



King County

Shannon Braddock

King County Executive

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July 15, 2025

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

Dear Council Chair Zahilay:

I am pleased to transmit the 2024 Best Starts for Kids Annual Report as required by Ordinance 19354, and an accompanying proposed Motion that would, if enacted, acknowledge receipt of the report. This is the third annual report for the second Best Starts for Kids Levy (2022-2027).

This report reflects the accomplishments of funded partners and shares data that highlights Best Starts' success in making positive changes for King County's children, young people, families, and communities. The report represents the overall impact, learnings, and integration of Best Starts' work across strategies through the following five focus areas:

- Meeting Families' Needs;
- Prioritizing Well-being and Mental Health;
- Cultivating Opportunities for Children and Young People;
- Strengthening the Workforce, and
- Building Community Power.

From its inception, Best Starts has drawn on community wisdom and research to learn what babies, young people and families need to have the best opportunity to be happy, healthy, safe, and thriving. Best Starts addresses its five focus areas holistically, across various ages and program delivery methods.

In 2024, Best Starts partnered with community-based organizations operating 609 programs to directly serve 169,340 individuals, and reach 525,954 children, young people, families, providers, and community members overall across King County. In 2024, the Best Starts team released 13 procurement processes which resulted in 178 new contracts for funded programs.

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The 2024 Best Starts for Kids Annual Report links to an updated 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.

As required by Ordinance 19267, the annual report provides information about expenditures, services delivered, and outcomes for Best Starts for Kids activities, including geographic data by ZIP code. In addition, the report includes information about the in-depth evaluation Best Starts for Kids completed in 2024, and other ongoing data analysis to track progress and inform continuous improvements. In addition, the report describes Best Starts' work to strengthen fiscal infrastructure and develop consistent and proactive communications regarding contracts and fiscal management.

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 Communities of Opportunity Advisory Board members received a draft copy of the 2024 Annual Report in April 2025. The final report reflects their input and feedback.

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 any questions, please contact Kelly Rider, Director, Department of Community and Human Services, at 206-263-5780.

Sincerely,



for

Shannon Braddock
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff, King County Council

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

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

Stephanie Pure, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

Kelly Rider, Director, Department of Community and Human Services

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