

Covington: Unmatched quality of life



**CITY OF COVINGTON
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA
CITY COUNCIL JOINT STUDY SESSION WITH HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION**
Council Chambers – 16720 SE 271st Street, Suite 100, Covington
www.covingtonwa.gov

Tuesday, October 25, 2011 - 6:00 p.m.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The study session is an informal meeting involving discussion between and among the City Council, Commissions, Chamber Board, CEDC, and city staff regarding policy issues. Study sessions may involve presentations, feedback, brainstorming, etc., regarding further work to be done by the staff on key policy matters.

CALL CITY COUNCIL JOINT STUDY SESSION TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ITEM(S) FOR DISCUSSION

1. Human Services Master Plan (Beaufreere)

PUBLIC COMMENT *Persons addressing the Council shall state their name, address, and organization for the record. Speakers shall address comments to the City Council, not the audience or the staff. Public Comment shall be for the purpose of the Council receiving comment from the public and is not intended for conversation or debate. Public comments shall be limited to no more than four minutes per speaker. If additional time is needed a person may request that the Council place an item on a future agenda as time allows.*

ADJOURN

Any person requiring disability accommodation should contact the City of Covington at (253) 638-1110 a minimum of 24 hours in advance. For TDD relay service, please use the state's toll-free relay service (800) 833-6384 and ask the operator to dial (253) 638-1110.

SUBJECT: HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT CITY OF COVINGTON'S HUMAN SERVICES MASTER PLAN

RECOMMENDED BY: Human Services Commission

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Draft City of Covington Human Services Master Plan

PREPARED BY: Victoria Throm, Personnel & Human Services Analyst

EXPLANATION:

It has been a goal of the Human Services Commission to create a Human Services Master Plan for the City of Covington to serve as a policy guide for the next five years. This project began almost three years ago with the commission members carefully drafting their assessments, goals, and outcomes in order to promote a healthy community. The Human Services Commission will use these policies and priorities as guidelines for their decision-making process during the bi-annual funding cycles.

The Human Services Master Plan presented to City Council is in draft form intended to be completed by the end of the 2011. Current data from the 2010 census will be incorporated and the plan updated as the data becomes available. Once updated, the plan will be brought to the City Council for their adoption.

Although this presentation is for the Council's informational purposes only, the Commission is seeking Council confirmation to proceed with finalizing the plan and, if so, whether or not the Council desires any changes to be made to this draft edition.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. To direct the commission to discontinue their efforts to finalize the Human Services Master Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT: None

CITY COUNCIL ACTION: ____Ordinance ____Resolutions ____Motion X Other

Direction whether to proceed with finalizing the plan.

REVIEWED BY: Personnel Manager; City Manager.

Draft

City of Covington Human Services Master Plan 2010-2016

City Vision Statement

Covington: Unmatched quality of life.

Mission Statements

City of Covington Mission Statement

“Covington is a place where community, business, and civic leaders work together with citizens to preserve and foster a strong sense of community.”

Human Services Commission Mission Statement

“The Human Services Commission assesses the needs of youth and families and develops policies and supports programs to assist with those needs.”

SYSTEM VALUES

The Covington human services community seeks to foster an environment that is:

- People-focused
- Sustainable and Accessible
- Comprehensive and Integrative
- Collaborative
- Transparent and Maintains Integrity
- Respectful and Equitable
- Accountable

Executive Summary

(to be completed at the conclusion of project)

OVERVIEW

History of City Support for Human Services

Since its incorporation in 1997, the City of Covington has supported a wide-range of human services through partnerships with human services agencies, neighboring South King County cities and other service providers such as the Kent School District and the King County/Seattle Public Health Department. In 1998, the City Council established the Human Services Commission (known as Youth & Family Services Commission until 2010) to oversee the development of the City’s human services program. The Human Services Commission is made up of seven members who provide recommendations on funding levels and related human services issues. Since establishing the Human Services Grant Program, the City has provided \$948,414.00 (an average of \$75,955.00 annually) in human services grants from City general funds through contracts with local service providers. In addition, the City funds human services through the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. CDBG funds are used for capital projects, public services, and the Housing Repair Programs, providing no-interest loans or grants for low to moderate-income families. Capital funds were awarded to the local Maple Valley Food Bank to rehabilitate their office and service space.

Human Services Funding History

Year	General Funds	CDBG Consortium			CDBG Grant
		Admin	Public Service	King County Housing Repair Set-Aside	Minor Home Repair Program
1998	\$ 10,000				
1999	\$ 61,304	0	\$11,304	\$60,696	
2000	\$ 50,000	\$11,265	\$12,235	\$44,349	
2001	\$ 50,000	\$ 9,556	\$11,197	\$55,850	
2002	\$ 59,100	\$ 9,849	\$12,268	\$56,969	
2003	\$ 75,000	\$ 8,610	\$12,714	\$65,254	
2004	\$ 75,000	\$10,136	\$13,320	\$71,165	
2005	\$ 87,705	\$ 8,381	\$12,712	\$97,933	
2006	\$ 87,705	0	0	\$50,483	
2007	\$ 90,000	0	0	\$74,474	
2008	\$ 92,600	0	0	\$54,339	
2009	\$105,000	0	0	\$10,300	
2010	\$105,000	0	0	Data not available yet	\$24,000
2011	\$105,000	0	0		\$24,000

The chart above outlines the City’s funding of human services for 1998-2011. This support demonstrates the City’s commitment to providing quality human services to city residents in need.

Purpose of the Human Services Plan

This document is prepared as a guidepost for the establishment of human services policies and funding decisions by the City of Covington. Along with the adoption of a biennial budget, the city will provide more clarity to community-based human services providers regarding the city's role and level of city funding provided for human services with general fund revenues. Additionally, the plan will outline further policy development for the coming years to increase effectiveness of the city's partnership with funders and service providers.

Community Partnerships are Key in Providing a Continuum of Human Services

The City cannot meet all of the human services needs in our community alone. Partnerships with service providers, churches, schools, and other funders at federal, state, county and local levels are critical in developing and maintaining a comprehensive system of services to the community. No one entity can meet all the human services needs in the community. The City has three primary functions in human services:

Funder: The city's role as funder is to supplement federal, state, and county dollars in service areas that are of highest priority for city residents and to provide an incentive for effective service delivery within the city for Covington citizens in need. In addition to general funds, the city's allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for King County Housing Repair and Minor Home Repair programs are a significant resource that benefit low to moderate-income residents of the city.

Policy Maker and Facilitator: The city also plays an important role in setting policies and establishing partnerships with regional and local institutions such as the school district, King County, the public health department, the business community, and church and civic organizations to create an infrastructure that supports its citizenry with opportunities for participation in economic and community life.

Communicator and Educator: The city has a responsibility to bring to the forefront an awareness of social needs of the community to its citizens through a variety of means, including but not limited to: community forums, the City of Covington website, newspapers, and social networks.

City of Covington Comprehensive Plan

The City of Covington's Comprehensive Plan establishes policy directives that impact human services. The directives provide focus areas to set and review human services policies. These relevant policies assist in successful impact and mutually supportive implementation of related city goals. The following directives are taken from the Comprehensive Plan, Chapter 6, Parks and Community Services section:

6.4.4 Human Services

PRG 10.0 Maintain and enhance the quality of life for all citizens through the provision and support of affordable and accessible human services.

PRG 10.1 Consider the social and human development needs of the city's residents in all areas of planning and development.

PRG 10.2 Continue and enhance the city's support of the Human Services Commission and the Human Services staff by establishing a desired target of at least a 2% allocation of the general fund budget to address human services needs of the community.

PRG 10.3 Promote the effective use of the city's human services resources, consistent with adopted priorities and criteria.

PRG10.4 Gather and maintain current information and educate the community regarding human services needs and available resources.

PRG 10.5 Support the long-term stability and viability of a human services system serving the community.

PRG 10.6 Take an active role in regional and sub-regional human services issues and form partnerships to effectively address human services needs.

PRG 10.7 Provide for the full spectrum of human services needs through the support of programs that address emergency needs, preventive services, and quality of life services.

PRG 10.8 Promote and support human services which are culturally relevant and physically accessible.

SCOPE OF THE HUMAN SERVICES PLAN

Target goals to maximize benefit of limited city dollars.

In this plan, the city will establish clear priorities as well as specific goals or outcomes desired. For example, in addition to prioritizing a category of services, the city may specify target populations or specific models of service delivery that are deemed most appropriate for city support, or represent a gap in service that fits city goals. These targeted goals will:

- ◆ Delineate clear funding guidelines for community-based agencies that request city funding.
- ◆ Enable city funding to have greater impact in establishment of specific program models that fit local community needs.
- ◆ Ensure that city-funded resources fill specific identified gaps.
- ◆ Establish a foundation for evaluation of the effectiveness of city-funded services to meet its residents' needs in collaboration with city goals.

Integrate policies that result in support of city goals by relevant city departments and major city partners.

This plan will begin a process of integrating additional relevant city responsibilities that affect human services issues, as well as human services endeavors that impact other city roles. Identification of mutually supported policies among city departments will increase the overall success of the city's leadership. These elements can outline further collaborative negotiations among city departments and initiatives in the coming years. These collaborative policies could include:

- ◆ Human services designed to support individual and community success.
- ◆ Parks and recreation programs that effectively utilize and support human services goals in their programming.
- ◆ Human services models that acknowledge diversity, strengthen a sense of an inclusive community, and encourage leadership among all its citizenry.
- ◆ Community development that is inclusive of lower income residents and their children.
- ◆ Effective domestic violence prosecution that supports the safety of victims and increases accountability of perpetrators.
- ◆ Provision of domestic violence services to the victims and their children for a safe place to live.
- ◆ Affordable housing policies that increase stability of neighborhoods and retain community character while increasing stock of housing affordable to lower income residents.

Target strategies that integrate various elements of effective intervention to achieve positive results.

The issues of concern addressed in this plan are complex. Many factors empower the ability of low income persons with the ability to improve their standard of living and overcome obstacles that may impede their success and that of their children. The greater the extent of collaborative actions among these many factors, the greater the potential for positive impact. This plan will begin a process of improving linkages and strengthening community-based support systems.

- ◆ Encourage and support strategies that affect multiple problems and/or their causes simultaneously.
- ◆ Review specific strategies that utilize local community strengths and support long-term stability.
- ◆ Foster relationships with providers and community groups to promote positive outcomes for services and methods of evaluation.

Organization of Plan

This plan has three main sections: Community Profile, Human Services Delivery System, and Strategies.

Community Profile

This section examines human services needs in Covington, focusing on factors related to city funding priorities. Much of the data for the community profile is taken from the Covington Assessment of Resources for Everyone (C.A.R.E.) report conducted by the Northwest Institute for Children & Families. Current data was taken from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2005-2009 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates report.

Community Goals and Desired Outcomes

In 2004 the Human Services Commission initiated a community needs assessment as a source of input to develop funding priorities for future services. The assessment process involved collecting information through interviews, group discussions, focus groups, and surveys. Based on the results of the needs assessment, the Human Services Commission established five assessments in order to develop community goals that achieve the desired outcomes. These goals and outcomes were incorporated as a directive for the Human Services Master Plan as they guide strategies and funding recommendations.

Assessment #1 Basic Needs - Food, Clothing, and Housing

Community Goal 1: Individuals and families have affordable housing options and resources to allow them to stay in their existing home

Desired Outcomes:

1. Provider agencies are financially supported as resources for emergency assistance to pay rent, mortgage, or utility bills.
2. Families or individuals have access to affordable housing.
3. Life skills guidance and education are provided for long-term sustainability.
4. Provider agencies are financially supported as resources to the elderly and the disabled to sustain independent living.

Community Goal 2: Covington citizens will have access to food

Desired Outcomes:

1. Families or individuals have access to food and clothing banks.
2. Local food banks are financially supported as a resource for those in need.

Assessment #2 Personal Safety

Community Goal 1: Personal safety is a right for all children and adults within the community

Desired Outcomes:

1. Families have access to domestic violence services and safe housing options.
2. Domestic violence agencies are financially supported as resources to victims and their families.
3. A consistent collaboration between the city and the Covington Domestic Violence Task Force is maintained to provide support and safe housing for victims of domestic violence.
4. A greater awareness of dating violence and domestic violence.

Community Goal 2: Reduction of Crime in Covington

Desired Outcomes:

1. Increased presence of community service officers in our neighborhoods.
2. Increased public awareness of city support for community crime prevention programs.

Assessment #3 Health Care

Community Goal 1: Healthy Children and Adults

Desired Outcomes:

1. Residents have access to affordable health care, including mental health services.
2. Residents have access to affordable dental care services.
3. A decline in substance abuse and residents have access to substance abuse services for all income levels.
4. Health care agencies are financially supported as resources for those in need.
5. Residents have accessible suicide prevention support.

Assessment #4 Services for Youth

Community Goal 1: Youth sports and recreational activities will be available to all

Desired Outcomes:

1. Family-focused youth activities are available in the community.
2. Recreational sports activities are available for youth.
3. Support the development of a youth center.
4. Provider agencies are financially supported as resources for at-risk teen programs.

Assessment #5 Services for Adults – Employment and Transportation

Community Goal 1: Greater Employment Opportunities within the City

Desired Outcomes:

1. An increase in manufacturing opportunities.
2. An increase in the professional job market.
3. Support of a Community Farmer’s Market.

Community Goal 2: Affordable Housing Will Be Available

Desired Outcomes:

1. Development of planned communities with access to services.
2. Development of mixed use housing.
3. Promote energy efficient housing.

Community Goal 3: Additional Transportation Services to Covington

Desired Outcomes:

1. Increased public transit opportunities to each high school.

2. Increased direct transportation to mass transit stations.
3. Increased direct transportation to Seattle and SeaTac Airport.
4. Encourage flexibility in transit schedules.

REPORT I – Living Here

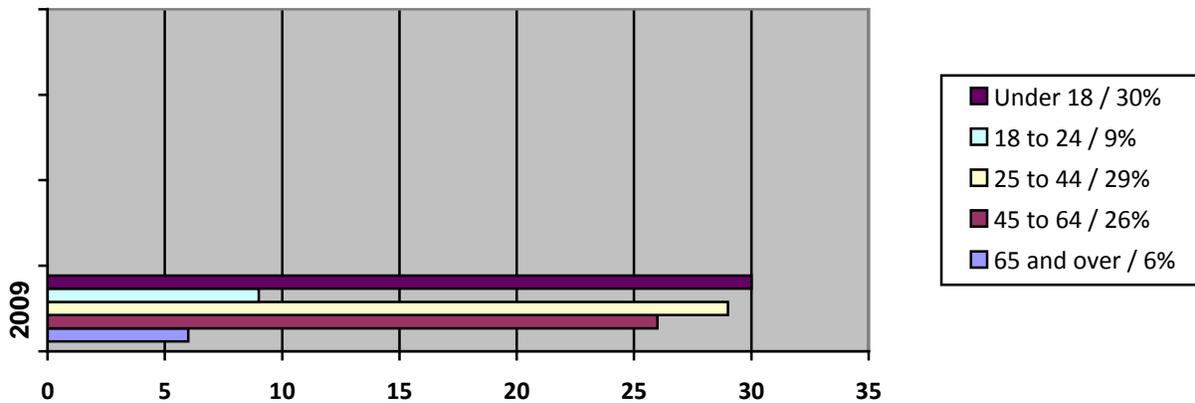
Living Here is a profile of local residents. Due to the rapid development of single-family homes in 2003 and 2004, the population had a significant increase since 2000 as reflected in Table 1.

Table 1. Covington Population	
2000	13,783
2003	14,850
2006	17,240
2010	17,575

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates

Covington is similar to other King County municipalities with one significant difference; Covington has 30% of the population under 18 years of age, which compares to only 22% in King County. The median age of people living in Covington is 30.5 years while the proportion of Covington residents 65 years or older has risen from 4% in 2004 to 6%.

Age Distribution of People in Covington 2009



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates

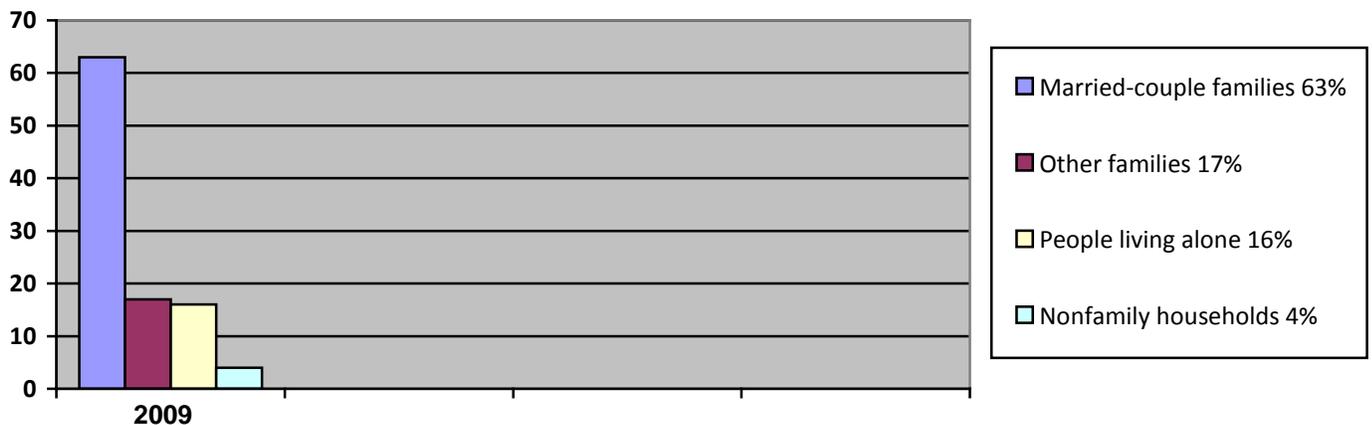
The ethnicity of Covington residents is shown in Table 2 on the following page. The population is predominantly white and less diverse than in other parts of South King County.

TABLE 2. Ethnicity of Covington Residents		
Ethnicity	Covington	Washington State
White alone	82.8	77.3
Black or African American	4.3	3.6
American or Alaskan Indian	0.3	1.5
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.2	0.6
Asian	6.7	7.2
Other race alone	1.2	5.2
Two or more races	4.5	4.7
Hispanic or Latino*	7.7	11.2

*Individuals may be of Hispanic origin and of any race.

HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES: In 2009 there were 5,700 households in Covington. The average household size was 3.1 people. Families made up 80 percent of the households. The graph below includes both married-couple families and other families. Most of the non-family households were people living alone but composed of people in which no one was related to the householder.

The Types of Households in Covington in 2009



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates

Recommendations:

The higher proportion of young residents means that services and resources, including health, mental health, counseling, recreation, transportation, and emergency services, will be requested to meet the needs and demands of this younger population. A younger population usually requires that priorities be set for preventive services that are age-specific and focused in health and recreation programs.

Covington has also experienced an increase of immigrants, refugees, and minorities over the past ten years. These residents have increased the needs for basic services such as food banks and financial assistance. We also recognize the C.A.R.E. Assessment survey for community concerns, which resulted in 32.7% of the respondents indicating translation and multilingual services were not met. (Current data from the 2010 census will be added to determine the increase of cultural diversity in Covington in order to set new strategies.)

REPORT 2 – Housing & Basic Needs

In 2004, a needs assessment survey was mailed to Covington households that included questions about housing and basic needs. The results indicate:

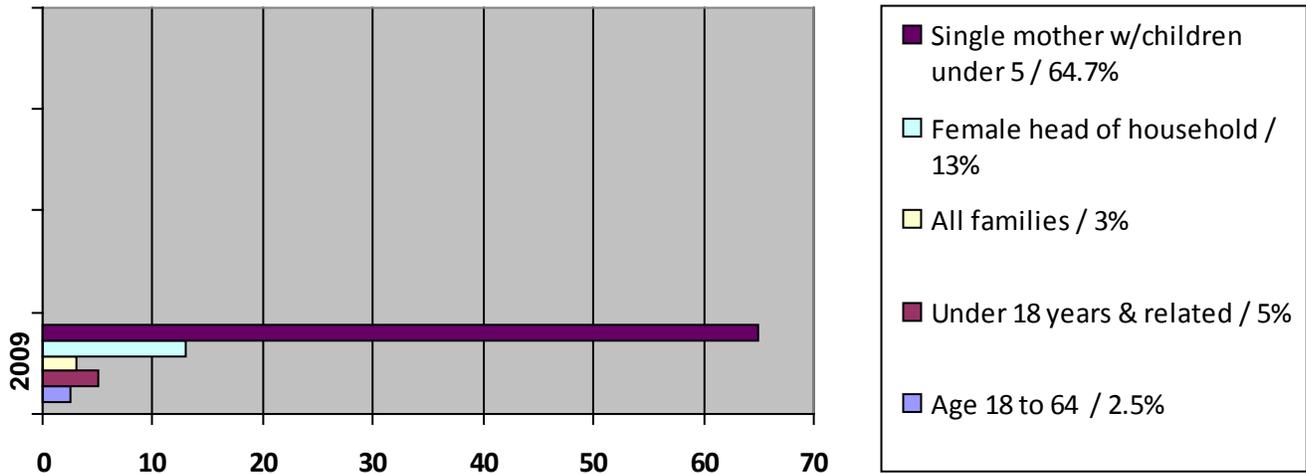
- 46% Need for affordable housing is not met
- 35% Need for food banks and emergency feeding programs is not met
- 46% Need for emergency assistance to pay utility bills and rent is not met

The economic characteristics of Covington, according to the American Community Survey 5-year estimates from 2005-2009, provides valuable employment and income data. This data is important in order to assess affordable housing, transportation, and basic needs of Covington residents.

Table 3. Income and Benefits (in 2009 inflation-adjusted dollars)	
Total Households	5,718
Less than \$ 10,000	0.7%
\$ 10,000 to \$ 14,999	1.1%
\$ 15,000 to \$ 24,999	2.5%
\$ 25,000 to \$ 34,999	5.7%
\$ 35,000 to \$ 49,999	11.2%
\$ 50,000 to \$ 74,999	23.7%
\$ 75,000 to \$ 99,999	20.6%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	22.0%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	9.3%
\$200,000 or more	3.1%
Median household income	\$81,838

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates

Poverty Rates in Covington in 2009



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates

Keeping a Roof over One’s Head

Many families in Covington, similar to families in other areas of King County, have experienced that unemployment or a reduction in work hours has made it more difficult to make a mortgage payment or pay rent, as well as pay utilities and buy food. The food banks serving Covington are The Storehouse Food Bank and Maple Valley Food Bank & Emergency Services. Both report an increase in the number of clients seeking financial assistance to pay utilities in addition to using the food bank more frequently, as shown in the chart below. Food banks have become a primary source of food for some families, rather than a supplemental source. The following chart shows the increased need for food banks as a supplement to households over seven years.

MAPLE VALLEY FOOD BANK	2004	2006	2008	2010
Unduplicated clients served	1,338	992	1,849	1,915
Clients receiving financial asst.	551	644	740	851
THE STOREHOUSE				
Unduplicated clients served	101	53	121	150

ADD FOOD STAMP DATA FOR COVINGTON RESIDENTS

INSERT SCHOOL DISTRICT DATA FOR REDUCED LUNCH

There are several housing programs that assist homeowners with no-interest loans or grants for financial assistance or qualified home repairs. The purpose of these programs is to help homeowners remain in their homes while maintaining the housing stock of older developments.

- The Housing Stability Program, administered country-wide through Solid Ground, makes no-interest loans and grants to low-income residents who are in danger of losing their homes either through foreclosure or eviction. The program also offers loans and grants to homeless families to help them obtain permanent housing or move-in rental costs.
- The King County Housing Repair Program provides no-interest deferred loans to low to moderate-income homeowners to make necessary health and safety repairs to their homes. The program also makes loans to landlords for repair of rental housing in exchange for a rent ceiling for up to five years and a requirement that property be rented to low income tenants.
- The City of Covington has been awarded Community Development Block Grant funds in a joint effort with the cities of Des Moines, SeaTac, and Tukwila to manage the Minor Home Repair Program since 2010. This program provides free grant money for the total cost of eligible and necessary minor home repairs. This is a valuable program for low to moderate-income Covington residents who would not have the ability to afford necessary home repairs. The following chart indicates the number of households served.

Year	Covington Households Served
2010	12
2011	15

REPORT 3 – Safety

Personal safety is a right for all children and adults within the community. In order to achieve the community goals to reduce crime and support domestic violence services, it is important to review the statistics on crime in Covington that reflect the current trend.

Table 4. Comparison of Covington Crime Statistics					
Offense	2005	2006	2007	2008	2010
Forcible rape (including attempts)	10	9	9	6	11
Robbery	16	15	9	23	21
Aggravated Assault	18	11	7	10	13
Burglary, residential	67	93	59	86	90
Vehicle theft	104	74	73	70	56
Adult charges/arrests	356	368	408	403	602
Juvenile charges	141	122	86	117	114
Domestic Violence Issue	133	91	85	122	119
TOTAL DISPATCHED CALLS	4,122	4,098	3,837	4,026	4,196

The City of Covington has contracted with the King County Sheriff’s office for police services since its incorporation in 1997. Covington officers are employees of the King County Sheriff’s Office East Precinct South. All calls are dispatched through the King County Sheriff’s Office Communications Center.

Covington officers proactively partner with residents, citizens, and business owners to solve problems and prevent crimes. This philosophy of community policing has proven to be very successful in bringing the police officers and citizens closer together, creating an effective partnership.

Addressing the needs of the community for more police protection and patrol, two additional officers were added; one during the graveyard shift and one for the power shift - 6:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. The increase in public awareness for community crime prevention programs has increased in part due to the city hiring a Community Relations Coordinator. This employee has developed a *Graffiti Removal Program* which has been successful in getting the community involved by providing 100 free graffiti removal kits for residents. The city also hosts a Clean Covington Day in September where neighbors can check out the kits and clean up the graffiti in their neighborhood.

Each year the city participates in the “*National Night Out – A Night Against Crime*” held every August. This program fights crime by promoting neighborhood block parties where neighbors can get to know each other. Using similar material as a Block Watch, neighbors have the option to start a phone tree and appoint a block captain. The Covington Police, Fire, and City Council

support this event by attending each neighborhood event. This promotes positive relationships between families, police, and firefighters.

Block Watch packets are available to all residents interested in developing a Block Watch program in their neighborhood. The Police Chief has received numerous requests for Block Watch packets from various HOA's interested in starting a neighborhood block watch program. Block Watch programs are one way to reduce the number of crimes in Covington.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The Covington Domestic Violence Task Force (CDVTF) was formed independently of the city but fully endorsed by the City Council in 2003. In 2006 the task force became a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and serves Covington, Maple Valley, and Black Diamond.

The CDVTF Mission is to promote a strong message that "*Domestic Violence Has No Place in Our Community*" through collaborative leadership, communication, education to promote healthy relationships, and victim support. The goals are:

- Provide education to promote healthy relationships for youth and adults.
- Raise awareness of domestic violence and how it affects the community as a whole.
- Provide assistance and service referrals to victims and their families.
- Work to support policies that meet victim needs and hold perpetrators accountable.

The task force has formed a strong collaboration with the city and police who have supported community awareness events such as the "Purple Light Nights® campaign" (PLN), Covington Days Festival and Parade, and the Purple Light Nights® Bite, by providing valuable staff support. The purpose of the Purple Light Nights® campaign is to shine a purple light in every porch light and business to remember the victims who lost their lives to domestic violence, support the survivors, and give hope to those still living with abuse. The Purple Light Nights® campaign was launched in 2007. Currently, PLN campaigns are held in 23 states, as well as Canada and Guam. PLN has received numerous awards for its community involvement that include:

- 2010 national Communitas Award for excellence in community partnership
- 2009 Washington State Governor's Proclamation
- 2008 and 2009 AWC Certificate of Distinction for the Municipal Excellence Award Program

Funds raised by the sale of light bulbs and street tree sponsorships are used to provide direct services to victims and their families. Domestic violence shelters have a turn-away rate of 24 women for every one they take. In order to bridge the gap for safe shelter, the CDVTF developed a Safe Nights program with local motels to provide up to a one-week stay. This time allows the victim and their children a safe place to live while working with a domestic violence advocate to find shelter or transitioning housing.

To date, the CDVTF has provided \$3,704 in services as itemized in the table below:

Table 5. Domestic Violence Services				
Year	Safe Nights	Gas Cards	Financial Aid	Used For
2006	10		\$ 45.00	Rental deposit
2008	12	1	\$ 30.00	Phone card
2009	30		\$ 60.00	Taxi to shelter
2010	26		\$300.00	Move-in asst.
2011	11	3	\$100.00	Rental asst.

The Covington Police Chief and Detective consistently communicate with the Human Services Specialist and CDVTF Director on domestic violence calls that may require follow-up support services such as housing or advocacy to the victims and their families. The CDVTF has become a leader in the South King County domestic violence community for their innovative programs and support services to victims.

Four of the agencies funded by general fund dollars serve as resources for domestic violence or sexual assault victims. Agencies serving domestic violence and sexual assault victims are:

- YWCA provides domestic violence victims’ services
- DAWN (Domestic Awareness Women’s Network) provides the only 24-hour domestic violence crisis line for the county as well as the only confidential shelter
- King County Sexual Assault Resource Center is the only provider serving child, teen, and adult survivors of a sexual assault
- Safe & Sound Visitation Center is the only visitation center for domestic violence victims that provides court-ordered supervised parental visitations

All of these organizations are essential to provide Covington residents with access to services such as community advocacy, legal advocacy, and safe housing.

REPORT 4 – Access to Health Care

Healthy children and adults is one of the community goals set by the Human Services Commission. Covington residents who participated in the C.A.R.E. assessment survey indicated that being able to afford health and dental care and finding accessible health and dental care

were two key needs for 46% of the respondents. Barriers for low and moderate-income families are language barriers and financial barriers.

The City of Covington human services funding has supported a number of agencies to provide health and dental care for our low to moderate-income residents. The list of agencies and current funding level is listed in the following chart:

AGENCY	PROGRAM	2011 FUNDING	# CLIENTS PER YEAR
Dynamic Family Services	Children’s Therapy – early intervention and treatment	\$ 9,000	68
Health Point	Dental services	\$ 3,282	75
Health Point	Medical Services	\$ 4,000	214
Kent Youth & Family Services	Family Counseling	\$10,000	46
	Substance Abuse Programs		18
Pediatric Interim Care Center	Drug-exposed infants	\$ 1,000	0
Crisis Clinic – Teen Link	Suicide Prevention - students trained	\$ 2,671	237
	Crisis Line Calls		2

These health care providers continue to exceed their projected annual goals and require additional funding to meet the demand for services. This need for continued funding for health, mental health, substance abuse services, and dental services remains high as the level of need will most likely increase with the current economic climate.

In an effort to provide better access to services for our residents, the City Council approved the use of an office within City Hall to provide in-kind space to non-profits. In 2003, the Kent Youth & Family Services extended their Family Counseling program one day a week at City Hall. Having local access to counseling services has been very successful in keeping youth in the program while helping parents access local services. Other programs that utilize the space is the YWCA Domestic Violence Advocate who facilitates a women’s support group for domestic violence survivors; and the Housing Stability Program, which provides move-in rental assistance.

REPORT 5 – Services for Children & Youth

One of the major concerns that emerged from the C.A.R.E. assessment youth survey was lack of activities for teens. This mirrored the adult survey where recreational activities and youth

programming is a significant unmet need in Covington. The youth requested activities such as basketball courts, an arcade, paint ball field, or a bowling alley. Families with young children desired more low-income social and recreational programs.

In 2004, the city merged the Covington Community Center and Tahoma Pool (now the Covington Aquatic Center) under a city program to provide aquatics and recreational programs for children and youth. Unfortunately due to financial cut backs in 2005, the city downsized the Parks & Recreation Department, leaving only the pool open while recreational and sports programs ended. As a result of losing the sports programs, citizens formed the Covington Community Sports Inc. as a non-profit organization to continue providing year-round sports for children and youth. The City re-established a Parks & Recreation Department in 2008 when it hired a new Parks & Recreation Director. Although the recreational program services that were discontinued in 2005 were not immediately re-established, one of the goals for the current Parks & Recreation Department is to develop a recreational program in the foreseeable future.

Other sports programs and facilities that are available to Covington residents are the Kent Little League, Kent Youth Sports, the Greater Maple Valley Community Center, and of course the Covington Aquatic Center.

The only at-risk teen program in Covington is Kent Youth & Family Services Lighthouse after school program. Lighthouse is housed at Cedar Heights Jr. High School on Monday and Friday evenings for ages 14-18. Students may play basketball, receive help with homework, or attend a weekly violence prevention program taught by staff from Kent Youth & Family Services.

As a commitment to children and youth, the Human Services Commission continues to recommend grant funds to agencies that provide services to youth in Covington as shown in the table below:

Table 6. Funding for Youth Services			
AGENCY	PROGRAM	2011 FUNDING	# CLIENTS PER YEAR
Child Care Resources	Resource and referrals	\$3,528	26
Community in Schools	Elementary school mentoring	\$4,500	9
Kent Youth & Family Services	Head Start & ECEAP Pre-school	\$2,500	11
Crisis Clinic – Teen Link	Suicide Prevention - students trained	\$2,671	237

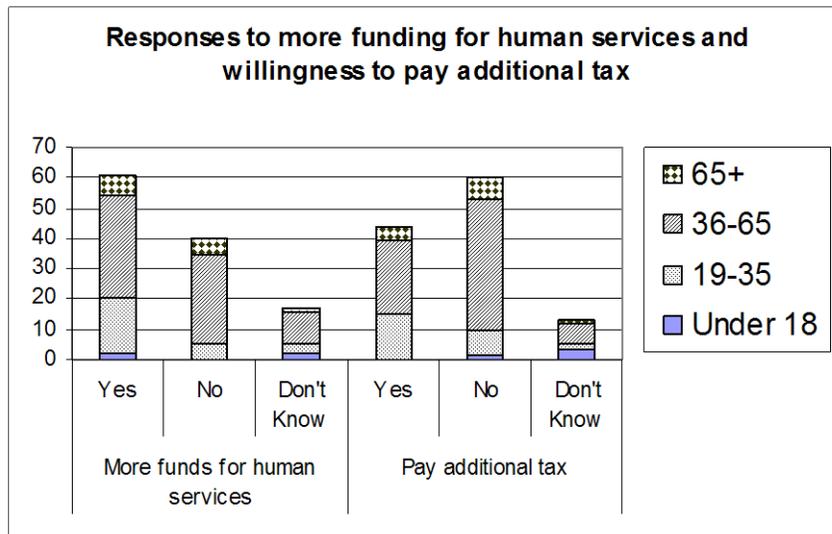
REPORT 6 – Services for Adults

Covington residents shared their view on community concerns through the C.A.R.E. assessment survey. The survey ranked some of the highest unmet needs for adult services, which are shown in the next table.

Table 7. Results for All Respondents in Order of Highest Unmet Need			
Need	Need is Not Met	Need is Met	Not a Need
Affordable Housing	46.4%	25.0%	28.6%
Public Transportation	42.4%	23.0%	33.6%
Parent Support Programs	34.7%	29.6%	35.7%

Perspectives on Funding for Human Services

Half of the residents who responded to the CARE survey agreed with the statement that the city of Covington should put more of its funds to human services. However, when asked if they would be willing to pay a small additional tax to support human services 51.3% said no.



Agency Perspectives on Need and Opportunities

Local service providers held common perceptions that low-income neighborhoods such as Timberlane and the apartment complex near city hall are areas with high needs. There is

increasing economic stress just to keep a roof overhead and food on the table.

Many agencies are facing challenges in serving refugee and immigrant families due to lack of interpretation and translation services, along with federal cuts in Medicaid health care. The demographics indicate Covington has an increase in this population followed by a need for services.

One provider expressed concern that Covington needs to plan for more senior services in Covington. With the addition of a new senior living apartment in Covington, the need for services increased as well. In response to that need, the Human Services Commission recommended funding the Catholic Community Volunteer Chore Services in 2011. As a result nine clients have received a variety of chore services for a total of 203 hours.

Many of our seniors attend the Greater Maple Valley Community Center or Black Diamond Community Center. Seniors from Covington made 647 visits to the popular lunchtime programs and activities, further validating the need for a senior center in Covington.