

CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Human Services Commission

6:30 PM
 November 19, 2025

MINUTES

Steelhead Room, 235 1st Ave.
 SE, Issaquah

COMMISSION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Commissioners:

Jaime Fajardo, Chair
 Manny Brown, Vice Chair
 Maury Edwards, Virtual Attendance
 Madeline Fish
 Huma Mohibullah
 Jaydianette Ramirez
 Ray Manahan
 Trish Bloor
 Preston Miele, Youth Representative, Virtual
 Attendance

Administration/Staff:

Hannah Roberts, Senior Human Services
 Coordinator
 Brenda Parker, Human Services Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Chair FAJARDO called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was one member of the public in attendance, Kelly Mudd, Issaquah resident and Equity Board member. Kelly made a comment requesting the city provides more information regarding "Know Your Rights" for immigration laws and if residents experience ICE agents.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Minutes of October 15, 2025.

FAJARDO introduced the minutes of October 15, 2025. Commissioner FISH recommend the minutes to edit the approval of minutes section from "October 15" to "September 17". Commissioner BLOOR motioned to approve the minutes of October 15, 2025 with the proposed edits. Commissioner BROWN seconded the motion, there was unanimous consent to approve the minutes with the recommended edits.

AGENDA ITEMS

- a) **Human Services Emergency One-Time Funding (A)**

Presented by:

Hannah Roberts, Senior Human Services Coordinator

Human Services staff ROBERTS provided an overview of the City's proposed \$50,000 one-time emergency funding to support immigrant, refugee, and asylum-seeking residents in response to increasing impacts of federal immigration policy changes. Staff described the review process, which included consultation with regional cities (Kirkland and Redmond), coordination with community partners, review of existing contracts and quarterly reports, and confirmation of funding options with the City Attorney. ROBERTS noted that both Kirkland and Redmond recently issued significant rapid-response funding and identified legal services as the highest unmet need region-wide. Staff summarized findings from community partners highlighting a critical gap in immigration legal assistance, including support with asylum preparation, detention-related needs, power of attorney, family stabilization, and related services. ROBERTS reviewed current Issaquah-funded organizations and their capacity. Based on performance, cultural competency, and ability to deploy funds quickly, staff recommended allocating the full \$50,000 to The Circle, an existing contracted provider. The Circle would deliver rapid-response legal assistance and advocacy, including workshops, document preparation, legal navigation, and support for families

impacted by detention. If approved as part of the 2025–2026 mid-biennium budget and endorsed by the Commission, staff will amend The Circle’s contract to include the one-time emergency funding.

Commissioners discussed staff recommendations and the growing concern for immigrant community members. Commissioners discussed needing additional funding and staff provided options for the request. Commissioners suggested to collect data and information of impact to help with awareness and to have a one pager with resources about know your rights and local resources. After discussion, Commissioner EDWARDS motioned to approve the funding recommendation to support The Circle with \$50,000 for legal support services, BLOOR seconded the motion and there was unanimous consent to approve the recommendation.

REPORTS

a) Chair and Commissioner Reports

Commissioners provided a report out regarding Human Services related events they attended. BLOOR shared she attend Dias de los Muertos event at the community center with The Circle, MOHIBULLAH attended the Thursday lunch free meals at the community hall sharing more about the lead organization and FISH/BROWN volunteered at the Community Clothing Closet event.

b) Youth Report

No youth report.

c) Staff Report

Staff reported that City Council approved the mid-biennium budget, which includes \$50,000 in one-time emergency human services funding, and that the Mayor continues holding monthly meetings with local non-profits to understand impacts of federal policy changes. Staff also shared an update on the Opportunity Center, noting that the City is soliciting Letters of Interest from health providers to occupy a 10,000-square-foot service space in the new affordable housing development. New community resources have been added to the City website, including immigration services information, expanded food resource listings, and ways for residents to give back. Staff also reviewed the Human Services Commission’s completed 2025 meetings and provided an updated schedule for upcoming 2026 commission, training, and grant-review meetings.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

BROWN request that our youth representative get a vote; staff will look further with city clerks and bylaws so the adjustment can be made.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM.

Human Services Commission will recess in December. The next meeting is currently scheduled for January 21, 2026.