



# Happy, Healthy, Safe and Thriving


We want to see babies  
born healthy, kids  
thrive, and young  
people grow up to be  
happy, healthy,  
successful adults



# Best Starts Governance Update

*Briefing to Regional Policy Committee, October 13, 2021*



 King County

Best Starts for  
**KIDS**



# Governance of Best Starts Levy 2022-2027



The King County Children and Youth Advisory Board (CYAB) and the Communities of Opportunity (COO) Governance Group, jointly serve as the governing entities for Best Starts

The CYAB and COO Governance Group serve complementary purposes in Best Starts levy oversight

Best Starts Renewal provides the context for recommending updates to the governing boards' composition and duties, and for extending the existence of the COO Governance Group to coincide with the levy





King County  
Children + Youth  
Advisory Board

# Current Composition

**Number of Members:** Maximum of 40

**Members:** Wide array of King County residents and stakeholders with geographically and culturally diverse perspectives

**Represented seats:** One for the City of Seattle; one for the City of Bellevue; two for the Sound Cities Association; and three youth, aged 24 years or younger

# CYAB Recommendations

1. Maintain its current size
2. Expand its role as policy advisors in partnership with dept staff, Executive and Council
3. Promote racial, ethnic, age, gender, orientation, identity, geographic, economic, and experiential diversity in the composition of the board
4. Elevate youth voice in all aspects of CYAB by increasing youth seats
5. Provide monthly stipends to CYAB youth members
6. Provide community service/service-learning hours to youth members
7. No substantive updates to duties







## Proposed Changes to the CYAB

**Elevate youth voice and decision-making influence:** Increase designated positions for youth, aged 24 years and younger, from at least three to at least five

**Stipends to advance equity and ensure sustained youth engagement:** Provide youth board members a nominal stipend of \$125 per month, adjusted annually using Consumer Price Index

**Support high school graduation requirements:** Enable youth board members to earn service-learning and community service hours for their participation on the board

# Governance Group Recommendations

1. Champion anti-racist, pro-equity values
2. Elevate community voice in all aspects of COO
3. Increase the size of the board and modify its composition
4. Promote racial, ethnic, age, gender, orientation, identity, geographic, economic, and experiential diversity in the composition of the board
5. No substantive updates to the duties





# Current Governance Group Composition

**Number of members:** Minimum of 14, maximum of 18

**Geographic or culturally based community representatives:** At least 2 members designated by entities that have been awarded COO funding for geographic or cultural community-based partnerships

**Community members:** At least 20% or 3 members who reflect demographic characteristics of communities that qualify for funding and who are grassroots organizers or activists in such communities and who live or have worked in such communities

**General member:** Selected by the Governance Group

**King County:** Executive or designee; Council chair or designee

**Seattle Foundation:** Two members appointed by Seattle Foundation





# Proposed Changes to Governance Group Composition

**Expanded Membership:** Minimum of 20, maximum of 24 members

**Systems and policy change representatives:** At least two members

**Learning community representatives:** At least two members

**General members with system/sector knowledge of COO result areas:** One member from each sector – affordable housing, health, economic opportunity, and civic/engagement/community connection

**Indigenous, Urban Native community, or Tribal representatives:** At least one member

**COO Director or designee:** Non-voting member of the board



# Enhancing Youth and Community Voice in Best Starts

Youth and community voices will play an even stronger role in the governance and oversight of the 2022-2027 levy funds

Their knowledge and lived experience will enhance the work of the *Best Starts* boards to make King County a place where all residents thrive