Housing Resources Bainbridge

ADVOCACY ALERT

Update

Tuesday, October 27, 2026, City Council will continue work on the 2027-2028 budget. This is the first public hearing in this process. There will be two opportunities in the budget to support affordable housing: Primarily, direct support for affordable housing, and secondarily, support for human services, which addresses affordable housing as well as mental health, food security, and other needs.

Background

The city of Bainbridge Island has identified affordable housing as a budget priority. There are two funding sources in the budget wholly designated for this purpose:

- **Affordable Housing Fund.** This fund is largely funded by a sales tax and a sales tax credit; however, the city can direct other types of funding here too. The majority of the sales-tax-supported revenue is restricted to projects and programs serving households at or below 60% area median income. The city will decide, during the budgeting process, how to spend these funds. Currently, the fund supports 625 Winslow, the city's own development on city-owned property, and a program that reduces land use permit fees for affordable housing.

- **Housing Trust Fund.** This fund provides direct financial assistance to qualified affordable housing projects and to nonprofits providing housing-related services. Since it is not automatically funded by sales tax revenue, it requires the city to choose to fund it with an allocation. This fund does not contain sale tax revenue and is therefore more flexible than the Affordable Housing Fund. The city has not allocated any funds to the Housing Trust Fund since the 2021-2022 budget and has not allocated any in the 2027-2028 budget either. (HRB used a Housing Trust Fund award in 2015 to help construct Ferncliff Village.)

The budget also includes funding for a competitive human services grant program, which makes awards to local nonprofits, including HRB, every other year. The city provides $660,000 for the two-year grant cycle. The amount has not changed in many years.

Action

Submit written comment to **council@bainbridgewa.gov** by 4:00 pm on Tuesday, October 27, 2026 or deliver comment in person or via Zoom. To give public comment in person, add your name to the sign-in sheet by the door to Council chambers. The mayor will call on you to present at the podium for up to three minutes. To present via Zoom, email the city clerk (**cityclerk@bainbridgewa.gov**) by noon on the day of the meeting. You must display your true name and keep your camera on.

Key points to include in your comment

- Urge Council to allocate funding for the Housing Trust Fund to provide direct support to community-based housing development and services. There is important work taking place apart from the city's 625 project that warrants city support.
- The level of human service funding has remained the same for many years, while the operational costs faced by its nonprofit grantees have risen dramatically. Ask that the city tie funding for this grant program to an external measure, such as the Consumer Price Index, to ensure that it keeps pace with inflation and does not diminish its impact.
- Share your desire to see more affordable housing on Bainbridge Island and to see the city play a robust role in helping to finance it.

Meeting details
Tuesday, October 27, 2026 at 6:00 pm
Bainbridge Island City Hall, Council Chambers
280 Madison Ave N. Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
Zoom: **https://bainbridgewa.zoom.us/j/92947338351**

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