

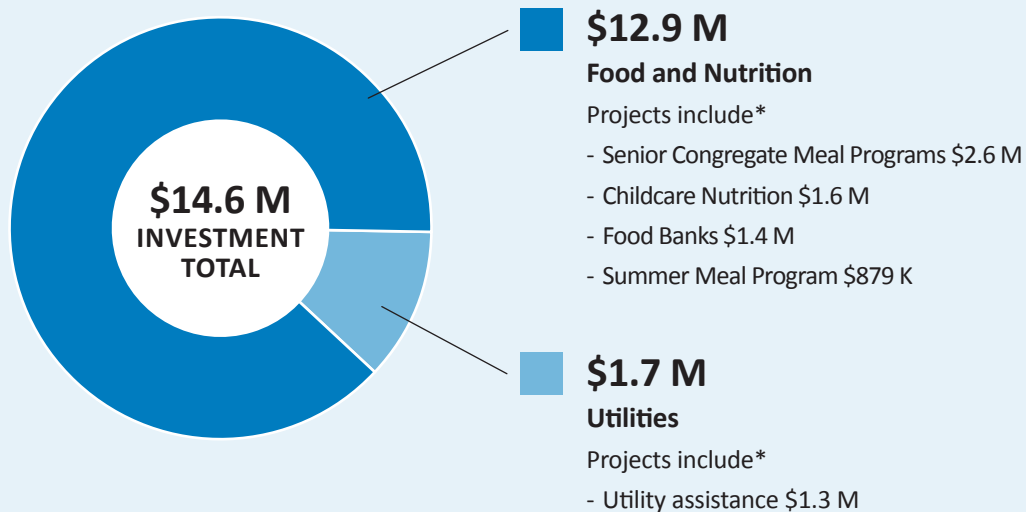
# Supporting Affordability & Livability



Seattle's strong economy and job opportunities have fueled Seattle's rapid growth into the 18th most populous city, according to the U.S. Census. This growth has intensified pressure on many residents' ability to afford increasing costs in housing, transportation, utilities, and food. To create an inclusive and accommodating city for residents of all economic backgrounds, HSD offers programs that help to ensure all people living in Seattle can meet their basic needs.

Achieving financial empowerment for Seattle's working families requires bold action on many fronts. HSD is working to make Seattle more affordable for all by expanding the Utility Discount Program, raising the cost of living rate for human services providers staff, and ensuring access to healthy and nutritious foods for all residents.

## 2018 Budget



*\*Projects mentioned do not reflect all services funded for this impact area.*

## Youth Food Programs

According to Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap project, 11.5% of people in King County experienced food insecurity in 2017; and Seattle Public Schools reports that for the 2018 school year 17,535 qualified for free or reduced cost meals.

The Summer Food Program helps to ensure that children and youth throughout Seattle enjoy uninterrupted access to healthy foods during the summer months, particularly those who rely on meals provided by their schools throughout the school year.



### Summer Food Program

199,286 meals were served to Seattle children and youth in 2018



### Supplemental Programs

1,290,775 emergency meals were served to low-income and homeless individuals in 2018

## Food Program Expansions

Hunger impacts children, youth, families, single adults, and older adults across the city, with disproportionate impacts on our communities of color, lower-income residents, and households with children that are headed by single women or single men.

Economic barriers are often the reason many rely on City programs as their primary or supplemental food source. With the investment of funds from the Sweetened Beverage Tax, HSD was able to expand summer food and out-of-school meals for children and youth, increase the number of preschool students and their families receiving free and low-cost fresh fruits and vegetables, and increase support for food banks.

## Assistance Programs

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 13% of households in Seattle experience poverty—which it defines based on estimates of the income level needed to cover basic needs, adjusted for family size and age of the family members.

The Utility Discount Program promotes economic stability by providing income-eligible customers a 60% discount on their Seattle City Light bill and 50% discount on Seattle Public Utilities bill.

In 2018, HSD's Federal Grants Management Unit released almost \$650,000 in funds to support home repair and renovation for lower-income residents and provided operating and services funding for housing dedicated to chronically homeless adults, including 76 new units at DESC's Estelle Place.



### Utility Discount

31,924 customers were enrolled in the Utility Discount Program in 2018