



AGENDA

GOVERNANCE GROUP

April 17th 2:00 – 3:30 pm

Call-in: 206-263-8114 #4512039

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Facilitator</u>
2:00	Welcome	Michael Brown, Marguerite Ro
2:05	Consent Agenda Agenda, Notes from 3/20 and 4/7 Meetings	Michael
2:10	Funding Allocation 2020-2021 Revised Proposal for Action	Andréa Akita
2:20	Discussion & Decision	Michael, Marguerite
2:40	BSK Annual Report – COO Sections	Andrea

Next Meeting: May 15, 2020

Governance Group Members

Lydia Assefa-Dawson
Michael Brown
Vazaskia Crockrell
Deanna Dawson
Kacey Guin

Ubax Gardheere
Matelita Jackson
Paola Maranan
Jenn Ramirez Robson
Yordanos Teferi

Marguerite Ro
Sili Savusa
Tony To
AJ McClure



COMMUNITIES OF OPPORTUNITY GOVERNANCE GROUNDING

RESULTS STATEMENT

Create greater health, social, economic and racial equity in King County so that all people thrive and prosper, regardless of race or place.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Consistently demonstrate the values of equity, respect and partnership.
- Ensure low-income communities and communities of color affected by inequities develop and own the solutions.
- Advocate for and change institutional policies and processes to support equity goals.
- Encourage investments (both funding and in-kind resources) in long-term community capacity building and in systems, policy and practice changes that lead to greater racial and economic equity throughout King County.
- Catalyze alignment of funding streams and partner across issues and sectors to seek preventive strategies that address root causes of today's inequities.
- Be transparent and show how data and community expertise inform initiative strategies.
- Continuously learn, improve and share work publicly.
- Focus on geographic communities with the greatest needs, while simultaneously sharing lessons learned and building relationships across King County – *We are one King County.*

VALUES

We commit to guide Communities of Opportunity using these values:

Equity: work intentionally to eliminate racial, ethnic, socio-economic and geographic disparities in health and well-being

Process Equity: an inclusive, fair and open process

Community Engagement: authentic community engagement that involves listening to and understanding the unique histories of communities

Driven by quantitative and qualitative data: Data will track and report progress, as well as support given for promising and evidence-based practices

Innovation: Recognize that change involves risk and value an adaptive approach that views failure as an important part of the learning process

Communities of Opportunity Governance Group

Revised: April 17, 2020*

Proposed Action: Funding Allocation

The Communities of Opportunity (COO) Governance Group is asked to take action to **commit the remaining 2020 King County budgeted funding and the projected revenue for 2021 program funding for:**

- ~~Systems and policy change~~ grants in response to the COVID-19 pandemic: up to \$1,750,000;
- **Original, place-based partnerships** (Rainier Valley, SeaTac-Tukwila, and White Center) contract extensions through December 31, 2021 to continue projects/programs through December 31, 2021; and for organizational development/partnership infrastructure, community outreach/engagement, advocacy, and other emergent needs as a result of COVID-19 disruption: up to \$2,760,374 total;
- **Place-based & cultural community partnerships** (*Snoqualmie Valley, Seattle Central District, Kent, Seattle Urban Native Nonprofits, Comunidad Latinx de Vashon, Transgender Economic Empowerment Coalition*) resources for continuity of service/projects, organizational development/partnership infrastructure, community outreach/engagement, advocacy, and other emergent needs as a result of COVID-19 disruption: up to \$325,000 total.
- **Learning Community** activities through December 31, 2021, including capacity building, technical assistance, forums and convenings, and learning circles: up to \$2,191,000.
- **Commercial Affordability Pilot**, increase to contract award for activities to combat financial and new environmental pressures that small businesses face, up to \$300,000

In addition, we recommend that the Governance Group **authorize staff to implement any funding processes, develop program plans, and negotiate service agreement/contract amendments, and other action necessary to make these funds available to existing COO partners/partnerships.** In the case of the Learning Community, staff will revise its plans and timeline for activities for the 2020 and 2021. Staff will provide update(s) and reports to GG on funding, performance, challenges and successes.

Where is the funding for the proposal coming from? The funding under consideration comes from King County budgeted funds for 2020 and anticipated revenue in 2021 (Best Starts for Kids Levy). There is approximately \$7.3 million remaining to be allocated across COO strategy areas in 2020 and 2021. This includes at least \$2.3 million reserved for contract renewal for the Original Place-Based Partnerships sites (Rainier Valley, SeaTac-Tukwila, and White Center) after contracts expire at the end of this year.

Strategy Area or Program	Prior to COVID-19 Not allocated or In Planning Phase	PROPOSAL Allocate up to:	Notes
Learning Community	Up to \$ 5,026,062 Jan 2020 – Dec 2021	Reduce to: \$ 2,191,000	Re-direct: \$ 2,835,062
Original Place-Based Partnerships	\$ 2,300,312 Jan-Dec 2021	\$ 2,300,312 plus \$ 460,062	Extend contract baseline: pro-rated, annual contract amount plus 20% increase
Place-Based & Cultural Community Partnerships		plus \$ 325,000	10% increase to contract extensions in progress
Commercial Affordability Pilot		plus \$ 300,000	20% increase to current funding award
	<u>\$ 7,326,374</u>	<u>\$ 5,576,374</u>	

*Revised sections are in italics.

What's the context for this recommendation?

At the March 20 meeting, staff proposed ideas for Governance Group discussion, including using COO funding to (1) support nonprofit community-based organizations in responding to changes/disruptions from COVID-19; and (2) expanding COO's policy and systems change strategies related to COVID-19 impacts.

Staff recommendations are based on the feedback and direction provided by the Governance Group:

- Check-in with and rely on trusted community partners in determining needs in the wake of COVID-19. Build on the work we have started and the relationships that have been developed through COO's work with its community partners.
 - The proposed funding allocations support the existing partnerships in place. The needs of each partnership / place vary, so the response needs to be developed through conversations with partners. An increase of 10% to 20% for each contract partner allows them to tailor response, based on the needs of their organization/partnership to match the needs and resources within their community.
- Don't get bogged down by over-processing or by creating new programs.
- Move forward with development of systems and policy change funding in response to COVID-19.
 - *A proposed approach/process for the systems & policy change funding was presented at the April 7th meeting. Staff will follow-up with King County Council/representative to provide additional information and answer questions. The proposed funding for Systems & Policy has been removed from the funding allocation proposal reviewed by the Governance Group on April 7th. The Governance Group will be asked to act on Systems & Policy funding at a meeting to be scheduled in May.*

How does this fit into COO's Work? In response to the unprecedented change and challenges that our existing community partners are experiencing, COO staff has looked for potential ways to shift resources for stabilization, resiliency, and recovery from impacts of the pandemic, particularly in communities where we know there are the greatest health and well-being disparities in King County.

Prior to the global novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, the King County region was already experiencing some of the greatest inequities among large U.S. metropolitan areas. Health and well-being indicators, such as life expectancy, frequent mental distress, income and poverty levels were showing stark, measurable differences across the County for Black, Indigenous, and people of color and those with low-incomes compared to others in King County, leaving them at greater risk during the seismic shifts caused by the pandemic.

COO's success is dependent upon the strength and stability of a network of community-based organizations, working in partnership with government and philanthropy. We believe that long term change results from solutions that are community-driven and thus responsive to the needs of those communities. We believe that change will be sustainable because it will be rooted in the community, will use community assets and will be developed through a process that builds capacity to sustain that change. And sustainable change will include institutional-level, systems-level and policy-level reforms.

COVID-19 could have a devastating impact on communities that have been under-resourced for decades, by rapidly depleting its social capital and unique assets. The COO-defined communities will need increased support as they face immediate needs and as they continue to move toward recovery. By making these funding allocations COO bolsters the nonprofit and grass roots organizations and the network of community leaders that play an integral part of the community's health, social and economic well-being.

**Revised sections are in italics.*

2 – Communities of Opportunity – Governance Group Special Meeting

Tuesday, April 7, 2020 4:30 pm Phone/Video-Conference Call

Members Present: Lydia Assefa Dawson, Marguerite Ro, Jenn Ramirez Robson, Marty Jackson, Kacey Guin, Vazaskia Crockrell, Ubax Gardheere, Michael Brown, AJ McClure, Yordanos Teferi, Sili Savusa

Staff: Andrea Akita, Cristina González, Blishda Lacet, Whitney Johnson, José Camacho Martinez, Aaron Robertson, Dionne Foster, Roxana Chen, Kai Domingo, Kris Hermanns

Summary: The Communities of Opportunity Governance Group was asked to consider two proposed actions at a Special Meeting held on April 7, 2020:

- (1) Systems and Policy COVID-19 Response Fund
- (2) Allocation for remaining 2020-2021 Strategies & Programs

The Governance Group did not vote on the proposed actions. They reviewed potential ramifications for delaying the vote. Staff were directed to follow and respond to questions from the County Council. (Council usually receives information for action at least 7 days prior to a meeting.)

Governance Group will reconvene on/before April 17 to vote on the proposed actions.

(1) Proposal for Funding of Systems & Policy COVID-19 Response

Dionne Foster described the proposed [Systems & Policy COVID-19 Advocacy and Resiliency Fund](#).

The proposed funding responds to lack of resources that are available for mobilizing communities to mobilize and work toward advocacy to make sure policy changes are equitable, with a focus on most vulnerable communities and on communities of color.

Questions and comments:

- Funding of organizations in Round One and Round Two: Could current grantees receive new funding? Would grantees in Round One be able to receive funding in Round Two? Suggestion to consider how far we want the dollars to spread, how many organizations / issues would be covered. There may need to be a more explicit statement about intent that indicates whether/not Round One funding organizations would not be considered for Round Two funding.
- Funding process included: What would the review team's process be to develop a list of potential applicants? Will there be an application? Would COO be asking them to apply? Would emerging groups who did not previously apply, be able to be considered for funding? Would they need to partner with current/past grantees or former applicants? How might other groups be considered for funding?
- Decision making and role of governance group and staff: Will GG members be part of the review panel? Can GG review/identify gaps prior to final approval? Suggestions and recommendations to staff that they: present the entire list of organizations considered for funding, not only the recommended groups. Create clear, tight criteria to be accountable and to minimize the potential challenges to the process/decision-making.
- Concerns from King County Council member(s) about the systems and policy advocacy: funding organizations to lobby. This led to a recommendation that a future GG meeting include discussion about policy advocacy and lobbying, including how we define Advocacy.

(2) Proposed Action: Funding Allocation

Andrea reviewed the [proposal to commit remaining 2020 budgeted funding and projected revenue in 2021](#).

The Communities of Opportunity (COO) Governance Group is asked to take action to *commit funding for*:

- Systems and policy change grants in response to the COVID-19 pandemic: up to \$1,750,000;
- Original, place-based partnerships (Rainier Valley, SeaTac-Tukwila, and White Center) contract extensions through December 31, 2021 to continue projects/programs through December 31, 2021; and for organizational development/partnership infrastructure, community outreach/engagement, advocacy, and other emergent needs as a result of COVID-19 disruption: up to \$2,760,374 total;
- Place-based & cultural community partnerships (*Snoqualmie Valley, Seattle Central District, Kent, Seattle Urban Native Nonprofits, Comunidad Latinx de Vashon, Transgender Economic Empowerment Coalition*) resources for continuity of service/projects, organizational development/partnership infrastructure, community outreach/engagement, advocacy, and other emergent needs as a result of COVID-19 disruption: up to \$325,000 total.
- Learning Community activities through December 31, 2021, including capacity building, technical assistance, forums and convenings, and learning circles: up to \$2,191,000.
- Commercial Affordability Pilot, increase to contract award for activities to combat financial and new environmental pressures that small businesses face, up to \$300,000

Andrea answered a question about Commercial Affordability, explaining that COO awarded funding to NDC (National Development Council) and its partners Craft3, BDS Planning, and Moving Beyond to create a pilot program that would help anchor commercial/retail businesses in neighborhoods to ward against displacement of People of Color (POC) owned, small businesses.

Meeting adjourned at 5:53 pm

2 – Communities of Opportunity –MARCH 2020 Governance Group Meeting Notes

Friday, March 20, 2020 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Phone/Video-Conference Call

Members Present: Michael Brown, Marguerite Ro, Tony To, Vazaskia Crockrell, Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Sili Savusa, Marty Jackson, Ubax Gardheere, Kacey Guin, AJ McClure, Yordanos Teferi, Deanna Dawson

Staff: Andréa Akita, Amanda Kay, Aaron Robertson, José Camacho Martinez, Whitney Johnson, Cristina Gonzalez, Kalayaan Domingo, Dionne Foster, Kris Hermanns

Other Attendees: Ellen Kissman

Consent Agenda: Governance Group (GG) approved the consent agenda that included meeting minutes from February 18th, 2020.

Check-In: Members and staff shared how they're doing and what they are hearing and seeing in their community, as we are adjusting to dramatic changes as a result of the corona virus pandemic.

Local Response to COVID-19: A COVID-19 Response Fund hosted by Seattle Foundation, in coalition with philanthropy, government and business, has raised over \$12M to date. The Fund will make grants to nonprofits that are working on the frontline to provide emergency assistance for immediate needs, health support, reduced/lost work, and grant to address fear within communities. The first round of funds will be distributed to community-based organizations in communities disproportionately impacted by the outbreak. A first round with support CBO in communities disproportionately impacted by the outbreak. A Pandemic Advisory Committee was created made up of [local leaders and experts](#) (including Sili and Deanna) who are guiding the selection process consistent with a value-based, equitable approach.

King County Funding: King County is reviewing ways that it can adjust contract deliverables. COO has more flexibility in how its grants are structured. BSK has determined that all invoices through March will be paid, regardless of ability to meet all activities/deliverables. Staff will reach out to all contracted partners to understand impacts and ways partners are shifting to address emerging needs. COO team is keeping its partners informed through weekly email communication and the COO website where we have posted funding resources for nonprofits. COO has assisted 4Culture to use the COO Composite Index to direct their arts funding in response to COVID.

COO Community Resiliency and Stabilization Fund – Proposal: In response to the unprecedented change and challenges that our existing community partners are experiencing, COO has identified two potential ways to shift between \$2M to \$4M to community partners for stabilization, resiliency, and recovery from impacts of the pandemic, particularly in communities where we know there are the greatest health and well-being disparities in King County: (1) support nonprofit community-based organizations in responding to changes/disruptions from COVID-19; and (2) expanding COO's policy and systems change strategies related to COVID-19 impacts. GG were asked for feedback and direction (not a decision today) for staff to drafting a funding proposal for a vote by Governance Group in a special meeting.

Andrea estimated that there is up to \$4 million that could be re-directed for COVID-19 related response. The funding under consideration comes from COO budgeted resources that were either dedicated for activities that are being postponed due to restrictions to in-person gatherings in 2020 or unallocated in 2021.

Proposal -Stability of Nonprofit Network: COO's success is dependent upon the strength and stability of a network of community-based organizations, working in partnership with government and philanthropy. To support the stability of community-based organizations/nonprofit network, we propose to make funds available for CBOS that are working in communities that rank in the lowest 40% for health and well-being

indicators (COO's index). Examples of use of funds could include technology/digital tools to operate in a virtual space (hardware, software, etc.), tools/training to strengthen infrastructure within organizations (HR, finance, core operations, staff), community outreach with potential for some direct services.

Proposal -Systems & Policy in Response to COVID-19. We are seeing basic immediate need funding, but we are seeing a potential gap in the funding that would allow communities to organize around policy changes coming from COVID-19. Critical policy decisions are being made and there is a unique policy window during this critical time. We want to make sure the communities are resourced to be able to develop racially equitable policies. And we want to be sure they can ramp that up in the next few months and into the immediate future. Examples of policy action could include community organizing to advocate for expansion of sick-leave benefits, organizing, informing, mobilizing community to defend programs at risk of government funding cuts; etc.

DIRECTION from Governance Group

Governance Group (GG) directed staff to:

- Move forward with development of systems and policy change funding in response to COVID-19, based on feedback from GG (including process for grant awards).
- Check-in with and rely on trusted community partners. Build on the work we have started and the relationships that have been developed through COO's work with partners.
- Be flexible. Don't get bogged down by over-processing or creating new strategies.

Discussion Points: We should prioritize policy and systems change work, given unprecedented change. COO and its partners are well positioned to work on and advance systems & policy change. We should prioritize this work and resource community/groups that are occurring within government (example: emergency measures and restrictions on gifting of public funds).

We need to play to our strengths, including the relationships that staff have created with our existing partnerships and grantees. Learn more about how the situation is impacting grantees and community and how we can sustain them.

Sustainability is important and should be a guiding principle. We don't want to lose capacity that organizations have gained.

Now, would not be a not a good time to create new strategies or initiatives. Staff time should be preserved to focus on relationships, not on processes. Resources need to be deployed quickly. Advise against an RFP or application process that casts too broad a net or overwhelm staff capacity (or create unrealistic expectation by community, given limited resources).

The process for making grantmaking should be clarified by staff. An option of prioritizing existing/former systems and policy grantees for these funds and/or using the recent pool of applications of 76 organizations that submitted proposals in the most recent funding cycle – or a subset (e.g. high-ranking applicants that we couldn't fund). RFP process may not be practical at this time. Selection of projects using a by-invitation process would need to have criteria/rationale outlined.

BSK Levy Renewal: Planning continues for renewal of the Best Starts for Kids Levy, with Fall 2021 (August or September) target for a ballot measure. Andrea walked through the process to get to the ballot measure, with internal meetings and community outreach before the Levy Measure/Blueprint is finalized in early 2021.

Over the next two months, we will review a set of questions to direct any changes to COO strategies in the levy. Today's discussion is to introduce some of the topics that we will explore in more depth:

- COO Theory of Change: maintain focus on four Result Areas?
- Allocation of funding across strategy areas (place/cultural communities, policy systems, learning community).
- How/whether all existing commitments would extend into the new levy.
- How/whether we adjust funding strategies in relationship to COVID-19 Recovery period (2022 and beyond)
- Other critical questions.

Thoughts for Future Discussion:

Emerging partnerships. We should review these efforts, the sector and capacity building that has occurred. There may be limits or barriers that are not allowing those groups to grow/flourish.

Current strategies. A combination of both policy and systems and place-based work is important to continue. It cannot either/or, but should be both/and. Suggest that we look at different ways to evaluate groups at stages within the community work.

Education as an additional result area? Analyzing a crosswalk of systems, alongside the place-based work would be helpful to see where there are existing intersections. Some partnerships/organizations are doing work in education – and it's big system. There's a lot of advocacy around education, so it's good to think about what it would look like in a COO context. The question has come up frequently for COO, so it would be important to reviewing and documenting direction (whether/why/how COO sees its relationship to this system)

This discussion reminded one member of an implementation and accountability framework, where the State of Washington Poverty Reduction Workgroup's implementation plan had laying a strong foundation upon which, actions to maximize the system that we have, while building the system we need that addresses root causes.¹

King County PH with Response to COVID-19: The Health & Medical Area Command (HMAC) for COVID-19 response. Our system has been activated for 11 weeks. Much of the work around community mitigation is important because our health care system is in risk of crumbling because the structures are not in place to treat everyone. Field hospitals and sites are being erected and identified around the county. The idea is that as people are recovering, they need places to go to do that. Prioritization of testing materials is ensuring that health care and first responders are first so they can continue their work. There are two HMAC groups that relate to our work:

- (1) Community Mitigation Team - with multiple task forces that have been set up for CBOs, Schools, Faith Based groups, Retail, Food Systems, etc. These task forces are combining subject matter experts from King County and the community folks
- (2) Equity Team that is embedded within the HMAC to ensure that an equity analysis is being done as decisions are being made. Related to this work is a new tool that Communities Count is standing up that will show where the populations most vulnerable to the coronavirus are located within King County (older adults are living, or folks who don't have primary care, or are socially isolated).

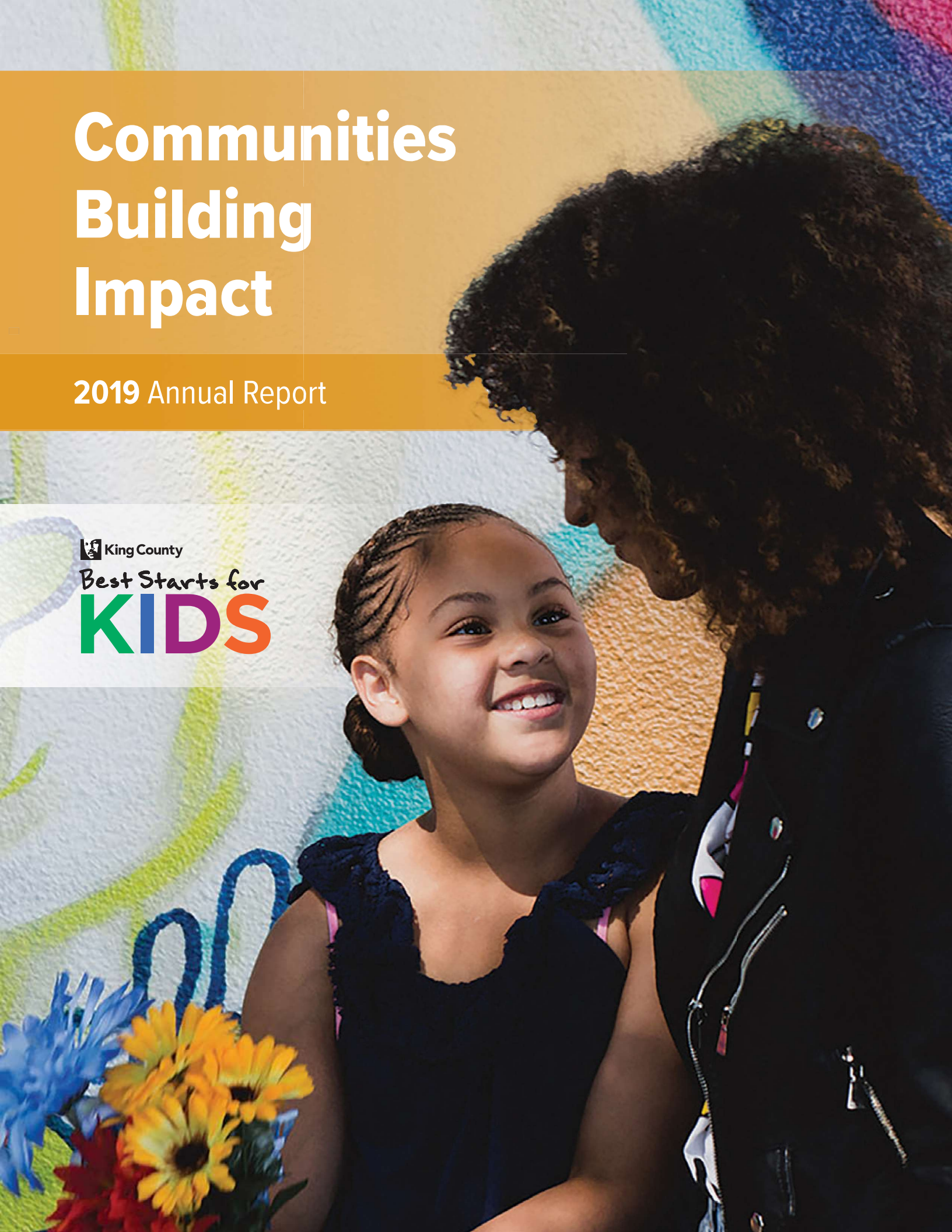
Meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm.

¹See Figure/Illustration found on page 51, Reducing Poverty & Inequality in Washington State, 10-Year Plan for the Future, Poverty Reduction Workgroup, January 2020.

Communities Building Impact

2019 Annual Report

 King County
Best Starts for
KIDS



FROM THE KING COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Sincerely,



Dow Constantine
King County Executive

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 34.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.kingcounty.gov/BestStarts

ALTERNATE FORMATS

call 206-263-9100
or TTY Relay 711

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.



FROM THE KING COUNTY STRATEGIC ADVISOR FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

To our community,

On the days my children were born, I did what so many parents do every day - I looked down at their beautiful faces and I wanted the world for them. The hopes and dreams that we all have for our children are what guide the work of Best Starts for Kids.

Best Starts for Kids was born in community. We asked parents, families, caregivers and communities what they wanted for their children. They responded with dreams where all kids are happy, healthy, safe and thriving. They went beyond things to avoid and prevent. Instead, they talked about the wonderful things they wanted their children to experience. These community aspirations shaped Best Starts for Kids into what it is today.

Best Starts for Kids investments prioritize the promotion of positive outcomes for our kids and build upon community strengths. We collaborate closely with MIDD behavioral health sales tax fund and the Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy so that there is a continuum of services that span the spectrum of promotion, prevention, intervention and policy/system change. These three initiatives represent a collective intention to make our county a place where everyone can thrive.

I am proud to share our 2019 annual report. This report provides detailed information on our 2019 performance measures, outcomes and financials. You will see impact and investment highlights throughout the report with tables at the end and links to interactive data online.

2019 was the 4thth year of the levy and our short-term impacts are exciting. Yet, we are committed to seeing what will happen to the babies born during the life of the Best Starts for Kids levy. Many of our investments have a long-term vision and we will see the impact of those dreams over time as our Best Starts for Kids babies grow. As we progress towards this vision, we share where each investment is in this process. Investments are labeled as laying the groundwork, building momentum or delivering impact. (For detailed definitions of these stages, see page x)

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 Young Adult Division



Photo credit

“ Moments filled with love and hope
guide the work of Best Starts for Kids. ”



Photo: credit

Communities Matter

Communities matter if children, youth and families are going to be healthy and thrive.

Yet race, income and zip code are still major predictors of how healthy we are and even how long we live. Best Starts for Kids invests in Communities of Opportunity to promote greater health, social, economic and racial equity in King County so that all people thrive and prosper, regardless of race or place.

Communities of Opportunity is a network of residents, communities, decision-makers and funders who believe every community can be a healthy, safe and thriving community. Best Starts has furthered this effort knowing that the most meaningful, just and sustainable solutions are generated in partnership with people who are most affected by these inequities.

A unique community–public–private partnership funded jointly by Best Starts for Kids and Seattle Foundation, Communities of Opportunity is deepening our impact as we build on community-driven policy and systems change efforts that are transforming the health and well-being of King County residents.

COMMUNITIES MATTER 2019 OUTCOMES

3,129 capacity-building, community and workforce development events brought communities together.

39,903 community members participated in the partner events.

257 capacity building events focused on skill-building workshops and meetings to educate policy and decision-makers

410 community members took on leadership positions within their communities.

77 new partnerships developed to support progress toward policy and/or systems change.

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.**

Building a place of hope, unity and belonging

PHOTO TO COME

Photo: credit

Designed in response to the identified priorities of White Center community members — the White Center Community HUB development is envisioned to be a place of “Hope, Unity and Belonging.” A place where working families can find affordable housing along with essential services that provide stability and create greater opportunity. A project for self-determination and community ownership for the White Center community, the HUB is being developed in partnership with the people who live and work in White Center. It will serve as a home for not only the CDA but other White Center community-based organizations

Led by the White Center Community Development Association (WCCDA), in partnership with Southwest Youth & Family Services, HealthPoint, Capitol Hill Housing, and King County, the new building will not only provide valuable education, health and housing services and opportunities, but will also embrace the cultural diversity and sense of community that is valued and celebrated in White Center.

“Our work is to elevate the voices of families and communities in White Center. We have the ability to build and hold relationships in a different way — relationships that are centered on an anti-racist, relational approach to systems change,” says Sili Savusa. “The story of the CDA is really about the community getting a sense of their own power.”

“The best way we know how to do this work is to make sure the community is our partner and guides our work.”

— Sili Savusa, Executive Director of the White Center Community Development Association and resident of White Center.

The development is planned to provide 86 quality affordable homes, in addition to being a place of learning, health and welcome for community to connect. The HUB will celebrate White Center’s diversity through art, music, traditions, events and community-wide activities. A culturally relevant family resource center will offer alternative education classrooms, workforce training, small business incubation, youth development, integrated behavioral and physical health services and a community garden.

Towards an expected groundbreaking in early 2022, the HUB has benefited from the deep and diverse resident connections and the cross-sector relationships. With deep roots in the community, the leaders at WCCDA hold a unique role in their ability to organize and implement a community vision for the creation of physical and social spaces that affirm and strengthen the assets of the community.

Communities of Opportunity

Stage of investment

\$6.87M invested in 2019

110 collaborators

In 2019, Communities of Opportunity supported new and ongoing projects and efforts promoting leadership; influencing changes to institutions, systems and policies; and seating the base of power within communities, not outside them.

We invested more than **\$5.46M** across partnerships, including **6 place-based efforts** in White Center, Rainier Valley, SeaTac and Tukwila, Kent, Seattle’s Central District and the Snoqualmie Valley; and **3 culturally rooted partnerships** through the Comunidad Latinx de Vashon, Transgender Economic Empowerment Coalition and the Seattle Urban Native Nonprofits. Additionally, we supported **27 organizations** focused on changes that lead to more equitable systems and policies.



Photo: credit

2019 Outcomes

- The **first-ever community needs assessment of the Snoqualmie Valley** was completed by a partnership between several nonprofits providing access to region-specific data. The Supportive Community for All coalition is using these data to develop new infrastructure and programs to connect residents across an expansive rural and urban area to networked social and health services and foster collaboration among providers.
- Church Council of Greater Seattle led the process of gathering input from residents in South King County to identify policy solutions to address affordable housing challenges. This effort led to passage of **affordable housing policies in Burien, including Rental Licensing and Inspection and Just Cause Eviction**, and the creation of a housing ombudsperson.
- The Food Innovation Network (FIN) **increased opportunities for women, immigrants and refugee food entrepreneurs to launch businesses** through the FIN incubator program, one-on-one training and technical assistance. FIN connects small businesses with catering orders and features businesses in the Taste Around the Globe booth at farmers markets.
- A Beautiful Safe Place for Youth’s Corner Greeters and neighborhood intervention program held **24 youth-led events** and surveyed **271 community members** for their views on public safety. A community- and youth-led approach coordinated by Rainier Beach Action Coalition and partners, this program addresses issues of community safety and building stronger and more connected neighborhoods.

Communities of Opportunity support to small businesses

In 2019, Communities of Opportunity addressed the growing challenge many King County communities face with displacement resulting from rapid development, which inequitably affects communities of color and low-income communities. Small businesses are integral to the economic fabric of King County, but the current period of rapid economic growth threatens to displace these businesses. A new program is developing models and tools for small businesses, with a specific focus on neighborhood areas that are part of Communities of Opportunity. This Commercial Affordability Pilot Program will help to support a segment of our regional economy key to the vibrancy of our community and as places of employment.

“ Thanks to Communities of Opportunity, more adults are coming forward to be a part of the change that can be brought forth with the power of community. Being drawn in by the youth, they are taking on bigger roles in economic actions, idea creation, and considering leverage points for systems change. ”

— Latino Community Fund (Comunidad Latinx de Vashon)

