

# Community Resiliency

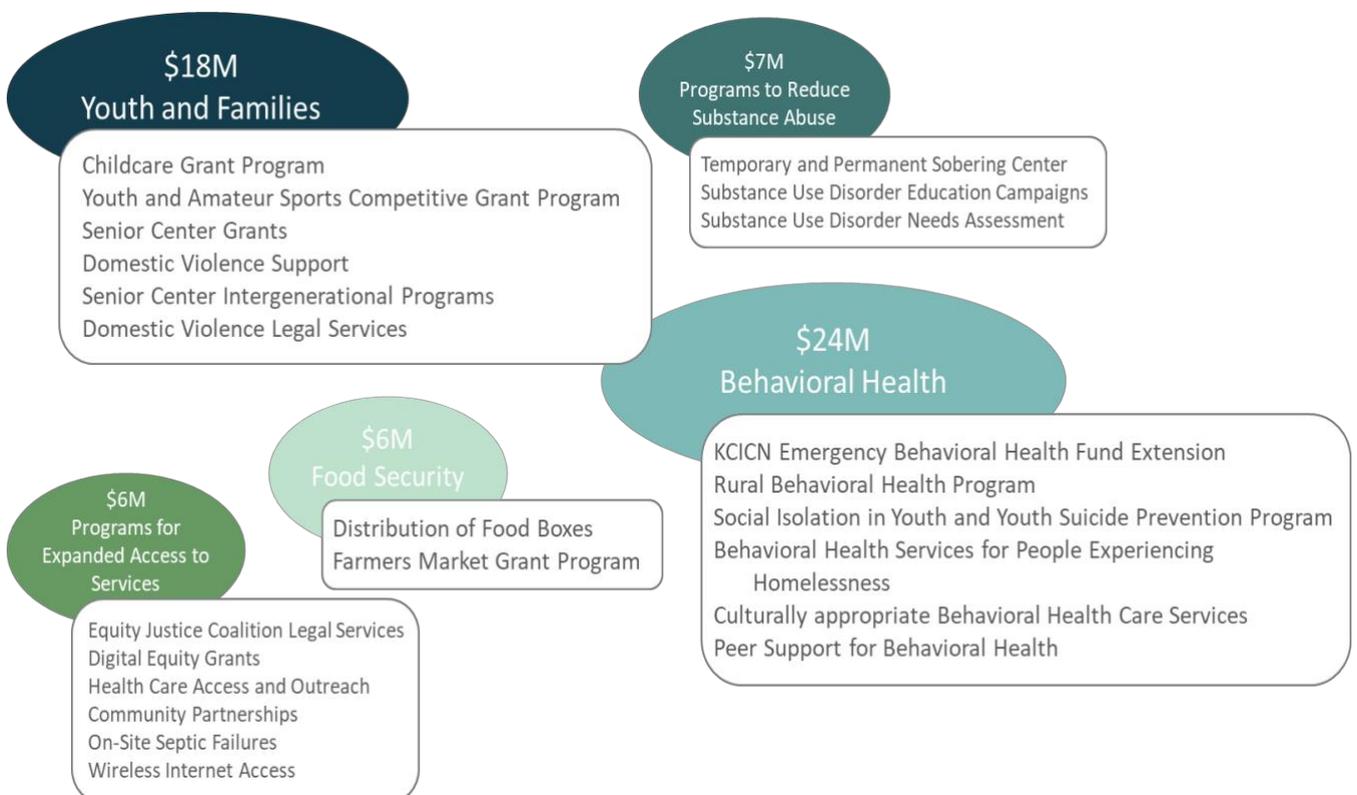


# Community Resiliency

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted every community in King County. The effects were both acute and diffuse. The immediate impacts—loss of employment, in-person instruction in schools, and disruption of daily routines—have had transformative effects on how people live, work, learn and interact. While the full measure of the pandemic’s consequences on our communities is still emerging, there are clear deficits in community resources that need to be addressed, especially for communities of color, LGBTQ+ communities, people experiencing homelessness, and refugee/immigrant communities.

The programs in the Community Resiliency portfolio are designed to address a range of impacts and provide additional funding for needed interventions in the community. Significant emphasis has been placed on deploying CLFR funds strategically to align with other local initiatives.

## Investment Areas



**Figure 1: Investment Areas for CLFR funds in Community Resiliency.**

*The two largest areas of investment are behavioral health and youth and family programs.*

- Over 2,000 children have received subsidized care from the CLFR-funded Child Care Grant Program.
- The next phase of the Child Care Subsidy program is ready to launch in fall 2022. This program, which will be funded by local dollars, will provide care to 2,000-2,500 children annually. This investment is a direct result of the success of earlier iterations that were funded through federal COVID relief dollars.
- 1,200 uninsured community members were enrolled in health care over a three-month period in 2021.
- The Food Security programs have commenced, and food distribution will start soon.
- In the next few months, more programs for youth and families will launch, and the behavioral health investments will enter implementation.

## Behavioral Health

The Department of Community and Human Services' Behavioral Health and Recovery Division (BHRD) leads the county's efforts to support behavioral health in the community. Efforts include both supporting the regional behavioral health system and delivering behavioral health services in the community. CLFR funded programs address needs for both bodies of work.

The King County Integrated Care Network (KCICN) Emergency Behavioral Health Fund Extension provides procurements for assessment, technical assistance, and investment in agency-level changes in service delivery, and network-level efficiencies. Program will support Medicaid-eligible populations who are low-income by stabilizing the community behavioral health system. Partners include 35+ KCICN agencies and technical assistance partners.

The Rural Behavioral Health, Culturally Appropriate Behavioral Health Care Services, and Peer Support for Behavioral Health Programs are all designed to foster greater access to services and better meet the needs of communities that have been historically underserved. The programs will partner with local providers and non-profits to deliver services to residents and expected to commence summer 2022 and run through the end of 2023.

The Social Isolation in Youth and Youth Suicide Prevention Program may provide identification of and support for youth (ages 13-24) feeling the effects of social isolation, withdrawal, depression, or anxiety that may manifest into suicidal ideation that has increased since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The program reach is broad and ranges from community-focused services to individualized support. The purpose is to develop and deliver an overarching strategy involving ongoing and new youth isolation suicide prevention initiatives including convening a regional Suicide Prevention Coalition.

BHRD is also developing and implementing several programs that work in tandem with King County's Homelessness Response efforts. These include providing services at select Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) sites and Health Through Housing (HTH) Facilities, including Mobile Intensive Case management services. PSH sites offer support and services for those in supportive housing that are not currently engaged in behavioral health services. The Health Through Housing Initiative's Facilities

include housing units acquired from former hotels, nursing homes, and other similar properties. Bringing case management, mental health and behavioral health substance use disorder services directly to individuals, reduces the multiple barriers that people often encounter when trying to access support. Implementing this low barrier model, offers a person-centered approach to delivering services, ensuring that we are providing tailored assistance in meeting a person's individual needs and goals, and offers autonomy and choice in engaging with clinical supports.

## Youth & Families

The Community Resiliency portfolio has several key programs for supporting youth and families. These programs span several King County agencies and are designed to meet a wide array of needs.

The Children, Youth, and Young Adults Division (CYA) of the Department of Community and Human Services established a grant program for urgent provider needs by providing funding for childcare. This program was designed to provide both assistance to families in affording childcare and to provide funding that stabilized local providers. The first iteration of the program was funded with CRF, and the program continued under CLFR. Its success, along with the high demand and continued need, resulted in its inclusion in the next phase of the Best Starts for Kids, King County's Starts) community-driven initiative to support every baby born or child raised in King County, so they reach adulthood happy, healthy, safe, and thriving.

CLFR funding also supports to programs focuses on supporting people experiencing domestic violence. The Domestic Violence Services Program allocates funds to organizations providing domestic violence and sexual assault services in King County. This program aims to increase support for people experiencing domestic and sexual violence during a period when isolation, increased stress, and financial strain can create circumstances that additionally compromise survivor safety and stability. Additional funding is designed to provide no-cost legal services to county residents that are experiencing domestic violence.

Two programs are designed to provide support for senior centers. The intent of the Senior Center Grant program is to strengthen the capacity for senior centers whose budgets and abilities to meet the needs of older adults in King County have been most severely impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency. The funding has been awarded and implementation is beginning. The second program is designed to deliver resources to intergenerational programs that strengthen authentic community support and connections across generations. The goal is to lessen the behavioral health impacts of loneliness and social isolation on youth and seniors in communities with emphasis on providing services in the communities that have been disproportionately affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. These grants have been awarded and programming is underway.

King County Parks (KCP) has partnered with the King County Play Equity Coalition in a community-centered participatory grantmaking process to design, develop, and implement this Youth Sports & Outdoor Recreation Relief Fund program to distribute CLFR funding to nonprofit organizations providing programs and facilities that support youth access to physical activity. Physical activity is vital to youth development, physical health, mental health, and social emotional learning, and is also associated with better educational outcomes. The "[State of Play](#)" report<sup>1</sup>, published in 2019, assessed

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.aspeninstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/2019-SOP-Seattle-KingCounty-Web-FINAL.pdf>

the availability of sports and other physical activity for youth in the county and found that only 19% of youth receive 60 minutes of physical activity per day and access, particularly for organized sports, is limited by financial and cultural barriers. The importance of increasing access to physical activity while addressing the stark inequities were paramount factors in the design of the grant making process. King County Parks will administer a one-time investment of \$4 million to organizations most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic who serve youth furthest from play equity. The application process for this program has commenced and grants will be awarded starting in Q3 2022.



**Figure 2: Photo from King County Parks' 2019 Big Backyard 5K.**

## Substance Use Prevention

The CLFR-funded substance use prevention efforts are designed to work alongside other behavioral health investments. These include funding for a temporary leased location for the sobering center as well as funding for a new, permanent sobering support center. The Sobering Support Center serves as a safe place for people to sleep off the acute effects of intoxication and connect to treatment services, housing assistance and other supports.

The portfolio also includes funding for substance use prevention education efforts, as well funding for a comprehensive Needs Assessment of the Behavioral Health and Recovery Division's Substance Use Disorder (SUD) system. The SUD Needs Assessment shall include an inventory of current services, identification of gaps and needs across the SUD system, including gaps in access, service types, and service capacity, and provide recommendations to address the identified needs and gaps.

## Food Security

Public Health – Seattle & King County reported<sup>2</sup> that food insufficiency almost doubled after the implementation of strategies to slow the spread of COVID-19. In recognition of this increasing need,

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<sup>2</sup> [https://kingcounty.gov/depts/health/covid-19/data/impacts/~/\\_media/depts/health/communicable-diseases/documents/C19/food-insecurity-brief-report-august-2020.ashx#:~:text=Even%20before%20COVID%2D19%2C%2012,County%20\(BRFSS%2C%202010%2D2013](https://kingcounty.gov/depts/health/covid-19/data/impacts/~/_media/depts/health/communicable-diseases/documents/C19/food-insecurity-brief-report-august-2020.ashx#:~:text=Even%20before%20COVID%2D19%2C%2012,County%20(BRFSS%2C%202010%2D2013)

the county utilized CRF funding to create a food voucher program in coordination with local community-based organizations. With the advent of CLFR, the county adapted the program to focus on delivery of culturally appropriate food boxes to distribute to communities most impacted by COVID-19. The program will provide Food Security Assistance for Food Programs for approximately 6,600 households. The food boxes will be distributed in partnership with approximately thirty-five community-based organizations (CBOs). The CBOs will purchase, store, and distribute culturally appropriate foods and other food items as part of the program. The program will prioritize but is not limited to purchasing food from locally owned/operated grocery stores, farms, catering companies, restaurants, growers, hunters, and fishers. It will also prioritize supporting community-based organizations who serve populations disproportionately affected by food insecurity to sustain their food distribution models that have been key to meeting community cultural food needs. This program is in implementation, to be completed by December 31, 2022.

The Farmers Market Grant program has partnered with two organizations, the Neighborhood Farmers Market Alliance (NFMA) and Harvest Against Hunger (HAH). NFMA will expand online sales capabilities for vendors to alleviate the financial burden caused by COVID-19 pandemic restrictions which have limited the number of vendors and residents allowed in farmers markets. NFMA will purchase farm products directly from farmers that sell at their farmers markets for distribution across King County food distribution sites. HAH will manage a food access program that links local farmers with local food distribution programs.

## Access to Services

King County has included CLFR investments for a wide array of programs to increase access to services for residents. Areas include digital access, civil legal system assistance, health care access, improvements to internal services, and capacity building for local community-based organizations.

The Health Care Access and Outreach program provided funding for local navigators to connect eligible residents to health care services. Outreach was carefully calibrated to focus most fully on underserved communities. This program has completed implementation.

The Digital Equity Grant Program has recently reached implementation. The Digital Equity program provides grants to community-based organizations to provide digital access and fluency services to vulnerable populations such as seniors, immigrants and refugees, non-native English speakers, and those with disabilities. Another program, the Enhanced Wireless Program, deployed wireless devices in the high traffic areas of three parks (Steve Cox Memorial, Skyway, and South County Ball Fields parks), which are located in underserved neighborhoods for public wireless access (ball fields, courts, etc.), as well as implement King County wireless (private) for Parks employees to conduct business. Implementation is set for 2023.

The Equity Justice Legal Services provides civil legal aid services to low-income individuals negatively impacted by COVID-19, decrease the backlog of civil legal aid cases left unprocessed due to court closures during the pandemic and ensure timely access to benefits necessary to meet basic needs for those who lost jobs due to COVID and were denied benefits due to shifting eligibility requirements.

## King County awards \$2 million in digital equity grants to 29 local groups, agencies, and organizations serving communities most impacted by COVID-19



### CASE STUDY

#### Digital Equity Program

Each family needs access to broadband and technology to fully participate in an increasingly digital world. Yet 20 percent of King County households are underserved and do not have home-based broadband, according to King County's [2020 Broadband Access Study](#). Communities of color and lower-income households face challenges related to affordability, digital literacy, and access to devices. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the digital divide, as a lack of reliable wi-fi or digital devices at home could mean an adult unable to work from home, a student unable to connect to their online learning, or a household unable to access COVID-19 health information.

To help King County residents and families attain improved education, health and wellbeing, and economic outcomes, the Office of Equity and Social Justice awarded \$2 million in grants to 29 local groups, agencies, and organizations that aim to increase digital equity and literacy in communities most impacted by the pandemic. This grant program provides direct support to community partners promoting digital access, broadband adoption, literacy, and inclusion.

Many of us take for granted the basic tasks that can be performed online. Not having Internet access at home means people must travel to libraries and community centers to:



Find health, medical or government services info



Find legal or consumer rights info



Look for a job or job training



Find info on local schools



Purchase products or services



Do homework online



Attend online class, meeting or webinar

Award recipients will increase digital equity and literacy through various ways, including but not limited to, classroom instruction and skills-based workshops, navigation services, technical support, subsidized or pre-paid service plans, and loan-to-own device programs. These grants funded by federal dollars will provide linguistically and culturally appropriate services in communities that face barriers accessing digital services.

**“To support vibrant communities, we must remove barriers that prevent people from full and equitable digital engagement. Thank you to our community partners that are working to create equitable access to the internet and digital devices so every individual and family in King County can thrive in this increasingly digital world,”** said Anita Whitfield, Director of King County’s Office of Equity and Social Justice and Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer.

“People cried when they found out they were getting a tablet, hotspot, and tech support for free thanks to King County funds! COVID-19 has been a very isolating experience for many. These gifts of connection mean the world to people,” said Valerie Stewart, Far East Senior Hub Coordinator, Sno-Valley Senior Center, a community partner site of Sound Generations.

**“We are so excited to be providing devices, skills training, and internet access to our underserved Black and Brown communities in King County, WA. We’re thrilled to help support our community in expanding access to online learning, remote employment, health care, and service delivery - built by, for, and with the community,”** said Shaun Glaze, Black Brilliance Research.

The 29 Grant recipients, such as Black Brilliance Research, Para Los Niños, and Kent Youth and Family Services, are as enthusiastic as customers about providing devices, skills training, and internet access to underserved communities in King County. Digital access is a game-changer for everyone, expanding access to online learning, remote employment, health care, and service delivery—built by, for, and with the community—and is making a significant difference in people’s lives by breaking down digital divides. Such is the case for the Latino immigrant community as Virginia Herrera-Páramo, Executive Director of Para Los Niños, states, “Digital access is a lifeline to help meet our communities' basic needs and access educational programs to help Latino parents and children thrive.”



The future for today’s youth requires digital and technology skills, in all aspects of work and life. Cyoon McBride, After School Director of Kent Youth and Family Services observes: **“We have seen that when youth participants are provided opportunities to develop their digital literacy skills, they are inspired to continue learning, which may ultimately lead them to pursuing careers in the technology field. I think the most rewarding thing is watching youth get excited about**

**technology, and seeing their faces light up when they learn something new and showcase their skills by teaching what they learned to friends and family.”** This ARPA project has the potential for a long-lasting impact on not just the students who receive direct services today, but ultimately their friends and family who will have a chance to learn along with those students.

Grant awardees are still being finalized, but [as of April 2022](#) include:

- Ada Developers Academy
- Afghan Health Initiative
- Black Brilliance Research
- Childhaven
- Compass Housing Alliance
- Computing For All
- Downtown Emergency Services Center
- El Centro de la Raza
- Empowering Youth & Families Outreach
- Ethiopian Community in Seattle
- Evergreen Goodwill of Northwest Washington
- Freedom Project
- International Rescue Committee, Inc.
- Kent Youth and Family Services
- Kin On Health Care Center
- Korean Community Service Center
- Latinx Unidos of the South Sound
- Lighthouse for the Blind Literacy Source
- Living Well Kent
- Muslim Community and Neighborhood Association
- NAMI Eastside (National Alliance on Mental Illness, East King County, WA)
- Para Los Niños
- Provail
- Refugee Women's Alliance
- Renton Technical College
- Seattle Jobs Initiative Sno-Valley Senior Center (Partner: Sound Generation)
- Sound Generations- Lake City-Northgate Senior Center Project

Funding was awarded based on the likelihood of sustainability and impact. Communities themselves are best poised to know and respond to digital literacy needs of their members, as different populations may require different types of support. Thus, successful applicants also demonstrated proximity to and effectiveness in serving Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), seniors, limited English proficient residents (LEP), individuals with disabilities and communication barriers, low-income, unemployed, and underemployed residents, and those experiencing homelessness or residing in rural areas. By supporting these vulnerable groups to reach full and equitable digital engagement, King County families will have more equitable opportunities for education, economic, health, and wellbeing outcomes.

Grant sizes are estimated to be \$30,000 to \$60,000, up to \$100,000, with a minimum of \$25,000. Grant sizes will be determined based on the size of the request, capacity of the organization, geographic priority, total application turnout and alignment with the program intent. Eligible expenses and activities include, but are not limited to: establishing or enhancing a community technology lab equipped with computers, printers, and Wi-Fi Lending libraries or loan-to-own programs for new or refurbished laptops, notebooks, tablets, or other internet-enabled devices, including cell phones and mobile hotspots; providing culturally appropriate and responsive courses to improve digital literacy and skills; staffing for technical assistance and training—administration and other costs. A complete list of awardees and grant amounts will be posted on the Digital Equity Grants [website](#).

## PERFORMANCE REPORT

### Childcare Grants

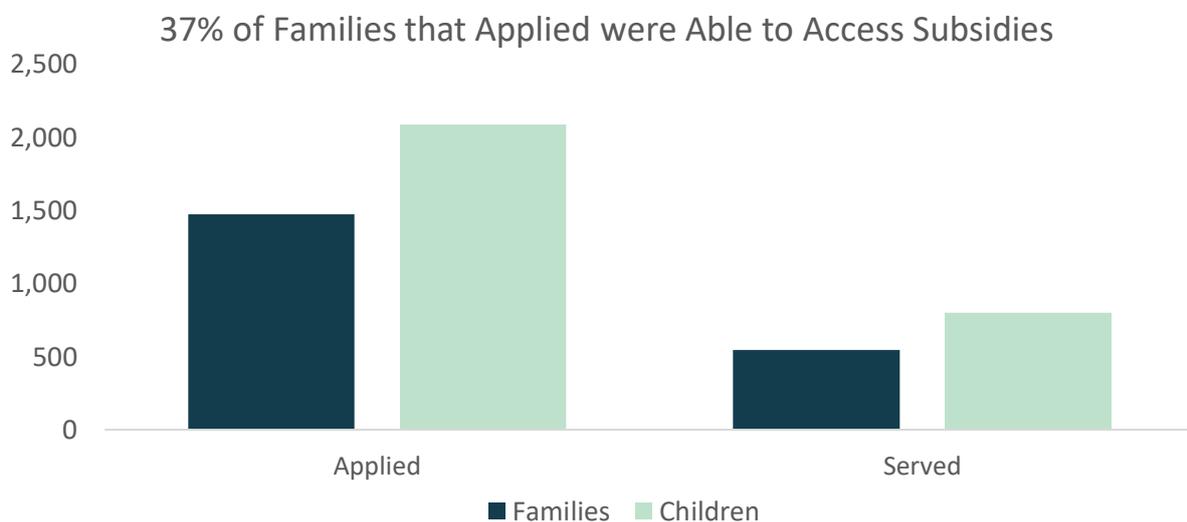
The Childcare Grant program provided \$7 million in grants directly to providers for qualified families that lived or worked in King County. The Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) provided emergency childcare voucher that allowed families to access the high-quality care of their choice and included informal caregivers. This investment has served essential workers, as well as families struggling to access childcare that have been impacted by COVID-19.

The program included income guidelines and was designed to work alongside other childcare subsidy programs, such as the Working Connections Child Care subsidy offered by Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families and the Child Care Assistance Program from the City of Seattle. Community feedback informing this program is captured in a [report](#) by the Children and Families Strategy Task Force.<sup>3</sup>

King County partnered with Child Care Resources, a local non-profit, to administer the program. In addition to providing direct payment to providers, CCR helped connect families with childcare that met their particular needs.

#### How much?

This childcare subsidy program prioritizes low-income families, who do not already qualify for other child care subsidies such as Working Connections. \$1 million is committed for families living in rural communities, and approximately \$500,000 funded 240 informal child care providers, such as family friend or neighbors who care for children, in the form of a one-time, \$1,500 grant.



**Figure 3: The subsidy program received applications from over 1,400 families.**

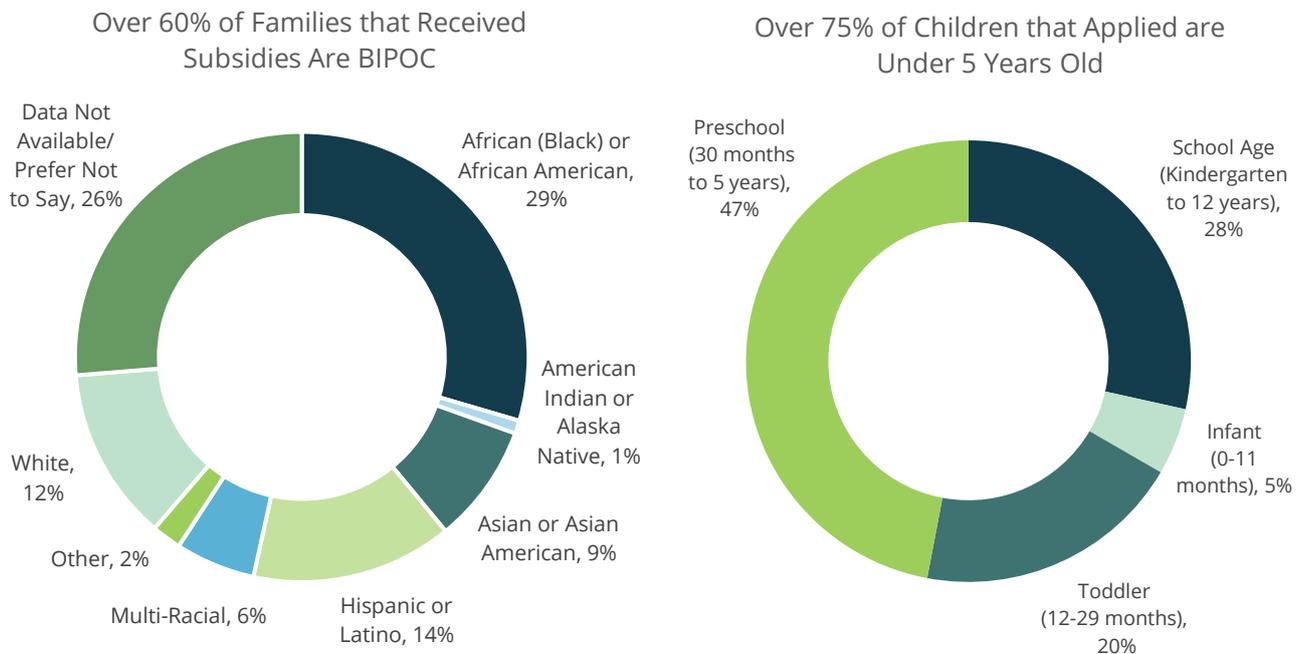
*Over 500 families received subsidies, which provided childcare for nearly 800 children.*

To date, a total of 546 families and 799 children have received subsidies, which a commitment to subsidize over \$5 million in childcare payments through the end of the program. For rural

<sup>3</sup> <https://mkcclegisearch.kingcounty.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4661581&GUID=F62BF7D6-9F4C-4473-BE71-9700F05431DA&Options=Advanced&Search=>

communities, 90 families and 124 children have received subsidies to date, with a commitment to subsidize another \$800,000 by the end of June. In order to expend the rest of rural funds, the program plans to continue to outreach and provide subsidies to families living in rural zip codes until the end of October 2022.

## How equitably did we provide service?



**Figure 4: Over 60% of families that received the subsidies are from BIPOC communities. About 75% of children served were under 5 years of age.**

## Is anyone better off?

King County's childcare field was stretched thin prior to COVID-19, with many families struggling to access and afford high quality care. Many providers, in particular those outside of Seattle, were not able to charge tuition rates that truly cover their costs, and staff are paid poverty wages. Disparities have grown as a result of the pandemic: more than 30% of licensed sites have closed, the vast majority report financial losses as a result of low enrollment, and one report shows only 11% of providers confident they will be able to survive the financial toll of any closure. Childcare providers are now required to adhere to stringent health, safety, and staffing requirements, stressing an already precarious business model, and many families face new and increased barriers to childcare as a result of COVID-19.

Without swift financial support, the childcare sector was at significant risk of major reduction or even collapse. This outcome would have disproportionately impacted women of color who work in this sector, as well as families of color, who are disproportionately likely to live in childcare access deserts. Even for programs that remained open, deeply limited budgets presented barriers to provided pay and benefits that sufficiently reflect the work these caregivers are assuming. Finally, without additional assistance, many families would have been unable to afford or access care during the pandemic, and thus unable to get to work reliably or know their kids are safely cared for.

The success of this program has been twofold: families have received access to childcare and have a reduced financial burden, while providers have received steady payments at a time of great uncertainty. The ongoing need to provide additional support to families and childcare providers is evident by the demand for these grants. Affordable, accessible childcare, often made possible through targeted

subsidies, is necessary to improve racial and gender equity in King County and will be critical in the region's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

To continue to financially support King County families with childcare needs and to support the childcare sector from significant risk of major reduction, King County proposed a new child care subsidy program in the Best Starts for Kids levy renewal for families struggling to access affordable child care. King County voters approved the levy renewal in 2021. This BSK Child Care Subsidy Program, which will launch in September 2022, intends to expand equitable access to affordable and high-quality childcare for King County families ineligible for, or not well served by, existing public subsidy programs. It is anticipated that 600-700 children that are currently served by the CLFR-funded program will be automatically reenrolled in the BSK program, and the application process will be streamlined to ease the burden of the transition on families. The program will serve over 2,000 to 2,500 children annually. King County's continued investment in the child care subsidy program is a long term benefit of the federal COVID response funding it received.

## Childcare Access Is Vital for Families

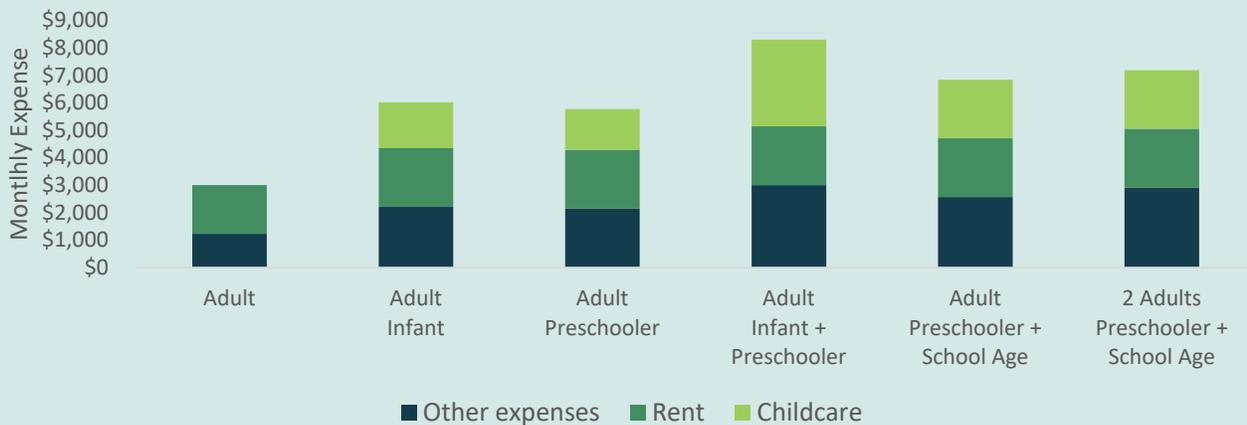
### CASE STUDY

#### Childcare Grants



The King County Childcare Grant Program increased access to high-quality childcare and provided relief from the financial burden of childcare. The [Self-Sufficiency Standard for Washington State 2020](#)<sup>1</sup> emphasizes the impact of childcare costs on the financial well-being of families. The methodology places particular emphasis on the age of children in families, as the cost of childcare for young children is such a large expense.

Childcare is a major cost for families that can equal or exceed the cost of housing.



Given the magnitude of the expense, subsidizing childcare can have a major impact on improving the financial stability and economic wellbeing of families. Some recipients of the King County subsidies have shared their stories:

*Jane is a single parent of several children, most of whom are grown. Jane's youngest child, an infant, was born while Jane was living in her car. When she applied to the program in October 2021, Jane was working full-time, paying for childcare out of pocket, and was in transitional housing. Jane was approved for the program, and her Family Engagement Specialist supported Jane with finding a new childcare provider that would accept subsidy payments and could provide care overnight, as Jane*

<sup>1</sup> From the Self-Sufficiency Standard at the Center for Women's Welfare, University of Washington: [https://selfsufficiencystandard.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/WA2020\\_SSS.pdf](https://selfsufficiencystandard.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/WA2020_SSS.pdf)

*works nights. Over the months that Jane's family received the grant, Jane found permanent housing for her family. Jane shared that, without the program, she would not have a job, would not be able to pay rent, and would return to homelessness. Having reliable childcare funding and a trustworthy childcare provider has allowed Jane and her child to remain stably housed, which has, in turn, supported Jane's sobriety.*

*Carrie, a single mom, stated that she unfortunately is "never eligible for assistance through other programs" because, while her income is barely enough to cover her and her daughter's cost of living, it is not low income enough to apply for other state assistance. The program helped her feel a bit more at ease when it came to monthly expenses and to feel stability as they entered a big phase in their journey to move out of state near their extended family.*

As impactful as the program has been, it is worth noting that demand outstripped the need, and the actual needs of families were not always able to be met due to program restrictions. For instance, the subsidy amount was based on income only and did not fluctuate in response to cost increases by providers. One participant, Kendra, shared that not only was her childcare provider raising their rates, but her rent was also increasing. While she was grateful for the subsidy, it was frustrating that it was not able to flex up as quickly as household expenses were rising.

The direct impact to families, both those that received funding and those that did not, have informed the next phase of the childcare subsidy program. Understanding the lived experience of families, childcare workers, and providers and how it connects to policy and program design critical to improving access and outcomes for all. The Department of Community and Human Services is committed to removing barriers where possible and looks to streamline how its programs interact with other programs available to residents.

## PERFORMANCE REPORT

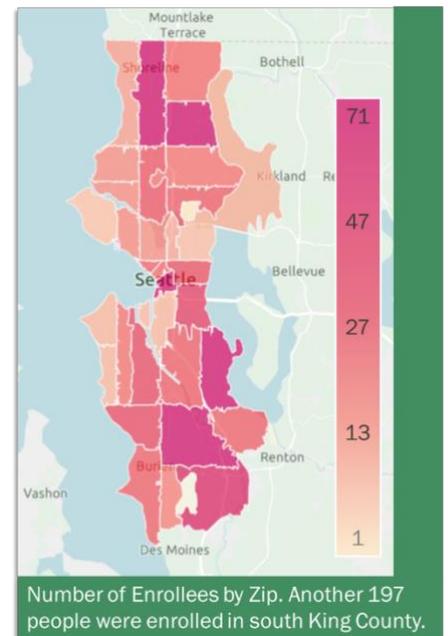
### ACA Enrollment

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) Enrollment Program sought to reduce the uninsured rate in the community by enrolling a total of approximately 1,200 individuals in health care insurance through the ACA Special Enrollment and 2022 Open Enrollment periods. Outreach for the program occurred using remote and socially distanced in-person events that focus on underserved and disproportionately impacted communities by the COVID-19 virus, including those in BIPOC communities. In addition to increasing access to health care, the program sought to build relationships with these communities to increase health care access, eliminate health disparities, and increase equity in all health care services. The majority of applicants serviced by the ACA Enrollment Program resided within designated Qualified Census Tracts (QCT) with underserved populations and nearly all met the definition of low or moderate income provided by the U.S. Treasury.

King County’s ACA Enrollment Program was CLFR-funded from May – August 2021 and the data below is specific to that period. The program utilized \$380,000 of CLFR funding during this period.

#### How much?

King County enrolled over 1,282 people in health care during the CLFR-funded period. The map, shown at right, shows the geographic distribution of enrollees. In addition to the area shown, an additional 197 people were enrolled in South King County.

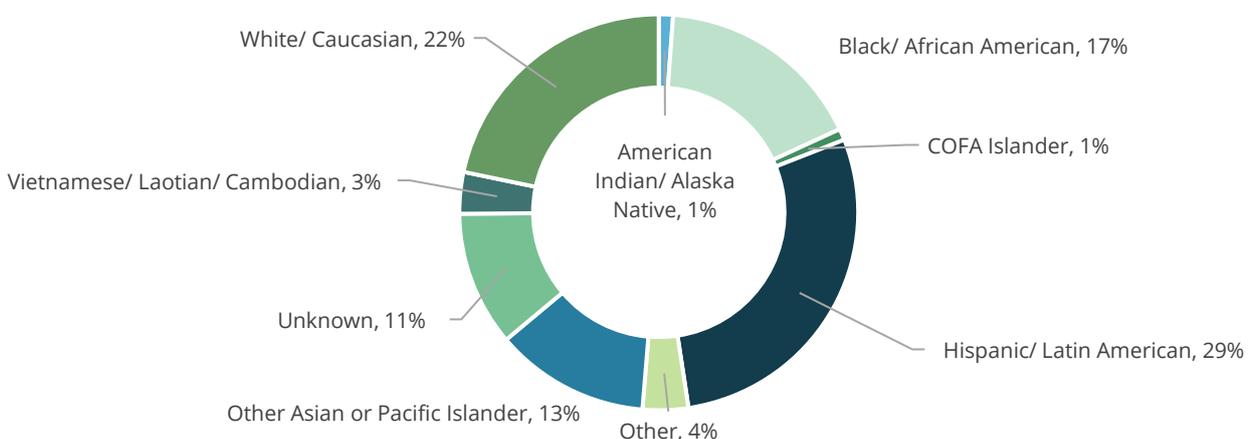


**Figure 5: The ACA Enrollment Program enrollees were concentrated in QCTs.**

#### How equitably did we provide service?

This program was designed to focus enrollment efforts on communities with well-documented disparities in health insurance access. For instance, the uninsured rate for Black/African Americans in King County is about 10%, while the overall rate for King County is about 5%.

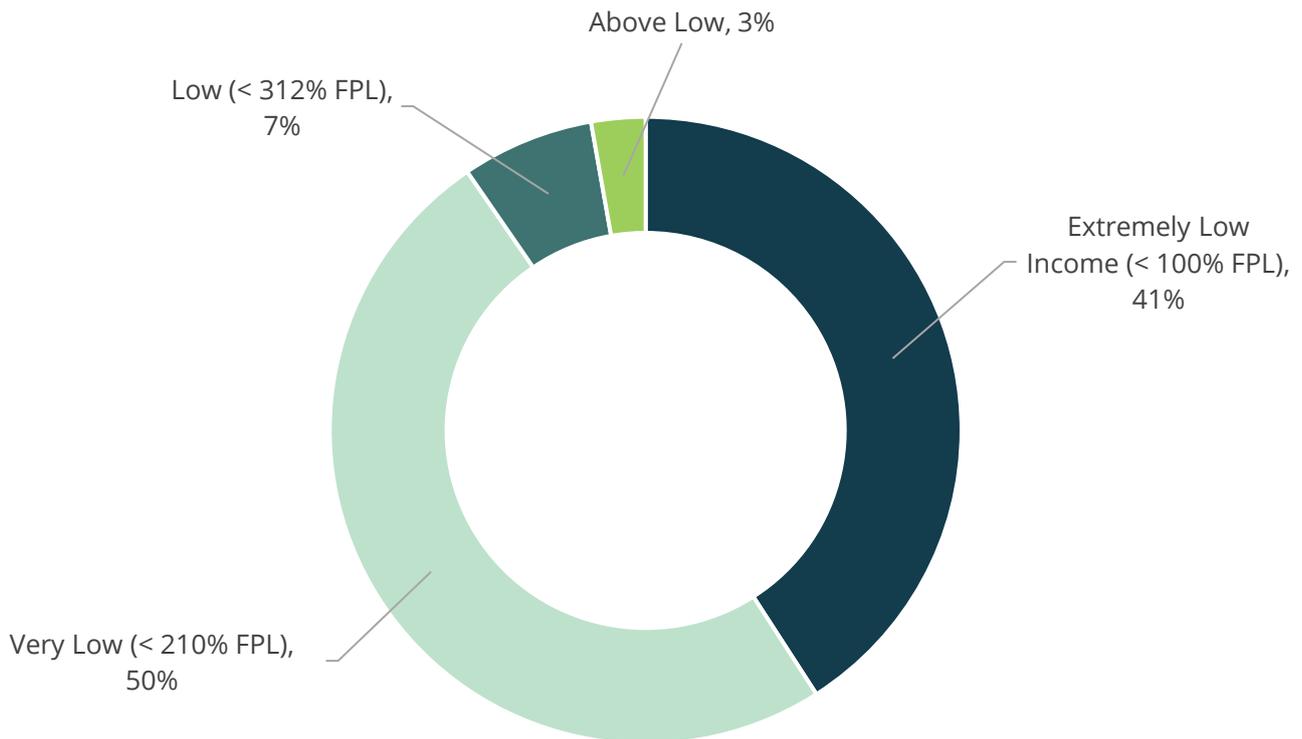
Communities of Color Comprised Over 60% of Enrollees



**Figure 6: The program was designed to focus on populations that were disproportionately likely to be uninsured.**

The inequities of access were exacerbated by the pandemic, since the communities that were disproportionately affected by COVID-19 were also more likely to be uninsured. The ACA Enrollment Program was successful in enrolling people from underserved communities. Over 60% of the enrollees were BIPOC. In addition, over 90% of the enrollees met the U.S. Treasury definition of low or moderate income.

Over 40% of Enrollees Are Below Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) and Over 90% Meet U.S. Treasury's Definition of Low to Moderate Income



**Figure 7: Program enrollees were predominately low income, as defined by U.S. Treasury.**

### Is anyone better off?

People who are uninsured are less likely to receive timely medical care, including preventative services, diagnosis, and treatment. The Kaiser Family Foundation estimated that three in ten adults did not access the care they needed due to cost. When people without insurance do seek care, they are twice as likely to struggle to pay medical bills<sup>4</sup>.

BIPOC communities and those with low to moderate incomes are disproportionately uninsured. A lack of insurance widens existing disparities within the health care system and can plunge families further into debt, creating additional barriers to accessing affordable insurance.

The ACA Enrollment Program utilizes several proven strategies to enroll eligible but uninsured people in Washington State Apple Health. These include focused outreach, individual enrollment assistance through navigators, and community partnerships.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.kff.org/uninsured/issue-brief/key-facts-about-the-uninsured-population/>