

Glossary

Appropriation: A legal authorization granted by the City Council, the City's legislative authority, to make expenditures and incur obligations for specific purposes.

Biennial Budget: A budget covering a two-year period. Under state law, a biennium begins with an odd-numbered year.

Budget - Adopted and Proposed: The Mayor submits to the City Council a recommended expenditure and revenue level for all City operations for the coming fiscal year as the Proposed Budget. When the City Council agrees upon the revenue and expenditure levels, the Proposed Budget becomes the Adopted Budget, funds are appropriated, and legal expenditure limits are established.

Budget - Endorsed: The City of Seattle implements biennial budgeting through the sequential adoption of two one-year budgets. When adopting the budget for the first year of the biennium, the Council endorses a budget for the second year. The Endorsed Budget is the basis for a Proposed Budget for the second year of the biennium, and is reviewed and adopted in the fall of the first year of the biennium.

Budget Control Level: The level at which expenditures are controlled to meet State and City budget law provisions.

Capital Improvement Program (CIP): Annual appropriations from specific funding sources are shown in the City's budget for certain capital purposes such as street improvements, building construction, and some kinds of facility maintenance. These appropriations are supported by a six-year allocation plan detailing all projects, fund sources, and expenditure amounts, including many multi-year projects that require funding beyond the one-year period of the annual budget. The allocation plan covers a six-year period and is produced as a separate document from the budget document.

Chart of Accounts: A list of expenditure, revenue, and other accounts describing and categorizing financial transactions.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG): A U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) annual grant to Seattle and other local governments to support economic development projects, human services, low-income housing, and services in low-income neighborhoods.

Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the City (CAFR): The City's annual financial statement prepared by the Department of Finance & Administration.

Cost Allocation: Distribution of costs based on some proxy for costs incurred or benefits received.

Cumulative Reserve Subfund (CRS): A significant source of ongoing local funding to support capital projects in general government departments. The CRS consists of two accounts: the Capital Projects Account and the Revenue Stabilization Account. The Capital Projects Account has six subaccounts: REET I, REET II, Unrestricted, South Lake Union Property Proceeds, Asset Preservation Subaccount - Fleets and Facilities, and the Street Vacation Subaccount. The Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) is levied on all sales of real estate, with the first .25% of the locally imposed tax going to REET I and the second .25% to REET II. State law specifies how each REET can be spent.

Debt Service: Annual principal and interest payments the City owes on money it has borrowed.

Errata: Adjustments, corrections, and new information sent by departments through the City Budget Office to the City Council during the Council's budget review as an adjunct to the Mayor's Proposed Budget. The purpose is to adjust the Proposed Budget to reflect information not available upon submittal and to correct inadvertent errors.

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Full-Time Equivalent (FTE): A term expressing the amount of time for which a position has been budgeted in relation to the amount of time a regular, full-time employee normally works in a year. Most full-time employees (1.00 FTE) are paid for 2,088 hours in a year (or 2,096 in a leap year). A position budgeted to work half-time for a full year, or full-time for only six months, is 0.50 FTE.

Fund: An accounting entity with a set of self-balancing revenue and expenditure accounts used to record the financial affairs of a governmental organization.

Fund Balance: The difference between the assets and liabilities of a particular fund. This incorporates the accumulated difference between the revenues and expenditures each year.

General Fund: A central fund into which most of the City's general tax revenues and discretionary resources are pooled, and which is allocated to support many of the operations of City government. Beginning with the 1997 Adopted Budget, the General Fund was restructured to encompass a number of subfunds, including the General Fund Subfund (comparable to the "General Fund" in prior years) and other subfunds designated for a variety of specific purposes. These subfunds are listed and explained in more detail in department chapters, as well as in the Funds, Subfunds, and Other section of the budget document.

Grant-Funded Position: A position funded 50% or more by a categorical grant to carry out a specific project or goal. Seattle Municipal Code 4.04.030 specifies that "categorical grant" does not include Community Development Block Grant funds, nor any funds provided under a statutory entitlement or distribution on the basis of a fixed formula including, but not limited to, relative population.

Neighborhood Matching Subfund (NMF): A fund supporting partnerships between the City and neighborhood groups to produce neighborhood-initiated planning, organizing, and improvement projects. The City provides a cash match to the community's contribution of volunteer labor, materials, professional services, or cash. The NMF is administered by the Department of Neighborhoods.

Operating Budget: That portion of a budget dealing with recurring expenditures such as salaries, electric bills, postage, printing, paper supplies, and gasoline.

Position/Pocket Number: A term referring to the title and unique position identification number assigned to each position authorized by the City Council through the budget or other ordinances. Positions may have a common title name, but each position has its own unique identification number assigned by the Records Information Management Unit of the Seattle Department of Human Resources at the time position authority is approved by the City Council. Only one person at a time can fill a regularly budgeted position. An exception is in the case of job-sharing, where two people work part-time in one full-time position.

Program: A group of services within a department, aligned by common purpose.

Reclassification Request: A request to change the job title or classification for an existing position. Reclassifications are subject to review and approval by the Classification/Compensation Unit of the Seattle Department of Human Resources and are implemented upon the signature of the Director of Human Resources, as long as position authority has been established by ordinance.

Reorganization: Reorganization refers to changes in the budget and reporting structure within departments.

SUMMIT: The City's central accounting system managed by the Department of Finance & Administration.

Sunsetting Position: A position funded for only a specified length of time by the budget or enabling ordinance.

TES (Temporary Employment Service): A program managed by the Seattle Department of Human Resources. TES places temporary workers in departments for purposes of filling unanticipated, short-term staffing needs, such as vacation coverage, positions vacant until a regularly-appointed hire is made, and special projects.

Type of Position: There are two types of budgeted positions. They are identified by one of the following characters: **F** for **Full-Time** or **P** for **Part-Time**.

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- **Regular Full-Time** is defined as a position budgeted for 2,088 compensated hours per year, 40 hours per week, 80 hours per pay period, and is also known as one full-time equivalent (FTE).
- **Regular Part-Time** is defined as a position designated as part time, and requiring an average of 20 hours or more, but less than 40 hours of work per week during the year. This equates to an FTE value of at least 0.50 and no more than 0.99.

