



King County

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July 15, 2024

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 2023 Best Starts for Kids (BSK) Annual Report as required by Ordinance 19354, and an accompanying proposed Motion that would, if enacted, acknowledge receipt of the report. This is the second annual report for the second BSK levy (2022-2027).

This report reflects the accomplishments of funded partners and shares data that highlights community's success in making positive changes for individuals and the community. The report organizes around five themes, representing impact, learnings, and integration of BSK work across strategies. These themes are:

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

From its inception, BSK has reflected both community wisdom and research about what we know babies, young people, and families need to have the best opportunity to be happy, healthy, safe, and thriving. As described in this report's themes, BSK addresses these issues holistically. It serves children and young people across the age span of prenatal to young adulthood and provides direct services as well as supporting policy and system changes.

In 2023, BSK partnered with 336 community-based organizations operating 591 programs to reach 151,919 children, young people, families, and community members across King County. In 2023, the BSK team released 12 request for proposals which resulted in 187 new programs run by 136 community partners. The new investment areas of Child Care and Capital Projects continued their development in partnership with community, so that families with young

The Honorable Dave Upthegrove

July 15, 2024

Page 2

children can get subsidies for childcare, and to provide for healthy and safe buildings where children can learn, grow, and explore.

The 2023 BSK Annual Report links to an updated data dashboard on the BSK website. The [Best Starts for Kids Data Dashboard](#) provides additional measures for BSK programs, customizable data views, and greater geographic and financial detail.

As required, the annual report provides information about expenditures, services, and outcomes for BSK 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 2023.

The King County Council directed the Children and Youth Advisory Board (CYAB) members provide input on the BSK annual report. CYAB members and the Communities of Opportunity Advisory Board members received a draft copy of the 2023 Annual Report in May 2024. The final report reflects their input and feedback.

Thank you for your review of this report and your consideration of the proposed Motion, and for your strong support for children, young people, and families across King County. If your staff have any questions, please contact Kelly Rider, Acting Director, Department of Community and Human Services, at 206-263-5780.

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, Deputy County Executive, Office of the Executive

Karan Gill, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Penny Lipsou, Council Relations Director, Office of the Executive

Kelly Rider, Acting Director, Department of Community and Human Services

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