



## **Puget Sound Taxpayer Accountability Account**

### **Background Information**

#### **State Legislation**

The Puget Sound Taxpayer Accountability Account (PSTAA) was created as an amendment to the 2015 State Transportation Revenue Package by the Washington State Legislature. The Legislature created PSTAA to direct certain funds into a protected account that is to be paid to the counties in the Sound Transit taxing district, and directs that the funds be used for educational services to improve educational outcomes in early learning, K-12, and post-secondary education. PSTAA is described in [RCW 43.79.520](#).

#### **King County Legislation**

Goals and principles for the use of PSTAA funds in King County, Washington were approved by the King County Council on December 11, 2017 as [Motion 15029](#). The Council's motion identified specific populations that PSTAA might support, and put forth other goals and objectives for the use of the funds. Approximately \$315,000,000 is expected to become available to King County between 2019 and 2034 because of PSTAA.

#### **Potential Strategy Areas for PSTAA Investment**

Subsequently, based on Motion 15029 and further discussion, King County developed a list of nine potential strategy areas to investigate further for potential funding:

1. Increasing access and success in postsecondary, via a “promise scholarship” program with a focus on:
  - a. Supportive services in high school to help students prepare for and persist in college;
  - b. Advisory support, completion coaching, or other necessary services at community or technical colleges;
  - c. Scholarships that target the highest-need students and programs serving low-income youth, youth of color, youth aging out of foster care, or homeless youth; and
  - d. Re-engaging youth who have dropped out of high school in education and employment.
2. Supporting career-connected education in K-12 schools, including through expansion of career academy models at the middle or high-school level to combine academic and career content from industries like technology or health care.
3. Support elementary and middle schools in planning and launching innovative teaching methods that emphasize problem-based learning and connect classroom learning to careers.
4. Constructing, maintaining and renovating facilities to support early learning programs.

5. Collocating early learning centers with affordable housing, including flexible, mixed-use space to meet the multiple needs of children and youth with limited access to services.
6. Programming or facilities to support children and youth who are homeless, in the foster care system, in the child welfare system, involved in the juvenile justice system or otherwise vulnerable or underserved.
7. Supporting asset-building strategies for youth, including children's educational savings accounts.
8. Identifying innovative strategies to empower students to be change agents in their schools and communities, who can identify and address social and racial injustice through advocacy and organizing.
9. Training educators in the effects that economic status and institutional racism have on educational outcomes and economic mobility.

## Research Conducted

In June of 2018, King County hired consultants to compile information about education needs in the County and the potential impact of the nine strategy areas they had identified.

The consultants created the following reports:

- [Needs Assessment Report](#): a compilation and review of existing education-related needs assessments done recently in King County.
- [Strategy Assessment Report](#): an examination of the potential impact of, need for, cost, and implementation feasibility of each of the nine strategy areas.
- Funding Level Options Report (pending publication): a look at how many students might be served in each education domain, at different funding levels.

For further information on King County's PSTAA work, see <https://kingcounty.gov/council/issues/education.aspx>