



Human Development Element

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Human Development Element

Vision Statement

The City of Seattle invests in people so that all families and individuals can meet their basic needs, share in our economic prosperity, and participate in building a safe, healthy, educated, just and caring community.

A

Building Supportive Relationships within Families, Neighborhoods & Communities

goals

- HDG1** Make Seattle a place where people are involved in community and neighborhood life; where they help each other and contribute to the vitality of the city.
- HDG2** Create a caring community that nurtures and supports children and families.

discussion

Healthy, sustainable and safe communities do not just happen — they are the product of people working together and investing time, energy and commitment. Children and youth are critical to the future of the City and region. The entire community should share in supporting their growth and development. City government has an important role to play, but institutions alone cannot create or sustain community. By their involvement in civic and neighborhood activities, people see the impact of their own actions, recognize the difference they make, and can become acquainted with the people around them. This reinforces the understanding that personal responsibility is crucial to the development of a vibrant, growing community. Government can support efforts by encouraging participation from all sectors of the community.

policies

- HD1** Work toward achieving a sense of belonging among all Seattle residents.
 - a. Promote opportunities that bring people together to help them build connections to each other, their peers, their neighbors and the greater community.
 - b. Enhance opportunities for intergenerational activities.
 - c. Strive to reach people in new ways to encourage broad participation in neighborhood and community activities and events.
- HD2** Promote volunteerism and community service.
 - a. Enhance people's access to information about opportunities to contribute their time, energy or resources.
 - b. Encourage young people of all ages to be involved in creating and participating in community service projects.
- HD3** Strengthen efforts to involve people in the planning and decision-making that affect their lives.
- HD4** Encourage other governments, schools, institutions and community based organizations to provide opportunities for people's participation in discussions that shape decisions about their neighborhoods and communities.

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A

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- HD5** Encourage people to take responsibility for their lives and to nurture their families, children and circle of friends.
- HD6** Encourage people to be informed and involved, so they can make educated choices about their lives and assist in finding community solutions to issues and problems and responses to opportunities.
- HD7** Promote the investment by adults in the healthy development of the community's children and youth.
- HD8** Emphasize prevention and early intervention to reduce risks and strengthen resiliency of children and youth.
- HD9** Enhance opportunities that help children and youth gain skills and self-esteem, and foster a sense of hope and optimism about the future.
- HD10** Reinforce efforts that strengthen the ability of children, youth and families to help themselves and each other. Promote activities that help teach children and youth to act responsibly, and acknowledge young people's accomplishments.

B Food to Eat & a Roof Overhead**goal**

- HDG3** Strive to alleviate the impacts of poverty, low income and conditions that make people, especially children and older adults, vulnerable.

discussion

Seattle's economic future and quality of life depend on the development of its people. There are people, especially frail elders, individuals and families, who lack food or shelter, who are vulnerable, or face barriers to functioning independently. The community should help them flourish and participate fully in the life of the city. The City recognizes its role in making Seattle the kind of place people of all ages want to live and raise their families, and those who are most vulnerable will have access to assistance they need. The safety of such vulnerable populations may also need special attention before and after an emergency or disaster. Certain policies pertaining to low income and special needs housing and emergency shelters may be found in the Housing Element.

policies

- HD11** Encourage coordinated service delivery for food, housing, health care, and other basic necessities of life to promote long-term self-reliance for vulnerable populations.
- HD11.5** Coordinate service delivery plans for vulnerable populations in the event of an emergency or disaster.
- HD12** Strive to assist and enhance efforts that help older people meet their basic needs, maintain their independence as long as possible, and remain in their neighborhoods of choice.



HD13 Encourage public and private efforts that support food banks and nutrition programs, especially to meet the nutritional needs of infants, children and the elderly, and other vulnerable populations.

C

The Education & Job Skills to Lead an Independent Life

goals

HDG4 Promote an excellent education system and opportunities for life-long learning for all Seattle residents.

HDG4.5 Strengthen educational opportunities for all Seattle students.

HDG5 Promote development of literacy and employability among Seattle residents.

discussion

The City of Seattle recognizes the importance of a well educated population and young people with the skills to pursue opportunities and careers of their choice. The City recognizes the need to work with other public agencies, nonprofit agencies, community groups and the business community to make quality education and opportunities for learning and training available to children, youth and adults. Certain policies pertaining to employment and training may be found in Section A. Labor Force Education, Development and Training in the Economic Development Element.

policies

HD14 Encourage parent, volunteer, business and community support for education and their involvement in schools.

HD15 Strive to support families so their children can be ready to learn as they enter school. Help coordinate service delivery to families and their children through school-linked programs and support services.

HD16 Work with the Seattle Public Schools to create safe learning environments in and after school that promote academic and personal achievement for all children. Recognize that community-based learning through service projects has value both to the student and the community.

HD17 Work with schools, libraries, community centers, agencies and organizations to link services into a seamless system that helps students stay in school, including co-location and joint use of facilities to make a broader variety of services available to students.

HD18 Enhance opportunities for increased access to literacy development and English-as a Second Language (ESL) resources.

HD19 Work with community colleges, universities and other institutions of higher learning to promote life-long learning opportunities for community members and encourage the broadest possible use of libraries, community centers, schools, and other existing facilities throughout the city, focusing on development of these resources in urban villages areas.





HD20 Work with schools and other educational institutions, community-based organizations, businesses and other governments to develop strong linkages between education and training programs and employability development resources.

D

Effective Disease Prevention, Access to Health Care, Physical & Mental Fitness for Everyone

goal

HDG6 Create a healthy environment where all community members, including those currently struggling with homelessness, mental illness and chemical dependence, are able to aspire to and achieve a healthy life, are well nourished, and have access to affordable health care.

discussion

Health is a major determinant of quality of life and the ability to participate fully in the community. The City recognizes the importance of health care for all of Seattle's residents, particularly the poor and uninsured. Local efforts should help people who experience greater health risks and adverse conditions and should focus on primary prevention through effective policies. The City encourages the King County Board of Health to create and support policies with measurable outcomes based on the most current science, best practices and promising approaches to preventing acute and chronic disease. The City will regularly evaluate the effectiveness of Board of Health policy implementation based on indicators of the number of healthy years lived by people in Seattle. Certain policies pertaining to recreation may be found in Section E. Open Space Network of the Land Use Element; and policies pertaining to the environment may be found in the Land Use, Transportation and Capital Facilities Elements.

policies

- HD21** Encourage Seattle residents to adopt healthy and active lifestyles to improve their general health and well-being to increase their number of healthy years lived. Provide opportunities for people to participate in fitness and recreational activities and to enjoy available open space.
- HD22** Work toward the reduction of health risks and behaviors leading to chronic and infectious diseases and infant mortality, with particular emphasis on populations disproportionately affected by these conditions.
- HD22.5** Collaborate with community organizations and health providers to advocate at the State level for expanded access to health insurance and to expanded coverage for preventive care and long-term health.
- HD23** Work to reduce environmental threats and hazards to health in the workplace, at home and at play.
- a. Make use of the City's building and fire codes, food licensing and permit processes, and hazardous materials and smoking regulations for fire and life safety protection.
 - b. Collaborate through joint efforts among City agencies, such as fire, police, and construction and land use to address health and safety issues in a more efficient manner.
 - c. Prepare land use plans in ways that support development and design that promote physical activities, use safe materials, and protect water and air quality.



- HD24** Seek to improve the quality and equity of access to health care, including physical and mental health, emergency medical, and addiction services.
 - a. Collaborate with community organizations and health providers to advocate for quality health care and broader accessibility to services.
 - b. Pursue co-location of programs and services, particularly in under-served areas and in urban village areas.
- HD24.5** Support increased access to preventive interventions at agencies that serve the homeless, mentally ill and chemically dependent populations. Pursue co-location of health services at these and other agencies serving those disproportionately affected by disease.
- HD25** Work with other jurisdictions, institutions, health care providers and community organizations to develop a strong continuum of community-based long-term care services.

E A Safe Haven from All Forms of Violence & Abuse

goals

- HDG7** Strive to reduce violence and fear of crime.
- HDG8** Help individuals, families, neighborhoods, and communities participate in addressing their safety concerns.
- HDG8.1** Promote the health and well-being of all women, children and families in Seattle by moving toward the elimination of unintended pregnancy.

HDG8.2 Achieve an increased sense of security and a decrease in the per capita incidence of crimes, as indicated by decreased homicides, aggravated assaults, residential burglaries, and auto theft; increased perception of police presence; and decreased perception of crime.

discussion

Public safety is an individual, family, and social responsibility — not just a job for the City and Seattle Police Department. It is more than enacting and enforcing laws. It goes beyond preventing crime. It includes human service efforts that prevent problems before they begin, and intervene early before problems become serious. The City recognizes that building safer communities requires the commitment of all of Seattle's residents, youth and adults alike. City government can act as a catalyst in this effort. It can help build partnerships and make connections between the individuals, agencies and other groups that work to address persistent community and neighborhood problems.

policies

- HD26** Encourage efforts that enhance strong family relationships and healthy child development and work in partnership with the state, King County and community agencies to prevent violence and injury, in areas such as child abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence, firearms injury, and violence associated with substance abuse.
- HD27** Encourage a policing strategy that works in partnership with the community to reduce crime through prevention, education and enforcement, and encourages communities to build block-by-block networks to prevent crime, develop social networks, and solve common problems.

human development element

E



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F

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HD27.1 Promote the availability of comprehensive family planning services for all Seattle residents, regardless of income, age or background.

HD28 Strive to provide competent, professional and efficient City criminal justice services, including law enforcement, prosecution and adjudication. Seek to: find and hold accountable those who commit crimes; reduce recidivism; and achieve a fair and just system.

HD28.1 Encourage community support for family planning efforts such as making available age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education and increasing awareness of the community impact associated with unintended pregnancy.

HD29 Work with neighborhood groups, community agencies and other levels of government to educate people about crime prevention, firearm safety, and organized neighborhood safety activities. Use the joint efforts of City agencies, such as fire, police and construction and land use, and community organizations to identify and address safety concerns.

HD30 Make public safety a consideration in design and management of public spaces to prevent crime and fear in public facilities and gathering places, streets and parking and shopping areas.

HD31 Enhance efforts that support informal monitoring, foster legitimate activities, and give people a sense of ownership and control over their neighborhood.

HD31.1 Work with the state, King County and community organizations to maintain and promote effective, state-of-the-art family planning strategies and programs.

HD32 Strengthen the linkage between public safety and human services to encourage lawful behavior, reduce vulnerabilities of street populations, and address family violence and sexual assault.

HD33 Strive to prevent youth crime and reduce youth violence and gang activity.

- a. Promote efforts that increase youths' attachment to the community, involvement in legitimate activities, commitment to and success in education and employment, and participation in the community.
- b. Support activities that are wholesome alternatives to crime and violence.
- c. Involve young people in discussions about community crime and prevention.
- d. Work with the Seattle School District to make schools safe for all youth.

HD34 Work with the state and King County to focus criminal justice efforts on preventing the most seriously threatening and predatory crimes and violent drug-related crimes.

HD35 Work with the state, King County and community organizations to connect local detention facilities with the health and human services systems.



HD36 Recognize the interdependence among the courts, jails, prosecutors and police and encourage better coordination of resources. Promote sharing of information for greater efficiency in the criminal justice system.

HD36.1 Periodically report on crime statistics and the public perception of safety to guide future decisions about programs and resource allocation that can help control crime and make Seattle residents feel safer in the city.

HD37 Develop an increased level of emergency preparedness among all segments of the population to help coordinate governmental response and recovery efforts that seek to minimize the adversity of a major emergency or disaster.

F **A Multi-Cultural City with Freedom from Discrimination**

goals

HDG9 Promote respect and appreciation for diversity, including economic, racial, cultural and individual differences.

HDG10 Provide equal opportunity and fair access to services.

discussion

Seattle benefits from a diverse citizenry. We can capitalize on the varied heritage, talents and perspectives of our members to build a stronger community. The City recognizes that every human being should have the opportunity to succeed, to contribute and to be treated with dignity.

policies

HD38 Encourage community efforts that work toward achieving a diversity of ages, incomes, household types and sizes, and cultural backgrounds throughout the city and region.

HD39 In addition to upholding federal, state and local laws against discrimination and bias crimes, work to promote human rights and mutual respect and to end intolerance and divisiveness. Reach out and bring people together in ways that build bridges between individuals and between groups.

HD40 Celebrate diversity through community activities and events that recognize different groups. Bring people together to experience and learn about ethnic and cultural traditions. Involve children, youth and adults of all ages in intergenerational activities to lend support to and learn from each other.

HD41 Work to improve access to City and community services and to remove obstacles that keep people from receiving the services they need.

- a. Improve facility and program accessibility through implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- b. Enhance opportunities for people with low incomes, disabilities, limited English-speaking ability, and other barriers to service to participate fully in community life and to access assistance.

HD42 Promote culturally responsive and relevant service delivery. Strive to ensure that City-funded agencies and services provide appropriate service.



HD43 Provide opportunities for diverse representation of people and interests on City of Seattle boards, commissions, advisory committees, and in the neighborhood planning implementation.

G**Coordination & Joint Planning of Services****goal**

HDG11 Develop a more flexible, comprehensive, coordinated and efficient system of services that addresses whole needs of people, families and communities.

discussion

Through the use of its limited resources, the City has an important role to play in building efficient human service and public safety systems with easy access for people. The City of Seattle contracts with community based organizations and invests in them to help build capacity with the goal of assisting them in delivering the highest quality services possible to community residents.

Access, linkages, and quality assurance help make services work better for individuals, families and neighborhoods. Neighborhood-based service delivery helps integrate people into their communities. Co-location of services and other collaborative efforts can improve access. Specialized services may not be provided in a given neighborhood, so good information on service locations throughout the community and transportation are important. Certain policies pertaining to transportation may be found in Section G. Transit and Public Transportation of the Transportation Element.

policies

- HD44** Encourage cooperative planning, decision-making and funding for health and human service delivery throughout the region. Join with other public and private institutions in the region to strive for a stable and adequate funding base for services that support safe and healthy communities.
- HD45** Promote effective, efficient community-based and community-delivered services using a combination of public, private, community and personal resources.
- HD46** Strive to provide better and more coordinated information to people about the availability of services in the community and make use of available and new technologies to improve access to services and information.
- HD47** Encourage customer-focused services with feedback from those who use them and involvement of consumers in identifying needs and planning for service delivery.
- HD48** Encourage connections between services that coordinate, link and integrate public, private and community-based services. Facilitate collaboration of programs through the use of City funding.
- HD49** Encourage consideration of issues like transportation and the need for dependent care in planning for health, human services, employment and recreation programs.
- HD50** Encourage neighborhood organizations to address a broad range of human issues in a context of both neighborhood strengths and needs to identify solutions to service concerns and find ways to make service delivery more accessible and user-friendly.



HD51 Work to ensure equitable sharing and siting of facilities in ways that promote access and efficient use of community resources.

- a. Use siting policies and good neighbor guidelines to strive for distribution of services that considers the needs of consumers and the community and focuses growth in urban village areas.
- b. Encourage use of existing facilities and co-location of services, including joint use of schools and City and community facilities, to make services more available in urban village areas.

HD52 Collaborate with community organizations and other jurisdictions to advocate for strong health, human service and public safety systems, including services for which the City does not carry primary responsibility, such as mental health and substance abuse.

HD53 Seek effective ways to measure program performance and results, balancing accountability and efficiency with the need to encourage service innovation.

HD54 Consider the special needs of teens and young adults in planning and designing community facilities and programs; increase awareness of programs and activities available to teens and young adults, and directly seek information from this group on how programs and activities can be improved to better meet their needs.

HD55 Together with community partners, the City will establish and monitor key indicators of overall social and health conditions.