



## King County

### Dow Constantine

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July 15, 2020

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

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

This letter transmits the 2019 Best Starts for Kids Annual Report, *Communities Building Impact*, as required by King County Council Ordinance 18373, and an accompanying motion to accept the report.

The report includes data on Best Starts for Kids successes and stories of the lives that it has enriched. Best Starts for Kids community partners, working with King County's children, youth and families, are helping create a community where all children will be able to achieve lifelong success.

As required, the annual report provides performance data on Best Starts for Kids activities. This includes progress toward meeting overall levy goals and strategies, performance metrics, lessons learned, performance measure targets for the following year of Best Starts for Kids programs, and strategies for continuous improvement. There are no substantive changes to performance measure targets since last year's report. In addition, as directed by the ordinance, the annual report includes the latest available data about headline indicator measurements, the long-term measures that quantify Best Starts for Kids' overarching results.

In 2019, Best Starts for Kids did not recommend any revisions to its Performance Measurement and Evaluation Plan or any changes to the plan or programs based on evaluation and data. Refinements to measurement processes in limited instances were as new information became available, but the substance and targets remained the same. The report summarizes all measurement refinements. All Best Starts for Kids strategies from 2018 continued in 2019, and the levy added no new strategies in 2019.

Each report section describes implementation progress in three ways:



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- Laying the groundwork: Internal work required to award funding and deliver services is under way.
- Building momentum: Awardees have contracts in place and are beginning their work. Performance data are not yet available.
- Delivering impact: Awardees are actively delivering services and there is at least one quarter of performance data from 2019 to report.

The Council directed that certain advisory boards provide input on the Best Starts for Kids annual report. Children and Youth Advisory Board and Communities of Opportunity Advisory Board members received a draft copy of the 2019 Annual Report in April 2020. Representatives from each board reviewed the respective portion of the report over which they have oversight. The final report reflects their input and feedback.

As illustrated throughout the annual report, Best Starts for Kids reflects the County's adopted policy direction within the King County Strategic Plan, the Equity and Social Justice Ordinance, and the 2015 Youth Action Plan. Specifically, Best Starts for Kids strengthens families and communities so that babies are born healthy, children establish a strong foundation for life, and young people grow into healthy adults. Best Starts for Kids maximizes the assets and knowledge of our richly diverse County and its many cultures and communities.

It is estimated that this report required 2,097 staff hours to produce, costing approximately \$63,900.

Thank you for your review of this report, and for your strong support for children, youth and families across King County. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Leo Flor, Director, Department of Community and Human Services, at 206-477-4384.

Sincerely,



Dow Constantine  
King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers  
    ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff  
        Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council  
Shannon Braddock, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive  
Karan Gill, Director, Council Relations, Office of the Executive  
Leo Flor, Director, Department of Community and Human Services  
Patty Hayes, Director, Public Health – Seattle & King County