Communities building impact

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

King County

Best Starts for KIDS

FROM THE KING COUNTY EXECUTIVE

To our King County community,

When I envisioned Best Starts for Kids, I saw a community joining together so that all children and youth have the opportunity to achieve their full potential. In 2018, I had the pleasure of visiting communities and meeting with dedicated professionals who are making that vision a reality every day, across King County.

I spoke with parents and kids who will be prepared to succeed in kindergarten because of the home-visiting services they receive through Best Starts for Kids. I visited a school where students, parents, and school communities are partnering through Best Starts to make sure our schools provide a platform for success in school and life. I visited a nonprofit coffee shop where a Best Starts for Kids grant brought a community together to create a safe, healthy place for young people to connect.

These are just a few examples of the progress we've made in 2018. Together, we are delivering on the promise I made to the people of King County to put every baby born and every child raised in King County on a path toward lifelong success. I am proud to share the 2018 Best Starts for Kids Annual Report, which reflects the depth of our commitment to King County's children, youth, and families.

Thank you to the many King County staff and community partners who have brought my vision for Best Starts for Kids to life. Through your hard work, trusted relationships and expertise, we are promoting healthier, more resilient children, youth and communities.

Sincerely,

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Cover photo: Erin Murphy

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.kingcounty.gov/BestStarts

ALTERNATE FORMATS

call 206-263-9100
or TTY Relay 711

THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS

Best Starts for Kids funds community partners across King County who lead, advise, and implement work through this initiative. These partners are recognized by name on page 61.

PRIVACY

The stories in this report reflect the experiences of real people who accessed services through Best Starts for Kids community partners. They have consented to have their stories shared. Names and images may have been changed to respect their privacy.

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To our community,

Every child is born full of possibility. When I meet with parents, families, and communities, they share the possibilities they see for our children. They see healthy babies, and families who know where to go to access services. They see young people who have hope and opportunity. They see schools that recognize the potential in all of our children.

For Best Starts for Kids, these possibilities boil down to four words: happy, healthy, safe, and thriving. That is King County's vision for our kids. Best Starts is King County's commitment to that vision, to our community, and to the possibility in every child.

At the end of 2018, Best Starts for Kids counted more than 220 community partners. By the time you read this, that number will be even higher. I am proud to share our 2018 annual report, which highlights the work done by all of these collaborators. Together, we are making progress toward a better future for all of our children and youth.

We place the highest value on maintaining trust and transparency with you, and in that spirit, this report provides detailed information on our performance measures, outcomes, and financials in 2018. Performance measures and results from all work funded by Best Starts for Kids are also available on our website (www.kingcounty.gov/BestStarts).

Although the Best Starts initiative is still young, our early investments are already showing measurable impact. Newer investments are still establishing the connections and structure required to deliver. To help you see where each investment is in this process, they are labeled as laying the groundwork, building momentum, or delivering impact. (For detailed definitions of these stages, see page 34.)

To accomplish our vision, we know we also need to strengthen our work across King County. Best Starts for Kids works closely with MIDD and the Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy, expanding that continuum of services to include the county's youngest residents. These three initiatives represent a collective intention to make our county a place where everyone can thrive.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to department directors Leo Flor and Patty Hayes, as well as to our Children and Youth Advisory Board, for their consistent commitment and leadership.

Sincerely,

Sheila Capestany
King County Strategic Advisor for Children and Youth
Director, Children, Youth and Youth Adults Division

Photo: Hannah Johnson

King County is thriving.

We live in one of the largest and most diverse counties in the United States. Our population has grown from 1.5 million residents in 1990 to more than 2.1 million in 2018.

This is a time of transformation, with the potential to benefit everyone who lives here. Yet from neighborhood to neighborhood, and across economic and racial groups, access to safe and affordable housing, health, and economic opportunity varies widely.

King County's three flagship initiatives — Best Starts for Kids, the Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy, and the MIDD behavioral health initiative — reflect a conscious decision by King County residents and elected officials to take action toward equity and opportunity for all. Building on the resilience, commitment, and compassion of everyone who lives here, the three initiatives bring King County communities together to achieve impact on a greater scale than any could alone.

Through Best Starts for Kids, the Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy, and MIDD, **King County is working to make this a welcoming community where *every* person can thrive**.

Giving King County's kids the best start in life

Best Starts for Kids strengthens families and communities so that babies are born healthy, children thrive and establish a strong foundation for life, and young people grow into happy, healthy adults. Best Starts focuses on promoting opportunities for kids to grow up healthy and happy, decreasing factors that prevent kids from establishing a strong foundation in life, and intervening early when kids and families need more support.

Best Starts for Kids is designed to grow, adapt, and change with King County's rapidly changing communities. In 2018, investments ranged from established programs that are delivering impact today to pilot projects that are laying the groundwork for future success. Best Starts is supporting more than 400 programs across King County.

By listening to community needs, and investing in community strengths, Best Starts is helping transform King County into a place where everyone can thrive.

"Best Starts for Kids matters. This initiative creates opportunities, changes systems, and influences policies to ensure that King County youth and families are thriving, safe, productive, and joyful — now and in the future.

– Brian Saelens, *Co-Chair, Children and Youth Advisory Board*

Photo: Erin Murphy

“Rachel, you got this!”

Through a mutual friend, Rachel met Omar, a peer connector. This Best Starts for Kids–funded program supports young people ages 16 to 24 who have not finished high school, as well as those who have graduated but are unsure about the next steps. Rachel recounts her experience to claim her ambition.

I went back to school for my son Prince Anthony. I wanted to be a good example for him. I just really want him to do what he loves — be proud of who he is and not let anybody tell him that he can’t.

I’ve always wanted to finish school, but the way my life was set up, I wasn’t on that route. When I did decide to go back, I really wanted to bring Prince Anthony with me. I didn’t want to leave him at home. Then I met Omar. I explained to him what I needed. He started looking for GED programs that I could qualify for and found Southwest Youth and Family Services. It was perfect because they had child care on site.

Going back to school was such an awesome experience. Teachers made me feel like I belonged, and they understood that I have a son and things to do at home. I could text or FaceTime, and they would say, “Rachel, you got this.” And it was amazing to bring Prince with me … having him there with me just made it a whole lot easier.

All along the way, Omar was supporting and encouraging me. Three months later, I finished my test. It felt amazing! I didn’t know if I should get a tattoo, if I should get a piercing, or if I should cry.

If I hadn’t decided to go back to school, I would probably still be a stay-at-home mom. I felt shame that I hadn’t finished school. Now, I feel super proud, my parents are proud. My dad is so excited, my family is going to have a big party for me.

Now that I finished my GED, I see a whole lot of opportunities. College is possible. And now that I’m a mom, I have responsibilities. I decided that I’d try to get my GED, because I wanted my son to be able to say: “My mom did it. *I* can do it.”

A peer connector and a personal connection

“I connected with Rachel because I know that if my mom had the accessibility and all these different programs that we have today she would’ve wanted to get her GED. Through our program, I could help Rachel find the option that she wanted. We try to really do the best fit choice; we want to do the thing that’s going to be productive and make a change.”

Photos: Erin Murphy

Best Starts for Kids 2018

Best Starts for Kids builds on the strengths of families and communities so that **babies are born healthy, children thrive and establish a strong foundation for life**, and **young people grow into happy, healthy adults**. In 2018, Best Starts for Kids moved fully into implementation and invested $103.1 million in community-based projects.

Best Starts meets King County residents wherever they are, at every stage of life.

Considered the most comprehensive approach to child development in the nation, Best Starts partners with families and communities at every stage of life, and every stage of care: from new moms to grandparents, from infants to teens.

When we empower caregivers and communities to help their kids have the best possible start ...

Babies are born healthy and given the foundation for a happy, healthy life.

People have equitable opportunities to be safe, healthy, and thriving.

Communities offer safe and welcoming environments for their kids.

In 2018, our investments served children, strengthened communities, and delivered impact.

Investing early: Building a robust system of support for pregnant and parenting families, infants, very young children, and caregivers that meets people where they are — at home, in the community, and wherever children are cared for.

$22.9 million invested

Sustaining the gain: Ensuring progress continues with school- and community-based opportunities to learn, grow, and develop through childhood and adolescence and into adulthood.

$20.9 million invested

Communities matter: Supporting communities as they build safe, thriving places for children to grow up.

$5.3 million invested

Homelessness prevention: Complementing state and city efforts to prevent and reduce homelessness by focusing on what each family needs to stay stably housed.

$3.1 million invested

Photo: Danielle Elliott

INVESTING EARLY: 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- Home visitors offered trusted, in-home support to the families of more than **1,500 children**.
- Early Support for Infants and Toddlers served **5,157 children and their families** — an increase of more than 10 percent from 2017.
- **518 child care providers** had access to advice from nurses, mental health specialists, and other health professionals.

SUSTAINING THE GAIN: 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- More than **130 schools and community partners** worked to give students the best possible foundation for success in school and life.
- **896 young people** enrolled in programs that helped them advance from school to life success.
- **1,437 youth and young adults** took action toward finishing high school, going to college, or starting a career.

COMMUNITIES MATTER: 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- The number of place-based and cultural **community partnerships tripled**.
- **50 organizations** worked together to advance policy and systems change.
- **264 community members** took on leadership positions within communities and our region, including **85 youth**.

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION: 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- The Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention Initiative has reached **7,134 people** since 2017.
- Homelessness dropped **7 percent** among families with youth and **22 percent** among unaccompanied youth, according to the 2018 Count Us In report.
- **Ninety-four percent** of those who have participated in the program are still stably housed.

2018 PROGRESS

$52.7M
invested

220+
community partners

400+
new and continuing programs

1,355+
hours of technical assistance leveraged by communities

16,700+
children accessed food and supplies

3,870+
young people took part in youth development programs

1,920+
families and young people stayed housed

Outcomes from all work funded through Best Starts for Kids are available at **www.kingcounty.gov/BestStarts**.

Growing, learning, and thriving together

The community partners highlighted below give a sense of the breadth of programming supported by Best Starts for Kids funding across King County.

A City of Shoreline
Giving teens access to behavioral health services through youth-friendly drop-in programs, with a special focus on youth leadership.
(King County Council District 1)

B Wonderland Child and Family Services
Offering resources and support to parents and caregivers to provide everyday learning opportunities to children with developmental delays or disabilities.
(King County Council District 1)

C Rainier Beach Action Coalition
Empowering youth through leadership to foster self-confidence, team work, independence and courage.
(King County Council District 2)

D United Indians of All Tribes
Providing support to Urban American Indians/ Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians while strengthening bonds between Native Fathers and their children, partners, and community.
(King County Council District 2)

E Snoqualmie Valley School District and Snoqualmie Valley Community Network
Training at Two Rivers High School and Snoqualmie/North Bend Police Department in restorative practices, relationship-building, and support for youth affected by trauma.
(King County Council District 3)

F Encompass Northwest
Providing child care health group trainings and health consultations with nurses, behavioral health specialists and and other providers to licensed and informal child care providers.
(King County Council District 3)

G Interim Community Development
Supporting stability and financial resilience among youth and families at imminent risk of homelessness.
(King County Council District 4)

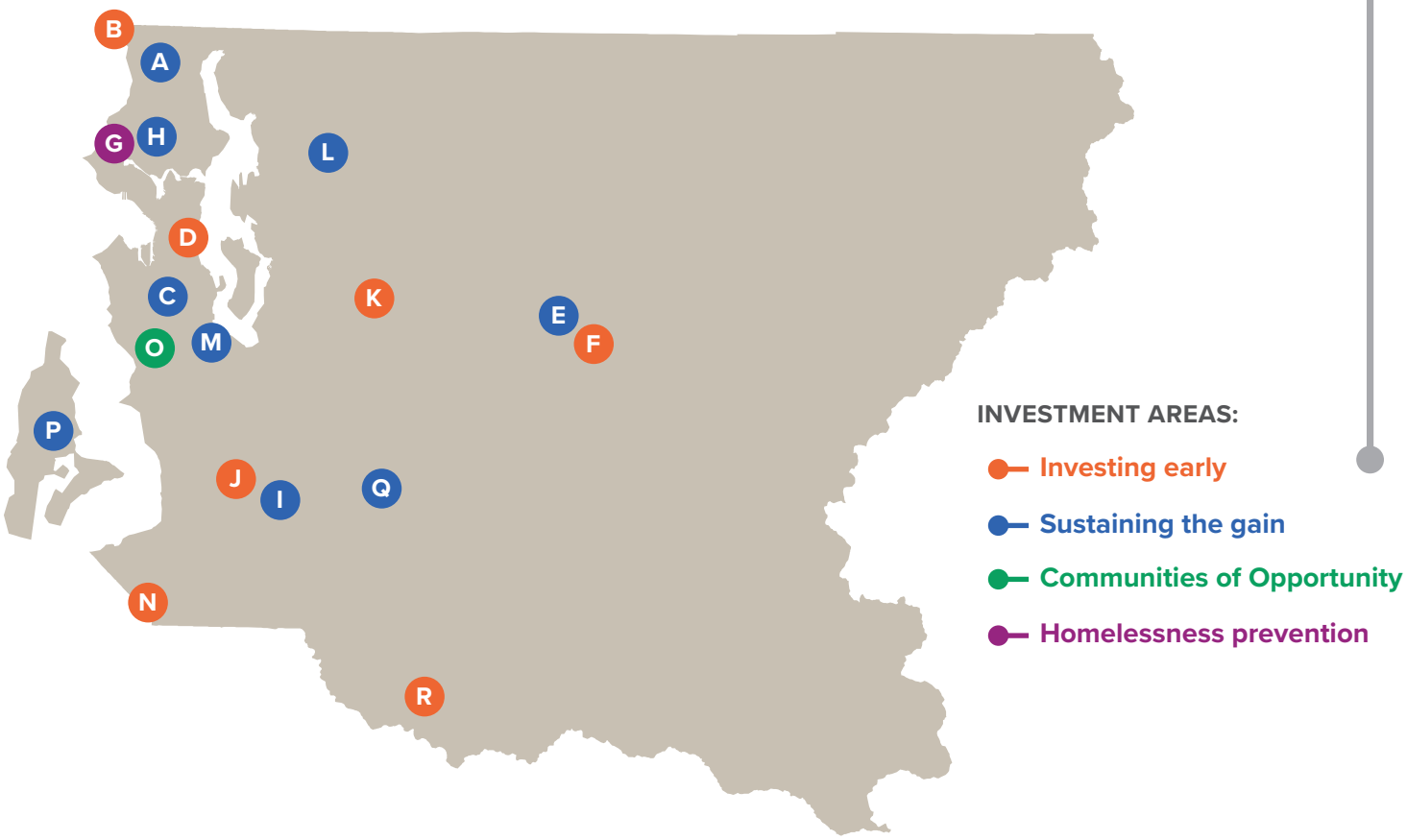
H Swedish Health Services & Sound
Engaging with students, parents, and community members to reduce substance abuse among high schoolers.
(King County Council District 4)

I Community Network Council
Supporting Black youth to succeed academically and socially through one-on-one coaching for students and their parents.
(King County Council District 5)

J Centro Rendu of St. Vincent DePaul and Catholic Community Services
Providing culturally and linguistically responsive caregiver tools, case management, and parent support to Latinx families in the home.
(King County Council District 5)

K Eastside Baby Corner
Distributing diapers, clothing, and food to community organizations that work directly with children and families.
(King County Council District 6)

L Lake Washington School District
Planning for screening and brief intervention implementation in middle schools.
(King County Council District 6)



M Empowering Youth & Families Outreach
Providing high-quality before-school, after-school, and summer programs, with a focus on STEM, for middle and elementary school youth.
(King County Council District 7)

N Birth to Three Developmental Center
Running Spanish speaking Kaleidoscope Play and Learn Groups to support parents and "family, friend, and neighbor" caregivers' engagement with the children in their care.
(King County Council District 7)

O White Center Community Development Association
Building youth leadership, community voice, and community ownership to prevent displacement of residents and multicultural businesses.
(King County Council District 8)

P Vashon Youth & Family Services
Working with child care providers on Vashon Island to improve safety, promote healthy food and physical activity, and limit exposure to toxic substances.
(King County Council District 8)

Q Greater Maple Valley Community Center
Providing development opportunities for youth who live in rural and suburban communities.
(King County Council District 9)

R J.J. Smith Birth to 5 Center and Nexus Youth and Family, Sound Discipline and Children's Therapy Center
Supporting relationship-building among schools, districts, students and families to improve school culture and climate for all students.
(King County Council District 9)

When babies are born healthy and given a strong foundation for lifelong health and well-being ...

... they grow into kids with the best chance to learn and to thrive.

"We can make a big difference in the classroom."

Whether they work at a center, are based at home, are informal caregivers, or are in a preschool classroom, King County's child care providers are dedicated to the healthy development and school readiness of all the children in their care. The Child Care Health Consultation program offers free consultation with public health nurses and other specialists in health education and child development. Last year, more than 500 child care providers and caregivers participated.

In August of 2018, right before the start of the school year, Megan Walsh, a behavioral health manager, and Caitlin Young, a public health nurse, visited a child care center in Snoqualmie to offer training for teachers on working with children with challenging behaviors.

In November, Caitlin received a request to visit one of the classrooms at the center, where multiple children were acting out. She visited the classroom several times, offering the teacher support and helping guide children's behavior. "We work with the teacher to look beyond the behavior," says Megan. "By addressing the need underneath, we can make a big difference in the classroom."

In February of 2019, the center reached out again. Z — an adorable little boy with an irresistible grin — was struggling to play with his friends without conflict. Together, Caitlin and Megan developed a plan to offer in-classroom support. They also talked with Z's parents about his development and how to best support him at home.

"Many of our families are working families," says Caitlin. "They struggle to get to therapy sessions before or after school. The best way to support them is to integrate therapy in the classroom. We get the work done here."

As part of her partnership with the center, Caitlin helped prepare for the launch of regular developmental screening. That means kids will get support early so they can grow up secure, healthy, and confident.

Many of the in-home centers are isolated, and the caregivers are challenged by children's behaviors. "Caitlin is a connection for them," Megan says. "She establishes a relationship with them — so they don't feel so alone."

Photos: Erin Murphy

Investing early: from prenatal care to the first day of kindergarten

What does it take to give a family the best chance of having a healthy baby, and a child the best chance at a healthy, happy life?

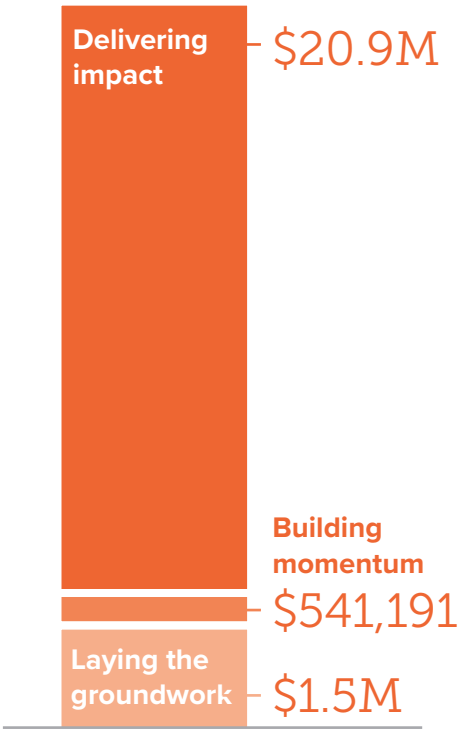
A strong community, a stable family, and parents and caregivers who have the tools and resources to promote their child's well-being during the first five years of life, which are critical to neurological, physical, and social development.

In 2018, Best Starts for Kids supported King County's families and communities in raising healthy, happy children. We invested in programs that address economic, racial, and other inequities, so that parents and caregivers have more opportunities to give their kids the best start in life. And we invested in the strength and resilience of King County's communities — and in their commitment to the kids who live here.

By investing early, Best Starts for Kids supports communities where:

- Babies are born healthy.
- Children grow up in households where they are safe and cared for.
- Children grow up resilient, curious, and content.
- Children are socially, intellectually, and physically ready for kindergarten, the first step in a lifetime of learning.
- **Children flourish and thrive.**

Stages of growth in 2018



Total investment in 2018

$22.9M

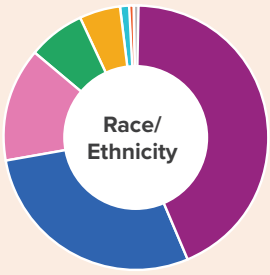
New and continuing programs

139

2018 performance measures and demographic data

For demographic and performance data for all "Investing early" strategies, visit **www.kingcounty.gov/BestStarts**.

Data highlight: 93% of those served by the Parent-Child Home Program in 2018 are children of color



(n=1,272)

- American Indian/Alaska Native: **0.4%**
- Asian: **14%**
- Black/African American: **44%**
- Hispanic/Latinx: **29%**
- Multi-racial: **5%**
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: **1%**
- White non-Hispanic: **7%**
- Unknown: **0.4%**

Help Me Grow

How do we make it easier for a new mom to find a place where she can take her son to play with other kids while she gets support from other moms? Where can a young dad go to find out whether his daughter should already be talking, walking, or laughing? Help Me Grow connects families and caregivers who have kids under five to community-based programs and services, simplifying how families move between systems of care and promoting healthy child development for all children and families.

In 2018, Best Starts for Kids reached out to national, state, and local partners to begin mapping a strategy to expand Help Me Grow across Washington state. Now, we are working with communities and families to build Help Me Grow in King County, so that families can access the support they need, when, how, and where they need it. When communities, families, and caregivers build Help Me Grow, they can make it work best for them.

Laying the groundwork
$20,000 invested in 2018
40+ collaborators statewide

> "Best Starts for Kids is focused on engaging the community, with equity as a cornerstone for all they do. Those values, coupled with all of the great programs they are funding — we are lucky to partner with them to bring Help Me Grow to King County families."
>
> — Sharon Beaudoin, *Chief Strategy Officer, WithinReach*

Vroom

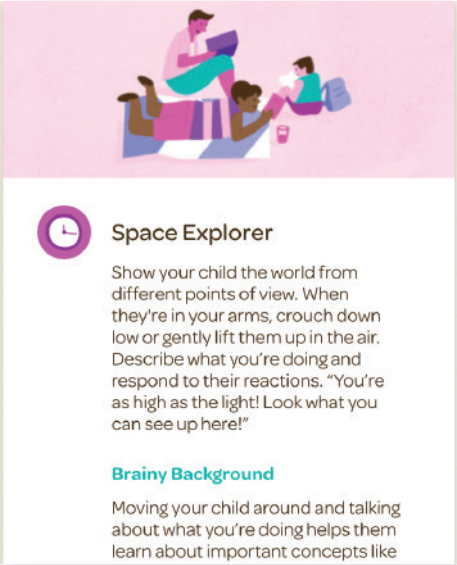
"*Show your child the world from different points of view. When they're in your arms, crouch down low or gently lift them up in the air. 'Look what you can see up here!'* "

That's the Space Explorer card from Vroom — a digital resource that equips parents and caregivers to interact with children in ways that promote curiosity and exploration. Vroom makes it easy for busy, working families to help their children develop literacy, math skills, self-control, and more, with tools and tips to build relationships and brain development. It helps ensure that families and caregivers get the resources they need, including within all Best Starts for Kids programs.

Communities in King County are using funding from Best Starts for Kids to offer the Vroom tool to families, caregivers, and child care sites. In 2018, Best Starts partners worked closely with community members to gather feedback on accessibility of Vroom, using what they learned to build culturally responsive strategies.

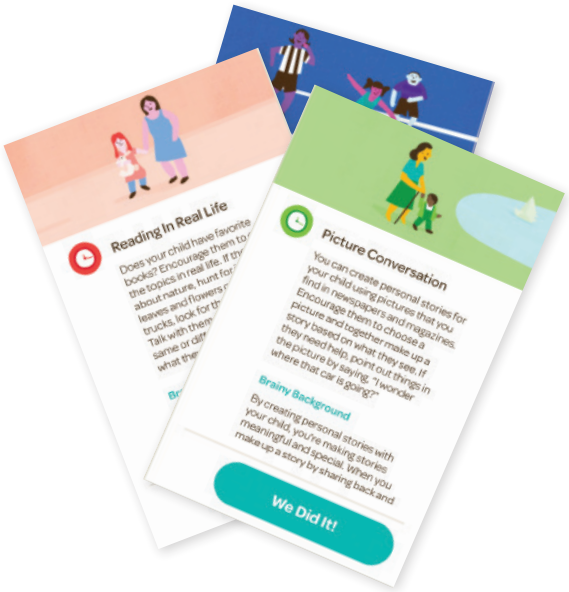
58 new community leaders trained to be Vroom experts and share information with parents

Building momentum
$37,500 invested in 2018
2 community partners



For example, one community uses the Vroom tool in training with child care providers, who share what they learn with parents, reinforcing activities that the parents are doing at home to support brain development and school readiness.

Thanks to this community-driven approach, training and adoption of Vroom is moving forward even more quickly than expected. The first two organizations funded as champions for the tool have reached **134 people** in Somali and Latinx communities, identified through community feedback as priorities for the pilot program. **More than 58 community leaders** have been trained as experts in the tool, and **79 parents** have begun using it with their children.



Public Health Programs

For families who are grappling with income, food, or housing instability, public health services are a cornerstone of support. King County's Public Health Programs have dramatically increased their reach over the past three years, thanks to funding from the community through Best Starts for Kids.

Managed by Public Health - Seattle & King County, these programs play a foundational role in Best Starts for Kids strategies for prenatal to age five — and support healthy outcomes at all ages.

2018 outcomes

- **More than 17,000 people** received preventive health and education services at a local center, at home, or wherever they felt secure or were connected to critical social services — increasing the number of babies who are born healthy and stay that way.
- **More than 45,000 people** purchased more than $27 million in healthy, affordable food through the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

100%

of the babies enrolled in the Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program who were tested in 2017/2018 were negative for hepatitis B

More than 67,000 people accessed critical health services

Delivering impact
$9.1M invested in 2018

- **94 percent of hepatitis B–positive pregnant people** in the Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program enrolled before giving birth, compared with 52 percent in 2017. The program helps people with hepatitis B protect their newborns from infection by coordinating medical care immediately after birth.
- **More than 869 families** teamed up with registered nurses who regularly visit them at home to help them raise happy, healthy children.
- **More than 5,000 people**, including teenagers, accessed reproductive health services through King County's nationally recognized Family Planning Program. These services and sexual health education help prevent unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections, including the virus that causes cervical cancer.
- **197 children** were linked to health services and housing through a program for families housed in shelters who have significant health needs.

Home-Based Services

Through home-based services, families with new babies gain access to home visitors — a nurse, a doula, or a trained community member — who can be a resource for the family throughout the first years of a child's life. During this time, home visitors meet families at home or another safe space and offer a stable and trusted source of support. Home visitors develop relationships with multiple members of the family. They help families navigate the changes that come with a new baby and provide services that help the family nurture their child's development and maintain housing and other stability.

Home visiting is not one-size-fits-all. To ensure programs meet the needs of King County's communities, Best Starts for Kids balances funding across different types of models. Evidence-based and evidence-informed home visiting models have undergone formal scientific evaluations. Community-designed models are supported by direct community experience and are culturally responsive to the communities where they're practiced.

More than 1,500 children paired with home visitors who provide trusted support to their families

Delivering impact + laying the groundwork
$6.7M invested in 2018
36 community partners

2018 outcomes

- **287 families** participated in more than **3,000 visits from home visitors** through a range of evidence-based and evidence-informed models.
- **82 percent of eligible children** received recommended developmental assessments, the first step to promote healthy development and identify issues early.
- Through a partnership with United Way and the City of Seattle, Parent–Child Home Program, expanded its reach dramatically. The program made more than **52,000 visits to 1,272 children**. **Forty-four percent of children** served identified as black/African-American, and **29 percent identified as Latinx**.

Photo: United Way of King County

What's *your* story?

Programs designed by communities are uniquely equipped to meet community needs. One example: Sheeko, Sheeko, Sheeko Xariira (meaning "story story, what's the story" in Somali) uses an oral storytelling activity to help Somali moms ready their children for school. "Sheeko, sheeko," says the mother; "sheeko xariir," the child responds, and together they build a story. By hiring staff who are culturally and linguistically matched to families, the pilot program fills a critical need in the Somali community for culturally competent home visits and support for parents and families of young children.

Community-Based Parenting and Peer Supports

Through Community-Based Parenting and Peer Supports, Best Starts for Kids funds community-based agencies and organizations, helping them support families with everything from food to information on child development. These investments are culturally appropriate for the communities they serve, which is especially important for sensitive services like support for breastfeeding. By standing behind these existing networks of support, King County leverages the strength of its communities and ensures they can act on their care for the kids and families who live here.

2018 outcomes

- The families of more than **16,700 children** accessed basic necessities, including diapers, clothes, and fresh fruits and vegetables, from King County agencies funded through Best Starts for Kids.
- **10,483 people** participated in Kaleidoscope Play and Learn groups, an increase of more than **26 percent** from last year. These groups give families a place to play, support, and learn together. Groups led by facilitators who speak Somali, Hindi, Russian, Arabic, Indian, Spanish, or Vietnamese offer unique social and peer support for families whose primary language is not English.
- **Nine agencies** that provide culturally responsive services to their communities received funding from Best Starts for Kids to create a program that offers peer-to-peer support for caregivers.

More than 16,700 children received food, essential supplies, and other support

Delivering impact + laying the groundwork
$945,907 invested in 2018
35 community partners

Among Kaleidoscope Play and Learn participants:

80% of caregivers said they had a better understanding of their role in kindergarten readiness

80% said they spent more time reading, looking at books, and telling stories with the children in their care

88% of caregivers said they felt more supported by their community

Developmental Promotion

Photo: Erin Murphy

5,157 children and families supported through Early Support for Infants and Toddlers

Delivering impact + laying the groundwork
$4M invested in 2018
24 community partners

Children reach developmental milestones in their own way and at their own pace. Through Best Starts for Kids, King County communities are strengthening screening that identifies developmental delays early, when children's brains are most capable of changing — and training child development professionals to respond with services and support that are right for the child.

These programs ensure that children receive the support they need along the way, and that all families are able to celebrate milestones with their kids.

2018 outcomes

- **460 professionals** (doulas, home visitors, child care providers, and others) increased their skills in screening and **49 agencies** added screening materials to their toolkits. This capacity is critical as King County moves toward universal screening to reach all kids.
- Best Starts for Kids funded an analysis of infant, early childhood, and family mental health efforts in King County, the basis for a comprehensive strategy for social and emotional support.
- Best Starts supported the expansion of Early Support for Infants and Toddlers, which provides early intervention for young children with developmental delays. The need for Early Support is increasing as screening improves and identifies more children who can benefit from such services.

Early Support for Infants and Toddlers provides early intervention services for children birth to age three and their families, blending federal, state, and Best Starts for Kids funding. In 2018, Early Support for Infants and Toddlers:

- **Served 5,157** children and their families in King County, an increase of **more than 10 percent** from 2017.
- Contracted with **13 community-based organization**s with a countywide reach to provide early support services.

Child Care Health Consultation

Child care providers are absolutely critical to the health and well-being of kids in our communities. They are highly driven to provide a safe and healthy setting for the children in their care — but they don't always know where to go for recommendations and resources.

Child Care Health Consultation puts the resources of nurses, nutritionists, and child health specialists at the fingertips of both formal (child care centers) and informal (family, friends, and neighbors) child care providers across King County. Working out of local, community-based organizations, these specialists:

- Coach providers on how to review health policies, records, and plans for kids, which can increase the number of kids getting the vaccines they need.
- Support healthy practices like handwashing, which can decrease the number of days kids are sick and can't attend child care.
- Provide support around behavioral challenges and classroom management, which can decrease the number of kids who are expelled from child care.
- Increase child care provider confidence and competency, which can result in behavior changes like improved safe sleep practices.

518 child care providers served countywide

Delivering impact + building momentum
$1.6M invested in 2018
7 community partners

Child Care Health Consultation is already reaching **518 child care providers**, both at formal child care services and at informal sites where friends, families, and neighbors are the caregivers. And through Best Starts for Kids, King County communities will develop a plan for introducing a comprehensive, countywide system within the next three years.

> "Through Child Care Health Consultation, we have begun a much deeper dive into the communities we serve — Ethiopian, Eritrean, Somali, Oromo, African-American — and are beginning to support providers in voicing their needs and telling us how to support them so they can provide safe and quality environments for children in their care."
>
> —Child Care Health Consultation partner

Workforce Development

Photo: Paul Isreal, DNRP

Laying the groundwork
3 community partners

Through Best Starts for Kids, professionals who work with young children and their families — from early childhood educators to nurses and doulas to parent educators — have significantly greater opportunities for ongoing training and professional development. In 2018, Best Starts identified a first cohort of **11 workforce partners** in diverse roles, locations, and communities to receive tailored training and support on themes ranging from healthy child development to racial equity to early childhood mental health.

Innovation Fund

The Best Starts for Kids Innovation Fund fuels innovation by kick-starting community-designed programs and approaches. Innovation Fund projects support projects that meet community-identified priorities and are designed with community voice. These innovations draw on the skills and strengths of the community itself to meet its unique needs.

In 2018, Best Starts awarded Innovation Fund grants to **13 community partners** across King County. Projects range from new early learning programs and resources designed to reflect specific language and cultural communities to new partnerships designed to change the way systems can work together to benefit families. Examples include:

- The South Seattle Women's Health Foundation is changing how health care providers work together to provide prenatal and postpartum care, especially to immigrant and refugee families and families of color. A collaborative care model will bring midwives, doulas, lactation consultants, and physicians together to provide comprehensive support to individuals both before and after birth. The model is effective in preventing complications of pregnancy and childbirth, including low birth weight and the need for caesarean sections.

13 community-designed projects funded to innovate, pilot, test, and excel

Building momentum
$491,716 invested in 2018
13 community partners and **1** technical assistance provider

- North Seattle College is improving access to education for child care providers who reflect children across King County. The project will serve more than 160 educators, with the potential to reach more than 2,400 early learners every year across the county.
- Eastside Pathways in East King County is connecting families in Latinx communities with bilingual, bicultural community members who can help them access early learning and child development services. For many families, these early learning facilitators are the only option that reflects their culture, language, and needs. The facilitators, together with families, will inform other early learning health and resource providers in the community to improve the quality of care they provide to Latinx families.

Best Starts for Kids links communities across King County.

We help our partners gain the expertise they need to succeed.

In 2018, Best Starts awarded support to **28 home-based service providers** and **10 community-based providers** to build their skills in program development and implementation.

We work to reduce the disproportionate impact of toxicants on marginalized children.

Best Starts for Kids reduces the health and developmental impact of exposure to lead and other toxicants by leveraging opportunities across multiple strategies:

- Disseminating information across eight language groups through our network of community partners.
- Integrating toxicants education into programs that support child and home-based care providers.
- Strengthening reporting and testing in the health care system.
- Ensuring children who are exposed are connected to the developmental services they need.

We ensure that all providers who partner with us can share the responsibility for developmental screening.

Best Starts for Kids trained **460 providers** — representing **15 different languages** and **10 different roles** (doulas, home visitors, child care providers, and more) — to administer the gold standard screening for developmental progress.

Photo: Erin Murphy

When kids have equitable opportunities to be safe and healthy as they grow from children to adults ...

Photo: Erin Murphy

... they thrive — and help shape a stronger King County.

"I want you guys to know that you're incredible, that you're leaders."

Provided in partnership with School's Out Washington, Out of School Time gives kids and teens the support they need to take their education and future into their own hands. Students have access to mentoring, tutoring, and afterschool and summer classes, from STEM to dance to college prep.

Empowering Youth and Families Outreach, an Out of School Time partner, recently expanded to Federal Way. Best Starts for Kids funding is helping fill a gap for families of color with school-aged children.

Ten-year-old Daiya has been part of Empowering Youth and Families Outreach since she was six. Because Empowering Youth and Families Outreach is led by people of color, her teachers and mentors are a cultural fit, creating a safe space where she and other students can succeed.

> "Cooking class is super fun. We walk up to the community garden to get vegetables for the stuff we were going to make. We learn healthy stuff can be good, and how to cook it. [And the staff] acts like me. They talk like me. If you're in an environment with people who are only kind of like you, you feel lost. At [Empowering Youth and Families Outreach], we learn how to stand up for ourselves."

Daiya's mother, Naquiai, has watched her daughter's transformation. Naquiai works full time but used to drive to Seattle twice a week so Daiya could participate. Now, the program is only 15 minutes from home.

> "The existing local programs were not affordable. And they were not very diverse. Our kids need to see people they can relate to. They need to see themselves ... and think 'I can do that.' [The teachers and mentors] really invest in your child, and in trying to help your child grow and mature. You're not going to find that in most organizations. Daiya is more open, advocating for herself. She's learned to express herself better. She's a lot more outgoing. She's more explorative. Just to see her face when I drop her off or I pick her up — it's always good."

Program manager Ashleigh knows how important Out of School Time is for students in her community.

> "Because the program is in a non-academic space, it's a safe space. It gives kids success in an environment where they're often not able to experience success. It instills so much confidence, so much pride. It's instilling in them skills that no one can take away, no matter where they go."
>
> To the kids, she says, "I want you guys to know that you're incredible."

Photo: Hannah Johnson

Sustaining the gain: from kindergarten through college and career

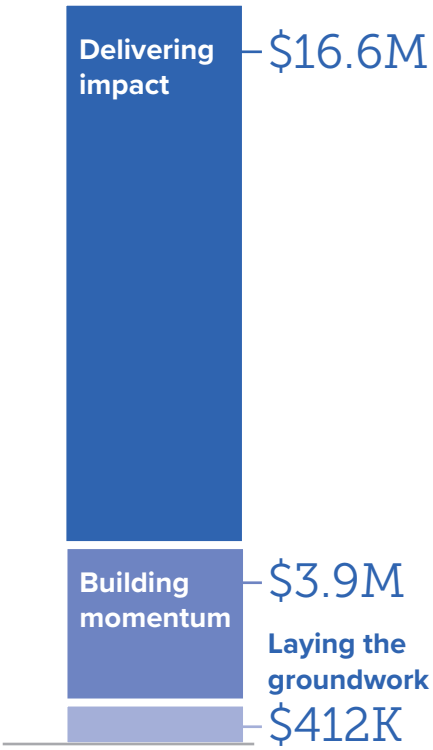
Children who are given a strong start in life have the foundation to grow into healthy and resilient adults. Our communities care deeply and work tirelessly to promote and protect young people, ensuring they have the support they need to thrive. Whenever possible, Best Starts for Kids invites young people to participate in planning and decision-making and supports their contributions as leaders — not just in the future, but right now.

Best Starts for Kids builds on King County's investment in children under five by supporting communities in creating healthy and safe environments for youth, strengthening connections between teens and their families and communities, and helping young adults successfully transition through high school and into college or a career.

By sustaining early gains, Best Starts for Kids supports communities where:

- Children learn math and reading skills that prepare them for a lifetime of success.
- Children and teens have the support to grow up curious, resilient, and confident.
- Children and teens graduate high school with their peers and go on to college or a career.
- Children, teens, and young adults are healthy and strong — and empowered to make healthy decisions about substance and alcohol use.
- **Children grow into thriving teens, and teens grow into thriving adults.**

Stages of growth in 2018



Total investment in 2018

$20.9M

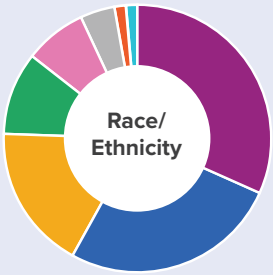
New and continuing programs

255

2018 performance measures and demographic data

For demographic and performance data for all "Sustaining the gain" strategies, visit **www.kingcounty.gov/BestStarts**.

Data highlight: 85% of youth who reengaged in school or employment through Peer Connectors in 2018 are youth of color



(n=217)

- American Indian/Alaska Native: **2%**
- Asian: **7%**
- Black/African American: **32%**
- Hispanic/Latinx: **26%**
- Multi-racial: **18%**
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: **2%**
- White non-Hispanic: **10%**
- Unknown: **4%**

Youth Development

Through Best Starts for Kids, schools and community centers provide leadership and development opportunities for teens and young adults throughout King County. This effort spans a vast array of programs, ranging from arts, music, and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) to youth advocacy and civic engagement. Communities value these programs highly and have shown immense creativity and commitment to ensure teens and young adults have access, in one case, contracting a private shuttle bus to take students home after dark.

The programs within this strategy continue to grow and to build their capacity, developing ongoing partnerships with other organizations and communities, expanding their reach, seeking ways to be accessible to youth, and hiring new staff. These processes are complex and take time to accomplish — because they are strengthening the infrastructure of our county and our communities from the inside out.

> "Our graduation rate this year was a major success. All of the youth who were eligible (high school seniors) graduated from high school this year — a 100% graduation rate!"
>
> — Youth Development partner

3,873 youth engaged in programs that support leadership, development, and healthy relationships

Delivering impact
$4M invested in 2018
32 community partners

2018 outcomes

- **3,873 youth** engaged in programs supporting leadership, development, and healthy relationships. One example is STEMPaths, which pairs girls of color with professionals of color for immersive STEM and arts experiences, and leadership programs that put teens in the driver's seat for civic engagement, education reform, and community organizing opportunities across King County.
- Schools in Renton, Federal Way, Auburn, Kent, Des Moines, and South Seattle offered teens the chance to work with peers and coaches to build self-confidence, well-being, and a sense of belonging. These high-demand programs engage teens to support each other and their communities on issues as diverse as dating violence, homelessness, and elder care.

School Partnerships

At their best, schools can be a point of stability and support for students and families. And all children, teens, and young adults deserve a school environment that is safe, supportive, respectful, and engaging.

Best Starts for Kids supports partnerships between schools, school districts, community-based organizations, young people, and families that ensure students feel safe, supported, and respected at school; promote trusting and consistent relationships; and deliver high levels of support so students can achieve and lead.

More than 130 schools and community partners working to give students the best possible foundation for success

Delivering impact + building momentum
$9.3M invested in 2018
128 community partners

2018 outcomes

- **32 awards** were made to schools, school districts, and community-based organizations working in schools to strengthen trauma-informed and restorative practices. This partnership approach helps schools address the impact of trauma and racism within their walls and systems by adopting more equitable policies and practices and rebuilding trust and security for students and families.

The Trailblazers mentorship program gives students a chance to teach. Last year, Trailblazers participants developed training materials to help educators understand implicit bias; presented on implicit bias and racial trauma at the Black Education Strategy Roundtable; and paired off with younger students to mentor them on grades and a healthy, safe school environment.

Photo: Erin Murphy

- **41 schools** launched school-based screening, brief intervention, and referral to services, a structured approach to promote health and well-being by giving students the opportunity to voice their concerns and find support early.
- Students in Bellevue, Renton, and Vashon school districts made **5,732 visits to school-based health centers**, which offer confidential medical and mental health services on-site at school. This is especially important for kids who have limited access to primary care through other sources.
- **1,569 kids** participated in high-quality Out of School Time opportunities in underserved neighborhoods in just the last four months of the year.

Family and Community Connections

Best Starts for Kids connects families, educators, health professionals, and others working to provide young people with health care, healthy food, and safe and secure places to live, learn, and play. With support from Best Starts, communities are changing policies, sharing skills and best practices, and forging new collaborations that help kids and teens flourish.

Healthy and Safe Environments

Healthy and Safe Environments works with community partners to create healthy and safe environments where children, youth, and families can reach their full potential: where they have access to healthy food and physical activity; where they are supported in avoiding substance use; and where their home is both physically and emotionally safe and secure.

2018 outcomes

- **More than 15,000 young people** gained access to healthy food through new policies adopted by Boys and Girls Club of King County.
- Families visited the Children's Playgarden **7,125 times**, staying at the South Seattle oasis for inclusive outdoor play for an average of one to three hours each time.

More than 120,000 youth and family members across all nine districts of King County benefited from this strategy

Delivering impact
$1.4M invested in 2018
19 community partners

- **2,293 people** attended training workshops to develop stronger skills and capacity to support health in their communities.
- **78 organizations** engaged in training or technical assistance to ensure that their programs, services, and environments remain safe and accessible to all King County residents — from support in providing inclusive play to children with disabilities to a toolkit that helps providers provide safe spaces for immigrants and refugees.

- Seattle Public Schools changed how they respond to drug and alcohol use among students and reduced the duration of suspensions. As a result, kids spent **1,038 additional hours in school**, learning and safe from exposure to unhealthy substances.
- El Centro de la Raza supported **50 other organizations** in identifying as sensitive locations (welcoming, friendly, and safe spaces for undocumented immigrant children, youth, and families) or strengthening existing policies that protect undocumented immigrant families.

Photo: Eli Brownell

Adolescent Immunizations

Laying the groundwork
$138,047 invested in 2018
1 community partner

The Adolescent Immunization Improvement Partnership brings together health care providers in a coordinated effort to increase vaccine coverage. Vaccines are broadly recognized as one of the most effective health interventions available; avoiding infection has a lifelong impact on health and opportunity. In King County, ensuring that teens and young adults receive the full complement of immunizations can help prevent infection with human papillomavirus (the virus that causes cervical cancer) and other infectious agents. Together, these community leaders are working to create equitable opportunities for young people from all backgrounds.

Transitions to Adulthood

1,438 youth and young adults reached through programming

Delivering impact
$1.8M invested in 2018
11 community partners

Funding from Best Starts for Kids is expanding access to education, job training, and other services for teens and young adults. Communities leverage Best Starts to complement existing efforts — peer support, behavioral health services, and support to complete high school and pursue post-secondary education — that are helping teens and young adults transition successfully to adulthood.

2018 outcomes

- **612 young people** engaged with peer connectors from their communities who helped them connect with one of the County's more than 30 education and employment programs for young adults.
- **More than 200 youth** re-engaged with school or employment after engaging with a peer connector.
- **258 young people** accessed behavioral health or other services offered at re-engagement sites across King County to help them maintain stability while they complete post-secondary education.
- **288 young people** enrolled in work-training education programs, and **61 enrolled** in work-training employment programs.
- **219 young people** enrolled in Career Launchpad, a program that provides job readiness training for young people who need to find employment quickly to support themselves or their families. **Seventy-six** of those found employment after completing the program, and **40** were making more than the Washington minimum wage as of the end of 2018.

Stopping the School-to-Prison Pipeline

Through Best Starts for Kids, King County's communities are helping young people grow into their potential and pursue their aspirations. Teens and young adults who face systemic and institutional racism are more likely to be excluded from higher education and employment and more likely to be pushed into the criminal legal system. Culturally responsive support from their communities — equitable access to resources, partners who can champion their voices, and guidance from people they trust — creates space for them in the pathways from school to life success.

2018 outcomes

- **601 young people** enrolled in programs that link them to relationships, guidance, and resources within their communities. For example, Creative Justice builds relationships between community allies, mentor artists, and youth who are directly involved in the juvenile legal system.
- **23 young people** participated in in-depth mentoring programs. These programs build dedicated, long-term relationships between youth who face systemic racism in the education and legal system and an adult who shares their life experience and can be both a role model and an advocate.

896 young people enrolled in Stopping the School-to-Prison Pipeline programs

Delivering impact
$4M invested in 2018
18 community partners

- **193 young people** enrolled in services that help youth connect to resources, a healthy system of support for meeting their goals, and advocates who can champion their voices. These programs help youth with academic challenges, support them in re-engaging with school, and connect them to mental health services, among many other kinds of support.
- **57 young people** involved in the legal system accessed education and legal services through a partnership between Best Starts, the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office Truancy Team, Neighborhood House, Reconnect to Opportunity, and Youth Source — increasing the likelihood that they will remain in school and graduate into employment.
- **22 young people** enrolled in Theft 3 and Mall Safety (T3AMS), part of a pilot project at Westfield Southcenter. T3AMS directs young people who make the mistake of shoplifting into mentoring and other support and out of the legal system. Mentors placed at the mall build relationships with teens and preteens who come there often, preventing shoplifting in the first place and keeping T3AMS participation low — the ideal outcome.

Photo: Erin Murphy

Young people are the future leaders of King County. They're also the leaders of today.

Through Best Starts for Kids, communities have the resources to open opportunities for kids, teens, and young adults to not just experience civic engagement but become civic leaders.

"Students took a six-week tour to 30 urban and rural areas and Native nations throughout the West Coast. The students interviewed more than 60 public servants – from Members of Congress to the Chief Justice of the Yurok Indian Nation, from superintendents of schools to tribal artists and cultural workers."

— Dr. Roy Wilson, *Executive Director, Institute for Community Leadership*

"Young people have taken on leadership roles on our Race Equity Committee. They played an instrumental role in soliciting feedback from other young people and our community partners. They continue to show up in spaces in our community as both experts and learners."

— Paula Carvalho, *Director of Youth Programs, The Mockingbird Society*

"Our youth advocate for children who have been separated from their families at the border. Our youth are growing in their leadership and advocate for other children because of the support of our Best Starts for Kids–supported programs."

— Haydee Lavariega, *Program Director, Para Los Niños*

"Our Youth Leadership Board extends the work of Creative Justice far beyond the numbers of youth enrolled in our programming. Its members speak truth to power, advising and influencing educators, community leaders, and elected officials... Helping youth to understand that the reach of their ideas and labor can go far beyond what they can see motivates and inspires us all to continue the work."

— Aron Counts, *Lead Artist, Creative Justice*

Photos (from the top): Institute for Community Leadership, Hannah Johnson, Para Los Niños, Creative Justice

When communities have voice and power in the decisions that affect them ...

... then all King County children and families will have opportunities to thrive.

"SUNN envisions an urban Native community that is united in spirit and practice, trusting and compassionate in our relationships, and fully embracing the ancient wisdom and healing that will sustain us for generations."

Through the Seattle Urban Native Nonprofits Collaborative (SUNN), 14 organizations are working in partnership to improve the health and well-being of the urban Native community across King County. SUNN is the first collaboration of its kind in the Native community in King County. Its members are building on work identified in their 2014 report *Together we can lift up the sky: A vision for the urban Indian community*. SUNN is focusing their resources and influence to make real change for their community.

SUNN has already brought together community members from across King County. New opportunities for Native professionals and others to come together are fostering collaboration and civic engagement. More than 100 people have already attended SUNN events, strengthening networks and relationships. SUNN has also created a space for smaller organizations to join with larger organizations, amplifying their role in decision-making and their ability to advocate on behalf of the communities they work with.

Collectively, the members of SUNN are working on a shared policy platform to help guide work across the partnerships. SUNN partners are advancing equitable policies to address the needs of urban American Indian/Alaska Natives. For example, Seattle Indian Health Board is educating policymakers about the need for behavioral health services that are accessible and appropriate to the Native community. Chief Seattle Club worked with All Home to address undercounting of Native populations experiencing homelessness during the annual Point-in-Time Count.

Before SUNN, Native-led organizations have had a shared focus — but also faced a scarcity of resources. They were often forced to compete for limited funds and attention. The SUNN Collaborative represents unified public voice that advances equity for all its members and for the Native community throughout our county.

SUNN MEMBERS

Potlatch Fund
Chief Seattle Club
Longhouse Media
Mother Nation
Na'ah Illahee Fund
National Urban Indian Family Coalition
Native Action Network
Native American Women's Dialog on Infant Mortality
Red Eagle Soaring
Seattle Indian Health Board
United Indians of All Tribes Foundation
Urban Native Education Alliance
Duwamish Tribal Services
Northwest Justice Project (Native American unit)

Photos: Erin Murphy

Communities matter

The most meaningful, just, and sustainable solutions are generated in partnership with communities — who know what they need to thrive.

Best Starts for Kids recognizes that communities matter for children, youth, and families to be healthy and thrive. Best Starts invests in Communities of Opportunity, an initiative that was catalyzed in 2014 by King County and the Seattle Foundation uniting with each other and with communities to address inequity.

Communities of Opportunity is a community-led initiative that promotes leadership; influences changes to institutions, systems, and policies; and seats the base of power within communities, not outside of them.

Race, income, and zip code are still major predictors of how healthy we are and even how long we live. To address these inequities, Communities of Opportunity is working in deep partnership to advance community priorities and tap into community expertise to promote racial, social, and health equity.

By investing in communities and tapping into their strengths:

- Relationships *within* communities are strengthened, which is critical for community well-being.
- Equity is integrated into policies at all levels: neighborhood, organizational, city, county, and state.
- Children, youth, and families have access to what they need to be healthy and strong.
- Community members have voice to shape solutions that affect them and can express it through civic engagement and leadership.
- **Communities of Opportunity builds power in communities over the decisions that affect them most.**

Communities of Opportunity focuses on the following community-identified priorities:

- **High-quality affordable housing:** Preserving and developing affordable housing that's close to transit, jobs, and education.
- **Health:** Access to healthy, affordable food and safe places outside to be physically active, especially for youth.
- **Economic opportunity:** Workforce development that includes local hires, support of new local businesses, and inclusion of King County's youth.
- **Community connections:** Increased civic participation and engagement, cultural preservation, and access to safe public spaces.

Photo: Susan Fried

Communities of Opportunity

Communities of Opportunity is a network of residents, communities, decision-makers, and funders who believe every community can be a healthy, thriving community — and that equity and racial justice are both necessary and achievable. The initiative is dedicated to promoting racial, health, and economic equity and to transforming how King County's communities create health and well-being for all.

2018 outcomes

- Through the organizing work of Puget Sound Sage, the Sound Transit Board voted to approve a policy that requires **80 percent** of Sound Transit surplus property to be used for affordable housing.
- Othello Square secured land in the Rainier Valley to develop a facility with **200 mixed-income apartments**, a multicultural center, and a health clinic. The new center will create **350 living-wage jobs**.

Delivering impact
$5.3M invested in 2018
200 community partners

- Casa Latina developed and advocated for a Bill of Rights that better protects domestic workers and removes loopholes in employment laws that often exclude them.
- Federal Way Youth Action Team laid the groundwork to expand its work to engage youth of color in policymaking.
- Friends of Little Saigon engaged small family businesses to strengthen Little Saigon in Seattle's International District as a cultural hub for the larger Vietnamese population.
- Got Green addressed disparities that often keep people of color out of "green economy" internships and careers.

> "Our [leadership circles] are setting up the structures and relationships that allow them to become enduring structures for local strategic decision-making, accountability, and power building. We are creating enduring grassroots activist circles of diverse races, faiths & income levels ... we are no longer isolated in our work."
>
> — Communities of Opportunity partner

COMMUNITIES MATTER SPOTLIGHT

50 organizations partnered to advance policy and systems change.

200+ capacity-building, community, and workforce development events brought communities together.

264 community members took on leadership positions within their communities and our region, including 85 youth.

275 organizational relationships were strengthened by partners to support progress toward policy and/or systems change.

46 organizations participated in a participatory baseline evaluation that brought stakeholders and evaluators together to collaboratively implement the evaluation.

When children grow up in safe and stable homes ...

... they start life on a path to long-term stability and self-sufficiency.

Terry and his son Louis recently established permanent housing after two years of housing instability. We joined them, and their case manager from the Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention Initiative, on move-in day.

The apartment is bright. So is Terry's face as he watches his 14-year-old son Louis set up bookshelves and unpack boxes in their new home.

Since 2015, Terry has dedicated himself to finding a stable place to live for himself and his son. Social security is his sole income, and he's good at living frugally and making smart use of the funds he has.

When a long-term roommate moved on, though, rising housing costs priced Terry out of a home. A teacher at Louis's school connected the family with King County's Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention Initiative for help.

For the next two years, Thomas — a case manager with The Arc of King County— was Terry's partner, advocate, and cheerleader in the search for housing. Together, they looked for affordable rentals. Thomas negotiated with landlords, used flexible funding from Best Starts for Kids to meet gaps in rent, found new roommates to share the cost.

But rents kept going up, and again and again, Terry and Louis were on the brink of homelessness. That's not as uncommon as it should be, says Thomas — for families to be "on that cliff and about to fall off of it. Especially the populations that we serve, with intellectual and physical disabilities. They struggle a lot harder."

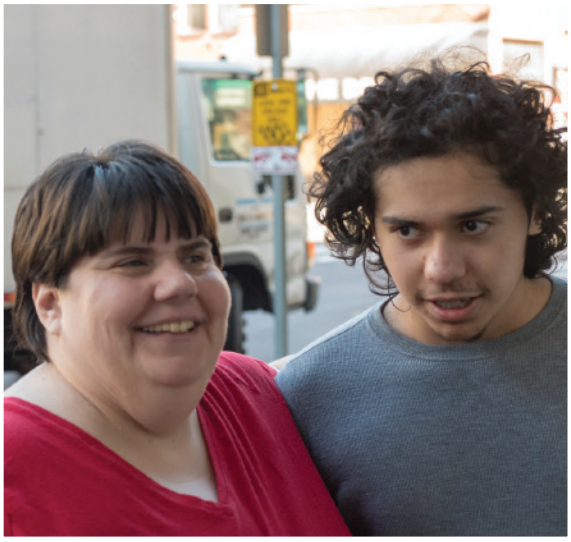
Thomas and other staff from the Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention Initiative searched across the state. "It was very much a team effort. We had him plugged into every housing resource in the state of Washington."

In February, Terry and Louis finally found a subsidized apartment — the first stable home they've had in almost two years. Today, they're moving in.

"It's a huge weight lifted off my shoulders to know that this family was prevented from becoming homeless," says Thomas. "It's a great feeling — it's joy."

But it's an emotional moment, too. Terry has struggled, and he's watched his son grow up faster than he'd like. When someone asks him what it feels like to be home at last, his response is brief, and a little muffled by tears. "I feel like I won a victory," he says.

"I'm gonna stay."



Photos: Erin Murphy

Homelessness prevention

The best opportunity to end homelessness in King County is to prevent it. Best Starts for Kids provides critical resources to help youth and their families who are at risk of homelessness stay housed, with long-term benefits for the strength and stability of our community. Kids deserve stable homes and safe spaces to live, so they can grow, play, and excel.

Count Us In, the 2018 point-in-time count for King County, showed increases in homelessness overall, but decreases in homelessness among unaccompanied youth under the age of 18. Over the course of the six-year Best Starts for Kids levy, King County will invest $19 million in homelessness prevention specifically for children, youth, and their families.

Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention Initiative

The Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention Initiative, the first initiative funded by Best Starts for Kids, has been working for almost three years to reduce the impact of homelessness on King County's youth. The initiative focuses on communities that are home to the people at greatest risk.

The Youth and Families Homelessness Prevention Initiative provides intensive case management and financial support to young people and families with children who are at imminent risk of homelessness. More than one-time rent assistance, the approach provides flexible support that families can use as needed — and partnership and advocacy that helps families and youth establish housing stability that lasts.

2018 outcomes

- Count Us In showed a **7 percent reduction** in homelessness among families with youth and a **22 percent reduction** in homelessness among unaccompanied youth under the age of 18 years.

7,134 people served;
4,075 under the age of 18 years

Delivering impact
$3.1M invested in 2018
25 community partners

- The Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention Initiative launched a partnership with a research team at the University of Notre Dame to execute a rigorous study of the effectiveness of its approach, a step toward expanding the initiative here and in other communities.

Over two years, this initiative served more than **7,100 people**, including **1,900 families** and **400 unaccompanied youth**.

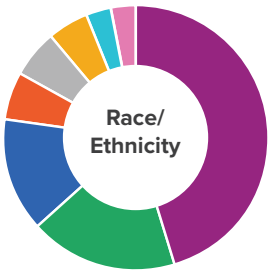
For additional details on program strategies and outcomes, please see the supplemental Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention Initiative 2018 Outcomes Report.

94% of former clients are still stably housed

Photo: Erin Murphy

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION SPOTLIGHT

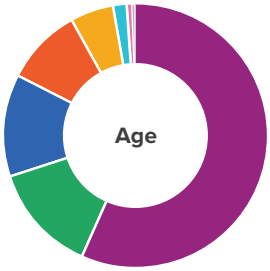
More than 76 percent of households served were people of color



(n=2,357)

- American Indian/ Alaska Native: **6%**
- Asian: **3%**
- Black/African American: **46%**
- Hispanic/Latinx: **14%**
- Multi-racial: **5%**
- Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander: **3%**
- White non-Hispanic: **18%**
- Unknown: **6%**

More than half of those served were younger than 18 years old



(n=7,130)

- 0-17: **57%**
- 18-24: **9%**
- 25-34: **13%**
- 35-44: **13%**
- 45-54: **5%**
- 55-64: **2%**
- 65+: **0.5%**
- Unknown: **0.4%**

9 out of 10

households that left Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention Initiative programs **remained outside the homelessness system**

75%

of former clients **remained in or were placed in permanent housing**

21%

of households were able to **resolve their housing crisis without financial assistance**

The most common reason families sought financial help was to pay rent so they could stay housed.

It takes only $1,900, on average, to meet that need for support.

To see performance measures and results for all Best Starts–funded programs, visit: **www.kingcounty.gov/BestStarts**.

Best Starts for Kids investments in 2018

Over six years, Best Starts will invest more than $400 million across four investment areas that promote health and well-being for King County's children, youth, families, and communities.

Responding to community requests, Best Starts made multiyear investments in each strategy area. Below is an accounting of those multiyear commitments, as well as investment actualities in 2018. Ongoing investments in new partners, programs, and projects reflect the adaptability and innovation that King County communities need.

Investments shown here are categorized as "laying the groundwork," "building momentum," and/or "delivering impact," a reflection of both the young life and complexity of the project.

- ☐ **Laying the groundwork.** Internal work required to award funding and deliver services is under way, including hiring County staff, developing requests for proposal, running request for proposal processes, and finalizing contracts with awardees.
- ▲ **Building momentum.** Awardees have contracts with King County and are beginning their work. The program may have started delivering services but performance data are not yet available.
- ● **Delivering impact.** In this phase, the program is actively delivering services, and there is least one-quarter of performance data from 2018 to report.

Investments, by investment area and strategy	Amount invested[1]	Years of investment	2018 budget	2018 expenditures
Investing early: prenatal to 5 years	**$117,566,033**	—	**$27,705,285**	**$22,879,561**
☐ **Help Me Grow**	**$5,362,814**	**Jan 2016 to Dec 2021**	**$20,000**	**$20,000**
▲ **Vroom**	**$150,000**	**Jul 2018 to Jun 2019**	**$150,000**	**$37,500**
Public Health Direct Service	**$52,450,248**	—	**$8,586,797**	**$9,136,880**
● Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program	$847,000	Jan 2017 to Dec 2020	$140,000	$199,273
● Maternal and Child Health - PHSKC*	$51,603,248	Jan 2016 to Dec 2021	$8,446,797	$8,937,607
Home-Based Services	**$21,598,991**	—	**$7,911,000**	**$6,694,490**
● Evidence Based and Evidence Informed Home Visiting	$7,559,695	Jan 2018 to Dec 2020	$2,714,812	$2,422,655
● Parent-Child Home Program	$6,739,839	Jan 2018 to Dec 2019	$2,408,748	$3,570,413
☐ Community-Designed Home-Based Programs and Practices	$5,991,700	Sep 2018 to Mar 2021	$2,288,048	$250,000
☐ Capacity Building	$1,307,757	Jul 2018 to Dec 2019	$499,393	$451,421
Community-Based Parenting and Peer Supports	**$8,862,244**	—	**1,976,898**	**$945,907**
● Basic Needs Resource Brokering	$959,462	Mar 2018 to Feb 2021	$314,027	$308,532
● Kaleidoscope Play and Learn	$1,694,444	Jul 2018 to Dec 2020	$377,979	$442,375
● Parenting Caregiver Information and Support	$2,997,000	Nov 2018 to May 2021	$668,540	$195,000
☐ Prenatal Support Services and Breastfeeding Peer Counseling	$3,211,338	Nov 2018 to Dec 2021	$616,352	—
Developmental Promotion/Early Supports	**$12,736,080**	—	**$5,143,873**	**$3,999,499**
☐ Promoting Development	$5,892,122	Nov 2018 to Oct 2020	$1,617,674	$740,353
● Early Supports for Infants and Toddlers	$6,843,958	July 2016 to June 2019	$3,526,199	$3,259,146
Child Care Health Consultation	**$6,920,063**	—	**$1,807,585**	**$1,553,570**
● Service Delivery	$6,170,085	May 2018 to Dec 2020	$1,611,684	$1,541,595
▲ Systems Development	$749,978	May 2018 to Dec 2020	$195,901	$11,975
☐ **Workforce Development**	**$4,074,690**	**Nov 2018 to Oct 2021**	**$677,558**	—
▲ **Innovation Fund**	**$5,410,903**	**Oct 2018 to Dec 2020**	**$1,431,574**	**$491,716**

[1] Amounts invested are already committed and contracted for multiple years

Investments, by investment area and strategy	Amount invested[1]	Years of investment	2018 budget	2018 expenditures
Sustaining the gain: 5 to 24 years	**$68,738,411**	—	**$23,613,601**	**$20,870,180**
● **Youth Development [2]**	**$12,273,238**	**Jan 2018 to Dec 2020**	**$4,100,000**	**$4,045,331**
School Partnerships	**$41,461,936**	—	**$11,072,605**	**$9,252,772**
▲ Trauma-Informed and Restorative Practices in Schools	$21,244,445	Sep 2017 to Aug 2021	$3,319,501	$3,256,535
▲ Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Services (SBIRT)	$4,759,250	Oct 2018 to Dec 2020	$1,732,479	$639,602
● Out of School Time	$10,295,587	Aug 2017 to Dec 2020	$3,920,625	$3,297,655
● School-Based Health Centers	$5,162,654	Sep 2017 to Aug 2020	$2,100,000	$2,058,979
Family and Community Connections	**$3,863,141**	—	**$1,600,130**	**$1,814,956**
□ Adolescent Immunization Improvement Partnership	$600,000	Nov 2017 to Oct 2020	$230,703	$139,047
● Healthy and Safe Environments	$1,860,141	Jul 2017 to Dec 2018	$1,004,127	$1,403,195
● Family Engagement	$1,153,000	Sep 2018 to Dec 2021	$115,300	$115,300
□ Timely Response to Adverse Childhood Experiences	$250,000	Feb 2018 to July 2019	$250,000	$157,414
Transitions to Adulthood	**$2,594,923**	—	**$2,048,923**	**$1,789,394**
● Behavioral Health Services at Youth Re-engagement Centers	$634,605	Jan 2018 to Dec 2019	$634,605	$569,019
● Transitioning to Post-secondary Education or Employment	$1,172,818	Jan 2018 to Dec 2019	$1,126,818	$1,032,480
● Peer Connectors Project	$787,500	Aug 2018 to Dec 2019	$287,500	$187,895
Stopping the School to Prison Pipeline	**$8,545,174**	—	**$4,791,943**	**$3,967,727**
● Community Supports	$3,775,734	Feb 2018 to July 2019	$2,315,000	$1,973,154
● Mentoring	$413,000	July 2017 to June 2019	$260,000	$253,976
● Outreach and Case Management	$1,546,643	Aug 2017 to Dec 2018	$945,170	$798,135
● Theft 3 and Mall Safety Project (T3AMS)	$1,490,660	Feb 2017 to Dec 2019	$993,773	$731,084
● Project SCOPE	$319,137	Jun 2017 to Dec 2018	$278,000	$211,378
□ CEDAR Program	$1,000,000	Jan 2019 to Dec 2020	—	—
Communities matter				
Communities of Opportunity				**See table on page 36**
Homelessness prevention				
● **Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention Initiative**	**$19,000,000**	**Oct 2016 to Dec 2021**	**$3,291,648**	**$3,053,890**
Evaluation				
□ **Evaluation investment**	**$2,123,612**	**Jan 2017 to Dec 2020**	**$1,302,725**	**$561,883**
Total Investment Through December 31, 2018	**$207,428,056[3]**			

[1] Amounts invested are already committed and contracted for multiple years
[2] Programs Include Mentoring, Youth Leadership, Positive Identity Development, and Healthy Relationships and DV Prevention
[3] Total investment does not reflect Communities of Opportunity. Investments made under Communities of Opportunity are described on pages 36-40.

Community partnerships: place-based cultural communities

Award period May 1, 2018–April 30, 2020

Awardee	Total award	Funding source: Best Starts for Kids	Funding source: Seattle Foundation
Kent Community Development Council	**$550,000**	**$550,000**	—
Description: The Kent Community Development Collaborative (KCDC) ensures the health and well-being of all residents of Kent by focusing on those with the greatest disparities. KCDC is working to ensure Kent residents have access to fresh, healthy, nutritious food, and access to affordable, safe, and housing. KCDC is working to increase active participation in decisions that shape the community as well as opportunities for living wage jobs and locally owned businesses.			
Partners:* Community Network Council, Living Well Kent, Coalition for Refugees from Burma, Mother Africa, Communities in Schools of Kent, Iraqi Community Center, Somali Youth and Family Club, Being Empowered Through Supportive Transitions, Centro			
A Supportive Community for All	**$540,000**	**$540,000**	—
Description: A Supportive Community for All partnership goals' are to strengthen community connections by building an inclusive coalition of service providers and key community stakeholders around a shared vision to coordinate human services across the Snoqualmie Valley. They are increasing capacity in: adaptive leadership facilitation, project management, grant writing, and stakeholder engagement. Taken together these investments would build the local support and capacity to help this project become self-sustaining.			
Partners:* Hopelink, Snoqualmie Valley Community Network, Mt. Si Senior Center, Snoqualmie Valley Food Bank, Encompass			
Transgender Economic Empowerment Coalition	**$550,000**	**$550,000**	—
Description: The Transgender Economic Empowerment Coalition addresses the economic barriers transgender and gender nonconforming communities and LGBTQ people of color experience as a result of transphobia, homophobia, and racism. They are investing in leadership development programs to affect system and policy change. They are working with our communities to build a model employment policy to support transgender and gender nonconforming workers.			
Partners:* Ingersoll Gender Center, Greater Seattle Business Administration, UTOPIA Seattle, POCAAN, Gay City, Seattle Counseling Services, Transform Washington, Pride Foundation, Gender Odyssey, Business Impact NW, Ventures NW			
Organizamos: Communidad Latina de Vashon	**$450,000**	**$450,000**	—
Description: Organizamos: Comunidad Latina de Vashon builds on the Latinx community's strengths to accelerate empowerment and propel civic actions to break multi-generational cycles of poverty and underemployment while building systems-wide actions on housing stabilization. Since there are no Latinx organizations on Vashon, they also partner with Seattle-based Latinx organizations providing expertise on organizing techniques and strategies for systems change. Their priority is to create a Latinx Community Center on Vashon.			
Partners:* Latino Community Fund, Latino Comunidad de Vashon, Entre Hermanos, Puentes, Colectiva Legal del Pueblo			
Seattle Urban Native Nonprofit (SUNN)	**$550,000**	**$550,000**	—
Description: The goal of the Seattle Urban Native Nonprofit (SUNN) partnership is to build the capacity to advocate for the Seattle Native community in the public and philanthropic sectors. SUNN is accomplishing this through leadership development, training, and collective strategic planning. The SUNN collaborative leverages Seattle Indian Health Board's Government Affairs Division to gain the expertise necessary to affect change and bring about policies that will improve the health and well-being of the Native community of greater Seattle.			
Partners:* Potlatch Fund, Seattle Indian Health Board, Na'ah Illahee Fund, Chief Seattle Club, Native Women's Dialog on Infant Mortality, Longhouse Media, Mother Nation, National Urban Indian Family Coalition, Native Action Network, Red Eagle Soaring, United Indians of All Tribes Foundation, Urban Native Education Alliance, Duwamish Tribal Services, Northwest Justice Project			
Replanting Roots, Rebuilding Community	**$500,000**	**$500,000**	—
Description: The Replanting Roots, Rebuilding Community partnership will focus on leveraging existing and planned affordable rental housing development and commercial revitalization efforts to facilitate economic opportunity and fortification of cultural institutions. These cultural hubs are mediums to preserve and restore community connections that contribute to a sense of place and belonging for the black community rooted in Seattle's Central District.			
Partners:* Umoja PEACE Center, Village Spirit Center/Black Community Impact Alliance, Africatown Center for Education & Innovation, Africatown Central District Preservation & Development Association, Cultural Reconnections, Institute for African Centered Thought			

*Partners listed at time of proposal.

Note: Public funds awarded were not awarded to undertake a prohibited activity.

Place-based partnership backbone

Award period January 1–December 31, 2018

Awardee	Total award	Funding source: Best Starts for Kids	Funding source: Seattle Foundation
Rainier Valley Partnership	**$375,000**	**$225,000**	**$150,000**
Description: Rainier Valley Partnership backbone funding, including baseline evaluation, data collection. The Rainier Valley Partnership includes more than 75 groups working collaboratively in four coalitions.			
Partners:* Homesight, MultiCultural Community Coalition, On Board Othello, Rainier Beach Action Coalition, South Communities Organizing for Racial/Regional Equity			
SeaTac/Tukwila Partnership	**$322,000**	**$172,000**	**$150,000**
Description: SeaTac/Tukwila Partnership backbone funding, including baseline evaluation, data collection.			
Partners:* Global to Local, Partner in Employment, Food Innovation Network, Housing Development Consortium, Somali Youth and Family Club, Congolese Integration Network, HealthPoint, Tukwila Community Center, Lutheran Community Services, Jewish Family Services, Kona Kai Coffee, Somali Health Board, Highline College, One America, Providence Health and Services, and Swedish Medical Group			
White Center Partnership	**$339,484**	**$189,484**	**$150,000**
Description: White Center Partnership backbone funding, including baseline evaluation, data collection.			
Partners:* White Center CDA, FEEST, SWYFS, Yes!Foundation of White Center, Village of Hope, Trusted Advocates, Partner in Employment, the White Center Food Bank, and the YWCA.			

*Partners listed at time of proposal.
Note: Public funds awarded were not awarded to undertake a prohibited activity.

Institutional systems and policy change

Award period February/March 2018–January/February 2019

Awardee	Total award	Funding source: Best Starts for Kids	Funding source: Seattle Foundation
All In For Washington	**$215,000**	**$15,000**	**$200,000**
Description: All In For Washington, in partnership with the Coalition of Immigrants and Refugees and Communities of Color (CIRCC) engages communities of color through in-language education to develop comprehensive tax policy options that bring multiple perspectives to the table.			
Partners:* Coalition of Immigrants and Refugees and Communities of Color (CIRCC)			
API Chaya	**$184,720**	**$184,720**	**—**
Description: A collaborative project to increase the influence of two-spirit, gender diverse, queer, and transgender people of color to lead grassroots movements by becoming meaningfully involved in the political process. Participants work to address issues that are specific to these communities on a local and regional level and in the neighborhoods where they live and work.			
Partners:* TRANSform Washington is a project of Pride Foundation, Gender Justice League, GOT Green, Queer and Trans Pan-African, University of Washington Queer People of Color Alliance, Queer the Land, Entre Hermanos, Somos Seattle, UTOPIA Seattle			
Casa Latina	**$112,958**	**$15,000**	**$97,958**
Description: Casa Latina ensures effective implementation of a Bill of Rights that better protects domestic workers and removes loopholes in employment laws that often exclude domestic workers.			
Chief Seattle Club	**$112,958**	**$15,000**	**$97,958**
Description: Chief Seattle Club strengthens and coordinates a coalition of organizations to address urban Native homelessness. The Coalition will ensure the voices and perspectives of American Indian/Alaska Native communities are central to homelessness prevention efforts and policies.			
Partners:* Coalition to End Urban Native Homelessness in King County			
Church Council of Greater Seattle	**$90,000**	**$15,000**	**$75,000**
Description: The Church Council is working to further mobilize grassroots, faith-based leaders to influence local affordable housing policy in South King County. Multi-faith Leadership Circles come together to promote local priorities.			
Civil Survival	**$40,000**	**$40,000**	**—**
Description: Civil Survival provides civic education and mobilizes formerly incarcerated individuals and their network of family and friends to advocate for greater participation and advocacy that results in better quality of life and outcomes, including in housing and employment.			
Communities in Action	**$37,000**	**$37,000**	**—**
Description: This project strengthens cross-sector collaborations between neighborhood organizations and the school district to promote healthy youth development in Southeast and Central Seattle to more effectively address mental health and violence issues in the community that hamper the futures of students.			
Community Justice Project	**$40,000**	**$40,000**	**—**
Description: This effort aims to transform the criminal legal system and promote policies that support the people and communities of color most impacted by violence, including increased rehabilitation rather than incarceration. It seeks to amplify the voices of crime survivors whose experiences have reinforced that punitive measures often worsen the conditions that lead to crime in the first place.			
EmPower	**$40,000**	**$21,498**	**$18,502**
Description: EmPower sustains a coalition in South King County to protect immigrant rights and offers legal support when needed, including exploring the role of Department of Justice (DOJ) Accredited Representatives.			
Federal Way Youth Action Team	**$72,400**	**$72,400**	**—**
Description: Federal Way Youth Action Team engages youth of color in policy making. This includes building youth leadership and youth voice by engaging city leaders to discuss vital issues with young people, including violence prevention approaches.			
FEEST	**$115,000**	**$115,000**	**—**
Description: FEEST is dedicated to developing youth leadership for health and food justice. Youth leaders extend their impact in South King County schools by working on policies to increase access and affordability of healthy and culturally-relevant foods.			

Awardee	Total award	Funding source: Best Starts for Kids	Funding source: Seattle Foundation
Friends of Little Saigon	**$40,000**	**$40,000**	**—**
Description: Friends of Little Saigon engages small family businesses to mitigate changes in the neighborhood and to strengthen Little Saigon in Seattle's International District as a cultural hub for the larger Vietnamese population.			
Got Green	**$65,000**	**$65,000**	**—**
Description: Got Green works to address disparities that often keep well-qualified people of color out of "green economy" internships and careers. This includes investing in fellowship programs to develop young leaders in the environmental justice movement and to advocate for measures to diversify the workforce in the environmental sector.			
Headwater People	**$91,000**	**—**	**$91,000**
Description: Headwater People worked with the current cohort of 27 policy and systems partners to develop a policy agenda. The agenda focused on priority policy areas to rapidly close racial and geographic gaps in four result areas: community connection, economic opportunity, health, and housing. Partners participated in multiple convenings to set policy direction across these focus areas.			
Ingersoll Gender Center	**$40,000**	**$40,000**	**—**
Description: This project creates a gender affirming health care policy agenda. This includes engaging stakeholders in discussions and surveys about the challenges that transgender community members have in accessing gender affirming care and medical providers have to connect them to gender affirming care.			
Open Doors of Multicultural Families	**$115,000**	**$15,000**	**$100,000**
Description: Open Doors for Multicultural Families increases opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families—many from diverse cultural or linguistic backgrounds—to engage in policy and advocacy. Identified focus areas include education, access to recreational opportunities, stable and affordable housing, and reliable paratransit.			
Para Los Niños de Highline	**$40,000**	**$40,000**	**—**
Description: Para Los Niños develops the skills of low-income Latinx residents in South King County to become emerging leaders who are advocating for the needs of the community. This includes conducting a survey of existing leaders and convening on community priorities to help develop a change campaign in 2019.			
Puget Sound Sage	**$215,000**	**$215,000**	**—**
Description: Puget Sound Sage and Transportation Choices Coalition aim to ensure communities of color, immigrants, and refugees share in and prosper from the benefits of transit, specifically Sound Transit 3. This includes representation of marginalized communities in decisions such as station location and accessibility, equitable development, and affordable housing along transit lines.			
Partners:* Transportation Choice Coalition			
Seattle Indian Health Board	**$115,000**	**$15,000**	**$100,000**
Description: Seattle Indian Health Board (SIHB) aims to bring about concrete improvements in health care access and quality for Native people. SIHB provides necessary data and analysis on proposed state legislation to reduce health disparities and ensure implementation of existing treaties.			
Somali Family Safety Task Force	**$39,875**	**$39,875**	**—**
Description: This project increases advocacy capacity among Somali parents through practical skill building. The Task Force advocates for policy changes to make public schools more accessible and effective for Somali families as well as build these skills among community members to address other community needs.			
Somali Health Board	**$215,000**	**$215,000**	**—**
Description: Nine racial/ethnic health boards have come together to establish the Community Health Board Coalition (CHBC) to strengthen social cohesion across groups by creating a joint policy agenda and ultimately positioning the CHBC as a powerful voice for health.			
Partners:*LatinX Health Board, Cambodian Health Board, Pacific Islander Health Board, Vietnamese Health Board, African-American Health Board, Iraqi/Arab Health Board, Ethiopian Health Council Health Board, Eritrean Health Board			

*Partners listed at time of proposal.
Note: Public funds awarded were not awarded to undertake a prohibited activity.

Awardee	Total award	Funding source: Best Starts for Kids	Funding source: Seattle Foundation
South King County Discipline Coalition	**$40,000**	**$40,000**	**—**
Description: This coalition harnesses the voice of parents and young people to build community power and advance policy goals and strategies that end the use of discipline practices that disproportionately affect students of color in public schools.			
Statewide Poverty Action Network	**$115,000**	**$15,000**	**$100,000**
Description: Statewide Poverty Action Network works with affected populations to document and explore alternatives to debt collection practices that can have harmful effects, particularly on people with criminal histories or who have been targets of predatory lending.			
Tenants Union of Washington State	**$90,000**	**$15,000**	**$75,000**
Description: The Tenants Union hosts community meetings to educate low-income renters about ways to address barriers to housing and to increase their leadership skills, including through the power of narratives.			
Washington Bus Education Fund	**$65,000**	**$15,000**	**$50,000**
Description: The Washington Bus Education Fund aims to engage young people in generating creative policy solutions and increasing voting rates. Keys issues for young people include access to post-secondary education and voting access.			
Washington Dreams Coalition	**$115,000**	**$115,000**	**—**
Description: Washington Dreams Coalition collaborates with youth, college students, and educators to address key barriers to the success of undocumented youth working and studying in our region. This includes developing a Task Force to build a systemic support for students.			
Washington Indian Civil Rights Commission	**$40,000**	**$40,000**	**—**
Description: The Washington Indian Civil Rights Commission builds relationships with public officials and develops leadership within the Native community through advocacy and listening events with the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families.			
Yesler Community Collaborative	**$165,000**	**$165,000**	**—**
Description: This collaborative of five organizations and connected partners works to advance multiple anti-displacement strategies. This includes development of policy issue briefs and pilot projects to increase affordable housing, support small businesses, and advance community engagement and leadership.			
Partners:* Byrd Barr Place, Africatown, Capitol Hill Housing, Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority			

Communities of Opportunity baseline evaluation

Awardee	Total award	Funding source: Best Starts for Kids	Funding source: Seattle Foundation
BDS Planning & Urban Design	**$550,000**	**—**	**$550,000**
Description: Baseline Evaluation. In 2018, Communities of Opportunity partnered with a multi-disciplinary evaluation team comprising national and local experts to work closely with partners to conduct the baseline evaluation. Partners worked with the evaluators to identify the most salient evaluation questions. The initial insights will serve as a baseline to assess existing conditions and early partner efforts toward creating racial, economic, and health equity.			
Partners:* Urban Design 4 Health, ChangeLab Solutions, HealthxDesign, Nissana Nov, Jackie St. Louis			

*Partners listed at time of proposal.
Note: Public funds awarded were not awarded to undertake a prohibited activity.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS IN 2018

Best Starts for Kids is committed to evaluating all of our strategies and programs to ensure that we are moving toward our vision of happy, healthy, safe, and thriving kids.

Results-Based Accountability (RBA)© is fundamental to Best Starts. RBA is a simple, common-sense framework that starts with the vision we are trying to achieve and works backward toward the strategies for getting there. The framework tracks the performance of Best Starts strategies, so that we know what is working and what may need adapting, through three types of performance measures:

- How much did we do?
- How well did we do it?
- Is anyone better off?

In 2018, Best Starts for Kids met with all funded partners to identify performance measures, as well as conduct data analyses with many partners.

Investments shown here are also categorized as “laying the groundwork,” “building momentum,” and/or “delivering impact,” a reflection of both the young life and complexity of the project.

- **Laying the groundwork.** Internal work required to award funding and deliver services is under way, including hiring County staff, developing requests for proposal, running request for proposal processes, and finalizing contracts with awardees.
- **Building momentum.** Awardees have contracts with King County and are beginning their work. The program may have started delivering services but performance data are not yet available.
- **Delivering impact.** In this phase, the program is actively delivering services, and there is least one-quarter of performance data from 2018 to report.

The highlighted programs and services throughout this report demonstrate the most significant strategy outcomes. The following section explains how these Best Starts for Kids outcomes are measured. 2018 reflects early implementation stages, so we focused on establishing performance measures during this time. For those investments implemented prior to 2018, you will find accompanying outcome data appropriate to the implementation stage for that particular investment.

Headline indicators: Investing early (prenatal - 5 years)

Long-term population indicators assess the well-being of all children throughout King County

Indicator	Improvement direction expected	King County population 2014	King County population 2017
Infant mortality	Decrease	4.3	3.3
Preterm birth	Decrease	8.9%	9.1%
Children who are flourishing and resilient*	Increase	not avail.	59%
Children who are ready for kindergarten†	Increase	42.3%	55.6%‡
Child abuse or neglect	Decrease	34	34.3

Secondary indicators: Investing early (prenatal - 5 years)

Supporting indicators assess the well-being of all children throughout King County

Indicator	Improvement direction expected	King County population 2014	King County population 2017
Babies who meet breastfeeding recommendations to feed exclusively to 6 months*	Increase	not avail.	36%
Pregnant women receive recommended prenatal care	Increase	71.3%	74.2%
Families who are supported*†	Increase	not avail.	75%
Children are healthy*	Increase	not avail.	92%
Parents have knowledge of child development*	Increase	not avail.	75%
Child care/preschools are high quality*†	Increase	not avail.	84%
Children receive recommended health and developmental screenings*†	Increase	not avail.	21%
Children receive needed mental and behavioral health services*	Increase	not avail.	61%
Reading and singing to children daily*†	Increase	not avail.	73%
Free from Adverse Childhood Experiences*†	Increase	not avail.	91%

*Denotes data source is Best Starts for Kids Health Survey;
†Components of "safe, stable, and nurturing relationships indicator."
‡ 2016 data. Latest available data presented for all years.
Infant mortality is rate of deaths in the first year of life per 1,000 live births.
Child abuse or neglect data are rates of investigations and assessments per 1,000 households.

Performance measures: Investing early (prenatal - 5 years)

Investment area and strategy	Stage of development	How much did we do?	How well did we do it?	Is anyone better off?
Help Me Grow (HMG)				
Phase 1: Design and Implementation (2019-2020) (draft measures)	Laying the groundwork	Number of community organizations engaged, by sector (draft) *	Percent of sectors engaged (draft) *	Percent of identified coordinated access points funded with implementation plans (draft) *
		Number of community events hosted by HMG (draft) *	Percent of participants who report intent to use HMG system (draft) *	Percent expansion of resource directory to include child welfare, BSK, and other community-identified services (draft) *
		Number of external community events attended by HMG team (draft) *		Percent of HMG Navigator positions developed and funded (draft) *
Phase 2: Continuous System Improvement (2021-2025) (draft measures)	Laying the groundwork	Number of unique families served (draft) *	Percent of families with needs met at time of engagement (draft) *	Percent of families served with long term needs met (draft) *
		Number of unique children served (draft) *	Duration of services provided (draft) *	Percent reduction in length of time between intake/screening to provider/services match (draft) *
		Number of referrals made from HMG, by type (draft) *	Percent match between concern/ delay area & service referred/linked to (draft) *	Percent reduction in family stress (draft) *
		Number of barriers – why family did not access particular service/program (draft) *	Percent satisfaction with HMG supports and services (draft) *	Percent increase in family resilience (draft) *
		Number of linkages (warm handoffs) to evaluation and supportive services (by type of services) (draft) *	Length of time from intake/ screening to provider/services match (draft) *	Percent increase in parent and caregiver social support (draft) *
		Number of changes to resource directory (draft) *	Percent of access points with aligned protocols & data systems (draft) *	Percent increase in concrete support in times of need (draft) *
				Percent increase in parent and caregiver knowledge of child development (draft) *
				Percent increase in social and emotional competence of children (draft) *
				Percent increase in families served (draft) *
				Percent of families successfully complete service utilization (draft) *

* Not Measured in 2018.

Investment area and strategy	Stage of development	How much did we do?		How well did we do it?		Is anyone better off?	
Vroom							
Community Connectors	Building momentum	Number of Latinx and Somali participants in outreach events, engagement activities, and trainings	**134**	Percent of Latinx and Somali partners reached who became Vroom Messengers	**43%**	Percent of Vroom messengers integrating Vroom into their everyday work (draft)	*
		Number of outreach events led by Latinx and Somali Vroom Community Connectors	**20**	Percent of Vroom Messengers or Parents and Caregivers who have a positive perception of Vroom (draft)	*	Percent of Vroom messengers integrating Vroom into existing programs that reach parents and caregivers (draft)	*
		Number of Latinx and Somali parents/ caregivers introduced to Vroom as a result of outreach and engagement	**79**	Percent of Vroom Messengers using Vroom one-on-one with parents/caregivers (draft)	*	Percent of Vroom messengers or caregivers using the Vroom tools to engage with children (draft)	*
Public Health Programs							
Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program	Delivering impact	Number of women identified through enhanced lab reporting	**177**	Percent of women identified through enhanced lab reporting	**68%**	Number of infants completing postexposure prophylaxis (PEP)	**258**
		Number of women enrolled before delivery	**244**	Percent of women enrolled before delivery	**94%**	Percent of infants completing postexposure prophylaxis (PEP)	**99%**
		Number of women enrolled	**259**	Percent of infants completing postvaccination serology testing	**75%**	Percent of infants who tested negative for hepatitis B	**100%**
		Number of outreach sessions held with partners	**9**				
		Number of infants completing postvaccination serology testing	**179**				
Maternity Support Services and Infant Case Management (MSS/ICM)	Delivering impact	Number of clients served by MSS/ICM	**17,403**	Number of linkages to ancillary support services	**4,195**	Percent of infants born at low birthweight (<2500 grams)	**5%**
		Visits delivered by MSS/ICM	**45,289**	Percent of total MSS/ICM provided by Public Health	**90%**		
Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP)	Delivering impact	Number of new clients served by NFP	**343**	Number of telephone calls to the mother	**460**	Child health and development outcomes: percent of children where breastfeeding was initiated	**96%**
		Number of clients served by NFP	**869**	Number of visits to the mother cancelled by the client	**1,176**	Child health and development outcomes: percent of children who received developmental screening	**93%**
				Number of visits to the mother cancelled by the nurse	**154**	Child health and development outcomes: number of children who may need further evaluation	**0**

* Not Measured in 2018.

Investment area and strategy	Stage of development	How much did we do?		How well did we do it?		Is anyone better off?	
Public Health Programs (continued)							
Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) *continued*	Delivering impact			Total visit contact time (hr)	**9,825**	Child health and development outcomes: number of children visited emergency room 1+ times for injury or ingestion (among children 0-6 months)	**1**
				Referrals to other assistance (service linkages)	**4,712**	Child health and development outcomes: number of children hospitalized 1+ times for injury or ingestion (among children 0-6)	**0**
				Average number of service linkages	**7**	Birth outcomes: Percent of infants born at low birth weight (<2500 grams)	**12%**
				Average visit length (hr)	**1**	Birth outcomes: Percent of infants born preterm	**10%**
				Number of attempted visits to the mother	**525**	Child health and development outcomes: number of children who visited urgent care 1+ times for injury or ingestion (among children 0-6 months)	**0**
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)	Delivering impact	Number of clients receiving WIC	**45,582**	Number of nutrition education services	**124,569**	Percent of infants who were breastfed >6 months, meeting recommendations	**56%**
				Number of referrals to preventive services	**34,585**	Children with Body Mass Index >95% (among children ages 2-4 years old)	**11%**
						Total food dollars for fresh fruits and vegetables	**$1,639,982**
						Total food dollars for WIC farmers market nutrition program	**$111,636**
						Total food dollars redeemed	**$27,450,160**
Family Planning Health Education	Delivering impact	Number of youth-servicing professional clients reached	**2,253**	Percent of training participants report that health education trainers 'created an effective learning environment'	**100%**	Percent of training participants increase skills	**95%**
		Number of clients reached through direct education & outreach to youth	**21,859**				
		Number of direct education sessions and outreach activities	**743**				
		Number of technical assistance & professional development services clients	**2,253**				
		Number of technical assistance & professional development services sessions	**147**				

Investment area and strategy	Stage of development	How much did we do?		How well did we do it?		Is anyone better off?	
Public Health Programs (continued)							
Family Planning Services	Delivering impact	Number of clients served by Family Planning Services	**5,104**	Percent of clients on a more effective contraceptive method	**85%**	Number of abortions prevented	**350**
				Percent of contraceptive users	**95%**	Number of chlamydia infections prevented	**70**
						Number of unintended pregnancies prevented	**1,040**
						Number of unplanned births prevented	**490**
						Number of unplanned preterm/ low-birth-weight births prevented	**60**
						Total dollars of net savings	**$6,534,320**
Kids Plus	Delivering impact	Number of children served by Kids Plus	**197**	Percent of children receiving a developmental screening or linked to early intervention	**51%**	Number of children and adults in permanent housing/positive destination	**64%**
		Number of adults served by Kids Plus	**132**				
		Number of clients (adults and children) served by Kids Plus	**329**				
		Number of households served by Kids Plus	**97**				
Home-Based Services							
Evidence Based and Evidence Informed Home Visiting	Delivering impact	Number of families served	**287**	Families enrolled from focus populations	**97%**	Infants who were breastfed any amount at 6 months of age	**66%**
		Number of children screened using Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)	**193**	Primary caregivers who receive an observation of caregiver-child interaction using a validated tool	**76%**	Mothers who initiated breastfeeding	**89%**
		Number of visits completed	**3,007**	Children with a timely screen for developmental delays using ASQ	**76%**	Families connected to services based on a referral	**84%**
				Enrolled clients that received the model recommended number of home visits during the report period	**82%**		
Parent-Child Home Program (PCHP)	Delivering impact	Number of children served by PCHP	**1,272**	Percent of PCHP staff receiving twice annual coordinator observations and debriefs	**100%**	Percent of children who met target Child Behavior Traits (CBT) assessment score of 3 at beginning of the program	**13%**
		Number of referrals to support services	**870**	Percent of PCHP families completing year 1	**96%**	Percent of children who met target CBT score of 3 at the end of the program	**77%**
		Number of visits completed by PCHP	**52,869**	Percent of PCHP families completing year 2	**94%**	Percent of parents/caregivers who met target Parent and Child Together (PACT) assessment score of 3 at beginning of the program	**26%**

Investment area and strategy	Stage of development	How much did we do?		How well did we do it?		Is anyone better off?	
Home-Based Services (continued)							
Parent-Child Home Program (PCHP) *continued*	Delivering impact			Percent of PCHP families receiving required dosage of visits	**100%**	Percent of parents/caregivers who met target PACT score of 3 at the end of the program	**82%**
				Percent of PCHP partner organizations maintaining appropriate supervisor-to-staff ratios	**100%**		
				Percent of PCHP children transitioning to other early learning settings	**98%**		
				Percent of PCHP families matched with culturally relevant staff	**86%**		
Community-Designed Home-Based Programs and Practices	Laying the groundwork	In development		In development		In development	
Community-Based Parenting and Peer Supports							
Basic Needs Resource Brokering	Delivering impact	Number of families receiving Good Food Bags	**2,216**	Percent of survey respondents who think program is a good way to increase healthy food access	**99%**	Percent of providers who report that having basic items improved their ability to work with families (draft)	*
		Number of Good Food Bags distributed	**19,364**	Percent of survey respondents who report usually using all fruits and vegetables in Good Food Bag	**86%**	Percent of survey respondents who report food security in the past 12 months	**29%**
		Number of sites participating in Good Food Bag program	**42**	Percent of survey respondents who rate overall experience with Good Food Bags as excellent	**65%**	Percent of survey respondents who report positive effects of Good Food Bags for their children	**95%**
		Number of children and youth for whom partners request and receive resources	**14,484**	Percent of households served who are experiencing homelessness	**10%**	Percent of survey respondents who report eating more fruits and vegetables	**93%**
		Number of partner agencies, programs, and program sites requesting and receiving resources	**551**	Percent of households served with disabled primary caregiver	**3%**		
				Percent of households served with unemployed primary caregiver	**36%**		
				Percent of households served who are low income	**81%**		
				Percent of partner agencies sustaining partnership with resource broker over one year	**98%**		
				Percent of requested orders that are filled	**100%**		

* Not Measured in 2018.

Investment area and strategy	Stage of development	How much did we do?		How well did we do it?		Is anyone better off?	
Community-Based Parenting and Peer Supports (continued)							
Kaleidoscope Play and Learn	Delivering impact	Number of children, parents, and caregivers attending Kaleidoscope Play & Learn Groups (unduplicated)	**10,483**	Percent increase in participation (number of people attending) in Kaleidoscope Play & Learn Groups	**26%**	Percent of parents and caregivers who read, look at books, or tell stories with the child in their care	**80%**
				Percent increase in access (number of groups available) in Kaleidoscope Play & Learn Groups	**27%**	Percent of parents and caregivers who feel supported as a parent or caregiver in their community	**88%**
				Percent of parents and caregivers who identify as People of Color	**77%**	Percent of parents and caregivers who understand their role in helping the child in their care be ready for kindergarten	**80%**
				Percent of parents and caregivers who identify as Female	**91%**		
				Percent of parents and caregivers who are low-income	**45%**		
				Percent of parents and caregivers with a primary home language other than English	**62%**		
				Percent of child participants who are 2 years old or younger	**63%**		
Parenting Caregiver Information and Support	Delivering impact	In development		In development		In development	
Prenatal Support Services and Breastfeeding Peer Counseling	Delivering impact	In development		In development		In development	
Developmental Promotion/Early Supports							
Promoting Development	Delivering impact + laying the groundwork	Number of providers trained to administer the Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) and/or ASQ-SE	**460**	Percent of providers who reported feeling more prepared to administer the ASQ/ASQ-SE following the training	**86%**	Percent of providers who reported an increase in developmental screening following the training	*
				Percent of providers who reported feeling prepared or very prepared to administer the ASQ/ASQ-SE	**94%**		
Early Supports for Infants and Toddlers	Delivering impact	Number of children provided services	**5,157**	Percent of children with evaluation and service plan in place within 45 days from initial contact	**91%**	Percent of children with progress in taking action to meet needs	**73%**
				Percent of children with service start within 30 days	**97%**	Percent of children with progress in positive social/ emotional development	**71%**
				Percent of children with transition meeting at least 90 days prior to child turning 3 to determine eligibility for school services	**95%**	Percent of children with progress acquiring knowledge/ skills	**73%**

* Not Measured in 2018.

Investment area and strategy	Stage of development	How much did we do?		How well did we do it?		Is anyone better off?	
Child Care Health Consultation							
Service Delivery	Delivering impact	Number of providers served by child care health consultant teams	**518**	Percent of awardees covering child-caregiver relationships in trainings and consultations	**100%**	Percent of providers that increased their knowledge of consultation topics, training topics, and community resources	*
		Number of services provided by child care health consultant teams	**774**	Percent of awardees covering communicable disease prevention in trainings and consultations	**100%**	Percent of providers that increased their ability to implement strategies that enhance the health and safety of the child care environment	*
		Number of child care sites served by child care health consultant teams	**282**	Percent of awardees covering community resources and referrals in trainings and consultations	**100%**		
				Percent of awardees covering developmental screening, early identification and referrals in trainings and consultations	**100%**		
				Percent of awardees covering early brain development and milestones in trainings and consultations	**100%**		
				Percent of awardees covering handwashing, diapering, toileting in trainings and consultations	**71%**		
				Percent of awardees covering health and emergency policies in trainings and consultations	**71%**		
				Percent of awardees covering healthy and safe environments in trainings and consultations	**100%**		
				Percent of awardees covering immunization and well child schedules in trainings and consultations	**71%**		
				Percent of awardees covering medication management in trainings and consultations	**71%**		
				Percent of awardees covering mental/behavioral health and social-emotional development in trainings and consultations	**100%**		
				Percent of awardees covering nutrition in trainings and consultations	**86%**		

* Not Measured in 2018.

Investment area and strategy	Stage of development	How much did we do?		How well did we do it?		Is anyone better off?	
Child Care Health Consultation (continued)							
Service Delivery *continued*	Delivering impact			Percent of awardees covering physical activity and outdoor time in trainings and consultations	**100%**		
				Percent of awardees covering program health and safety assessment in trainings and consultations	**71%**		
				Percent of awardees covering safe sleep in trainings and consultations	**86%**		
				Percent of awardees covering toxics in trainings and consultations	**57%**		
				Percent of awardees covering working with children with special healthcare needs in trainings and consultations	**86%**		
				Percent of providers that are satisfied with the services they received	*		
Systems Development	Building momentum	Number of child care system development engagement activities	**28**	Percent of participants who speak a language other than English	**14%**	Percent of participants who rate experience highly	*
		Number of participants in engagement activities	**456**	Percent of participants who identify as People of Color	**22%**		
		Number of action items identified for early win and LEAN projects	**5**	Types of needs, priorities, barriers, goals, and ideas identified (qualitative measure)	**		
				Percent of action items completed	**60%**		
Workforce Development							
Workforce Development	Laying the groundwork	In development		In development		In development	
Innovation Fund							
Innovation Fund	Building momentum	In development		In development		In development	

* Not Measured in 2018.

**Main theme: researching compliance and licensing information

Headline indicators: Sustaining the gain (5 – 24 years)

Long-term population indicators assess the well-being of all youth and young adults throughout King County

Indicator	Improvement direction expected	King County population 2014	King County population 2017
3rd graders who meet reading standard	Increase	61.7%	64.1%
4th graders who meet math standard	Increase	63.9%	62.8%
Youth who are flourishing and resilient*	Increase	not avail.	30%
Youth and young adults who are in excellent or very good health*	Increase	not avail.	86%
Youth who graduate from high school on-time	Increase	79.8%	82.2%
Youth and young adults in school or working	Increase	89%	93%
High school graduates who earn a college degree or career credential**	Increase	Range across KC districts: high: 77% low: 37%	high: 78% low: 38%
Youth not using illegal substances	Increase	75%	76%‡

Secondary indicators: Sustaining the gain (5 – 24 years)

Supporting indicators assess the well-being of all youth and young adults throughout King County

Indicator	Improvement direction expected	King County population 2014	King County population 2017
Rate of adolescent births	Decrease	4.7	2.7
Youth have supportive adults*	Increase	75%	75%‡
Youth believe in their ability to succeed	Increase	48%	49%‡
Youth are not chronically absent from school	Increase	86.5%	86.1%§
Youth are getting good grades in school	Increase	79%	82%‡
Youth are completing 9th grade	Increase	73.6%	82.7%§
Young adults participate in civic activity and are engaged	Increase	53%	75%#
Justice system involved youth^	Decrease	1,746	1,278
Youth have positive social-emotional development*	Increase	not avail.	77%
Youth are not suspended/expelled from school	Increase	2.7%	2.2%‡
Youth are physically active	Increase	22%	21%‡
Youth live in supportive neighborhoods*	Increase	not avail.	84%

*Data source is Best Starts for Kids Health Survey.

**2014 data shows percent of graduates of the class of 2006 who have earned credentials by 2014 and 2017 data shows rate of credentials earned by class of 2009. Data are available at only the statewide and school district level; King County value shows the range for school districts within KC.

‡ 2016 data. § 2015 data. # 2018 data. Latest available data presented for all years.

^Justice system involved youth: Counts of filings per year.

Data year listed for academic data reflects academic year.

BSKHS data for "Youth live in supportive neighborhoods" reflects all ages 6 mos - 5th grade.

Secondary indicators under development for youth with strong family relationships, strong peer relationships, strong school relationships.

Performance measures: Sustaining the gain (5 – 24 years)

Investment area and strategy	Stage of development	How much did we do?		How well did we do it?		Is anyone better off?	
Youth Development							
General	Delivering impact	Number of youth and young adults enrolled	**2,355**	Percent of enrolled youth and young adults engaged in services (ongoing long term services)	*	Percent of youth and young adults feeling hopeful and optimistic about the future (ongoing long term services)	*
				Percent of enrolled youth and young adults that successfully complete services (services with start/end date)	*	Percent of youth and young adults feeling hopeful and optimistic about the future (services with start/end date)	*
Relationships	Delivering impact	Number of youth and young adults enrolled	**1,518**	Percent of enrolled youth and young adults engaged in services (ongoing long term services)	*	Percent of youth and young adults reporting increased knowledge skills related to healthy relationships	*
				Percent of enrolled youth and young adults that successfully complete services (services with start/end date)	*		
School Partnerships							
Trauma-Informed and Restorative Practices in School Environments (TIRP)	Building momentum	Number of people participating in TIRP programs	*	Percent of participants who adopted trauma-informed practices/behavior (draft)	*	Percent of students with improved attendance	*
				Percent of participants who increased their TIRP competencies, knowledge or skills (draft)	*	Percent of schools with improved school climate and culture	*
				Percent of participants who feel more connected, valued and/or safe (draft)	*	Percent of youth with strengthened sense of self, identity and empowerment	*
Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Services (SBIRT) (Academic year 2018-2019 performance measures)	Building momentum	Percent of Learning Collaborative meetings attended by each interventionist	*	Percent of Tier 2, 3 youth at screening who received at least 1 BI meeting	*	Percent of interventionists reporting improvements in SBIRT-SB Learning Competencies	*
		Number students opted out by their caregiver	*	Number of youth given a referral that connected to the service	*	Impacts on youth outcomes, including preventing or delaying the onset of substance use and increasing school connection. These measures will be finalized pending evaluation results from Year 1. (draft)	*
		Percent of youth screened at SBIRT-SB middle schools	*				
		Number of youth who received at least 1 BI meeting	*				
		Number of referrals made by type, status	*				

* Not Measured in 2018.

Investment area and strategy	Stage of development	How much did we do?		How well did we do it?		Is anyone better off?	
School Partnerships (continued)							
Out of School Time (OST)	Delivering impact	Average number of youth served daily (Jan-June)	**627**	Number of OST awardees participating in quality supports	**45%**	Number of OST awardees with gains in one or more Social-Emotional Learning Program Quality Assessment areas of focus	**88%**
		Average number of youth served daily (June-Aug)	**829**				
		Average number of youth served daily (Sept-Dec)	**908**				
		Number of youth served by program (Jan-June)	**1,030**				
		Number of youth served by program (June-August)	**1,189**				
		Number of youth served by program (Sept-Dec)	**1,569**				
School-Based Health Centers (SBHC)	Delivering impact	Number of unduplicated students who used medical and mental health SBHC services	**1,025**	Percent of SBHC users who received a standardized risk assessment	**29%**	Percent of SBHC users with less than 10 absences per school year	*
		Number of SBHC visits for medical and mental health services	**5,732**	Percent of SBHC users who screen positive for depression and who receive mental health counseling	**38%**	Percent of SBHC users who are passing all classes	*
				Percent of SBHC users who screen positive for drug/alcohol issues who receive a brief intervention and/or referral to services as appropriate (SBIRtS)	**26%**		
Transitions to Adulthood							
Behavioral Health Services at Youth Re-engagement Centers	Delivering impact	Number of youth and young adults screened	**258**	Percent of youth and young adults with an individual service plan within 30 days of enrollment into services	*	Percent of youth and young adults with reduced substance use and/or clinically improved depression and anxiety	*
				Percent of youth and young adults making progress towards their service plan during the quarter	*		
Work Training Education	Delivering impact	Number of youth and young adults enrolled	**288**	Percent of youth and young adults assessed within 30 days of enrollment	*	Percent of youth and young adults that stay in school or graduate	*
						Percent of youth and young adults enrolling into college or advanced training	*
Work Training Employment	Delivering impact	Number of youth and young adults enrolled	**60**	Percent of youth and young adults completing training (4 or 11 weeks)	*	Percent of youth and young adults gaining employment or entering post-secondary education	*
				Percent of youth and young adults gaining employment that make $20 per hour or more	*		

* Not Measured in 2018.

Investment area and strategy	Stage of development	How much did we do?		How well did we do it?		Is anyone better off?	
Transitions to Adulthood (continued)							
Career Launch Pad	Delivering impact	Number of youth and young adults enrolled	**219**	Number of youth and young adults who completed job readiness training	**95**	Number of youth and young adults placed into employment	**43**
						Number of youth and young adults making $12+ per hour	**40**
Peer Connectors Project	Delivering impact	Number of youth and young adults referred to the program	**612**			Percent of youth and young adults who re-engaged in school or employment	**35%**
Family and Community Connections							
Adolescent Immunization Improvement Partnership	Laying the groundwork	In development		In development		In development	
Healthy and Safe Environments	Delivering impact	Number of people trained	**2,293**	Number of connections made or strengthened	**180**	Number of people who are potentially better off from new or improved policies or environments	**>120,000**
		Number of trainings or workshops	**125**	Number of new or improved systems and/or environments	**341**	Number of policies changed	**4**
Family Engagement	Laying the groundwork	Number caregiver calls each month	*	Percent of caregivers who rate Kinship staff's sensitivity to their culture/ ethnicity as "good" or "excellent"	*	Percent of caregivers who indicated on survey that they "definitely" felt better able to continue as a caregiver as a result of their contact with the navigator/kinship services	*
		Percent of caregivers receiving services from Kent Navigator and Seattle Navigator	*	Percent of caregivers who felt the kinship services helped their situation "a lot"	*		
		Number of caregivers and youth participating in kinship activities/events	*				
Stopping the School to Prison Pipeline							
Community Supports	Delivering impact	Number of youth and young adults enrolled	**601**	Percent of enrolled youth and young adults that were assessed three sessions after enrollment	**75%**	Percent of youth and young adults achieving goal upon program completion	*
				Percent of enrolled youth and young adults with a service plan six sessions after enrollment	**68%**		
Mentoring	Delivering impact	Number of youth enrolled	**23**	Percent receiving case management for three months or more	**	Percent of youth that stay in school or graduate	**
		Percent mentoring hours 12+	**	Percent timely assessment	**	Percent improved score	**
Outreach and Case Management	Delivering impact	Number of youth and young adults screened	**466**	Percent of all enrolled youth and young adults who made progress towards their service plan during at least one quarter of the calendar year	**35%**		
		Number of new youth and young adults enrolled	**193**	Percent of youth and young adults achieving a short-term outcome per their service/goal plan	*		

* Not Measured in 2018.

** Being revised in 2018.

Investment area and strategy	Stage of development	How much did we do?		How well did we do it?		Is anyone better off?	
Stopping the School to Prison Pipeline (continued)							
Theft 3 and Mall Safety (T3AMS)	Delivering impact	Number of youth contacted through outreach services	**85**	Percent of youth that made progress towards their service plan during at least one quarter	**80%**	Percent of youth achieving (service plan) goal upon program completion	*
		Number of youth who enrolled in the program after being offered outreach services	**22**				
Project SCOPE	Delivering impact	Number of youth and young adults enrolled	**57**	Number of youth and young adults making progress toward a high school diploma or GED	**22**	Number of youth and young adults gaining employment and/ or attending college at program completion	*
				Number of youth and young adults completing internships/unsubsidized employment placements	**10**		
				Number of youth and young adults placed in an internship	**6**		
CEDAR Program	Delivering impact	Number of eligible youth referred	*	Percent with 30 days or less between arraignment and Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT) assessment	*	Percent of youth with lower disposition recommendation, further reduced charges, or a dismissal of charges	*
		Number of eligible cases referred	*	Percent of eligible youth that receive accelerated plea offer, PACT, and case staffing (community-based intervention plan)	*		
Rebuild the Village/Credible Messengers	Delivering impact	Number of credible messengers trained	**67**	In development		In development	

* Not Measured in 2018.

Performance measures: Youth and family homelessness prevention initiative

Investment area and strategy	Stage of development	How much did we do?		How well did we do it?		Is anyone better off?	
Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention Initiative (YFHPI)							
Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention Initiative (YFHPI)	Delivering impact	Number of clients served through YFPHI	**7,134**	Average amount of financial assistance needed per household receiving it	**$1,938**	Number of exits to permanent housing	**1,073**
		Number of households served through YFPHI	**2,357**			Percentage of households exiting YFPHI that remain stably housed within 6 months	**94%**
		Number of children under the age of 18 served through YFPHI	**4,075**				

Cross-cutting changes, successes, and challenges reported by partners

(Prenatal to 24; majority of investments in contract for at least three months in 2018)

Topic	Definition
Over the past six months, what changes (if any) have you made to your program or organization to better serve children, youth, families, or communities?	
Program improvement:	Types of changes made to programs to improve a certain aspect of program planning, implementation, delivery, management, or sustainability
Organizational partnership:	Developing partnerships with other organizations who are working towards similar outcomes or have shared goals
Program expansion:	Description of ways program has been expanded to reach more people or provide new services
Staff development:	Staff are hired, trained, or use/apply new skills or knowledge (beyond attending a training) that increases their capacity to do work well
Equity:	Program is addressing or participants are experiencing systemic or interpersonal oppression or discrimination related to race, ethnicity, language, immigration status, gender, sexual orientation, or other forms of identity.
Please highlight one major success from your program over the past 6 months (something that you feel was a great help to accomplishing your program goals).	
Organizational partnership:	Developing partnerships with other organizations who are working towards similar outcomes or have shared goals
Community engagement:	Soliciting information or feedback from families and community members who may or may not be receiving services (weighting applied to indicate # of people if this info is offered)
Program improvement:	Types of changes made to programs to improve a certain aspect of program planning, implementation, delivery, management, or sustainability
Staff development:	Staff are hired, trained, or use/apply new skills or knowledge (beyond attending a training) that increases their capacity to do work well
Program delivery:	Discussion of delivering intended services or programming among focus community
Please highlight one major challenge from your program over the past 6 months (something that you feel was a great barrier to accomplishing your program goals).	
anizational partnership:	Developing partnerships with other organizations who are working towards similar outcomes or have shared goals
Staff development:	Staff are hired, trained, or use/apply new skills or knowledge (beyond attending a training) that increases their capacity to do work well
Recruitment and outreach:	Successes, challenges, and/or strategies related to recruiting families/youth/participants in terms of identifying clients and doing outreach to prospective clients
Time:	Mention of lack of time, abundance of time, or aspect of work being too time consuming
Staff capacity, retention, and turnover:	Pertains to efforts to or challenges with staff capacity, retaining staff, or discussions of staff turnover
Over the past six months, did you/your organization make progress towards changing a policy, system, or environment as a result of your BSK program? If so, please describe.	
Policy:	Providing education to inform policies and procedures at different levels (program/organization/ neighborhood/community/countywide) that may lead to system changes
Organizational partnership:	Developing partnerships with other organizations who are working towards similar outcomes or have shared goals
Systems:	Pertains to systems working in new ways at different levels (program/organization/ neighborhood/ community/countywide) that relate to achieving outcomes, and sustaining that change.
Environment:	Pertains to environmental changes at different levels (program/organization/ neighborhood/community/ countywide) that relate to achieving outcomes
Equity:	Program is addressing or participants are experiencing systemic or interpersonal oppression or discrimination related to race, ethnicity, language, immigration status, gender, sexual orientation, or other forms of identity.

Note: Table represents commonly reported items from semi-annual narrative reports submitted by Best Starts for Kids partners.

Headline indicators: Place-based & cultural communities

Original Place-Based Sites

Indicator	Improvement Direction Expected	King County population 2014	King County population 2017	Rainier Valley 2014	Rainier Valley 2017	SeaTac/Tukwila 2014	SeaTac/Tukwila 2017	White Center 2014	White Center 2017
Health									
Life Expectancy (number of years)	Increase	81.8	81.7	80.2	81.3	80.0	79.1	79.5	79.4
Adults Not Participating in Leisure-Time Physical Activity (percent)	Decrease	16.2	15.3	24.4	20.2	29.1	23.9	22.3	18.1
Housing									
Households paying less than 30% of income on housing (percent)	Increase	64.0	68.7	53.2	58.3	51.5	54.1	50.2	57.2
Households paying less than 50% of income on housing (percent)	Increase	85.2	87.5	81.2	80.7	82.8	82.9	76.8	78.1
Economic Opportunity									
Households with income below 200% of Federal Poverty Level (percent)	Decrease	24.3	22.2	40.4	37.2	46.7	41.5	46.5	39.0
Youth, Age 16-24 in School/Employed (percent)	Increase	88.5	90.9	90.3	92.0	79.8	84.2	79.8	84.2
Community Connection									
Adolescents with an adult they can talk with (percent)	Increase	75.7	76.2	65.4	64.7	63.8	67.5	53.1	64.5
Composite of Eight Indicators									
Composite of Life expectancy, rates of diabetes, obesity, smoking, unemployment, poor housing conditions and living below 200% of poverty	Decrease	105.2	98.7	128.0	113.7	152.9	134.0	162.5	144.2

NOTES:

1. Data year listed: The year 2014 reflects numbers averaged from 2010-2014. The year 2017 reflects numbers averaged from 2013-2017.
2. Data specific to transgender residents are not available.
3. Involuntary displacement indicator:
   Rates of involuntary displacement are not currently available. COO is working with partners to identify novel data sources to expand our ability to track involuntary displacement.
   Work to date includes three ongoing efforts:
   - Neighborhood assessment of displacement risk. Data sets include census and/or assessor data to classify neighborhoods into stages of development and stages of gentrification.
   - Assessment of social distance between current residents of a neighborhood and households who have arrived within the last year. Comparisons may include a number of social and demographic characteristics.
   - Identification of new data sources.
4. Composite Index: The composite is the sum of eight indicators included in the original composite used to select COO target geographic areas.
5. Community Connections data is 2014 and 2016

New place-based and cultural communities*

Indicator	Improvement Direction Expected	King County population 2014	King County population 2017	Central Seattle 2017	Kent 2017	Snoqualmie North Bend Skykomish 2017	Latino Community (South KC) 2017	AIAN 2017
Health								
Life Expectancy (number of years)	Increase	81.8	81.7	81.7	79.2	81.8	83.7	74.5
Adults Not Participating in Leisure-Time Physical Activity (percent)	Decrease	16.2	15.3	12.7	20.7	13.1	24.1	21.0
Housing								
Households paying less than 30% of income on housing (percent)	Increase	64.0	68.7	63.5	59.6	72.5	52.6	61.3
Households paying less than 50% of income on housing (percent)	Increase	85.2	87.5	83.7	82.9	89.6	81.4	79.2
Economic Opportunity								
Households with income below 200% of Federal Poverty Level (percent)	Decrease	24.3	22.2	27.2	33.2	9.8	49.1	40.7
Youth, Age 16-24 in School/Employed (percent)	Increase	88.5	90.9	93.5	87.1	Not availble	81.1	79.3
Community Connection								
Adolescents with an adult they can talk with (percent)	Increase	75.7	76.2	74.7	71.4	Not available	64.3	71.4
Composite of Eight Indicators								
Composite of Life expectancy, rates of diabetes, obesity, smoking, unemployment, poor housing conditions and living below 200% of poverty	Decrease	105.2	98.7	34.6	120.3	37.6	Not available	Not available

*Baseline data starts in 2017, direclty prior to when COO investments began in these new sites.

NOTES:

1. Data year listed: The year 2014 reflects numbers averaged from 2010-2014. The year 2017 reflects numbers averaged from 2013-2017.
2. Data specific to transgender residents are not available.
3. Involuntary displacement indicator:
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Communities of Opportunity 2018 Performance Measures

Reporting Period: January 2018 - September 2018

	Capacity Building Events		Community Events		TOTAL	
Number Of	**Events**	**Participants**	**Events**	**Participants**	**Events**	**Participants**
Place-based and Cultural Community Partnerships	28	1,716	70	11,619		
Workforce Development	13	1,474	-	-		
Systems & Policy Change Partners	40	1,661	75	2,884		
Total	**81**	**4,851**	**145**	**14,503**	**226**	**19,354**

*Total number of participants in events may include duplicates. Excluded counts for one large, regional rally.

	New organizational relationships developed	Organizational relationships strengthened
Place-based and Cultural Community Partnerships	29	60
Systems & Policy Change Partners	62	124
Total	**91**	**226**

Residents in Leadership roles within communities and across King County

Adults	179
Youth	85
Total	**264**

BEST STARTS FOR KIDS COMMUNITY PARTNERS

> “Our staff love Best Starts for Kids because of the opportunity it gave immigrant and refugee residents of King County. Getting advice from a technical advisor who was once a refugee himself was phenomenal. Best Starts gave us more hope.”
>
> — Faduma Ahmed, *Director of Planning & Development, Bridging Cultural Gaps*

Best Starts for Kids encourages collaboration and partnership between organizations. While this list reflects the primary agencies holding contracts with Best Starts for Kids, many others carry out the work in partnership with these organizations.

4 Culture/Creative Justice
ACE Academy
Africatown
Alliance for Gun Responsibility
Allison Metz LLC
Alternative Consulting One
ANEW
API Chaya
Art with Heart
Arts Corps
Asian Counseling and Referral Service
Atlantic Street Center
Auburn School District
Auburn Youth Resources
Balance In Breath, LLC
Bella’s Creative Learning Center
Bellevue Boys & Girls Club
Bellevue School District
Bellevue Schools Foundation
Bellevue YMCA
Birth to Three Developmental Center
Black Star Line African Family Educational Collective
Boyer Children’s Clinic
Boys & Girls Club of King County
Briana Herman-Brand
Bridging Cultural Gaps
Cardea Services
Cascade Middle School
Catholic Community Services
Center for Ethical Leadership
Center for Human Services
Center for MultiCultural Health for Asian Pacific Islander Coalition Advocating Together (APICAT)
Central Area Youth Association
Centro Rendu of St. Vincent de Paul
Cham Refugees Community
Child Care Resources
Childhaven
Children’s Home Society of Washington
Children’s Therapy Center
ChildStrive
Chinese Information and Service Center
City of Renton — Recreation and Neighborhoods Division
City of Shoreline
City of Tukwila
City Year Seattle/King County
Coalition for Refugees from Burma
Communities in Schools of Renton
Communities in Schools of Seattle
Community Cafe Collaborative
Community Network Council
Community Passageways
Congolese Integration Network
Crisis Connections
DAWN — Domestic Abuse Women’s Network
Delridge Neighborhoods Development Association
Denise Louie Education Center
Dick Scobee Elementary School
Dispute Resolution Center of King County
Divine Alternative for Dads Services
East African Community Services
Eastside Baby Corner
Eastside Pathways
El Centro de la Raza
Emerging Design Consulting LLC
Empowering Youth & Families Outreach
Encompass
Enumclaw School District
Enumclaw School District — J.J. Smith Birth to Five Center
Experimental Education Unit

Families of Color Seattle
Family Conversations
Family Works
Federal Way Public Schools
Filipino Community of Seattle
First Five Years & Beyond
Food Empowerment Education Sustainability Team (FEEST)
Friends of the Children
Friends of Youth
Gage Academy of Art
Geeking out Kids of Color (GoKic)
Gender Diversity
Glover Empower Mentoring
Good Shepherd Youth Outreach
Goodwill
Greater Maple Valley Community Center
Greenplay Northwest
HealthPoint
Hearing, Speech & Deaf Center
Highline Public Schools
HopeCentral Pediatrics and Behavioral Health
Horn of Africa Services
India Association of Western Washington
Inspirational Workshops
Institute for Community Leadership
Intercultural Children and Family Services
Interim Community Development Association
International Community Health Services
Iraqi Community Center of Washington
Journeymen Institute
Kaiser Permanente
Kent School District
Kent Youth & Family Services
Kids Quest
Kindering
King County Sexual Assault Resource Center
Korean Community Services Center
Lake Washington School District
Lambert House
Latino Community Fund of Washington
Life Enrichment Group
LifeWire
Listen and Talk
Living Well Kent
Luther Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church of Seattle
Mentoring Urban Students and Teens
ML Whalen Consulting LLC
Mother Africa
Multi-Service Center
Na'ah Illahee Fund
National Center for Restorative Justice
Native Women in Need
Navos
NeighborCare Health
Neighborhood House
New Horizons
North Seattle College
Northshore School District
Northshore Youth & Family Services
Northwest Center
NW School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Open Arms Perinatal Services
Open Doors for Multicultural Families
Para Los Niños de Highline
Parent Trust for Washington Children
Partner in Employment
Partners at Lowell
Partners for Our Children
Partners In Education Reform and Student Success
POCAAN
Powerful Voices
Puentes: Advocacy, Counseling, & Education
Puget Sound Educational Service District
Rainier Beach Action Coalition
Rainier Valley Corps
Refugee Women's Alliance
Renton Area Youth & Family Services
Renton School District
Renton School District–Dimmitt Middle School
Renton School District–Hazelwood Elementary School
Restorative Justice Center of the NW LLC
Restore, Assemble, Produce
Rethinking Schools
Riverton Park United Methodist Church
Ryther
Safe Futures
School's Out Washington
Sea Mar Community Health Center
Seattle Cares Mentoring Movement
Seattle Children's Hospital — Odessa Brown Children's Clinic
Seattle Children's PlayGarden
Seattle Education Access
Seattle Indian Health Board
Seattle King County NAACP
Seattle Parks and Recreation

Seattle Public Schools
Seattle Public Schools — Orca K-8
Seneca Family of Agencies
Shoreline Public Schools
Shunpike
Sisters in Common
Skykomish School District
Skyway Solutions
Snoqualmie Valley Community Network
Snoqualmie Valley School District
SnoValley Tilth
Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Somali Doulas Northwest
Somali Family Safety Task Force
Somali Health Board
Somali Youth & Family Club
Sound Discipline
Sound
South Seattle Women's Health Foundation
Southeast Youth & Family Services
Southwest Youth & Family Services
St. Vincent de Paul — Centro Rendu
Stay and Play Learning Center PHZ 2
STEM Paths Innovation Network
Street Yoga
Swedish Health Services
Tahoma School District
TeamChild
Techbridge Girls
The Arc of King County
The Athena Group, LLC
The Austin Foundation
The DOVE Project
The Imagine Institute
The Joseph Project
The Mockingbird Society
The Northwest Network
The Passian Center Overseer & Successors
The Seattle Foundation
Therapeutic Health Services
Thrive by Five Washington
Tilth Alliance
Tiny Trees Preschool
Trail Youth
Treehouse
Tukwila School District
United Indians of All Tribes Foundation
United Way of King County
University of Washington
University of Washington School of Nursing
University of Washington School of Public Health — Department of Epidemiology and Northwest Center for Public Health Practice
University of Washington School of Social Work
University of Washington Survey Research Division
University Tutors for Seattle Schools
Unleash The Brilliance
Upower
Urban Family Center Association
Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle
Urban Native Education Alliance
Vashon Island School District
Vashon Youth & Family Services
Vietnamese Friendship Association
Voices of Tomorrow
WA-BLOC
Walk Away City Collaborative
WAPI Community Services
Washington Association for Infant Mental Health
Washington Autism Alliance & Advocacy
Washington State Charter School Association
WeAPP
Wellspring Family Services
West African Community Council
WestED
Westside Baby
White Center Community Development Association
White Water Aquatic Management
WithinReach
Wonderland Developmental Center
World Mind Creation Academy
World Relief Seattle
YMCA of Greater Seattle
Young Women Empowered
Youth Eastside Services
YouthCare
YWCA Seattle, King County, Snohomish
Zeno

COMMUNITIES OF OPPORTUNITY PARTNERS

Best Starts for Kids invests in Communities of Opportunity, a community-led initiative catalyzed by King County and the Seattle Foundation. While this list reflects the primary agencies holding contracts with Communities of Opportunity, many others work in partnership with these organizations.

Community partnerships — place-based and cultural communities

Community Network Council
Global to Local
HomeSight
Hopelink
Ingersoll Gender Center
Latino Community Fund
Potlatch Fund
Umoja PEACE Center
White Center Community Development Association

Institutional systems and policy change

All In For Washington
API Chaya
Casa Latina
Chief Seattle Club
Church Council of Greater Seattle
Civil Survival
Communities in Action
Community Justice Project
EmPower
Federal Way Youth Action Team
Food Empowerment Education Sustainability Team (FEEST)
Friends of Little Saigon
Got Green
Ingersoll Gender Center
Open Doors of Multicultural Families
Para Los Niños de Highline
Puget Sound Sage
Seattle Indian Health Board
Somali Family Safety Task Force
Somali Health Board
South King County Discipline Coalition
Statewide Poverty Action Network
Tenants Union of Washington State
Washington Bus Education Fund
Washington Dreams Coalition
Washington Indian Civil Rights Commission
Yesler Community Collaborative

Evaluation, policy cohort, and philanthropic partners

BDS Planning & Urban Design
Futurewise
Headwater People
Seattle Foundation
Story 2 Design

Making King County a welcoming community where *every* person can thrive.

Best Starts for Kids

Best Starts for Kids strengthens families and communities so that babies are born healthy, children thrive and establish a strong foundation for life, and young people grow into happy, healthy adults.

MIDD Behavioral Health Sales Tax Fund

MIDD supports equitable opportunities for health, wellness, connection to community, and recovery for King County residents living with or at risk of behavioral health conditions, through a continuum of care that includes prevention, early intervention, crisis diversion, recovery, and reentry.

Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy

The Veterans, Seniors, and Human Services Levy connects veterans and servicemembers, residents age 55 or older, and vulnerable populations to affordable housing, employment, behavioral health treatment, and other programs and services that help them, their families, and their caregivers live healthy, productive, and meaningful lives.

King County

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