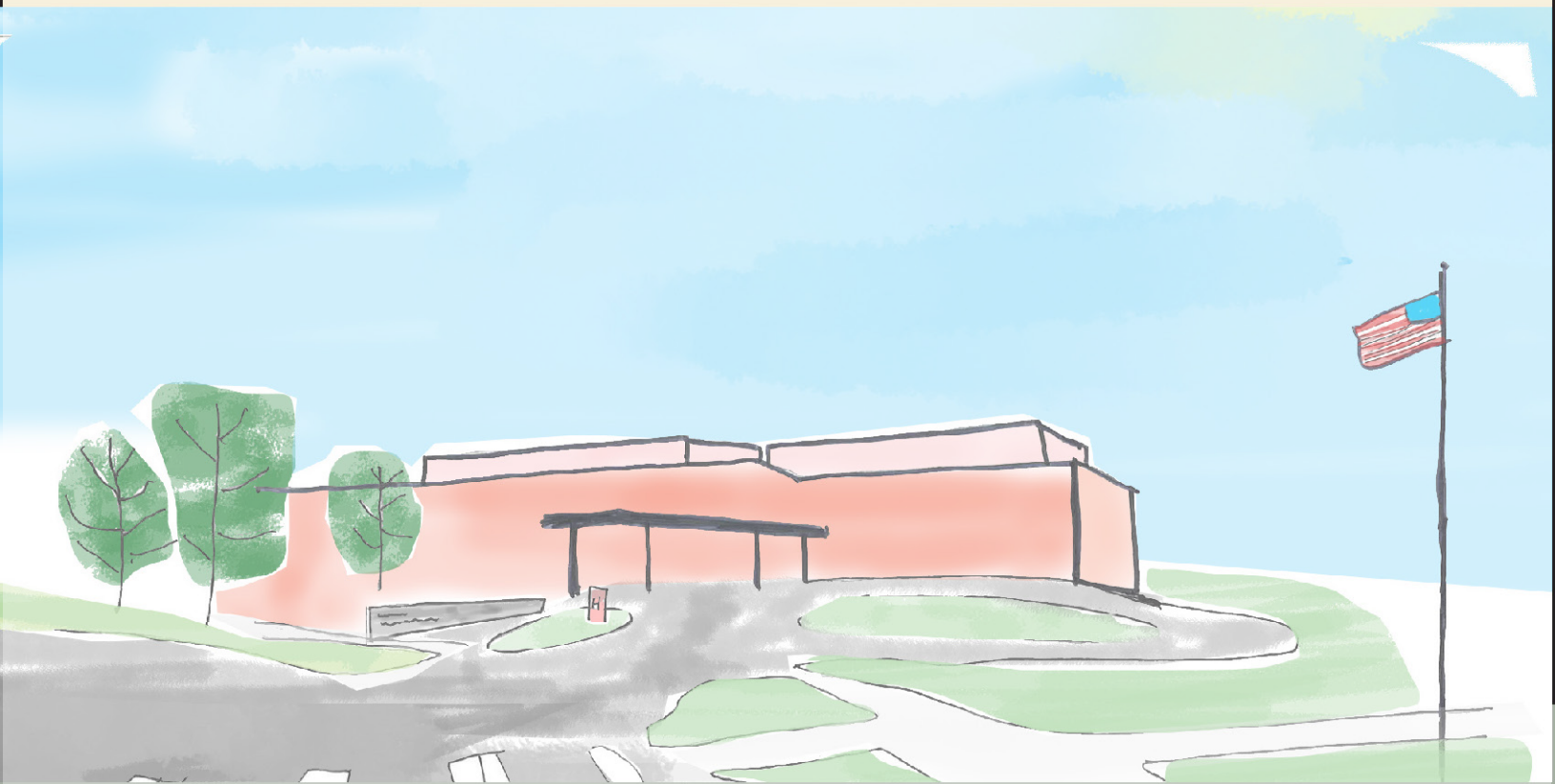


# Enumclaw Comprehensive Plan

## HUMAN SERVICES



# 9. HUMAN SERVICES

## Purpose

Human services are an essential part of the fabric of a community. The City of Enumclaw is no exception. The dedication and commitment of the city is shown by the creation of a Human Services Advisory Board (HSAB) that makes recommendations (when necessary) based on their knowledge of community needs and their desire to create a better way of life.

## Mission Statement of the Human Services Advisory Board:

The Human Services Advisory Board will assist and advise elected officials of the city in identifying the local service needs and recommending priorities to meet those needs including, but not restricted to, proposing programs, revising and evaluating existing programs, encouraging citizen participation, and performing other assignments referred to the board by the Mayor or Council as deemed appropriate.

The creation of this plan was through efforts by current and past HSAB members. In 2003 the HSAB determined priorities for review, research and discussion. In the “Perception of Human Services Survey” most participants liked the priorities the HSAB set. The priorities are as follows:

- Basic Needs – Food, Clothing, Shelter and Employment.
- High Priority Needs – Youth, Elderly, and Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Domestic Violence.

This revision to the plan includes updated goals and policies to reflect changes that have occurred since the 2015 Comprehensive Plan.

## Local Planning Context

### *PERCEPTION OF HUMAN SERVICES SURVEY*

In 2003 the HSAB conducted a survey and developed community human service priorities. The results of that work are below and have been a part of this chapter since then. The HSAB should consider engaging the community and consider revising and updating their work moving forward.

A “Perception of Human Services Survey” was given to forty-seven community leaders, activists, and service providers in the Enumclaw community. Twenty-five of these surveys were returned. In this survey, most people felt that a human services definition should include providing referral services and helping people help themselves. Many of the survey participants also felt that providing for basic needs and emergency assistance should be included.

According to the survey, the most pressing or major human service concern is emergency assistance for basic needs. Affordable healthcare and dental care were also expressed as a

major problem. Rating close behind that was substance abuse (adult and youth), and transitional and affordable housing. Unemployment, crime (including youth crime and violence), poverty, child abuse, domestic violence and affordable housing were expressed as moderate problems.

When asked how survey participants heard about human services in Enumclaw, most participants said by word of mouth (76%). The Guide to Human Services for the Enumclaw Plateau Area developed by the HSAB is a commonly used tool to look for human services. Many of the participants also get human services information from internet services.

The greatest barrier, according to the survey, for getting human service assistance is not knowing how to access the service. Additional barriers were limited English speaking skills, no service to assist with the problem and reluctance to ask for assistance.

### *AVAILABLE HUMAN SERVICES*

The Human Services section of the Resource Volume provides a matrix of the human services that are available within the City of Enumclaw. This data is used in the matrixes to determine what services are available in the city, in neighboring cities, and which are not available. This also helps to determine which services are duplicated and to what extent they may be duplicated.

### **Needs Analysis: Basic Needs**

The Human Services section of the Resource Volume also provides a needs analysis of basic needs: food, clothing, and shelter. This also includes employment since employment is necessary for self- sufficiency. Many times, a person that has difficulty meeting one basic need will have trouble meeting other basic needs as well.

#### *FOOD*

Services within Enumclaw are adequate for obtaining food. In most instances, those seeking food had a several organizations to choose from. Plateau Outreach Ministries (POM) offers food to all groups: families, single mothers, seniors and individuals. WIC (Women, Infants and Children) offers food to families and single mothers. POM operates the local Food Bank that gives food to seniors, individuals, single mothers and families. Seniors also have an additional resource offered by the Enumclaw Senior Center.

#### *CLOTHING*

Some families may not have enough income to cover the cost of food and shelter, much less clothing. POM has a limited supply of clothing available at no cost. They also have a thrift store, More Pennies From Heaven, which has low cost used clothing. The Enumclaw School District also provides a clothing bank; however, it is small and has limited hours of operation. The Buckley Clothing Bank, which is available to Enumclaw residents, is nearby and has more clothing available, but their hours are also limited (Wednesday 1:00 to 3:00 and Saturday 10:00 to 1:00). Although these services are available, there is a need to expand this service because of the clothing banks' extremely limited hours and inadequate choices of clothing.

### *SHELTER*

Research done by the Enumclaw Housing Task Force indicates subsidized rental housing is inadequate evidenced by the long waiting lists. Affordable permanent housing is also an issue. Lastly, there are no services available for the homeless and emergency shelters are not available in Enumclaw.

POM offers referrals to these services in other communities such as Seattle and Auburn. There are also no services currently available in Enumclaw for transitional housing. Emergency financial assistance is available from POM and the Kiwanis' Helping Hand Fund.

### *EMPLOYMENT*

There are limited services available in Enumclaw to assist the unemployed. Services are available through POM and consist of resume assistance, providing newspapers with job listings as well as fax and mailing assistance. Green River Community College at Enumclaw offers GED preparation and testing, and job training. There is a Financial Aid office at Green River Community College to assist with payment options. There are no employment services specifically for minorities or disabled persons in the city.

### **Needs Analysis: High Priority Needs**

The high priority needs determined by the HSAB are services for Youth, Elderly, Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Domestic Violence (analyzed in a matrix of services in the Human Services section of Resource Volume 2).

### *YOUTH SERVICES*

Youth Services involves a large spectrum of issues. There are many opportunities available to youth in Enumclaw such as CPR training, first aid, safe sitting, computer training and AIDS, drug, alcohol, and tobacco education. The Enumclaw Pool offers public swimming with a sliding scale for low-income users. A wide array of clubs and organizations, as well as the city's Parks and Recreation Department have programs that are available to youth. In addition, area churches offer a variety of programs.

There are some programs targeted towards youth with special concerns. In addition to counseling and case management for youth, Enumclaw Youth and Family Services (EYFS) offers an after school drop-in center for youth ages 12-18. The school district offers special education for preschool ages 3-4 and Early Childhood Educational Assistance Program (ECEAP), a program that offers free preschool for low-income children. St. Elizabeth Hospital, EYFS and the local Young Life chapter offers programs for teen parents.

### *SENIOR SERVICES*

Food services, volunteer opportunities, chore assistance and health education are available through the local Senior Center, which also offers classes and a drop-in center for socializing. Transportation, which is of concern for many seniors, is limited to the St.

Elizabeth Care Van and the Senior Center Van Service. While there are several senior-housing options, there is a lack of low-income housing for seniors. Mental Health Services are limited as well; services specifically for seniors are available in Auburn and other surrounding communities. As compared to other population groups, seniors have more options available to them; this may be due to community focus and dedication to the senior population.

### *MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES*

There are limited services available for mental health in Enumclaw. Valley Cities Counseling provides some services to youth through the Enumclaw School District and to older adults through select nursing facilities, but they do not currently have a facility in Enumclaw making it difficult to serve adults. EYFS provides counseling for youth and their families. The mental health services in Enumclaw are inadequate, particularly for adults, and need to have a deeper analysis.

### *SUBSTANCE ABUSE*

There is assistance available for substance abuse through Recovery Centers of King County – Enumclaw Branch, which accepts Medicaid and has a sliding scale fee. There are also a variety of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meetings held in Enumclaw. Support for those who have loved ones with alcohol or drug problems is available through Al-Anon. Very limited referral services were found to be available in the city. Additional inpatient and outpatient services available outside the city can be reached on the Public Health - Seattle & King County website.

### *DOMESTIC VIOLENCE*

The Domestic Violence Task Force has done a tremendous job of helping to close gaps in services. They offer assistance through “court watch,” created a support group, and make information available through resource packets that have been distributed throughout the city. They were a driving force in having the Police Department provide cell phones, emergency kits and motel vouchers for victims. Domestic violence assistance is available outside the city, where some victims feel safer. Referrals for counseling and support groups are available through the Police Department, EYFS and the Domestic Violence Task Force. Tremendous progress has been made for prevention of domestic violence in Enumclaw along with support for victims.

The creation of this plan was through efforts by current and past HSAB members. In 2003 the HSAB determined priorities for review, research, and discussion. In the “Perception of Human Services Survey” most participants liked the priorities the HSAB set. The priorities are as follows:

- Basic Needs: Food, Clothing, Shelter and Employment
- High Priority Needs: Youth, Elderly, and Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Domestic Violence.

The goals and policies provide a framework for making recommendations and decisions regarding human services. This plan is intended for use today and also as a future working-document. The Strategies for Implementation should also be updated regularly, either yearly or every other year. Goals and Policies may also need updating periodically.

## Goals and Policies

### **Goal HS-1 Seek to strengthen community approaches to human services.**

- Policy HS-1.1 Consider funding to human service organizations throughout the community when funds are available.*
- Policy HS-1.2 Encourage human service organizations to offer services needed in the community which are not currently available.*
- Policy HS-1.3 Advocate for new and existing human services programs on the national, state, and regional level.*
- Policy HS-1.4 Seek to broaden the resource base through funding options available on national, state, regional and local levels, and consider developing collaborative public/private partnerships.*
- Policy HS-1.5 Become a voice for human services. Promote education on many different levels regarding the full range of human services.*
- Policy HS-1.6 Involve those who provide human services in the development of human service policies, funding strategies, and educational programs.*

### **Goal HS-2 Promote an effective and efficient system of human services that addresses and anticipates needs within the community.**

- Policy HS-2.1 Support the HSAB in successfully determining and addressing human services problems.*
- Policy HS-2.2 Maintain strong partnerships with nearby community human services providers to secure services that cannot be offered in Enumclaw.*
- Policy HS-2.3 Maintain a HSAB that is dedicated to the mission of the Board.*
- Policy HS-2.4 Maintain strong partnerships with the Enumclaw School District and local service organizations to identify human services problems in the community.*
- Policy HS-2.5 Update the Human Services Strategies to address needs within the community as needed.*
- Policy HS-2.6 In an effort to track progress and emerging trends in human services, update the Human Services Plan as data from each Census or additional data sources becomes available.*

## Implementation Strategies

**Strategy 1. Work closely with community organizations that may be able to provide needed services where gaps exist. Consistent with Policy HS 1.2**

*Strategy 1.1 Seek partnerships with regional, local governmental and non-governmental agencies and organizations to provide mental health services in our community.*

*Strategy 1.2 Consider joining regional efforts to address homelessness and the goal of making it rare, temporary, and a one-time problem in our community.*

*Strategy 1.3 Seek partnerships with governmental and private organizations to address the issue of substance abuse use in our community.*

**Strategy 2. Seek and identify creative funding options for human services. Consistent with Policy HS 1.3**

*Strategy 2.1 Work with corporations and local/regional businesses to explore funding options.*

*Strategy 2.2 Partner with local, state, regional, and national non-profit and social service organizations to secure funding for human services.*

*Strategy 2.3 Seek funding from regional, state, and federal government agencies for local human services.*

**Strategy 3. The HSAB should advise the City Council on budget distribution for all human-service-related programs. Consistent with Policy HS 2.3**

*Strategy 3.1 The HSAB takes great care in advising distribution for CDBG funds. As part of this Human Services Plan, the Board identified needs and stated priorities. The Board will use this plan as a foundation for advising the council on budgetary items and will engage in additional research when necessary to make valid recommendations.*