



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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June 1, 2022

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

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

I am proud to transmit the 2021 Best Starts for Kids Annual Report, *Communities Building Impact*, as required by Ordinance 18373, and an accompanying proposed Motion that would, if enacted, accept the report. This is the final report for the first Best Starts for Kids levy, 2016-2021.

The report highlights data on our Best Starts for Kids investments and shares success stories from community partners across King County who have been impacted by their partnership with Best Starts. The stories shared in this report underscore Best Starts for Kids' deep relationships with community partners and how critical they are to supporting the lifelong success, health, and well-being of King County children, young people, and families. Best Starts for Kids and its partners continue to help create a community where all children will be able to achieve lifelong success.

As required, the annual report provides performance data on Best Starts for Kids activities. This includes information on progress toward meeting overall levy goals and strategies, performance metrics, lessons learned, performance measure changes, and strategies for continuous improvement. In addition, the report includes thematic analysis of narrative data that describe the common successes, challenges, and changes to Best Starts programs. These data inform ongoing implementation to ensure we are working effectively towards Best Starts' overarching results.

In 2021, Best Starts for Kids did not recommend any revisions to its Performance Measurement and Evaluation Plan or any changes to the Implementation Plan based on evaluation and data. Limited changes to performance measures occurred as programs responded to feedback from participants or as COVID-19 impacted programming and data collection, with the overarching goals and intended results remaining the same. The report summarizes all measurement refinements. All Best Starts for Kids strategies from 2020 continued in 2021, and no new strategies were added to the levy in 2021.

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In 2021, Best Starts for Kids continued to adapt its services and programs to effectively support community during the COVID-19 pandemic. Community partners demonstrated creativity, perseverance, and flexibility as they adapted services and programs to meet the evolving needs of children, youth, and families while following the latest public health guidance. Programs maintained, and in some cases, increased services despite facing another difficult year, even with a workforce deeply impacted by the ongoing pandemic. Best Starts for Kids carried on its ongoing work to dismantle racism and inequities through community connections and systems change efforts.

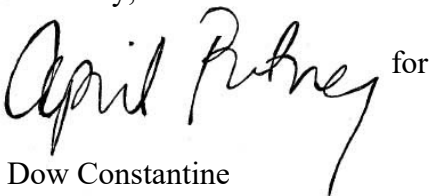
The King County Council directed that the Children and Youth Advisory Board (CYAB) members provide input on the Best Starts for Kids annual report. Children and Youth Advisory Board members received a draft copy of the 2021 Annual Report in April 2022. The final report reflects their input and feedback.

As illustrated throughout the annual report, Best Starts for Kids reflects the County's adopted policy direction within the King County Strategic Plan, the Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan, and the 2015 Youth Action Plan. Specifically, Best Starts for Kids supports the health and human services goal of the King County Strategic Plan, by strengthening families and communities so babies are born healthy, children establish a strong foundation for life, and young people grow into healthy adults. Best Starts for Kids maximizes the assets and knowledge of our richly diverse County and its many cultures and communities.

Staff invested approximately 1,300 staff hours to produce this report, costing approximately \$52,000, and \$90,000 for an independent contractor to provide writing and production services. The total report cost is about \$142,000.

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

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers
ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff
Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

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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

Dennis Worsham, Interim Director, Public Health – Seattle & King County