



Human Services



DIVIDER PHOTO: A GROUP OF LOCAL CHILDREN ENJOY A DAY AT FARREL-MCWHIRTER PARK

and set aside
abundance
and resolve
for those who lack,
so they might someday
thrive.

Future Vision for Redmond: Human Services

The City works in partnership with schools, businesses, service providers, and other organizations and jurisdictions to maintain and strengthen a human services network that provides the food, shelter, job training, child care and other services residents need to be thriving members of our community.

Introduction

The Human Services Element describes how the City's efforts in planning, funding, coordinating and improving human services delivery contribute to achieving a more socially sustainable community. It defines the City's roles and describes many tools used to understand and address Redmond residents' needs for human services.

When people think about the kinds of services their city offers, they often think of roads, water, and police and fire protection, but probably not human services—those services provided directly to persons struggling to meet their basic needs for food, clothing and shelter, as well as assistance related to employment, health, safety and social support. But building, maintaining and improving an infrastructure for addressing the continuum of human needs is as important as maintaining and improving the physical infrastructure of roads and bridges. A city's vitality depends on the degree to which its residents and families are able to thrive. An effective human services delivery system is a crucial component of any healthy, sustainable community.

In 2009 guided by the Comprehensive Plan, the City developed and adopted its first Strategic Plan for Human Services. The Strategic Plan defines the City of Redmond's many roles, as convener, investor, collaborator and educator, which help to build and sustain a comprehensive and accessible safety net of human services for residents. In partnership with other jurisdictions and organizations, the City identifies needs, designs effective and efficient systems to deliver services, cultivates resources and funds programs. Equally critical, the City develops and implements long-term strategies that will ensure resilient and thriving residents. Finally, the City's newest resource, the Human Services Commission, plays a significant role in reaching out to the broader community to both learn and educate about issues related to human service needs in Redmond.

The specific policies listed below provide the direction needed to help the City achieve the goals of the Human Services Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

Policies

- HS- I Support the provision of a continuum of human services, from preventive to remedial, focused on ensuring that residents are able to be self-sufficient, contributing members of the community.**



Hopelink transitional housing



Meals on Wheels preparation

- HS-2** Encourage agencies serving Redmond residents to make their services as accessible as possible.
- HS-3** Work with others throughout King County to determine potential areas for cooperative planning, funding and administrative oversight of human services systems and programs wherever there is promise of increased efficiency or improved delivery of service.
- HS-4** Work with the Human Services Commission to promote increased awareness of local need for human services through community education and outreach. Support a stronger and more coordinated local response from the faith, business, school and service communities.
- HS-5** Monitor changes in local human services needs and priorities in an ongoing way and adjust the City's response as appropriate.
- HS-6** Work to increase the base of both public and private resources to support programs providing human services with a focus on strategic investments.
- HS-7** Utilize available Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds in support of affordable housing and other needed community projects.