

September 19, 2017

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

Dear Councilmember McDermott:

This letter transmits the Best Starts for Kids 2017 Annual Report, as required by King County Council Ordinance 18373, and an accompanying motion to accept the report.

Best Starts for Kids is driven by the vision that for all King County's children, youth and young adults:

- Babies are born healthy and are provided with a strong foundation for lifelong health and well-being.
- King County is a place where everyone has equitable opportunities to be safe and healthy as they progress through childhood, building academic and life skills to be thriving members of their communities.
- Communities offer safe, welcoming and healthy environments that help improve outcomes for all of King County's children and families, regardless of where they live.

This first Best Starts for Kids annual report outlines the progress made to improve the health and well-being of all King County residents by investing in promotion, prevention and early intervention for children, youth, families and communities. The report details key milestones and successes in Best Starts' first year of implementation, between September 2016 and August 2017, including information on all investments made to date and our mutual learnings as we implement Best Starts for Kids in a relational, equitable and transparent way.

Best Starts for Kids builds on the strengths of King County's families and communities, and maximizes the assets and knowledge of our richly diverse County and its many communities and cultures. It reflects the County's adopted policy direction and is informed by the King County Strategic Plan, the Equity and Social Justice Ordinance, the Health and Human Services Transformation Plan and the 2015 Youth Action Plan.

The Honorable Joe McDermott
September 19, 2017
Page 2

Best Starts for Kids is partnering in new ways to support the well-being of King County children, families and communities in the pursuit of regional equity. Placing people at the center of all Best Starts for Kids' efforts, from community engagement to contracting, is earning community trust and building stronger relationships. Best Starts for Kids has invested money throughout King County communities, funding seven out of 10 total overarching Best Starts for Kids' strategies to date. These investments contribute to the change Best Starts wants to see in our communities by investing in children's lives early and sustaining those gains into young adulthood.

It is estimated that this report required 460 staff hours to produce, costing approximately \$17,300.

Thank you for your review of this report.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Adrienne Quinn, Director, Department of Community and Human Services, at 206-263-9100.

Sincerely,

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers
 ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff
 Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council
Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget
Adrienne Quinn, Director, Department of Community and Human Services
Patty Hayes, Director, Public Health—Seattle & King County