**2019** Best Starts for Kids Annual Report

# Communities Building Impact

King County

Best Starts for KIDS

## FROM THE KING COUNTY EXECUTIVE

To the King County community,

*Happy, healthy, safe, and thriving* is the Best Starts for Kids vision for all infants, children, youth and families in our community. Those words have never been more important. While our annual report focuses on the great successes of Best Starts in 2019, we cannot ignore the enormous impact that COVID-19 is having on our community as I write this letter.

I have never been prouder to be a resident of King County. In this extraordinary moment, so many community organizations have joined in mutual purpose, assessing needs and responding collaboratively to help the most vulnerable among us. Chief among those organizations are our Best Starts for Kids–funded partners.

From the beginning, Best Starts has strived to fund organizations that are of and for King County communities. Little did we know how much we would need them to help respond to the impact of a sudden global pandemic in those very communities. The organizations that make up the "Best Starts family" have shown their love and compassion for the people they serve by thinking creatively, maximizing their resources, and raising their voices so all can be heard and helped. Their connections community, and particularly their cultural knowledge and language skills, are helping to ensure critical public health and safety information is available to those who need it the most.

They say it takes a village to raise a child, but we have witnessed that it takes a village to protect its families. While we are still in the early days of this public health crisis, I believe Best Starts for Kids' partners have been and will continue to be critical to our regional recovery.

No matter what obstacles are thrown in our path, Best Starts for Kids programs and services will continue to grow and thrive in 2020. I am proud to share the 2019 Best Starts for Kids Annual Report. It includes data on our successes and stories of the lives that have been enriched thanks to our combined efforts. Best Starts for Kids partners, working with the children, youth and families who make up our great county, are helping create a community where all children will be able to achieve lifelong success. Thank you to all who have made Best Starts for Kids a vital part of the fabric of King County.

Sincerely,

Dow Constantine

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.

Cover photo: Danielle Elliot

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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 their hopes and dreams — not just the things they wanted to avoid and prevent but the beautiful things they wanted for their children. 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 on community strengths. We collaborate closely with the 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.

2019 was the fourth year of the Best Starts for Kids levy. Our short-term impact is exciting — and we are committed to seeing what can happen for all babies born during the life of the levy. This 2019 Annual 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.

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 32).

As we write this report and celebrate the successes of Best Starts for Kids in 2019, we are also in the midst of responding to the COVID-19 crisis and partnering with our communities to ensure that everyone has what they need to emerge from this time healthy and whole. I would like to express my gratitude to our leadership — Dow Constantine, King County Executive; Leo Flor, director of the King County Department of Community and Human Services; and Patty Hayes, director of Public Health, Seattle and King County — as well as to our Children and Youth Advisory Board for their compassion, commitment and leadership. Now more than ever, we know the importance of creating strong, united communities.

Sincerely,

Sheila Capestany
*King County Strategic Advisor for Children and Youth*
*Director, Children, Youth and Young Adult Division*
*King County Department of Community and Human Services*

# Best Start for Kids 2019

Best Starts for Kids has reached a critical point of momentum and impact. With $83.9M invested, the number of active programs has grown from just over 400 to 483.

Best Starts for Kids builds on the strengths of families and communities so that babies are born healthy, children thrive and young people grow into happy, healthy adults. We are committed to expanding on 2019 progress in the year ahead — and to making a difference for King County now and into the future.

Photo: Erin Murphy

## WHO WE SERVE

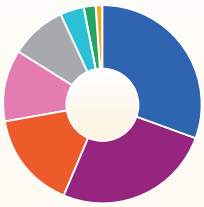
In 2019, Best Starts for Kids investments reached more than 226,000 children, parents, caregivers and others in King County. Our community partnerships expanded dramatically, from 220 in 2018 to 281 in 2019.

These achievements reflect our fundamental values: Best Starts invests in communities — geographic, linguistic, cultural and otherwise — and in their vision of equity and progress. King County's residents *are* Best Starts for Kids, ensuring that children, youth, families and caregivers are supported at every stage of life.

When families and communities have the resources and support 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.
- **Children, teens and young adults thrive!**

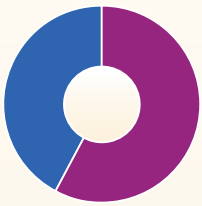
## 2019 DEMOGRAPHICS



Race groups are mutually exclusive.

### RACE/ETHNICITY

- American Indian/Alaska Native: **2%**
- Asian: **12%**
- Black/African American: **26%**
- Hispanic/Latino: **16%**
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: **4%**
- White: **31%**
- Multiple Races: **9%**
- Other: **1%**



### GENDER IDENTITY

- Female: **58%**
- Male: **42%**
- Other: **<1%**

Individuals who selected "Other" indicated their gender identity was not listed in the response options. This includes but is not limited to persons identifying as transgender, non-binary, questioning, and/or gender-nonconforming.

### AGE

- <5: **61%**
- 5-17: **8%**
- 18-24: **12%**
- 25-54: **18%**
- 55+: **<1%**

Data are provided only for individuals for whom information is available and relevant. Individuals who are enrolled in more than one program may be duplicated in the demographic data. Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

## WHAT WE DO

Best Starts for Kids partners with communities at every stage of life and every stage of care, as demonstrated below in our 2019 investment summary.

### Investing early — $40.05M

**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.**

In 2019, Best Starts strengthened our commitment to community-designed approaches, effectively reaching and engaging children and families from communities across King County.

### Sustaining the gain — $28.8M

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

In 2019, Best Starts partnered with communities to expand where and how we reach and engage with young people to provide them support and guidance to achieve their goals and aspirations in school, work and life.

### Communities matter — $6.9M

**Supporting communities as they build safe, thriving places for children to grow up.**

In 2019, Best Starts invested in culturally rooted and place-based partnerships and organizations to advance community-driven policy and systems change. These efforts focus on greater equity in housing, health, economic opportunity and community connections.

### Homelessness prevention — $3.8M

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

In 2019, Best Starts continued to see a drop in homelessness among families with children and among young adults. By combining case management with flexible financial assistance where needed, Best Starts for Kids is contributing to the county-wide effort to prevent homelessness.

## 2019 PROGRESS

**226,000+**
people reached

**$83.9M***
invested throughout King County

**281**
community partners

**483**
new and continuing programs

**1,969**
hours of technical assistance leveraged by communities

**30,500+**
children and families with access to basic necessities

**5,860+**
young people participating in youth development programs

**2,118**
people who remained housed

Additional data on work funded through Best Starts for Kids are available at www.kingcounty.gov/BestStarts.

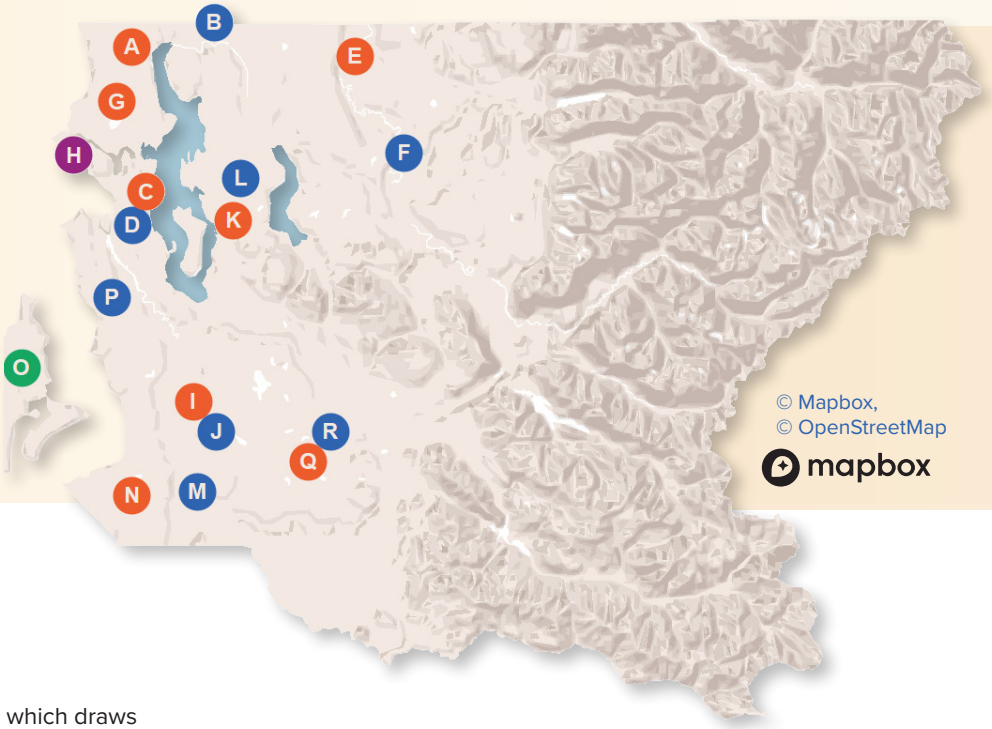
* Total includes evaluation and programming.

# Amplifying community strengths and resilience across King County

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

**INVESTMENT AREAS:**

- Investing early
- Sustaining the gain
- Communities of Opportunity
- Homelessness prevention




### DISTRICT 1

**A Center for Human Services**
Providing Child-Parent Psychotherapy, which draws on attachment theory in home-based therapeutic sessions to strengthen the relationship between children and caregivers and support the emotional and cognitive well-being of children who have experienced significant trauma and are experiencing mental health, attachment and/or behavioral challenges.

**B Northshore School District**
Developing outcome-based curriculum focused on providing high-quality physical education; and increasing access to an online interface that helps students, teachers and parents engage with fitness goals and planning.

### DISTRICT 2

**C Bella's Creative Learning Center**
Training parents and child care providers primarily serving African American children in understanding why and how to use developmental screening, navigating referrals and developing methods to make screening and referral more culturally appropriate.

**D Chinese Information Services Center**
Providing afterschool and summer programming aimed at increasing math and literacy competency, with a focus on serving children and youth from immigrant and refugee families.

### DISTRICT 3

**E Friends of Youth**
Delivering the Parents as Teachers model of comprehensive home visiting and parent education for families with children from prenatal through kindergarten. The four components of the model include home visits, group connections, resource networks and child development screening.

**F TRACE**
Providing an enhanced trauma-informed response to eligible children, youth and/or family members who have experienced a traumatic event and/or are currently experiencing symptoms of trauma. This project is a partnership between the YMCA and Snoqualmie Valley Community Network.

### DISTRICT 4

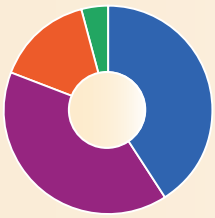
**G North Seattle College**
Improving outreach, enrollment and retention of early learning educators enrolled at Seattle Colleges through the Early Childhood Education Student Success Project.

**H Therapeutic Health Services**
Supporting youth and families at imminent risk of homelessness with flexible funding and additional staffing capacity with a full-time Case Manager.

> BSK makes focused investments in kids and communities that ensure that all of our kids thrive.

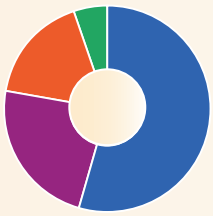
— Jessica Werner, Children and Youth Advisory Board Co-Chair

## Population distribution across King County regions, by Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and participants served



**HOUSEHOLD INCOME <100% FPL**

- East: **15%**
- North: **4%**
- Seattle: **40%**
- South: **41%**



**BSK SERVICE PARTICIPANTS**

- East: **17%**
- North: **5%**
- Seattle: **23%**
- South: **54%**

People living outside of King County and those with unknown residence are not included. Individuals who are enrolled in more than one Best Starts program may be duplicated. Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding. Total number of people vary across regions.

### DISTRICT 5

**I First Five Years and Mother Africa**

Initiating a new education and screening program among immigrant families with children birth to age 5 who have at least two or more risk factors, including: low birth weight or prematurity; experiencing poverty, abuse or neglect; and/or having a parent who identifies as Black, a teenager and/or a limited-English-speaking parent.

**J Iraqi Community Center of WA**

Providing afterschool and summer programming in the Kent East Hill neighborhood, focused on academic and English support and the preservation of cultural heritage.

### DISTRICT 6

**K India Association of Western Washington**

Holding Kaleidoscope Play and Learn groups for Asian Indian parents and caregivers to sing, read and play together in support of their children's healthy growth and development.

**L Lifewire**

Partnering with Bellevue College and high schools to provide young people with tools to identify and build healthy relationships, support each other and family members and practice leadership that promotes gender equity and challenges violent attitudes and behaviors.

### DISTRICT 7

**M Auburn School District (Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment)**

Implementing universal screening among sixth graders in four middle schools to identify students in need of additional supports; and developing new strategies to increase health and fitness activities, including community fitness nights to raise awareness about the importance of fitness.

**N Tilth Alliance**

Collecting organic produce from local farmers to provide to families in need through local preschool programs and community-based organizations such as Global Perinatal Services and Open Arms Perinatal Services.

### DISTRICT 8

**O Communidad Latina de Vashon**

Building on the Latino community's strengths to disrupt multi-generational cycles of poverty and underemployment and create systems-level change on issues of housing stability.

**P FEEST**

Promoting healthy eating through youth-led projects supporting low-income young people in South King County.

### DISTRICT 9

**Q Childrens Therapy Center**

Supporting babies and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities through a home-based, parent coaching model that centers strengths- and relationship-based approaches.

**R Tahoma School District (Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment)**

Increasing screening of eigth grade students at Maple View and Summit Trail Middle Schools to identify students in need of additional supports and connect them to services.

Photo: Erin Murphy

# Investing early

## from prenatal care to the first day of kindergarten

**In King County, we understand that a strong community, a stable family, and parents and caregivers who have the tools and resources to promote their child's well-being are critical to neurological, physical and social emotional development.**

In 2019, Best Starts for Kids increased community investments that promote development during the critical first five years of life: from $20.9 million in 2018 to $40.05 million in 2019. The majority of these partnerships are **delivering impact** — with funding actively at work under the leadership of King County's communities. Investments at the **laying the groundwork stage**, the seeds of future progress, have also increased.

These investments give families the best chance to have healthy babies and provide children with the best environment in which to grow and thrive. We have deepened our commitment to address racial, economic and other inequities and stay true to our promise to promote the healthiest start for children and their families during these influential years.

$40.05M

**total investments in 2019**

166

**new and continuing programs**

**IMPLEMENTATION STATUS IN 2019**

**$37M**

**Delivering impact**

**$2.7M**

**Building momentum**

**$0.35M**

**Laying the groundwork**

See the Investment Index on page 32 for more information on Best Starts for Kids implementation status.

**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!**

# Centering practices in tradition and culture

Photo: Erin Murphy

During her pregnancy, Madeline Fry felt like something was missing. An urban Indian from the Algonquin Anishinaabeg from the Eastern Woodlands of Canada, she sought community here in Seattle, which led her to United Indians of All Tribes Daybreak Star Doulas program.

Madeline first learned about Daybreak Star Doulas through a training program for indigenous women. The program became a critical support after she gave birth to her daughter Winona. Born hypoglycemic, Winona spent five days in the neonatal intensive care unit, creating an unexpected interruption in Madeline's healing process.

"I felt like I should be strong enough to do this all on my own," explains Madeline. "I internalized so much of the discrimination Native people experience in the health care system — I needed community to tell me that what happened wasn't my fault."

Camie Goldhammer, Daybreak Star Doulas' program manager, and her team of doulas provided the postpartum care critical to Madeline's recovery. "Our doulas take on the traditional role of a grandma or an auntie — we are bringing indigenous practices of women supporting women back to our community."

> "More than anything, the doula program provided a community for me where I felt supported as a new mom."

In Washington State, maternal mortality rates among Native American and Alaska Native mothers are unacceptably high: almost one woman dies for every 500 live births. In King County, one in every hundred infants born to American Indian and Alaska Native mothers dies within the first year of life.

Daybreak Star Doulas — launched in 2019 with funding from Best Starts for Kids — works to disrupt these trends and to promote health and well-being for Native families. Camie worked closely with a cultural advisory board to design a program that is "completely Native in every way," with an all-Native staff delivering services embedded in indigenous practices and culture.

"My focus is [on] incorporating traditional medicine and indigenous practices into how we support women through pregnancy, birth and postpartum care, no matter the outcome of the pregnancy. We are decolonizing how we provide care by ensuring more indigenous women have cultural knowledge to support our community through their experiences."

The care and support Madeline received, from navigating challenges with breastfeeding to help with cleaning the house, were foundational to her healing and bonding with Winona. As Madeline shares, "Traditionally in our culture, we raise babies together. If I'm feeling a longing for community, others probably are too. We can fill that gap and create a somewhere-away-from-home community."

## Help Me Grow

**Laying the groundwork**
**$262K** invested in 2019
**156** collaborators statewide

New parents are full of questions when it comes to the healthy growth of their babies and young children. Help Me Grow connects families and caregivers who have children under age five to community-based programs and services, making it easier to move between systems of care and promote healthy child development.

In 2019, Best Starts for Kids partnered with community organizations to design a more coordinated, inclusive and welcoming Help Me Grow system that is responsive to the many communities represented throughout King County. We hosted or attended **27 community gatherings** providing a space for more than **450 children, families and caregivers** to shape how Best Starts can both improve access to coordinated services and truly support the hopes and dreams families have for their children.

King County is partnering with WithinReach, the statewide affiliate for Help Me Grow, to align systems and services in collaboration with communities and families, with the goal of equitable, family-centered, culturally responsive supports for families. We have partnered with different counties within Washington and state leaders to ensure that we are leveraging opportunities to build a stronger system.

All of the work in 2019 is laying the groundwork to invest in community-driven solutions in 2020. Best Starts for Kids is excited about our efforts under way to create stronger systems of support for all families across King County. In 2020, we will expand our focus on providing warm connections and easy access to resources in multiple languages for families through Help Me Grow. We will also continue to ensure more families receive high-quality, holistic and culturally relevant developmental screening and are connected to the appropriate resources early and often.

Photo: Erin Murphy

Photo: Erin Murphy

Photo: Erin Murphy

### Developmental screening landscape analysis

Developmental screening is a foundational element of health and well-being for young children from birth through five years. Through Best Starts for Kids, King County communities are strengthening screening that identifies developmental delays early, when interventions for young children can have the most impact.

In 2019, Best Starts took a closer look at the landscape across King County, identifying where screening is readily available and where gaps exist. These data will guide future investments to the communities that need resources most. That means equitable access to developmental screening for all families — and culturally relevant services that are right for each family and child.

## Developmental Promotion

**Delivering impact**
**$6.5M** invested in 2019
**61** community partners

Children reach developmental milestones in their own way and at their own pace. Best Starts provides a comprehensive approach through early screening, social emotional developmental support and resources for caregivers to ensure the well-being and development of children across King County. These programs remove barriers so that children receive the support they need and all families are able to celebrate developmental milestones with their kids.

In order to better understand what infant and early childhood mental health supports or services are needed in King County, Best Starts is engaged in understanding the landscape in King County, which will lead to a community-guided strategic plan. The landscape analysis will inform how we build and implement approaches to support the social emotional well-being of young children and their families across our communities.

### 2019 outcomes

- **183 professionals** (doulas, home visitors, child care providers and others) increased their skills to conduct screenings, and **61 agencies** added screening materials to their toolkits. **88 percent of these professionals** reported increased confidence in their ability to discuss a developmental concern with a family.
- **9 Universal Developmental Screening Pilot Projects** served children, families and providers representing **48 different race/ethnicity backgrounds** and **39 languages**. Services included training **339 community members**; screening **1,466 children**; and engaging **544 community members** in translation and adaptation of two screening tools into **7 languages**.
- **13 community-based organizations** served **5,643 children and their families** through the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) program which supports families whose children have developmental delays, focusing on children up to age three. Blended with federal and state funds, Best Starts' investment in ESIT has increased the number of children served by **44 percent** since 2015.

Best Starts' investment in ESIT has increased the number of children served by **44 percent** since 2015.

Photo: Erin Murphy

### Promoting social emotional well-being

Caregivers do not always know where to turn to receive appropriate resources and support to help them nurture the connection between the child and the caregiver. In response, Best Starts expanded access in 2019 to trainings on infant and early childhood mental health for providers working with young children. We also engaged **460 early learning providers** in reflective consultation, offering skills and tools to provide the best possible services to families who face significant challenges and hardships. We will continue our work to ensure infants and young children receive the support they need, and that caregivers feel equipped with the skills and knowledge to support their relationship with young children.

## Workforce Development

**Delivering impact + building momentum**
**$542K** invested in 2019
**14** collaborators

Professionals who work with children and their families do their best work when they feel supported with tools, resources and connection to a community. In 2019, Best Starts offered training opportunities open to all King County providers working with young children, focusing on themes ranging from racial equity to infant and early childhood social emotional wellbeing to healthy child development. **255 providers** attended one or more of these gatherings.

We also continued our cohort model, offering tailored peer learning opportunities to **11 workforce partners** consisting of early childhood educators, doulas, nurses and more. We continue to build out our offerings, creating spaces where providers can build partnerships and learn from one another.

In 2019, the **Parent-Child Plus Program** made **88,069 visits** to **2,508 children** in **37 different languages**.

## Home-Based Services

**Delivering impact + building momentum**
**$8.53M** invested in 2019
**42** community partners

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 evidence, including research evidence and community-defined evidence. We are working to assure these home visiting models are culturally responsive and tailored to the communities where they are being practiced.

### 2019 outcomes

- **624 caregivers** who spoke over **15 different languages**, and **517 children** received services through a range of evidence-based and evidence-informed home visiting models.
- Through a partnership with United Way and the City of Seattle, Parent-Child Plus continued to deepen and expand its reach. The **17** funded programs made **88,069 visits** to **2,508 children** in 37 different languages. **84 percent of the families** were matched with culturally relevant staff.
- **10 new community-designed home-based programs** began implementation this year, with a focus on reaching communities of color. After just one quarter, they provided **320 families and caregivers** and **308 children**, **97 percent** of whom are people of color, with **1,812 home visits**.

## Community-Based Parenting and Peer Supports

**Delivering impact + building momentum**
**$3.27M** invested in 2019
**35** community partners

Through Community-Based Parenting and Peer Supports, community-based agencies and organizations support families with everything from food to information on child development. These Best Starts investments are led by communities, which is especially important for sensitive services like support for breastfeeding and education and advocacy around maternal mortality. By standing behind these existing networks of support, King County helps to build on community strengths, providing tools and resources with which communities can care for their kids and families.

### 2019 outcomes

- **30,502 families and children** accessed basic necessities, including diapers, clothes, baby formula and fresh fruits and vegetables. Among providers partnering with basic needs resource brokers, **72 percent** agreed that providing goods positively influenced their organization and program budgets.
- **13,739 families** participated in Kaleidoscope Play and Learn groups, which give children the opportunity to engage in culturally and developmentally appropriate play and give parents and caregivers a place to come together for peer learning and mutual support. This reflects a **31 percent increase** in participation over 2018.
- **9 new parent/caregiver information and support programs** launched this year. After just four months, they provided **129 opportunities** attended by **357 parents or caregivers** to share, learn and support one another, peer to peer.
- **31 people** across King County were trained to provide community-based Supportive Pregnancy Care, a group prenatal care and education program for moms-to-be throughout King County. **67 community-based breastfeeding peer counselors** were trained from American Indian/Alaska Native, African American and Pacific Islander communities to provide culturally responsive peer supports.

### Capacity building to improve services and operations

Many factors affect a program's ability to support King County families — from the capacity to collect and act on financial and program data to the systems within which the program operates. To better support Best Starts' partners in achieving their vision for communities, Home-Based Services and Parent/Caregiver Information and Support strategies enlisted capacity-building providers across the county. These specialists provide technical assistance, resources and coaching across the breadth of factors that lead to a program's success — and ultimately, a family's success — including:

- Developing well-defined, culturally responsive programs.
- Strengthening data systems and organizational capacity.
- Creating responsive systems.

Participating partners identified capacity-building support as a need — and have actively engaged in strengthening their organizations and programs.

Photo: Erin Murphy

## Public Health Programs

**Delivering impact**
**$9.4M** invested in 2019

Public Health services are a cornerstone of support for families. As a core component of Best Starts' prenatal-to-five strategies, we increased investments in King County's comprehensive approach to ensure families can access affordable and healthy food, reproductive health services and support with housing.

Managed by Public Health – Seattle & King County, these programs build on proven practices and community-based solutions to support healthy outcomes at all ages.

### 2019 outcomes

- More than **47,000 people** purchased **healthy, affordable food**, including food for **33,775 infants and toddlers**, through the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Adoption of WIC electronic benefit cards and a WIC shopping App has reduced stigma and simplified utilizing this resource.
- **100 percent of the babies** enrolled in the Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program who were tested in 2019 were negative for hepatitis B. The program, which helps people with hepatitis B protect their newborns from infection, had a **10 percent** increase over 2018 in the proportion of eligible infants who completed serology testing, ensuring at-risk infants are not infected and immune from hepatitis B.
- More than **802 families** teamed up with registered nurses who regularly visit them at home to help them raise happy, healthy children. **98 percent of these families** initiated breastfeeding with their infants.
- **5,573 people** accessed sexual and reproductive health services through King County's Family Planning Program. **80 percent of family planning clients** now use more effective contraception methods, leading to a total net savings of over $5 million. Additionally, community-based health educators delivered **812 health education sessions**.
- **14,719 pregnant women and infants** received pregnancy and parenting support, and families received **2,575 linkages** to health prevention support services.

- **279 adults and children** were linked to health services and housing through a program for families housed in shelters who have significant health needs. An increase in developmental screenings of children from **51 percent to more than 67 percent** helped us connect children living without permanent housing to the appropriate services and supports.

### Reducing exposure to toxics

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

- Preventing lead and toxics exposures among families and caregivers across **8 language groups** through our network of community partners.
- Increasing child blood-lead testing through partnerships with the healthcare system and free testing events.
- Improving access to early childhood developmental services for lead poisoned children.
- Reducing exposure by identifying current and emerging sources of lead and toxics in King County.

## Vroom

**Delivering impact**
**$113K** invested in 2019
**2** community partners

"Una tortuga! A turtle!" Hands-on learning took a turn toward fun when kids met a large tortoise face to face after bilingual story time at the Woodland Park Zoo. A collaboration between Best Starts and the zoo supported this Vroom learning event for Latinx families to engage with the zoo's Creature Feature program.

Vroom turns brain-building science into simple, easy-to-use tips that parents and caregivers can incorporate into everyday life. In 2019, Best Starts continued supporting Latinx and Somali communities in using Vroom as a resource to help families and caregivers better understand and incorporate what they learn about the brain development of young children. Latinx and Somali Vroom Community Connectors make the information accessible and relevant for families to develop their child's literacy, math and social skills.

Vroom is now used within all Best Starts for Kids strategies for young children, as well as in other settings in King County, to support families with children from birth to age five. Our approach is a model for how to use the tool at the state and national levels.

### 2019 outcomes

- **245 Latinx and Somali parents** were introduced to Vroom, and **56 leaders** from these communities were trained to be expert "Messengers" in using the tool.
- **73 percent of Vroom Messengers** use Vroom tools to engage with children and integrate Vroom into their daily interactions with children.

Photo: Erin Murphy

> “The [program] team is proud to share that there have been multiple cases of children remaining enrolled in their child care program, despite behaviors that are challenging for the program or other special needs. This is one of the major goals of [our program] and it is clear that without the consultation we have provided, some of these children would have been asked to leave.”
>
> — Child Care Health Consultation Partner

Photo: Erin Murphy

## Child Care Health Consultation

**Delivering impact**
**$2.76M** invested in 2019
**7** community partners

Child care professionals strive to provide the safest and healthiest setting for the children in their care — but they may not always know where to turn for recommendations and resources. Best Starts for Kids supported **7 community-based organizations** to provide Child Care Health Consultation services, putting 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.

In partnership with Kindering Center, we also engaged **274 racially and culturally diverse partners and community members** in developing recommendations, to be completed in December 2020, for establishing a countywide system of Child Care Health Consultation that is effective, accessible to all residents and inclusive of King County’s many cultures, languages and abilities.

### 2019 outcomes

- Child Care Health Consultation reached **1671 providers**, both at formal child care sites and informal sites where friends, families and neighbors are caregivers. This includes providers who received consultation services and attended trainings on topics such as: how to review health policies, records and plans for kids; supporting healthy practices like handwashing; providing support on behavioral challenges and classroom management; and increasing child care provider confidence and competency.
- **77 percent of child care providers** served by Child Care Health Consultation teams reported an increase in their ability to implement strategies that enhance the health and safety of the child care environment.

## Innovation Fund

**Delivering impact**
**$2.44M** invested in 2019
**13** community partners and **2** technical assistance providers

The Best Starts for Kids Innovation Fund fuels innovation by kick-starting community-designed programs and approaches. The Innovation Fund supports 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.

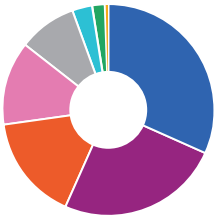
In 2019, Best Starts’ **13 community partners** began putting innovative ideas into practice, reaching more than **275 people** through pilots and start-up efforts. From a collaborative midwifery care model to an intergenerational approach to yoga, storytelling and cultural navigation — these approaches are rethinking how communities can support families and caregivers with young children.

### 2019 outcomes

- Zeno Math partners with communities to co-design math education programs with the people that will use them. Best Starts is supporting Zeno in partnership with Horn of Africa Services to bring high-quality math education to the Oromo community, developing curricula for family child care providers that matches their language and culture. What Zeno learns from this experience will be groundbreaking for communities that do not have math education programs available in their language and designed through their cultural lens.
- The India Association of Western Washington removes barriers, both small and large, for King County's immigrant communities. Best Starts for Kids funds a number of programs supporting children and families, including Parent-Child Interactive Yoga and Peer Networking and Navigation. This integrated, comprehensive programming is in itself an important innovation — an intergenerational lunch where seniors sit side by side with young children bringing extended families together. Many of their programs focused on children under 5 are new, thanks to Best Starts for Kids.

Photo: Erin Murphy

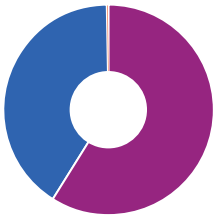
## INVESTING EARLY 2019 DEMOGRAPHICS



### RACE/ETHNICITY

- American Indian/Alaska Native: **2%**
- Asian: **13%**
- Black/African American: **25%**
- Hispanic/Latino: **16%**
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: **3%**
- White: **32%**
- Multiple Races: **9%**
- Other: **<1%**

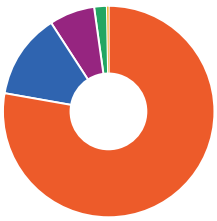
Race groups are mutually exclusive.



### GENDER IDENTITY

- Female: **59%**
- Male: **41%**
- Other: **<1%**

Individuals who selected 'Other' indicated their gender identity was not listed in the response options. This includes but is not limited to persons identifying as transgender, non-binary, questioning, and/or gender-nonconforming.



### AGE

- <5: **78%**
- 5-17: **2%**
- 18-24: **7%**
- 25-54: **13%**
- 55+: **<1%**

These data include children, parents and caregivers served.

### REGION

- East: **17%**
- North: **7%**
- Seattle: **23%**
- South: **53%**

People living outside of King County and those with unknown residence were not included in these percentages.

Data are provided only for individuals for whom information is available and relevant. Individuals who are enrolled in more than one program may be duplicated in the demographic data. Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Photo: Erin Murphy

Photo: Paul Israel, DNRP

# Sustaining the gain

## from kindergarten through college and career

**As children grow into adolescents, teens and young adults, a seamless system of support can help them reach their fullest potential.**

Best Starts for Kids sustains the gains made through early childhood investments by engaging young people — especially youth of color, immigrant and refugee youth, and young people who are otherwise marginalized by their identity or circumstances — to promote their health and well-being. With our community partners, Best Starts invites young people to be leaders in their own futures. And together, our momentum is growing.

In 2019, Best Starts investments in "Sustaining the gain" grew by almost $10 million over 2018, with equal growth in the number of active programs, from 255 in 2018 to 289 in 2019. More than $23 million in investments are **delivering impact** in King County communities right now, with another $5 million **building momentum** toward impact in 2020 and beyond.

$28.8M

**total investments in 2019**

289

**new and continuing programs**

### IMPLEMENTATION STATUS IN 2019

$23.46M

**Delivering impact**

$5.35M

**Building momentum**

$0

**Laying the groundwork**

See the Investment Index on page 32 for more information on Best Starts for Kids implementation status.

**By sustaining early gains, Best Starts for Kids supports communities so that:**

- 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.**

# Creating safe spaces for teens to realize their potential

Photo: Erin Murphy

Since age 13, Ashley has been going to the Den — a program for teens offered through Maple Valley Community Center and enhanced with funding from Best Starts for Kids. Now a senior in high school, the Den has made a lasting impression on Ashley, both in terms of the relationships she's built with the staff and her peers and in helping her define how she envisions her future.

"The Den made me the person I am today. I am more confident with myself. I know how to talk to other teens and adults, and I'm not afraid to stand up for others."

The Den welcomes teens in with a huge mural on the wall that says "you belong here." It's a space free of judgment, where teens like Ashley feel accepted for who they are and for whatever struggles or challenges they are facing.

"We create a space for teens who often feel isolated to know that they are not alone," explains Angela Dodd, the Den's Director of Youth & Intervention Services. Angela, along with her colleagues, engages teens ages 12 through 18 years three days a week with programming that focuses on life skills and leadership opportunities. Through the Den, young people like Ashley can participate in Datewise, a peer educator program that trains teens to present at local high schools on healthy teen dating and how to recognize and prevent abuse.

"From basic money management skills like understanding the difference between a checking and savings account, to creating safe spaces to talk about dating violence, we provide opportunities for teens to be real about what they are dealing with today — while preparing for the future," explains Angela.

The opportunity to volunteer and connect with the local community through the Den has been incredibly rewarding for Ashley, who proudly shares how she has "become passionate about helping others who have had a rough time in life." And while Ashley thrives on supporting others, she has become an inspiration to her community as well. As Angela shares, "I really admire Ashley's openness to everything and her willingness to help no matter what's going on in her life."

> "The Den will always hold a special place in my heart. The relationships I have built with others taught me so much about life."

As Ashley gets ready for the next chapter of her life, with plans to study criminal justice and forensic science, there's no doubt that giving back to her community will be a part of her future. The Den brings positivity into the lives of many teens, helping them grow into adults with a strong sense of community and belonging.

## Youth Development

**Delivering impact**
**$4M** invested in 2019
**32** community partners

Young people today seek safe, supportive environments that create a sense of belonging, connection and purpose. Best Starts for Kids partners with schools and community-based organizations to invest in programs that offer these opportunities through mentoring, leadership, positive identity development and healthy relationships. Our community partners focus on engaging marginalized youth and young people who face challenging life experiences, offering a broad range of programs that open up new possibilities to develop skills, form lasting relationships and build their self-confidence. From the arts to music, STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), safe and healthy relationship classes, youth advocacy and civic engagement, the impact of these programs can shape a young person's life in formative ways.

In 2019, Best Starts supported community partners in creating Learning Circles where they network, share resources, receive technical assistance and support the field of youth development. By establishing partnerships with schools and with other youth-serving organizations, we can better coordinate services and create an environment of collaboration and alignment that benefits all youth in King County.

### 2019 outcomes

- **5,867 young people**, a **51 percent increase** over 2018, engaged in culturally-appropriate programs supporting leadership, development and healthy relationships. In many instances, young people were part of co-creating curriculum, designing and facilitating workshops and elevating the voices of their peers.
- **25 community partners** expanded programming in 2019 with outreach efforts focused on reaching underserved racial and ethnic populations, rural communities, LGBTQ youth and youth with disabilities.

## School Partnerships

**Delivering impact + building momentum**
**$10.95M** invested in 2019
**110+** school sites with **88** community partners

A school environment should promote the positive growth and development of every child or young person, regardless of their race, ability or family income. Best Starts strengthens school-based services and partnerships through a whole-child approach to ensure more students feel supported. We meet young people where they are — both in terms of where they spend a majority of time, and in how we tend to their overall health and social emotional well-being.

Through our investments in Trauma Informed and Restorative Practices in Schools, School Based Health Centers, Out of School Time and School Based Screening Brief Intervention and Referral To Services (School Based SBIRT), Best Starts builds on partnerships between schools, school districts, community-based organizations, young people and families to ensure students feel safe, supported and respected at school. Together, we promote trusting and consistent relationships and deliver high levels of support so students can achieve and lead.

Photo: Hannah Johnson

> "Through healing trauma, sharing knowledge and leadership training we are building the equitable educational opportunities all children need to reach their vast potential and live in their brilliance."
>
> – Trauma Informed Restorative Practice Partner

### 2019 outcomes

- **32 partners**, including schools, school districts and community-based organizations, are working with more than **55 schools in 10 school districts** to implement innovative trauma-informed and restorative practices. These partnerships are driving transformative change and addressing systemic trauma and structural racism. Community-driven solutions address, repair, restore and support relationship-building among schools, districts, students and families. For programs working in these areas, **78 percent of youth** reported an improvement in school climate and culture, and **79 percent** feel more connected, valued and/or safe.
- Students in Bellevue, Renton and Vashon school districts made **6,749 visits** to school-based health centers — more than a **15 percent** increase over 2018 — which offer confidential medical and mental health services on site at school. Thousands more students benefited from Best Starts' supplemental support to **15 additional school-based health centers**. All sites enhanced students' engagement with the schools by encouraging activities such as attending PTSA meetings, collaborating with student council and celebrating cultural events.
- In the last four months of 2019, **1,555 children and youth** participated in high-quality Out of School Time opportunities. **89 percent of our Out of School Time partners** strengthened the quality of their program in one or more focus areas; and **82 percent** met their goals or reported gains around youth-level outcomes such as strengthening social emotional learning and academic skills.
- **8,246 middle-school students** were screened in **12 school districts** across King County using school-based screening, brief intervention and referral to services. Previously unknown needs of **1,427 students** were identified through this screening. A newly implemented universal screening process meant that whole classrooms or entire grade levels are screened to promote health and well-being by giving students the opportunity to voice their concerns and find support early.

**78 percent of youth** reported an improvement in school climate and culture.

Photo: Paul Israel, DNRP

## Family and Community Connections

Through the Healthy and Safe Environments, Family Engagement, and Adolescent Immunizations strategies, 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

**Delivering impact + building momentum**
**$1.39M** invested in 2019
**19** community partners

Best Starts works with community partners to create healthy and safe environments for children, youth and families, with a focus on improving policies and practices to increase access to healthy food and physical activity; reduce exposure to unhealthy substances; and give communities the best chance to be safe and secure in their homes, work and places they spend time.

In 2019, we continued our investment with **19 community partners** who in total created **21 organizational policy changes** and **47 systems-level changes** benefiting **439 unique environments**. Coordination among these efforts is helping to identify common interests, increasing the base of support for key issues and amplifying a more unified community voice. Overall, **260 partners** have successfully led projects affecting more than **77,224 youth and community members** across all nine districts of King County.

### 2019 outcomes

- Youth participating in Food Empowerment Education Sustainability Team's (FEEST) program worked with **33 sites** and **19,000 students** promoting healthy eating in Highline Public Schools creating and vetting recipes for weekly school menus. In working toward their systems change goals, youth in this program formed relationships with school board members who have made a commitment to meet quarterly (over lunch) with FEEST youth and other students.
- **386 youth** at five interagency sites — Seattle schools that engage students who need different support than comprehensive schools — increased their physical activity in a safe and healthy environment through Upower, which brings trauma-informed fitness to youth. A toolkit was developed to replicate Upower's unique program approach and disseminated to other school districts and community partners. Students have shown positive results, including increased school attendance and lower rates of conflict.
- **2,841 students** attending two Snoqualmie Valley High Schools participated in a positive norm messaging campaign led by Snoqualmie Valley Community Network to address youth and family perceptions of drug and alcohol use.
- Vashon Youth and Family Services, in partnership with Vashon Be Prepared, provided expert consultation and training to three child care providers in the development of an emergency safety plan affecting more than **500 children** a year.

## Adolescent Immunizations

**Building momentum**
**$157K** invested in 2019
**1** community partner

The King County Child Health Improvement Partnership (KCHIP) works to ensure young people have access to quality health care so that they can grow into happy, healthy adults. KCHIP facilitates structured learning activities with pediatric health care professionals aimed at improving care within clinic settings while also bringing together key partners to address broader, systemic barriers to improving health care.

Immunizations are a vital part of preventive care and a priority focus area of this partnership. Adolescents, in particular, can often fall behind in recommended vaccinations. KCHIP is seeking to reduce missed opportunities to vaccinate youth by coordinating efforts across a cohort of clinics to support a comprehensive approach to increase immunization rates among young people in King County.

## Family Engagement

**Building momentum**
**$410K** invested in 2019
**1** community partner

Trusted adults in a young person's life increase the likelihood that youth will experience academic success, get a job and make healthy choices. A consistent and supportive familial presence can especially make a difference for a young person during times of transition.

Best Starts recognizes that "family" is broadly defined as the people who care for youth and invests in programs that build positive family connections. In 2019, we partnered with Catholic Community Services to support **209 kinship caregivers** — grandparents or other family members — through kinship camp, support groups and other activities that provide ongoing family support to promote healthy relationships between youth and the familial adults in their lives.

# Transitions to Adulthood

**Delivering impact**
**$2.97M** invested in 2019
**12** community partners

Thanks to leading employers headquartered in our region, King County offers incredible opportunities for young adults just beginning their careers. To ensure those opportunities are accessible to all young people, Best Starts expands access to education, job training and other services for youth and young adults to help them prepare for employment.

Communities leverage Best Starts to complement existing efforts that are helping young people with behavioral health services, peer support and programs focused on pathways to high school completion and

### Enhanced support to community partners

Best Starts has engaged **8 capacity-building consultants** to provide technical assistance and support to community partners across Best Starts for Kids to strengthen their services and operations. Areas of support include organizational development, board development, equity and social justice, human resources, finance, legal support, marketing and IT. In November 2019, these capacity builders were matched with **76 organizations** that had identified high-priority needs to begin providing one-on-one coaching. Toward the end of 2019, we launched expanded capacity building support with **3 additional partners** in the area of data and evaluation and additional funding to support all collaborators in Communities of Opportunity.

The capacity builders are also on standby to offer immediate support for community partners who have emergent needs for improving their organizational infrastructure.

Photo: Rowaida Mohamed

post-secondary education. In 2019, Best Starts made additional investments in helping young people experiencing homelessness or housing instability gain and maintain employment through partnerships with Friends of Youth, YouthCare and Accelerator YMCA. When youth and young adults have what they need to transition successfully to adulthood, we all benefit.

### 2019 outcomes

- **93 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.
- **494 young people** enrolled in work-training education programs, a **71 percent increase** in enrollments over 2018. **77 percent** who completed the program stayed in school, graduated or enrolled in higher education
- **317 young people** enrolled in employment programs that connected them with internship and employment opportunities.

### Career Launch Pad

Career Launch Pad, a Transitions to Adulthood program which helps young people ages 16 to 24 gain employment and explore career paths, supported **75 young people** in 2019. More than half of the Career Launch Pad participants found employment after completing the program and nearly half were making more than Washington's minimum wage.

- **191 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 **100 re-engaged** with school or employment.

## Stopping the School-to-Prison Pipeline

**Delivering impact**
**$4.5M** invested in 2019
**28** community partners

Through Best Starts for Kids, King County's communities are helping young people grow into their potential and pursue their aspirations. Our community partners support youth and young adults in King County who, as a result of systemic and institutional racism, are more likely to be excluded from higher education and employment and pushed into the criminal legal system. Equitable access to resources and partners who are trusted by the community to elevate and champion community voices and guidance provides young people pathways from school to life success.

### 2019 outcomes

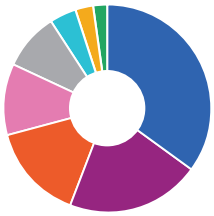
- **1,086 young people** — an **81 percent** increase over 2018 — participated in services that help youth connect to resources, a healthy system of support for meeting their goals and advocates who can champion their voices. **84 percent of those who completed the program** achieved one of their goals, such as increasing school attendance, improving academic performance or applying for and getting a job.

- **97 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.
- **74 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.
- **101 young people** participated in services that help connect youth to resources, a healthy system of support for meeting goals and advocates who can champion their voices.
- **45 young people** participated 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. As of 2019, **63 percent** of those who completed the program achieved a service plan goal.
- **40 young people** involved in the legal system participated in the Community Empowered Disposition Alternative and Resolution (CEDAR) program. Of those who have exited the program, **63 percent** received a recommendation for a reduction in charges or case dismissal.

### Stopping the School-to-Prison Pipeline creates space to heal and grow

Partners like Congolese Integration Network, with the collective support of Cham Refugees Community and Partners in Employment, bring community together to offer holistic support for young people, including teaching financial literacy and offering one-on-one trauma counseling. They create a space for young people to heal, embrace their worth and build the skills to live up to their fullest potential.

## SUSTAINING THE GAIN 2019 DEMOGRAPHICS



Race groups are mutually exclusive.

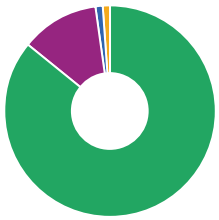
**RACE/ETHNICITY**

- American Indian/Alaska Native: **2%**
- Asian: **11%**
- Black/African American: **21%**
- Hispanic/Latino: **15%**
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: **4%**
- White: **35%**
- Multiple Races: **9%**
- Other: **3%**

**GENDER IDENTITY**

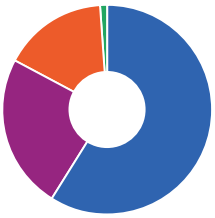
- Female: **49%**
- Male: **48%**
- Other: **2%**

Individuals who selected "Other" indicated their gender identity was not listed in the response options. This includes but is not limited to persons identifying as transgender, non-binary, questioning, and/or gender-nonconforming.



**AGE**

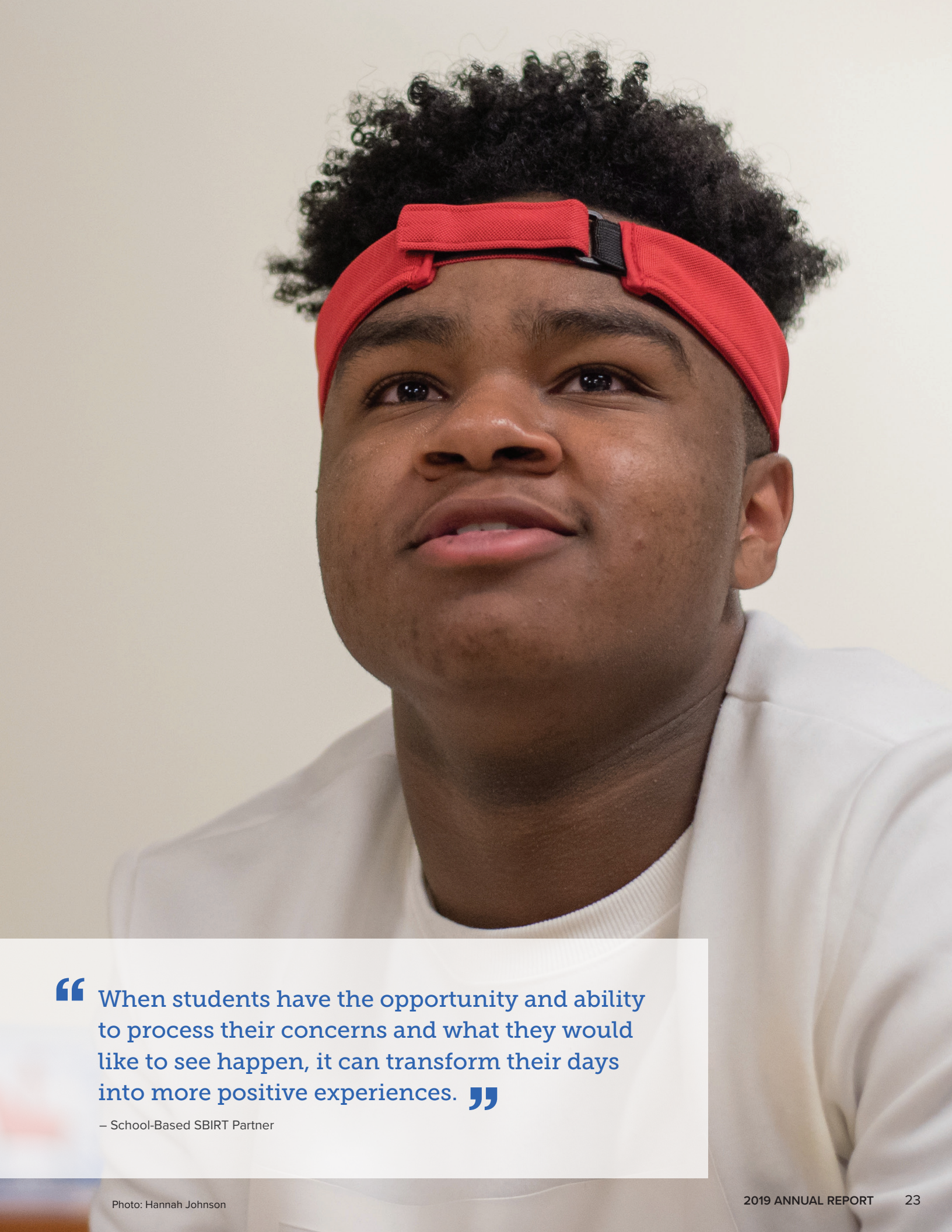
- 5-17: **86%**
- 18-24: **12%**
- 25-54: **1%**
- 55+: **1%**



**REGION**

- East: **16%**
- North: **1%**
- Seattle: **24%**
- South: **59%**

Data are provided only for individuals for whom information is available and relevant. Individuals who are enrolled in more than one program may be duplicated in the demographic data. Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding.



> When students have the opportunity and ability to process their concerns and what they would like to see happen, it can transform their days into more positive experiences.

– School-Based SBIRT Partner

Photo: Hannah Johnson

Photo: Danielle Elliott

# Communities matter

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

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 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 supports communities' power to influence the decisions that affect them most.**

# Building a place of hope, unity and belonging

Photo: Mel Ponders Photography

The White Center Community Development Association (WCCDA) has deep roots in the community, embodied in their ability to organize and implement community vision. “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 WCCDA is really about the community getting a sense of their own power.”

A project for self-determination and community ownership, the White Center Community HUB shows that power coming to life. Led by the WCCDA, in partnership with Southwest Youth & Family Services, HealthPoint, Capitol Hill Housing and King County, the new building will provide valuable education, health and housing services while embracing White Center’s cultural diversity and sense of community.

Communities of Opportunity supports the WCCDA in their community-building and trust-building work. That work has created a strong foundation for the HUB project throughout the early phases of planning and pre-development.

Designed in response to the identified priorities of White Center community members, the 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. The vision for the project includes the creation of 86 high-quality affordable homes and a place of learning, health and welcome where the community can connect.

> “The best way we know how to do this work is to make sure the community is our partner.”
>
> — Sili Savusa, Executive Director of the White Center Community Development Association and resident of White Center.

The HUB will celebrate White Center’s diversity through art, music and community-wide events and 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. It will serve as a home for the WCCDA and other White Center community-based organizations.

As the community works toward an expected groundbreaking in early 2022, the HUB incorporates the spirit of the vibrant, ethnically and culturally diverse community that is White Center, where two-thirds of the residents are people of color and almost one-third of the residents are immigrants/refugees. Acknowledging that the project is on the traditional land of the first people of Seattle, the Duwamish People past and present, the WCCDA and partners are working alongside tribal leadership to make that acknowledgement real in both the design and function of the building.

The leaders at WCCDA hold a unique role in their ability to organize and implement a community vision of physical and social spaces that affirm and strengthen the assets of all members in the community.

## Communities of Opportunity

**Delivering impact**
**$5.55M** 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.

COO invested in **6 place-based partnerships**, 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 Latina 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: Sharon Chang at the NW African-American Museum

### 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. In addition to providing 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 supports 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 rapid economic growth has threatened 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 that is 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 Latina de Vashon)

Photo: Paul Isreal, DNrP

# Homelessness prevention

Photo: Eli Brownell

**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 communities. Kids deserve stable homes and safe spaces to live, so they can grow, play and excel.

Over the course of the six-year Best Starts for Kids Levy, King County is investing $19 million in homelessness prevention specifically for children, youth and their families. Together, we will work toward a healthy, thriving King County where no young person or family is at risk of housing instability and homelessness.

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 during a household's length of enrollment.

9 out of 10

households in **the Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention Initiative do not enter the homelessness system while enrolled**

71% of participants exiting the program **remained in or were placed in permanent housing**

92% of participants **did not require homelessness services after 12 months from exiting to permanent housing**

77% of households served were **households of color**

# Overcoming barriers to a secure and stable home

Photo: Gervasio Sapriza

Jim Naisher and his extended family of seven are enjoying their new home in West Seattle. With support from Tamara, his case manager with Open Doors for Multicultural Families, Jim navigated what can often feel like insurmountable barriers to finding a stable living situation.

Originally from the Marshall Islands, Jim, his parents, his sister and her children experienced challenges ranging from chronic health issues, language barriers and financial instability — all of which contributed to their struggle with maintaining housing and employment. The Naisher family faced multiple evictions and spent a year and a half living in homeless shelters, where they eventually learned about Open Doors and connected with Tamara in 2018.

> “I want to tell my community, and everyone, that the journey we had to go through made us stronger.”

The Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention Initiative (YFHPI) partners with organizations like Open Doors to make sure families like the Naisher family receive the help they need to find housing and are connected to services and resources so they can maintain it.

According to Tamara, a lot of families aren’t aware of all the resources that are available to them. Tamara helps make those connections. Intensive case management combined with flexible funding from Best Starts gives case managers like Tamara the ability to support families in many different ways.

After 16 months, despite tireless efforts, Tamara was growing more concerned about the Naisher family’s ability to pay their rent. That’s when the news came — they would be receiving a voucher for Section 8 housing.

Jim found the perfect house, working with Tamara to put everything into place for move-in day. “I want families to find housing that is a good fit — and that means working side-by-side to help families make decisions that are right for them.”

In March, Jim and his family moved into their new home.

“There were so many moments where I almost gave up. We were so stressed out and at our breaking point. But Tamara kept telling us one day, everything will be ok, and now here we are.”

It takes a community to create safety nets for so many families. For the Naisher family, their community became stronger with help from Open Doors for Multicultural Families.

# Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention

**Delivering impact**
**$3.5M** invested in 2019
**24** community partners

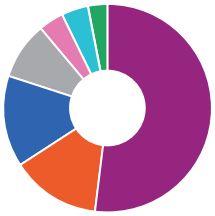
The Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention Initiative, the first initiative funded by Best Starts for Kids, has been working for the past four years as part of a coordinated system to reduce the impact of homelessness on King County's youth by resolving housing crises before they result in housing loss. The initiative focuses on reaching communities that are home to the people at greatest risk.

In collaboration with diverse community partners, the Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention Initiative identifies the needs and gaps in support for families with children and young adults in crisis and intervenes quickly to assist with maintaining their housing. Case management from professionals who are integrating equity and social justice into their delivery of services, combined with flexible financial assistance where needed, helps to resolve immediate housing crises. Our services assist young people and families with young children in building the skills needed to sustain long-term housing, while working to create stronger systems to prevent the occurrence of homelessness.

### 2019 outcomes

- The Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention Initiative served **3,000 individuals in 2019** and a total of **9,226 individuals since the project began**. More than half of those served were younger than 18 years. This support ranged from assisting with housing searches, to connecting to employment resources, language and cultural support, working directly with resolving conflicts with landlords and budgeting and housing stability planning.
- The Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention Initiative supports United Way of King County's Family Resource Exchanges, where households at risk of or experiencing homelessness have an opportunity to receive immediate connections to wrap-around services. The initiative also established a partnership with the Housing Justice Project and Home Base to provide legal support and financial assistance to households in the eviction process.

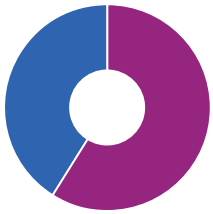
## HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION 2019 DEMOGRAPHICS



**RACE/ETHNICITY**

- American Indian/Alaska Native: **3%**
- Asian: **4%**
- Black/African American: **52%**
- Hispanic/Latino: **14%**
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: **4%**
- White: **14%**
- Multiple Races: **9%**

Race groups are mutually exclusive.



**GENDER IDENTITY**

- Female: **59%**
- Male: **41%**
- Other: **<1%**

Individuals who selected "Other" indicated their gender identity was not listed in the response options. This includes but is not limited to persons identifying as transgender, non-binary, questioning, and/or gender-nonconforming.

**AGE**

- <5: **18%**
- 5-17: **10%**
- 18-24: **32%**
- 25-54: **39%**
- 55+: **2%**

Data are provided only for individuals for whom information is available and relevant. Individuals who are enrolled in more than one program may be duplicated in the demographic data. Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Over three years, this initiative served more than **9,200 people**, including **2,550 families** and **620 unaccompanied youth**.

# Investment Index

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 input, Best Starts made multiyear investments in each strategy area. Below is an accounting of those multiyear commitments, as well as investment actualities in 2019.

Best Starts uses the following categories to assess the progress of King County's investments.

- **Laying the groundwork:** Internal work required to award funding and deliver services is under way.
- **Building momentum:** Awardees have contracts and are beginning their work; performance data are not yet available.
- **Delivering impact:** Awardees are actively delivering services; at least one-quarter of performance data from 2019 to report.

| Investments, by investment area and strategy | Amount invested[1] | Years of investment | 2019 budget | 2019 expenditures |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Invest early: Prenatal to 5 years** | **$134,848,262** | **—** | **$47,303,599** | **$40,059,046** |
| **Help Me Grow** | **$5,362,814** | **1/2016 - 12/2021** | **$2,731,000** | **$262,006** |
| **Developmental Promotion/Early Supports** | **$20,483,463** | | **$7,211,432** | **$6,491,393** |
| Development Promotion | $6,454,762 | 11/2018 - 10/2020 | **$2,452,578** | **$2,418,413** |
| Early Supports for Infants and Toddlers | $11,793,036 | 7/2016 - 6/2020 | $3,812,271 | $3,582,530 |
| Infant Mental Health System | $2,235,665 | 11/2018 - 12/2020 | $946,583 | $490,449 |
| **Workforce Development** | **$4,074,690** | **11/2018 - 10/2021** | $1,399,042 | **$541,647** |
| **Home-Based Services** | **$18,559,119** | **—** | **$10,795,993** | **$8,525,699** |
| Community-Designed Home-Based Programs and Practices | $5,975,003 | 9/2018 - 3/2021 | $2,165,781 | $1,307,054 |
| Evidence Based and Evidence Informed Home Visiting | $16,153,719 | 1/2018 - 12/2020 | $6,224,812 | $6,217,248 |
| Parent-Child Plus | $2,111,794 | 1/2018 - 12/2019 | $2,111,794 | $915,129 |
| Capacity Building (for Home-Based programs only) | $293,606 | 7/2018 - 12/2019 | $293,606 | $86,268 |
| **Community-Based Parenting and Peer Supports** | **$8,461,636** | **—** | **3,398,755** | **$3,270,890** |
| Basic Needs Resource Brokering | $958,958 | 3/2018 - 2/2021 | $336,027 | $321,353 |
| Kaleidoscope Play and Learn | $1,195,680 | 7/2018 - 12/2020 | $427,836 | $412,979 |
| Parenting Caregiver Information and Support | $2,993,250 | 11/2018 - 5/2021 | $1,028,540 | $988,823 |
| Prenatal Support Services and Breastfeeding Peer Counseling | $3,313,748 | 11/2018 - 12/2021 | $1,606,352 | $1,547,735 |
| **Public Health Direct Service** | **$52,450,248** | **—** | **$9,943,000** | **$9,397,953** |
| Maternal and Child Health - PHSKC | $51,603,248 | 1/2016 - 12/2021 | $9,657,000 | $9,060,881 |
| Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program | $847,000 | 1/2017 - 12/2020 | $286,000 | $337,072 |
| **Vroom** | **$150,000** | **7/2018 - 6/2019** | **$150,000** | **$112,500** |
| **Child Care Health Consultation** | **$6,920,063** | **5/2018 - 12/2020** | **$2,771,670** | **$2,762,372** |
| Service Delivery | $6,170,085 | 5/2018 - 12/2020 | $2,575,769 | $2,567,372 |
| Systems Development | $749,978 | 5/2018 - 12/2020 | $195,901 | $195,000 |
| **Innovation Fund** | **$5,850,361** | **10/2018 - 12/2020** | **$2,238,891** | **$2,436,943** |
| **Prenatal to Five Direct Program Staff** | **$7,408,849** | **1/2016 - 12/2019** | **$3,631,345** | **$3,439,384** |
| **Prenatal to Five Administration** | **$5,127,019** | **1/2016 - 12/2019** | **$3,032,471** | **$2,818,259** |

| Investments, by investment area and strategy | Amount invested[1] | Years of investment | 2019 budget | 2019 expenditures |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Sustain the gain: 5 to 24 years** | **$92,210,036** | **—** | **$37,701,387** | **$28,807,351** |
| **Youth Development [2]** | **$12,273,238** | **1/2018 - 12/2020** | **$3,962,864** | **$4,015,810** |
| **School Partnerships** | **$43,353,683** | **8/2017 - 12/2020** | **$15,222,694** | **$10,950,364** |
| Trauma-Informed and Restorative Practices in Schools | $19,107,300 | 9/2017 - 8/2021 | $6,807,641 | $4,395,758 |
| Timely Response to Adverse Childhood Experiences | $438,276 | 2/2018 - 7/2019 | $280,862 | $181,362 |
| School-Based Health Centers | $8,753,270 | 9/2017 - 8/2020 | $1,363,343 | $1,386,331 |
| Out of School Time | $10,295,587 | 8/2017 - 12/2020 | $4,417,924 | $3,332,079 |
| Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Services (SBIRT) | $4,759,250 | 10/2018 - 12/2020 | $2,352,924 | $1,654,834 |
| **Family and Community Connections** | **$6,170,224** | **—** | **$3,357,977** | **$1,953,611** |
| Healthy and Safe Environments | $3,977,224 | 7/2017 - 12/2018 | $1,048,736 | $1,386,331 |
| Adolescent Immunization Improvement Partnership | $1,040,000 | 11/2017 - 10/2020 | $397,354 | $156,886 |
| Family Engagement | $1,153,000 | 9/2018 - 12/2021 | $1,911,887 | $410,394 |
| **Transitions to Adulthood** | **$7,709,633** | **—** | **$3,507,659** | **$2,969,033** |
| Helping Young Adults Transition to Adulthood | $3,496,133 | 1/2018 - 12/2019 | $1,707,659 | $1,539,444 |
| Clear Path to Employment | $826,000 | 7/2017 - 6/2019 | $400,000 | $290,370 |
| Career Launchpad | $2,600,000 | 8/2018 - 12/2020 | $900,000 | $864,707 |
| Peer Connectors Project | $787,500 | 8/2018 - 12/2019 | $500,000 | $274,512 |
| **Stopping the School to Prison Pipeline** | **$10,057,805** | **—** | **$5,203,770** | **$4,514,091** |
| Community Supports and Outreach and Case Managements | $6,891,618 | 2/2018 - 12/2020 | $3,749,918 | $3,716,116 |
| Project SCOPE | $479,137 | 6/2017 - 12/2018 | $299,658 | $160,000 |
| Theft 3 and Mall Safety Project (T3AMS) | $2,287,050 | 2/2017 - 12/2019 | $954,194 | $503,408 |
| CEDAR Program | $400,000 | 1/2019 - 12/2020 | $200,000 | $134,567 |
| **Five to 24 Direct Program Staff** | **$4,759,214** | **1/2016 - 12/2019** | **$2,487,063** | **$2,270,201** |
| **Five to 24 Administration** | **$4,281,653** | **1/2016 - 12/2019** | **$1,799,304** | **$1,518,673** |
| **Technical Assistance and Capacity Building (PN-5 & 5-24)[3]** | **$3,604,586** | **9/2017 - 12/2021** | **$1,260,057** | **$615,568** |
| **Communities matter** | **$17,273,709** | **—** | **$10,313,389** | **$6,873,671** |
| **Communities of Opportunity[4]** | **$14,527,590** | **9/2017 - 12/31/2021** | **$8,874,805** | **$5,545,162** |
| Place-Based & Cultural Community Partnerships | $10,838,750 | 9/2017 - 12/2020 | $6,621,318 | $3,956,491 |
| Systems & Policy Change | $3,110,000 | 1/2018 - 3/2020 | $1,899,877 | $1,282,500 |
| Learning Community | $578,840 | 1/2019- 3/2020 | $353,609 | $306,171 |
| **Communities of Opportunity Direct Program Staff** | **$1,924,735** | **1/2016 - 12/2019** | **$1,070,859** | **$968,651** |
| **Communities of Opportunity Administration** | **$821,384** | **1/2016 - 12/2019** | **$367,725** | **$359,858** |
| **Homelessness prevention** | **$19,758,115** | **—** | **$4,705,000** | **$3,775,323** |
| **Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention Initiative (YFHPI)** | **$19,000,000** | **10/2016 - 12/2021** | **$4,138,000** | **$3,537,323** |
| **YFHPI Direct Program Staff** | **$758,115** | **6/2016 - 12/2019** | **$567,000** | **$238,000** |
| **Evaluation** | **$8,785,891** | **10/2016 - 12/2021** | **$4,733,433** | **$4,343,336** |
| **Total Investment Through December 31, 2019** | **$272,876,013** | **—** | **$104,756,809** | **$83,858,727** |

[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] Technical Assistance and Capacity Building funding was blended with most service providers.
[4] COO award recipients are listed in the supplement to the BSK annual report.

# Community Partners

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.

**501Commons**
**A Supportive Community for All**
- Hopelink
- Snoqualmie Valley Community Network
- Mt Si Senior Center
- Snoqualmie Valley Food Bank
- Encompass

**Africatown Center for Education & Innovation**
**All In For Washington and Coalition of Immigrant and Refugees and Communities of Color**
**All Seattle Kids Home**
**Alliance for Gun Responsibility**
**Alphabet Alliance of Color**
- API Chaya
- TRANSform Washington 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

**AlterNATIVE**
**ANEW**
**API Chaya**
**APICAT**
**ARC of King County**
**Art with Heart**
**Arts Corps**
**Asian Counseling and Referral Service**
**Atlantic Street Center**
**Auburn School Distict**
**Auburn Youth Resources**
**Austin Foundation**
**Bella's Creative Learning Center**
**Bellevue School District**
**Bellevue Schools Foundation**
**Birth to Three Developmental Center**
**Black Star Line African Family**
**Boyer Children's Clinic**
**Boys and Girls Club King County**
**Boys and Girls Club of Bellevue**
**Bridging Cultural Gaps**
**BrightSteps**
**Bulle Consulting**
**Cardea Services**
**Carmen Casillas**
**Casa Latina**
**Cascade Elementary**
**Center for Human Services**
**Central Area Youth Association**
**Centro Rendu of St. Vincent de Paul**
**Cham Refugees Community**
**Chief Seattle Club & Coalition to End Urban Native Homelessness in King County**
**Childhaven**
**Children's Home Society**
**Children's Therapy Center**
**ChildStrive**
**Chinese Information and Service Center**
**Church Council of Greater Seattle**
**City of Bellevue Parks and Community Services**
**City of Renton—Recreation and Neighborhoods Division**
**City of Shoreline**
**City of Tukwila**
**Civil Survival**
**Coalition for Refugees from Burma**
**Collective Justice Project**
**Community Café Collaborative**
**Community Health Board Coalition**
- Somali Health Board
- 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

**Communities in Action**
**Communities in Schools**
**Communities Rise**
**Community Network Council**
**Community Passageways**
**Comunidad Latina de Vashon Steering Committee**
- Latino Community Fund
- Comunidad Latina de Vashon
- Geeking Out Kids of Color
- Latinos in Tech
- Alianza
- Puentes
- Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network

**Congolese Integration Network**

Cowlitz Tribal Health Services
Creative Justice
Crescent Community Collaborative
Crux Consulting
Crystal Tetrick
Delridge Neighborhoods Development Assn
Denise Louie Education Center
Dick Scobee Elementary
Dimmit Middle School
Dispute Resolution Center of King County
Divine Alternatives for Dads Services
DKS Culturally Responsive Educational Services, LLC
East African Community Service
EastSide Baby Corner
Eastside Pathways
El Centro de La Raza
Emerging Design (Bonnie Olson)
EmPower
Empowering Youth & Families Outreach
Encompass
Ethiopia Alemneh
Fahmo Abdulle
Families of Color Seattle
FamilyWorks
Federal Way Public Schools
Federal Way Youth Action Team
Filipino Community of Seattle
First Five Years and Beyond
FEEST
Food Innovation Network (FIN)
Friends of Little Saigon
Friends of the Children
Friends of Youth
Gage Academy of Art
Geeking Out Kids of Color
Gender Diversity
Global to Local
Glover Empower Mentoring
Got Green
Greater Maple Valley Community Center
Greenplay NW
Harborview Pediatrics
Hazelwood Elementary School
HealthPoint
Hearing, Speech and Deaf Center
Highline School District
HomeSight
HopeCentral
Horn of Africa Services
HOSTED (Healthy Othello Safer Through Environmental Design)
ICHS
India Association of Western Washington
Ingersoll Gender Center
Inspirational Workshops
Institute for Community Leadership
Interim Community Development Association
Iraqi Community Center of Washington
J.J. Smith Birth to Five Center, Enumclaw SD
Janet He
Je and Yong Jeong
Johnnie McKinley and Associates
Kaiser Permanente Washington
Kent Community Development Collaborative
- Community Network Council
- Being Empowered Through Supportive Transitions
- Centro Rendu/St. Vincent DePaul
- Coalition for Refugees from Burma
- Communities in Schools of Kent
- Mother Africa
- Somali Youth and Family Club

Kent School District
Kent Youth and Family Services
KidsQuest Children's Museum
Kindering Center
Korean Community Services Center
Lake Washington School District
Lalita Uppala
Lambert House
Latino Community Fund of Washington
Life Enrichment Group
LifeWire
Listen and Talk
Living Well Kent Collaborative
Look, Listen, Learn
Luther Memorial
MAIA Midwifery and Fertility
Maria Darskaya
Mary's Place
ML Whalen Consulting
Mother Africa
MPHI
Multicultural Community Center (MCC)
Multi-Service Center—RAP in Fed Way
Na'ah Illahee Fund
Navos
NeighborCare
Neighborhood House
New Horizons
NewHolly Youth Leadership & Enrichment Club
NISO Programs
North Seattle College
Northgate Elementary/Community Learning Center
Northshore School District
Northshore Youth and Family Services
Northwest Center
Northwest School for DHH—Family Conversations
Odessa Brown Children's Clinic
On Board Othello
Open Arms Perinatal Services
Open Doors for Multicultural Families

**Orca K-8**
**Ounce Washington**
**Para Los Niños de Highline**
**Partner in Education and Student Success**
**Partner in Employment (PIE)**
**Phenomenal She**
**POCAAN**
**Public Health Seattle & King County**
**Puget Sound Educational Service District**
**Puget Sound Sage & Transportation Choices Coalition**
**Rainier Beach Action Coalition**
**Rainier Valley Corps (RVC)**
**Rainier Valley COO Partnership**
- HomeSight
- HOSTED
- Multicultural Community Coalition
- On Board Othello
- Rainier Beach Action Coalition
- South Communities Organizing for Racial/Regional Equity
- Puget Sound Sage
- The Beet Box

**Refugee Women's Alliance**
**Renton Area Youth and Family Services**
**Replanting Roots, Rebuilding Community**
- 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

**Restore, Assemble, Produce**
**Rethinking Schools — Garfield High School**
**Riverton Park United Methodist Church**
**Roxxane Hood Lyons Consulting (RHL)**
**Ryther**
**SafeFutures**
**Sama Praxis**
**School Readiness**
**SeaTac—Tukwila Community Coalition**
- Congolese Integration Network
- Food Innovation Network
- Global to Local
- Partner in Employment
- Somali Health Board
- Somali Youth & Family Club

**Seattle CARES Mentoring Movement**
**Seattle Children's Playgarden**
**Seattle Children's Research Institute**
**Seattle Education Access**
**Seattle Indian Health Board**
**Seattle King County NAACP**
**Seattle Parks and Recreation**
**Seattle Public Schools**
**Seattle Urban Native Nonprofits**
- Potlatch Fund
- Chief Seattle Club
- Duwamish Tribal Services
- Longhouse Media
- Mother Nation
- Na'ah Illahee Fund
- National Urban Indian Family Coalition
- Native Action Network
- Native American Women's Dialog on Infant Mortality
- Northwest Justice Project (Native American unit)
- Red Eagle Soaring
- Seattle Indian Health Board
- United Indians of All Tribes Foundation
- Urban Native Education Alliance

**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**
**Sokunthea Ok**
**Solid Ground**
**Somali Doulas Northwest (SDNW)**
**Somali Family Safety Task Force**
**Somali Health Board**
**Somali Youth and Family Club**
**South Communities Organizing for Racial Equity (S. Core)**
**South King County Discipline Coalition**
**South Seattle Women's Health Foundation**
**Southwest Youth and Family Services**
**St. Vincent de Paul/Centro Rendu**
**Statewide Poverty Action Network**
**Stay and play**
**STEMpaths Innovation Network**
**Swedish**
**Tahoma School District**
**Tammy Dang**
**Techbridge Girls**
**Tenants Union of Washington State**
**The DOVE Project**
**The Imagine Institution**
**The Joseph Project**
**The Mockingbird Society**
**The Northwest Network**
**Therapeutic Health Services**
**Tilth Alliance**
**Tiny Trees Preschool**
**Trail Youth**
**Transgender Economic Empowerment Coalition**
- Ingersoll Gender Center
- Gay City
- Gender Diversity
- Gender Odyssey
- Greater Seattle Business Administration

- POCAAN
- Seattle Counseling Services
- Transform Washington
- UTOPIA Seattle

**Treehouse**
**Tukwila School District**
**United Indians of All Tribes**
**United Way of King County**
**University of Washington Experimental Education Unit**
**University of Washington Partners for Our Children**
**University of Washington School of Nursing**
**University of Washington School of Social Work**
**University Tutors for Seattle Schools**
**Unkitawa**
**Unleash The Brilliance**
**Upower**
**Urban Family Center Association**
**Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle**
**Urban Native Education Alliance**
**Vashon School District**
**Vashon Youth and Family Services**
**Verrenti Consulting**
**Vietnamese Friendship Association**
**Voices of Tomorrow**
**WA Indian Civil Rights Commission**
**WA-BLOC**
**Walk Away City Collaborative**
**WAPI Community Services**
**Washington Association for Infant Mental Health**
**Washington Autism Advocacy Alliance**
**Washington Bus Education Fund**
**Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics**
**Washington Dreams Coalition**
**Washington State Father's Network**
**We. Act. Present. Perform.**
**Wellspring Family Services**
**West African Community Council**
**WestEd**
**WestSide Baby**
**White Center Community Development Association**
**White Center Food Bank**
**White Center Partnership**
- FEEST
- Southwest Youth & Family Services
- Trusted Advocates
- Village of Hope
- White Center Community Development Association
- Yes! Foundation of White Center
- YWCA

**White Water Aquatics Management**
**WithinReach**
**Wonderland Developmental Center**
**World Mind Creation Academy**
**World Relief**
**YMCA of Bellevue**
**YMCA of Greater Seattle**
**Young Women Empowered**
**Youth Eastside Services**
**YouthCare**
**YWCA**
**Zeno**

Photo: Hannah Johnson

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.

**401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 500, Seattle, WA 98104**

**Phone: 206-263-9100**
**kingcounty.gov/BestStarts**

King County