SHSC’s 2019-20 City of Seattle Budget Recommendations
for investments that will move us closer
to becoming a Just and Thriving Community

• We support SHSC’s full portfolio of recommendations.

• We know that Councilmembers share with us the desire to live in a city that is both just and thriving. A critical element of moving toward that shared goal is to take action to build well-being in communities throughout Seattle.

• We recommend the City allocate all new dollars in such a way that they reduce racial disproportionality in outcomes.

1st Priority: Maintain current community-based health & human services
The Mayor’s proposed 2019-20 budget fails to even maintain the level of services currently provided.

• The mayor’s budget will actually cut 217 overnight shelter beds plus space for over 50 people temporarily accommodated in “little houses” in the first 6 months of 2019. This capacity must be restored.
• The mayor also only includes half of the funding for inflation adjustments needed to provide the same level of services with costs increasing and only on some city contracts. $18 million more is needed just to account for 3.5% inflation and preserve current services.
• The Mayor’s proposal also cuts funding for grass roots advocacy to bring state resources to Seattle residents, which is more critical than ever. Just $88,000 in 2019 and $91,000 in 2020 will restore this work.

Half-measures are not solutions. The mayor’s proposed budget doesn’t even allow us to tread water.

Any cuts to current levels of community health and human services would undermine our ability to provide services and make progress toward our shared goals, as we support Seattle residents in this unequal economic environment.

2nd Priority: New investment is necessary to move us toward the realization of a Just and Thriving Community, including dismantling and eliminating structural racism.

The mayor’s proposed 2019-20 budget makes NONE of the additional investments needed to see the changes Seattle residents and businesses want in our communities, as urged by SHSC members in this recommendation portfolio.
In order to see the results in our communities that Seattle residents, businesses, and people without homes all want to see, we must be willing to break out of business as usual and invest in solutions at the scale of our communities’ challenges.

• Community health and human services help people reach their full potential. These investments are the walk of the talk of social justice.

• You (City Councilmembers) have demonstrated ongoing leadership and vision by sustaining and even strengthening these critical investments in the past. This is not the time to back away from that commitment.

• Together we can build a just and thriving community if we make it our priority, including a budget priority.

• We hear elected officials say “there is not enough money.” At the same time we see that elected officials find money when it is their priority. For example, this budget includes $65million in back-pay for police officers for cost of living increases, but is lacking the $18million needed for adequate inflation adjustments to prevent cuts to current levels of community health and human services in 2019 and 2020.

• You have resources and you have choices: the question is, “What are your priorities?” This budget will answer that question.

• Acting together and putting people first, we do have the power to reach our shared vision of a Just and Thriving Community.

• The recommendations contained in this portfolio are key next steps to reach this vision.

• We want to be part of a community where income does not limit outcomes.
  • Dramatic increases in income inequality in Seattle underscore the need to prioritize well-being so that all Seattle residents have the opportunity to thrive. This is the human infrastructure of our community.

• Make sure everyone can reach their full potential:
  Invest in solutions at the scale of the challenges our communities are facing.