services and the role of local government in human services;
- Regional planning efforts;
- Highlights of community trends related to human services;
- Overview of City of Boulder funding for human services;
- Analysis of peer cities' human services funding; and
- Policy and budget issues for consideration in developing new Human Services Strategy for the City of Boulder.

Key Issue Identification

Attachment A presents a summary of the discussion, issues and next steps considered in the study session.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION**Suggested Motion Language:**

Staff requests council consideration of this matter and action in the form of the following motion:

Motion to accept the summary of the May 28, 2013 Human Services Overview Study Session.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will return to council with a proposed process and timeline for the update for the Human Services Strategy in the third quarter of 2013.

ATTACHMENT

Attachment A: May 28, 2013 Study Session Summary.

**Study Session Summary
May 28, 2013
Human Services Overview**

PRESENT

City Council: Mayor Matt Appelbaum, Deputy Mayor Lisa Morzel, Suzy Ageton, Macon Cowles, Suzanne Jones, George Karakehian, Tim Plass, Ken Wilson

City Staff: City Manager Jane Brautigam, Human Services Director Karen Rahn, Human Services Planning Manager Wendy Schwartz, Human Services Financial Manager Barbara Long

PURPOSE

The purpose of the study session was to provide information on the current city and community context of human services programs and investments, as background for the update to the Human Services Strategy (formerly Human Services Master Plan), beginning in mid-2013 and for the 2014 budget process.

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

Staff presented an overview of key items, including:

- Background on the current Human Services Master Plan and role of the city in human services;
- External factors impacting the need for human services and the role of local government in human services, such as the economic downturn and devolution of state and federal responsibility;
- Collective Impact Model and regional planning efforts, including the Boulder County Human Services Strategic Plan and the Boulder County Ten-Year Plan to Address Homelessness;
- Highlights of community trends related to human services;
- Overview of City of Boulder funding for human services;
- Overview of peer cities' human services funding; and
- Policy and budget issues for consideration in developing new Human Services Strategy for the City of Boulder.

DISCUSSION SUMMARY

For future updates and Human Services Strategy planning, the following ideas and issues were discussed:

1. Changes resulting from Affordable Care Act (ACA) implementation, including reduced unmet health care needs and potential migration of people from states without Medicaid expansion to states that do implement expansion.
2. Impacts of changing demographics, including decreasing children and increasing seniors. Consider the definition of seniors and income/wealth profile of seniors.

ATTACHMENT A

3. Analysis of peer cities:
 - a. Comparison of city budgets by removing items such as utilities;
 - b. Services and investments in Arvada and Westminster through counties, and whether services, such as health services, are shared; and
 - c. Capital investments in housing and how those impact per capita figures.
4. Analysis of Boulder city, county and other jurisdictions and how funds can be used more strategically.
5. Who is providing different types of human services and to what extent duplication exists.
6. Human Services provided in other departments for inclusion in funding analysis.
7. Definition of human services.
8. Process and criteria for funding to the community, including:
 - a. What is the role of council;
 - b. Consider minimum thresholds for grant amounts; and
 - c. Rationale for funding to other organizations such as Boulder Valley School District and local governments.
9. Expanding partnerships with other communities on social issues.
10. Concentrating resources on key areas for success.

Follow up information requested by council:

1. **VIA** - Council asked how much funding the city provides VIA for transportation services: Via is funded by the Transportation Division of the Public Works Department (PWD). In 2013, PWD funded VIA for \$241,139. VIA also operates the HOP service for the city, Regional Transportation District (RTD) and the University of Colorado (a three-way partnership). Any earned income by VIA for the HOP (\$250,000 estimated for 2013 or approximately 16% of the HOP service contract) is reinvested in access-a-ride services in Boulder. This totals \$591,139 in city investment. Boulder covers approximately 28% of the cost provided for para-transit services in Boulder. VIA has a target goal of 25% from local communities.
2. **Family Resource Schools** - Council requested clarifying information on the amount of funding associated with the families referenced in the following sentences on page 27 of the memo:

“The need for temporary or one-time housing assistance (generally rent payment) among families served by the Family Resource Schools (FRS) program has increased significantly since 2008. Six families received assistance in 2008 while 77 received assistance in 2012.”

In 2008, FRS provided a total of \$1,225 (approximately \$204 per family) in rental assistance for the six families receiving rental help through that program. In 2012, FRS provided rental assistance to 77 families. Of these 77 families, 44 families received

housing assistance from the county and 33 were provided housing assistance by FRS, for a total of \$6669 (\$202 per family).

NEXT STEPS

Staff will return to council with a proposed process, benchmarks and timeline for the update to the Human Services Strategy in the third quarter of 2013.