



TO: Hyun Kim, City Manager
FROM: Vicky McLaurin, Neighborhood and Community Services, Acting Interim Director
COPY: Community Vitality and Safety (CVS) Committee.
PRESENTER: Sarah Bridgeford, Community Wellness Program Manager
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Erin Watlington, Community Resource Analyst, Senior
SUBJECT: NCS, Systems and Strategy Division Issue Statement
DATE: March 12, 2026

PRESENTATION TYPE:
Informational Briefing; Other

SUMMARY:
Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS) staff will present a briefing regarding NCS’s System and Strategy Division Issue Statement, which outlines the department’s recommended funding priorities for the 2027-2028 competitive funding process. The update will also include an overview of programs that staff recommend not competing in the Request for Proposal (RFP), the funding process timeline, and next steps.

BACKGROUND:
Prior to releasing a competitive funding process, NCS reviews data, strategies, and current and local trends to identify gaps in the service delivery model. This review informs the creation of the Systems and Strategy Division Issue Statement, which guides decision-making throughout the competitive process, ensuring that NCS prioritizes programming and services that best align with Council priorities and values and department goals as well as meet the community's evolving needs.

ISSUE:
NCS holds a competitive process every biennium that is informed by the Issue Statement. The updated Issue Statement aligns with Council priorities and community needs, while also guiding the Human Services Commission (HSC) on the City’s funding priorities and informing how funding will be allocated. NCS recognizes that community needs shift and, in response, has reviewed current data and feedback from Tacoma residents to better align our programming to reduce barriers impacting marginalized communities while remaining equitable in our funding practices. Based on this review, some funds will not be subject to competition in the 2027-2028 funding cycle due to the critical nature of services, limited provider pool, city initiatives, and interlocal agreements.

ALTERNATIVES:
CVS Committee could provide feedback to help prioritize one focus area over the others or may recommend additional funding priorities.

FISCAL IMPACT:
There is no fiscal impact.



RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommend proceeding with the Issue Statement recommendation and funding priorities. Staff plans to present allocation recommendations in fall of 2026 as part of the department's Request for Proposal (RFP) process.