

- Summary:** The Communities of Opportunity (COO) Governance Group provides strategic leadership, direction, and oversight for the [Communities of Opportunity](#) initiative in King County. The Governance Group is responsible for promoting COO’s mission, vision, and values, and serves as the COO Best Starts for Kids Advisory Board with respect to the COO portion of Best Starts for Kids levy proceeds.
- Origin:** King County and Seattle Foundation partnered to establish Communities of Opportunity (COO) in 2014 to address economic and racial inequities through place-based work and systemic change. This unique public-private-community partnership expanded in 2016 when COO was included as one of the Best Starts investment areas. In December 2016, Ordinance 18442, established a Communities of Opportunity-Best Starts for Kids advisory board, with respect to Communities of Opportunity portion of Best Starts for Kids levy proceeds; and added a new section to K.C.C. chapter 2A.300.
- The COO Governance Group (GG) established a set of Guiding Principles that have shaped COO’s approach and relationships with stakeholders to elevate the power and assets within communities ([link here](#)). Racial equity has remained a core guiding principle and value for the COO Governance Group.
- Responsibilities:** Member responsibilities include, but are not limited to:
- Expanding outreach, networks, and relationships with community leaders and groups as ambassadors for COO, gathering community input on relevant Governance Group issues, and promoting COO activities.
 - Being active participants in the discussion and deliberations of the Governance Group.
 - Completing requisite King County board member training sessions (Public Records Act; Open Public Meetings Act; Equity & Social Justice; Ethics; COO retreat/orientation; etc.).
 - Being aware of, and transparent with, potential conflicts of interest.
- Composition:** **20 members**, with a maximum of 24 members, made up of:
- Representatives from COO-funded organizations.
 - At least two members from COO Place-based and/or Cultural Community partnership groups
 - At least two members from COO systems and policy change groups
 - At least two members from COO learning community groups
 - At least one member from an Indigenous or Urban Native community-based organization or tribe.
 - At least 20 percent (four members) of the board members will be community members who reflect demographic characteristics of communities that qualify for funding, and who are grassroots organizers or activists in such communities,

or who live or have worked in those communities. *These members shall not be part of any communities of opportunity funded groups.*

- Four members with system or sector knowledge of each COO result areas, with one member from each of the following sectors: affordable housing; health; economic opportunity; and civic engagement or community connection.
- Two members are appointed by Seattle Foundation.
- Two members from King County: the County Executive or their designee; and the Chair of the King County Council or their designee.
- Communities of Opportunity Director or their designee is appointed as a non-voting member.

Term: Terms vary from one-year to three-years. Most members are appointment to a three-year term, which may be renewed one time.

Eligibility: COO seeks Governance Group members who will reflect King County’s diverse communities and includes a range of backgrounds. Eligibility requirements for the Governance Group / Advisory Board are as follows:

- Be a resident of King County. Residents of King County can apply to serve on a King County board or commission as long as they are willing to put in the time and commitment necessary to serve.
- Be committed to dismantling racism and assessing and building antiracist processes to be racially equitable.
- Possess experience from living in or working in communities eligible for COO resources, working in a community-based organization, nonprofit agency, intermediary organization, business, institution, and having experience with solutions relevant to the interdependent systems and areas of housing, health, social and community connections, and economic prosperity.
- Possess specific context or content experience related to improving health and well-being outcomes in communities.
- Members shall recognize that strategies may vary for different populations and in different locations of the county where there are inequitable health and well-being outcomes.

Meetings: Meetings are held monthly and are open to the public. Members are also asked to attend additional ad-hoc and committee meetings during their term of service. *Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the GG meets virtually via Zoom until further notice.

Compensation: Board members are not eligible for compensation or benefits.

For More Information: Visit the Communities of Opportunity webpage: COOpartnerships.org
Read the Communities of Opportunity-Best Starts for Kids levy advisory Ordinance 19399 ([2A.300.521](#))
Read the COO Sections of the [Best Starts for Kids Implementation plan](#) (p71-74)