



King County

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King County Executive

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July 13, 2023

The Honorable Dave Upthegrove
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Upthegrove:

I am proud to transmit the 2022 Best Starts for Kids Annual Report, *Learning, Growing, and Thriving*, as required by Ordinance 19354, and an accompanying proposed Motion that would, if enacted, acknowledge receipt of the report. This is the first annual report for the second Best Starts for Kids levy (2022-2027).

The report highlights 2022 as a year of transition between the first and second levies for Best Starts for Kids investments and shares outcomes and stories from new and continuing partners across King County who have been impacted by their partnership with Best Starts for Kids. In 2022, Best Starts for Kids expanded into new investment areas, responding to community input and need, including funding equitable access to high quality, affordable, and well-compensated child care. Best Starts launched an equity-centered capital program to build, repair, and expand community spaces to better serve communities. Best Starts extended contracts to support continuity of services, offered 34 funding opportunities, and distributed over \$110 million to community partners. Best Starts partnered with more than 450 community-based organizations operating more than 500 programs to reach over 264,000 children, young people, families, and community members across King County.

The report demonstrates Best Starts for Kids' impact and reach by maintaining investments in promotion, prevention, and early intervention, while deepening investments in child care and capital projects. In 2022, Best Starts for Kids extended contracts and carried on this ongoing work while launching new funding processes and building new partnerships. These relationships with community partners are critical to supporting the lifelong success, health, and well-being of King County children, young people, and families.

The 2022 Best Starts for Kids Annual Report also links to a new data dashboard on the Best Starts for Kids website. The [Best Starts for Kids Data Dashboard](#) provides additional measures for Best Starts for Kids programs, customizable data views, and greater geographic and financial detail.

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July 13, 2023

Page 2

As required, the annual report provides information about expenditures, services, and outcomes for Best Starts for Kids activities, including geographic data by ZIP code consistent with Ordinance 19354. In addition, the report includes recommendations from providers for service improvements as well as in-depth evaluations Best Starts for Kids completed in 2022.

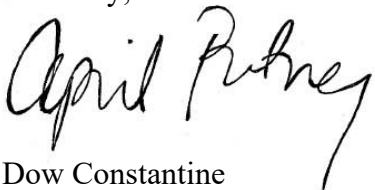
In 2022, Best Starts for Kids made strategy-level investments changes to the Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention Initiative, adding a rental assistance component to alleviate the threat of eviction for households facing short-term crises. This new form of rental assistance is expected to continue in 2023. Best Starts for Kids did not have any other strategy-level investment changes in 2022 and expects strategy-level investments to remain the same in 2023.

The King County Council directed the Children and Youth Advisory Board (CYAB) members to provide input on the Best Starts for Kids annual report. CYAB members and the Communities of Opportunity Advisory Board members received a draft copy of the 2022 Annual Report in April 2023. The final report reflects their input and feedback.

As illustrated throughout the annual report, Best Starts for Kids reflects the County's adopted policy direction within the King County Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan and the 2015 Youth Action Plan. Best Starts for Kids maximizes the assets and knowledge of our richly diverse County and its many cultures and communities.

Thank you for your review of this report, your consideration of the proposed Motion, and your strong support for children, young people, and families across King County. If your staff have questions, please contact Leo Flor, Director, Department of Community and Human Services, at 206-477-4384.

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Shannon Braddock, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Karan Gill, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Mina Hashemi, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

Leo Flor, Director, Department of Community and Human Services

Faisal Khan, Director, Public Health – Seattle & King County