Human Services Department

Aging and Disability Services

Collaborative Funding Process

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the Collaborative Funding Process?
* The Collaborative Funding Process is a new approach to investing in our community with the goal of moving the needle on racial disparities. The process will engage providers in developing a network that equitably distributes services to populations experiencing the greatest disparities.
1. Why are you changing the funding process?
* We are piloting a new approach to promote collaboration among providers and support the development of an effective and equitable service delivery network.
* In a typical funding processes, our role as a funder is to outline the services we want to purchase, the specific populations to be served, and the goals and outcomes that the agencies will need to fulfill. Agencies respond to these guidelines by focusing on the ability and experience of their individual agency to fulfill the stated goals and outcomes. This approach can advantage agencies that have more experience and capacity for grant writing, and disadvantage smaller agencies with fewer resources – agencies that may be serving communities with the greatest disparities. It also gives funders sole responsibility for creating the system – deciding which agencies will be funded to do which activities in order to meet overall system goals. Essentially, this requires that funders put together a puzzle in which there may be missing pieces.
* This pilot process will prioritize collaboration and focus on meeting equity goals for the entire system. Agencies will work together to identify their complementary strengths, such as the ability to serve a particular population or region with a distinct program or service, ensuring that all the pieces of the puzzle are on the table.
1. How will it work?
* Agencies will apply individually to be qualified service providers through a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process. Successful RFQ applicants will be invited to participate in a collaborative process to form a provider network that will collectively meet shared goals and outcomes, as outlined by Aging and Disability Services (ADS). Details of the second phase are not finalized and we’re open to feedback and suggestions.
1. What are the services that will be in the funding opportunity?
* Services are for the Community Living Connections and Family Caregiver Support Program. These programs support older adults, adults with disabilities, and their caregivers throughout King County. Services ***may*** include information, assistance, and outreach; options counseling; care coordination; regional coordination; and specialized services for caregivers including information, assistance and outreach for caregivers; caregiver assessment or TCARE®; emergency respite coordination; respite coordination; caregiver counseling; caregiver support groups; and caregiver training/consultation. Note, this is not a final list of services that will be included.
1. How do I become a “qualified agency” and part of the provider network?

ADS will release an RFQ this fall. Following the process, a list of qualified agencies will be posted on the HSD Funding Opportunities website. These agencies will be invited to participate in the collaborative process to develop a provider network. Agencies that are not successful RFQ applicants may still play a future role in the network as non-contracted providers

 (see question 16).

1. How much money is available?
* We anticipate that current federal, state, and local allocations will remain stable – no major increases or decreases. We will have more information on estimated budgets in 2019.
1. If I am a current contractor do I need to apply?
* Yes, all current contractors need to apply to be a qualified service provider.
1. Is the Community Living Connections central access number or main intake phone line included in this funding opportunity?
* No, this service is currently provided by Crisis Connections and will not be put out for bid as part of this funding process.
1. How many agencies will comprise the network?
* The number of agencies will be determined through the collaborative process. Successful RFQ applicants will work together to decide how they will collaboratively meet the goals and outcomes identified by Aging and Disability Services. This may mean that not all qualified providers will receive contracts.
1. What goals and outcomes will the network be expected to meet?
* ADS will provide this information in early 2019 following the RFQ process, and we anticipate a strong emphasis on racial equity outcomes.
1. Will the network of agencies have only one contract?
* No, each agency in the provider network will have individual contracts.
1. When will the new contracts start?
* Contracts have a tentative start date of January 2020.
1. This seems like a lot of work. Will qualified agencies be given funds to participate in forming the network?
* We appreciate that the collaborative process will require a big commitment from providers. We are exploring options that might address provider’s concerns, including compensating agencies to participate in the network development process.
1. This seems like a big change. Will the city provide support for this process?
* ADS hired Baker Consulting to provide technical assistance, support, neutral facilitation, and guidance throughout this process. This includes proof reading proposals and facilitating network development.
1. What is the expectation of the network to meet after we are funded? Will there be a lead agency that convenes meetings?
* ADS will continue to convene meetings for contracted providers, and those providers will be expected to participate. We will also continue to fund regional coordinators to convene contracted and non-contracted providers in their respective regions.
1. I would like to be involved but will probably not apply for funding. How can I participate in the network?
* Non-contracted providers are an integral part of our system. Regional coordinators convene meetings throughout King County for agencies serving older adults, adults with disabilities, and their caregivers, to have a training and networking opportunity. Sound Generations coordinates meetings in Seattle/North King County and East King County (contact Tanya McGee: TanyaM@soundgenerations.org) and Neighborhood House coordinates meetings in East King County (contact Julie Romero: julier@NHWA.ORG or Emy Haruo:emyh@nhwa.org).
1. Where can I find more information about Community Living Connections and the Family Caregiver Support Program?
* Information about the previous Community Living Connections and Family Caregiver Support Program funding processes can be found on the Seattle Human Services Department website: <https://www.seattle.gov/humanservices/funding-and-reports/funding-opportunities>
1. Where can I find information about reporting requirements?
* Reporting information can be found on our website: <https://www.agingkingcounty.org/about-us/contracted-providers/>
1. Current contracts seem to promote competition because of the payment structure and agencies holding onto clients. Will ADS address this to promote collaboration and client referrals among the network?
* Yes, ADS is looking at changing the contract payment structure to promote collaboration and client referrals.
1. I still have questions about this new process. Is there someone at ADS I can talk to?
* Contact Angela Miyamoto at Angela.Miyamoto@Seattle.Gov or 206-684-0230.