



# KING COUNTY ALLIANCE FOR HUMAN SERVICES

*Advocating to establish stable, adequate and dedicated funding for community health & human services*

March 23, 2021

Dear Members of the King County Regional Policy Committee,

We thank you for your work representing residents across King County on the King County Regional Policy Committee. We are reaching out to you in advance of tomorrow's meeting to urge your support for renewal of Best Starts for Kids. Everyone needs a strong foundation to reach their full potential. Best Starts for Kids is one of the essential tools we have to ensure that kids across King County have the opportunity to thrive.

Best Starts for Kids builds well-being and strengthens families and communities in addition to preventing negative outcomes such as homelessness, domestic violence, and mental illness. Projects and programs funded are designed by communities to fit what is needed and what works.

In some cases, BSK expanded existing programs so they can benefit families directly. For example, the successful ParentChild+ program allowed agencies to hire Early Learning Specialists, who live in the neighborhoods and share language and cultural background with the families. This member from the community provides support and education to parents and children together, and then supports parents as they take on the role of their children's first teacher.

BSK has also supported domestic violence prevention services for youth and young adults as well as support for children and youth impacted by domestic and dating violence, building strong, healthy relationships for the next generation.

The King County Alliance for Human Services applauds our public officials and the voters for establishing this fund source five years ago and for the success we are already seeing from the services supported by the first BSK levy. We are dedicated to ensuring BSK helps kids in every zip code across the county succeed and **we advocate for the highest possible renewal at this critical time.**

We know what works. King County kids need our support to spring back from this pandemic stronger than ever. We urge you to strongly support our kids by strongly supporting the Executive's proposal as submitted.

Sincerely,

Anthony Austin  
Executive Director, Southeast Youth & Family Services  
Co-Chair, The King County Alliance for Human Services

Rachel Krinsky  
Executive Director, LifeWire  
Co-Chair, The King County Alliance for Human Services