

# City of Cincinnati

AKS *Paul Jan*

## An Ordinance No. 153

- 2017

**ESTABLISHING** a requirement that City Council incrementally increase its appropriations to human services over a five-year period pursuant to a specified funding schedule, and that beginning in 2023 Council appropriate human services funding every year at an amount not less than 1.5% of the General Fund budget.

WHEREAS, from the 1980s until 2004, the City dedicated at least 1.5% of its General Fund budget annually to human services; and

WHEREAS, since 2004, the percentage of the City's budget allocated through a fair and transparent process to human services organizations has not exceeded .8%; and

WHEREAS, in 2008 a commission led by Councilmembers Crowley and Bortz and comprised of multiple business and nonprofit leaders recommended that the City fund human services at a fixed percentage of 1.5% of its General Fund budget; and

WHEREAS, between 2008 and 2013, the number of city residents living in poverty has increased from 1 in 4 people to 1 in 3; and

WHEREAS, Hamilton County has a 40,000-unit shortage of affordable housing for families making 30% of the average median income or less, and approximately 70% of families that call the Central Access Point helpline for families in need of shelter are turned away due to lack of resources; and

WHEREAS, with the rise in homelessness and poverty in our community, City-funded human services such as job training, housing assistance, and violence prevention initiatives are currently insufficient to meet demand; and

WHEREAS, City Council wishes to renew its commitment to fund human services at an amount not less than 1.5% of the General Fund, and to require that these funds be allocated through a process that ensures maximum impact in the community; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That beginning with the 2019 Budget Update, City Council shall annually approve a General Fund budget that includes human services funding in amounts not less than those specified according to the following schedule, and shall include recommended sources for this funding.

- 2019: 1% of the General Fund

- 2020: 1.2% of the General Fund
- 2021: 1.3% of the General Fund
- 2022: 1.4% of the General Fund
- 2023 and after: 1.5% of the General Fund

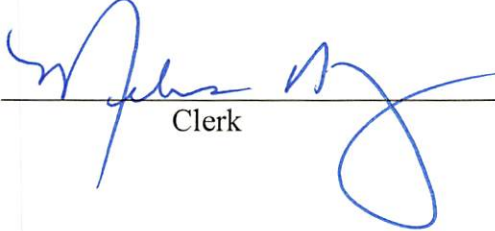
Section 2. That Council shall appropriate human services funding according to the schedule set forth in Section 1 of this ordinance.


Section 3. That the term “human services funding” as used in Sections 1 and 2 of this ordinance shall mean funding that is (i) provided by the City to organizations that deliver human services to the local community in alignment with City Council’s established human services priorities; and (ii) allocated by the United Way or another nonprofit entity through a process that awards funding through a competitive proposal process and thoroughly evaluates program outcomes.

Section 4. That this ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

Passed: JUNE 21, 2017

  
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John Cranley, Mayor

Attest:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT ORDINANCE No. 153-2017  
WAS PUBLISHED IN THE CITY BULLETIN  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CHARTER ON 7-2-17  
  
CLERK OF COUNCIL