



City of Seattle
Mayor Jenny A. Durkan

2019 - 2020 BIENNIAL BUDGET PROPOSAL

Building a More Equitable, Inclusive Seattle

As Seattle continues to grow and change, it is critical that we continue to build a city that is affordable, accessible, and equitable to all our residents, regardless of their background. Mayor Durkan's budget continues to invest in and advance important community initiatives that help all our community members' ability to access true economic opportunity, and live and work in neighborhoods that are safe, healthy, and affordable.

Protecting our Immigrant and Refugee Neighbors: Mayor Durkan's proposed budget includes significant investments in our immigrant and refugee communities. These investments will support several key initiatives, including:

- \$1.59 million, which includes \$795,000 from King County, for the Seattle-King County immigrant Legal Defense Network (LDN), which provides free legal services to qualifying immigrants in our City and county;
- Allocating \$300,000 over the biennium to provide outreach and engagement grants to community groups for the United States 2020 Census; and
- Continuing investments in the Ready to Work program, which helps immigrant job-seekers improve their English language skills to earn a better living.

Advancing Equity and Safety in the Workplace: In January 2018, Mayor Durkan convened a Citywide Anti-Harassment Interdepartmental Team (IDT) to review the City of Seattle's harassment and discrimination policies and practices. Based on the IDT's recommendations, the Mayor's budget supports the following:

- Establishing an independent Office of the Employee Ombud (OEO) to provide City employees with a safe, confidential space to discuss instances of misconduct; and
- Creating a centralized Investigations Unit within the Seattle Department of Human Resources (SDHR) to clarify reporting processes and reduce bureaucracy.

Continuing Our Commitment to Race and Social Justice: On her first day in office, Mayor Durkan signed an Executive Order affirming the City of Seattle's commitment to the Race and Social Justice Initiative (RSJI). The Mayor's proposed budget maintains this commitment by continuing to invest over \$1 million in RSJI through the Office for Civil Rights and increasing staffing and support for RSJI across many departments.

Protecting our Workers and Workplaces: The Office of Labor Standards (OLS) is supporting seven Citywide labor laws including Paid Sick and Safe Time, Minimum Wage, Secure Scheduling and Fair Chance Employment as well as the new Domestic Workers ordinance signed into law by Mayor Durkan earlier this year. OLS provides education and technical assistance to the business and worker

communities. The 2019-2020 Proposed Budget includes a 22% increase in OLS staff to support the increased scope of work for this office including new positions to conduct outreach and implement the recently passed ordinance protecting domestic workers.

Elevating Community Voices in Our Neighborhoods: Mayor Durkan is committed to continuing to address the longstanding needs of our most underserved communities. Her proposed budget:

- Continues more than \$4 million for the Neighborhood Matching Fund Budget Summary, which supports local grassroots projects within neighborhoods and communities;
- Invests \$200,000 in providing the City's continued engagement in the Chinatown - International District with a more people-centered approach in the community planning process, allowing community members to discuss major concerns and make recommendations on topics such as public safety, affordable housing, and environmental safety and cleanliness; and
- Ongoing funding in support of the Duwamish Valley Action Plan, which has been developed in conjunction with the South Park and Georgetown neighborhoods.

Supporting Community Members and Businesses in High Displacement Risk Neighborhoods: It is more important than ever that we invest in ways to address the displacement of communities that have historically not benefited from Seattle's growth. To date, the Equitable Development Initiative (EDI) has relied heavily on \$16 million in one-time funding. Under the proposed budget, EDI will now receive consistent funding of \$5 million per year, which will provide resources for community-based organizations that initiate, develop, and operate programs that support racial and social justice and respond to displacement pressures.

Creating New Spaces for Communities: The proposed budget also includes new investments in neighborhoods that lack such community facilities or where existing facilities have been neglected. Mayor Durkan's proposed budget includes:

- \$1 million in funding for a play area renovation in Bitter Lake;
- \$1.3 million to support the development of a new park at North Rainier;
- \$1.8 million to help fund community improvements in South Park; and
- Extending programming for the South Park Community Center.

New and Expanded Nutrition Programs: Mayor Durkan's proposed budget includes both continuation of the \$1 million added in 2018 for nutrition programs as well as \$1.1 million for new and expanded programs to begin in 2019. The new and expanded programs in 2019 include a Food Access Opportunity Fund, an expansion of the Fresh Bucks to Go program, and additional expansions of community-based meal programs and community-based food and nutrition education. The Fresh Bucks program will continue to increase the number of locations offering Fresh Bucks incentives and expand to other underserved people including those with obesity and students in Seattle Public Schools.