



Human Services Commission

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Enabling Legislation and/or Bylaws

The Human Services Commission (HSC) ORS 190 Intergovernmental Agreement form of governance was established in 1972 to regionally coordinate the administration of human services jointly funded by the Cities of Eugene and Springfield and Lane County through the County Department of Health and Human Services. This entity is responsible for regional health and human services. In 1981, the federal Community Action Anti-Poverty Program, which had been administered separately by the County's Social Services Division, was folded into the fund. In 1984, with the beginning of the Community Development Block Grant program, the cities integrated the allocation of public service funds for social services.

The HSC Board is administered by seven members consisting of public officials under an ORS 190 Intergovernmental Agreement between the cities of Eugene and Springfield and Lane County. Membership is based on the proportion of general fund contributions. Representatives include at least one elected representative from each jurisdiction. The City of Eugene has three seats and Lane County and the City of Springfield each have two public officials seated on the Board. (LM 3.568)

Scope and Function

The function of the Human Services Commission is to provide recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners in the following areas:

The HSC provides advice to the Board of County Commissioners and the Eugene and Springfield City Councils on community needs and priorities for human services. Its tasks include: assisting in the development of an intergovernmental human services plan and budget, assisting in planning, review and evaluation of services in the intergovernmental human services plan; assisting in evaluation of proposals to provide services, providing for citizen participation in the planning process for community human services, and making recommendations to units of local government regarding their specific human services proposals.

Membership

Human Services Commission meetings are open to any county or city employee and members of the public. The HSC membership in calendar year 2020 was officially comprised of the following members:

Commissioner Pat Farr, Lane County
Commissioner Joe Berney, Lane County
Councilor Claire Syrett, City of Eugene, Vice Chair
Councilor Chris Pryor, City of Eugene
Shaun Londahl, City of Eugene Budget Committee member
Councilor Marilee Woodrow, City of Springfield, Chair
Gabrielle Guidero, City of Springfield Budget Committee member

Staff Contacts

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Meeting Frequency

The Human Services Commission met on the following dates in 2020:

- January 27, 2020
- February 27, 2020
- April 20, 2020
- May 18, 2020
- June 15, 2020
- July 20, 2020
- October 19, 2020
- November 16, 2020
- December 21, 2020

Committee Topics of Note/Accomplishments

The Human Services Commission heard and discussed the following topics:

- The social service response to COVID-19
- The community impact of COVID-19
- The Human Services Commission budget and prioritization
- Food security
- Shelter Feasibility Study and Homeless Service System Analysis conducted by Technical Assistance Collaborative
- Allocations and service prioritization of Community Service Block Grant, Community Service Block Grant Coronavirus funding, Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus, Emergency Solutions Grant Coronavirus funding opportunities.
- Winter Strategies for people experiencing homelessness
- The Commons on MLK, 51 unit permanent supportive housing project developed by Lane County, Homes for Good, and other partners.
- Human Services budget preparation and funding policy discussion
- Jurisdiction budget requests
- Continuum of Care HUD Homeless Assistance Grant
- State of Oregon funding
- Data visualizations
- Panel discussions on programs regarding rural services in Lane County and Economic Security programs.

Focus Areas

The HSC will focus on the following objectives in the upcoming year:

- RFP process for expiring contracts
- Identifying additional coronavirus relief funds
- Review options for future human services revenues
- Implement TAC recommendations and homeless service system improvements
- Track relevant legislation at the local, state, and federal levels

Challenges and Strategies

The following are the greatest challenges before the HSC and the strategies planned to overcome them:

- Funding to cover the full cost to administer grant-funded and locally-funded human service programs continues to be a challenge for contracted nonprofits.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the human services workforce, social service volunteer labor pool, while exacerbating the already existing need for immediate service provision in the community.