## STAFF REPORT

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| **Agenda Item:** | 5 | **Name:** | Scarlett Aldebot-Green  Miranda Leskinen  Andrew Kim |
| **Proposed No**.: | 2018-0261 | **Date:** | September 6, 2018 |

**SUBJECT**

A motion accepting the Best Starts for Kids Annual Report, "2017 Report to Our Community", in accordance with Attachment A to Ordinance 18373[[1]](#footnote-1) (Best Starts for Kids Implementation Plan).

**SUMMARY**

Proposed Motion 2018-0261 would accept the Best Starts for Kids (BSK) Annual Report, which covers information on all investments made in 2017 and provides a preview of future 2018 work funded by the Best Starts for Kids levy. BSK Annual Reports are required by the BSK Implementation Plan (approved by Ordinance 18373). Staff analysis has determined that the executive transmitted BSK Annual Report meets the requirements as outlined in the BSK Implementation Plan.

This item has been referred first to the Regional Policy Committee as a dual referral, and then to the Health, Housing and Human Services Committee. The Regional Policy Committee passed this motion at its June 27, 2018 meeting.

**BACKGROUND**

**BSK Levy.** The Best Starts for Kids (BSK) levy that was approved by King County voters in November 2015 is a property tax that will be levied at a rate of $0.14 per $1,000 of assessed valuation in 2016, with an increase of up to three percent for each of the five subsequent years of the levy—2017 through 2021.[[2]](#footnote-2) The July 2018 King County Office of Economic and Financial Analysis forecast projected that the BSK levy will generate a total of approximately $403 million in revenues over the six-year levy period.[[3]](#footnote-3)

The BSK levy Ordinance 18088, directed that out of the first year's levy proceeds, $19 million be set aside to fund the Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention Initiative (YFHPI) as well as the amounts that were necessary to pay for election costs related to the levy. All remaining levy proceeds are to be disbursed as follows: 50 percent for the Invest Early Allocation (0-5 year olds); 35 percent for the Sustain the Gain Allocation (5-24 year olds); 10 percent for the Communities Matter Allocation (otherwise known as Communities of Opportunity); and 5 percent for the Outcomes-Focused and Data-Driven Allocation.

**BSK Implementation Plan.** The Best Starts for Kids Implementation Plan, which outlines programming for the BSK initiative, approved by Ordinance 18373, provides requirements related to the transmittal timelines, stakeholder involvement and contents of the BSK First Annual Report. The summary of each requirement and an evaluation of whether each requirement was included in the BSK First Annual Report are detailed in the Analysis section below.

**BSK Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention Initiative Implementation Plan.** The BSK Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention Initiative (YFHPI) is intended to prevent and divert children and youth and their families from becoming homeless. The BSK YFHPI Implementation Plan, which outlines programming for BSK YFHPI, approved by Ordinance 18285[[4]](#footnote-4) and updated by Ordinance 18373, provides requirements related to transmittal timelines and contents of various reports related to BSK YFHPI. The following bullets summarize BSK YFHPI reporting to date:

* Motion 14797[[5]](#footnote-5) accepted a report on the BSK YFHPI technical assistance funding contract;
* Motion 14828[[6]](#footnote-6) accepted a report on the BSK YFHPI lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and queer awareness training contract;
* Motion 14845[[7]](#footnote-7) accepted a report on the BSK YFHPI services funding contracts;
* Motion 14901[[8]](#footnote-8) accepted the first outcomes report on the BSK YFHPI; and
* Proposed Motion 2018-0262 would accept the 2017 outcomes report on the BSK YFHPI.

**BSK Innovation Fund.** The 2017-2018 biennial budget ordinance[[9]](#footnote-9) provisoed[[10]](#footnote-10) $500,000 of the biennial appropriation for Best Starts for Kids pending the transmittal and Council approval of a proposed supplemental appropriation ordinance for expenditures of BSK levy proceeds to the Innovation Fund. As per the proviso, the supplemental appropriation ordinance was required to include clear, written specifications and investment processes for contemplated investment strategies. Ordinance 18569[[11]](#footnote-11) appropriated approximately $2.8 million of BSK levy funds for the Innovation Fund.

**BSK Evaluation and Performance Measurement Plan.** The BSK Implementation Plan sets out the principles for the BSK evaluation, including requirements for the BSK Evaluation and Performance Measurement Plan (EPMP) which would outline strategies, methods, and metrics to evaluate and measure the performance of the BSK initiative. The BSK EPMP was accepted by Motion 14979 on October 17, 2017. The accepted BSK EPMP did not contain any major divergences compared to the policy direction in the preliminary evaluation framework in the BSK Implementation Plan or in the YFHPI Implementation Plan. However, there were some key changes that were reflective of the initiative’s evolution as implementation roll-out has continued.[[12]](#footnote-12)

**ANALYSIS**

The BSK Implementation Plan outlines requirements related to the transmittal timelines, stakeholder involvement and contents of Best Starts for Kids Annual Reports. The following subsections evaluate whether the 2017 BSK Annual Report is consistent with the requirements outlined in the BSK Implementation Plan.

**Transmittal Timeline.** The BSK Implementation Plan requires that BSK Annual Reports be transmitted by June 1 of each year from 2018 through 2022. The 2017 BSK Annual Report met this requirement.

**Content Requirements.** The BSK Implementation Plan requires that BSK Annual Reports describe the programs funded and outcomes for the children, youth, families and young adults served. Specifically, annual reports are to include:

* Progress toward meeting overall levy goals and strategies
* Headline indicator measurements
* Performance metrics
* Lessons learned
* Strategies for continuous improvement

The transmitted BSK Annual Report includes this information.

BSK Annual Reports need only include reporting on the Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention Initiative starting in June 1, 2019. Nevertheless, the transmitted report does include some information on the progress of that initiative on pages 34 through 35.[[13]](#footnote-13)

**Review by Advisory Boards.** The BSK Implementation Plan requires that the BSK Annual Reports be developed in consultation with and respective components reviewed by the Children and Youth Advisory Board (CYAB) and the Communities of Opportunity – BSK Advisory Board[[14]](#footnote-14) (COO-BSK Board) before transmittal and that each advisory board shall consult on and review the respective portion of annual reports on BSK programming over which they have been charged with oversight.

**Details on Communities of Opportunity Awards.** The BSK Implementation Plan requires BSK Annual Reports include a detailed chart with information on all Communities of Opportunity awards to-date since the last reporting cycle. Page 48 of the 2017 BSK Annual Report summarizes the Communities of Opportunity: Places & Cultural Communities Awards for the reporting cycle.[[15]](#footnote-15) Additionally, Pages 37 through 38 of Report expound on the $2.7 million in 2017 investments and previews some of the anticipated 2018 work.

The BSK Implementation Plan also requires the BSK Annual Report to provide a breakdown of awards by multiple sources and the amounts contributed by each source if public funds (i.e. BSK levy funds) are blended with other fund sources for Communities of Opportunity awards. In addition, denotations that each public fund award was not awarded to undertake a prohibited body of work is also required. The transmitted report does not include this information for 2017 awards; this may be because there was no blending of public funds with other funds for the awards reported.

**BSK Evaluation and Performance Measurement Plan Updates.** The BSK Implementation Plan requires that updates to the BSK EPMP be reported as part of subsequent annual reports[[16]](#footnote-16). Relatedly, the BSK Implementation Plan also requires headline indicators be measured and reported annually as part of the annual report[[17]](#footnote-17). The transmitted report includes the required information.

**BSK Annual Report Highlights**

The following sub-sections provide highlights from the 2017 Best Starts for Kids Annual Report.

Invest Early Allocation Highlights

Among the 2017 achievements noted in the BSK Annual Report for this BSK Levy allocation, the following were included:

* With BSK funding, the Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program identified 88 pregnancies for prevention services within six months.
* In 2017, the Developmental Promotion programming reports that Universal Development Screening Landscape Analysis and Strategic Plan is underway, which would provide direction on future work of these related programs.
* Early Support for Infant and Toddlers served 380 more children, an increase of 9 percent from 2016 and Early Support for Infants and Toddlers improved process for evaluating children's social and emotional development.
* Home-based services programs report funding 11 Evidence-Based and Evidence-Informed Programs, including two new programs and Partnering with the City of Seattle and United Way of King County to sustain current levels of Parent-Child Home Program service and expand to new families and communities through 17 awards.

Sustain the Gain Allocation Highlights

Among the 2017 achievements noted in the BSK Annual Report for this BSK Levy allocation, the following were included:

* BSK funded 32 new youth-serving organizations to provide youth development services. The RFP process prioritized funding community- and youth-led programs that incorporate youth voices and leadership in program design and implementation.
* Youth development strategies expanded mentoring programs throughout King county including Trail Youth in Snoqualmie Valley and Friends of the Children in Rainer Valley and South King County.
* Under the Healthy and Safe Relationships program, the DOVE Project on Vashon Island partnered with Best Starts to strengthen its existing Teen Council, an evidence-informed peer education program that supports young people to develop as leaders and educators as they work with their peers to understand healthy relationships and sexual health.
* 96 "mini grants" were awarded to schools and partner organizations across the County to support Trauma-Informed and Restorative Practices.
* 56 schools in 13 school districts received awards to plan to implement Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Services (SBIRT), which is a tool that screens for mental health and substance use.
* Three new School-Based Health Centers opened in Bellevue, Renton and Vashon Island. These would serve almost 1,000 young people and an additional 12 existing health centers received funding to enhance services.
* BSK invested $626,000 in 2017 toward the Adolescent Immunization Collaborative, which aims to increase the number of adolescents who receive all recommended vaccinations by age 18.

Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention Initiative

* In 2017 this initiative served 4,200 people, including 1,000 families with children and 200 unaccompanied youth and young adults.
* In 2017, 94% of clients serviced stayed in housing and did not enter the Homelessness Management Information System.
* During the reported year, 19% of households resolved their housing crisis through case management and other services.

Communities of Opportunity

Communities of Opportunity invested $2.7 million in 2017. In addition to continuing to support the work of three original place-based partnerships (Rainier Valley, White Center, and SeaTac/Tukwila), the initiative's planning and outreach work in 2017 led to more than $2.5 million in investments to create and sustain policies and systems that promote equity and "create a more vibrant King County." Additionally, the BSK Annual Report indicates that grants to 27 nonprofits aim to "bring together fifty organizations to strengthen community connections, economic opportunity, health outcomes and housing for low-income and communities of color in King County."

**INVITED:**

* Sheila Capestany, Strategic Advisor for Children & Youth, Department of Community and Human Services
* Andrea Akita, Director, Communities of Opportunity, Public Health-Seattle & King County
* Eva Wong, Senior Epidemiologist, Assessment, Policy Development & Evaluation Unit, Public Health-Seattle & King County
* Sophia Ayele, Best Starts for Kids Performance Measurement Evaluator, Department of Community and Human Services
* Mark Ellerbrook, Regional Housing and Community Development Manager, Department of Community and Human Services

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Proposed Motion 2018-0261
   1. Attachment A: Best Starts for Kids 2017 Annual Report
2. Transmittal letter

1. Enacted on September 19, 2016. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Ordinance 18088 and Motion 14673. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Earlier projections estimated approximately $392.3 million in revenues over the six year levy period. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Enacted on May 17, 2016. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Adopted January 23, 2017. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Adopted March 27, 2017. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Adopted April 17, 2017. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Adopted July 5, 2017. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Enacted November 17, 2016. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Ordinance 18409, Section 95, Proviso P1. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Enacted on September 14, 2017. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. The King County Auditor's Office's 2017/2018 biennial work plan included an audit of the BSK EPMP. That audit was conducted in 2017 and generated four recommendations for the Executive: 1) develop measures that adhere to the results-based accountability model for all programs; 2) develop detailed criteria for selecting the appropriate types of evaluation for different programs; 3) document data quality procedures for the current data system and the future system; and 4) develop and document procedures for the evaluation team, management, and the Executive to protect findings. The Auditor's Office presented their final report to the Government Accountability and Oversight Committee on Nov. 28, 2017 and to the Health, Housing and Human Services Committee on Dec. 5, 2017. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. $3.7 million was awarded to 25 community-based organizations to hire case managers and provide flexible funds to prevent youth and family homelessness. Staff have confirmed the $3.6 million cited on pages 34 and 48 of report was a typo. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Also referred to as the Communities of Opportunity Governance Group. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. In the table on page 48 of the report relating to Communities of Opportunity: Places & Cultural Communities Awards, staff have confirmed that the $465,000 award to the Seattle Foundation (listed twice) was erroneously included and a $455,000 award to HomeSight was erroneously omitted from the table (for a total awards amount of $2,722,500 rather than $2,732,500). [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. BSK Implementation Plan (Attachment A of Ordinance 18373), page 103. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. BSK Implementation Plan (Attachment A of Ordinance 18373), page 13. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)