



Human Services Advisory Commission (HSAC) Annual Report 2025-2026



Overview

The Human Services Advisory Commission (HSAC) serves as the Mayor and Council's advisory body on emerging human service needs, helping ensure City investments remain responsive to Rockville's changing community conditions and grounding recommendations through the community's lived experience.

The Commission body is uniquely structured to represent service providers, consumers and the residents of Rockville. It currently consists of 9 volunteers appointed by Mayor and Council, supported by a Staff Liaison.

HSAC studies specific human service-related problems and complaints that have been brought to their attention each month, leveraging a mix of professional backgrounds, personal experiences, and scrutiny from a public perspective.

HSAC participates in the evaluation process of the Community and Enrichment Grants to provide input.



Commission Members

Commissioners

Sarah Baseheart
Stacey Gold
Reema Jweied Guegel
Scott Mengebier
William (Bill) McGugan
Deborah Moore
Jessica Peterson
Nirmal Ravi
Nancy Sushinsky

2025-2026 HSAC Outputs

Number of Meetings Held: 11
Number of Community Organizations Engaged: 3
Number of Non-profit Site Visits: 5
Number of Testimonies Given: 2
Quorum Rate: (82%)

Chair

Rick Mui

Staff Liaison

Elssa Kenfac

Council Representative

Marissa Valeri



Human Service Needs

****From the 2024 City of Rockville Human Services Needs Assessment***

Housing Stability

- Rising concerns regarding homelessness
- Affordable housing pressures
- Tenant-landlord issues

Economic Security

- Food insecurity
- Employment opportunities
- Workforce training

Health

- Behavioral health capacity
- Substance use disorder
- Access to mental health services

System Capacity

- Federal funding uncertainty
- Nonprofit sustainability
- Service utilization trends



General Process for Evaluation of Human Service Needs

1. Members identified topics of interest to study and leveraged its diversity and expertise to initiate discussion.
2. HSAC engaged in cross-commission collaboration to connect with other citywide initiatives, synthesized overarching concerns, and recommended an advocacy path.
3. HSAC received monthly Housing and Community Development Updates, discussed them and shared personal observations.
4. HSAC invited community organizations to present at monthly Roundtables, to assist in developing scope of issues, current progress and future needs requests.
5. HSAC members incorporated unanswered community issues when assessing Community Service Grants or site visits.
6. HSAC advocates for additional services to the Mayor and Council as specific gaps are identified.



Major Contributions

HSAC members have advocated for and participated in multiple high visibility initiatives in FY 2026:

Strengthening Grant Oversight

- Served on FY26 Community Services and Enrichment Grant Review Panel
- Conducted nonprofit site visits:
 - CCACC Medical Clinic*
 - Mobile Med Clinic*
 - Sunflower Bakery*
 - Victorian Lyric Opera Company*
 - Korean Community Service Center of Greater Washington (KCSC)*
 - Manna Food Center*
 - Women Who Care Ministries*
 - Interfaith Works Women's Center*
- Reviewed human service providers performance reports



Major Contributions (cont'd)

Community Engagement

- Hosted community provider roundtable discussions:
Sunflower Bakery *Main Street Connect* *Latino Youth Development Program (LYDP)*
- Participated in Nonprofit Symposium
- Attended the City of Rockville Volunteer Appreciation Event
- Attended Nonprofit Fundraising Events

Policy & Advocacy

- Testified to the Major & Council to highlight funding and community advocacy needs
 - *Closing of the Twinbrook Library on Sundays*
 - *Advocating for the need to continue to support our Community Grantees*
- Participated in parallel County Level initiatives
 - *Point in Time Count*
 - *Meeting the Moment: How to Address Burnout and Secondary Trauma for Non-profit Leaders*



Key Findings & Emerging Risks

Key Findings

Community Roundtable Highlights

- Sunflower Bakery: Workforce barriers for adults with disabilities
- Main Street Connect: Growing demand for housing stabilization
- Latino Youth Development Program: Need for expanded culturally responsive youth services

Risks

- Federal funding reductions are affecting nonprofit partners
- Increased behavioral health demand
- Rising housing affordability challenges
- Workforce shortages among service providers
- Growing complexity of local immigrant needs



FY2026-2027 Priorities

- Expand community roundtables into unreached neighborhoods, communities, and organizations.
- Increase HSAC's visibility through community outreach initiatives.
- Produce issue overviews on priority human service topics as needed.
- Intentionally sharing Human Services related issues to Mayor and Council as they arise.
- Strengthen cross-commission collaboration with at least 2 other advisory commissions.
- Continue to partner with the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) throughout the grants process to provide input and engage with grantees.



Recommendations to Mayor and Council

Based on its work during FY2025–2026, HSAC recommends continued attention to:

- Sustaining the city's investment in evidence-based human service programs.
- Monitoring impacts of changes in federal funding to community service providers serving Rockville.
- Supporting behavioral health and housing stabilization initiatives.
- Continuing evaluation of city grant-funded organizations.
- Expanding opportunities for resident and nonprofit engagement.
- Continuing to advocate and protect vulnerable populations (ie. Immigrant populations, etc.)



HSAC Holiday Convening, December 2025

