



## **DOCUMENT #1**

### **Fall 2016 Budget Chair's Guiding Principles for Consideration of Budget Proposals**

---

#### **Pre-requisites**

- Proposals must conform to law.
  - The City budget must balance.

#### **Equity**

- Proposals should seek to ensure racial and social equity in City programs, including consideration of geographic impact; strengthen the diversity of the city; and address affordability.

#### **Fiscal Sustainability**

- One-time revenues should indeed fund one-time needs.
- Ongoing expenditures must be backed by ongoing revenue sources.
- New programs or investments should conform to city fiscal policies and not create unnecessary financial risk or future revenue shortfalls.

#### **Efficiency**

- Investments should not only deliver good results, they should make careful and wise use of the people's money.

#### **Effectiveness**

- Programs should be evidence-based and have a track record of success in achieving specific *outcomes*, and not just outputs. (e.g. increased high-school completion rate vs. increased number of people served by program)
- Investments should not only reflect good intentions, CMs should also identify (or have identified in the case of existing policies) specific measurable outcomes. This is important in evaluating success.
- New programs may not have a history to consider, but setting specific outcomes against which to evaluate the programs, collecting data, and setting expiration dates which require evaluation before extending programs can help focus public resources on programs that most effectively serve Seattle's residents.
- Both new and existing programs should be subject to regular evaluation and process improvements.
- Programs and policies should align with federal, State, and County strategies and recommended best practices.

#### **Transparency**

- Budget deliberations, decisions, and justifications should occur in public; related documents should be available online as early as possible.