

Legislation Text

File #: 2021-0288, **Version:** 1

CE 7/29/21

AN ORDINANCE adopting the Best Start for Kids implementation plan required by Ordinance 19267, Section 7, to govern the expenditure of Best Start for Kids levy proceeds from 2022 through 2027, to promote improved health and well-being outcomes of children and youth, as well as the families and communities in which they live.

STATEMENT OF FACTS:

1. In 2015, Ordinance 18088 placed a six-year Best Starts for Kids levy on the general election ballot. King County residents voted and approved the Best Starts for Kids Levy to fund programs and services that support promotion, prevention, and early intervention for King County's children, youth and families.
2. In 2021, Ordinance 19267 placed a six-year renewal of the Best Starts for Kids levy on the general election ballot. King County residents will vote on August 3, 2021, to approve or reject the renewal of the Best Start for Kids levy, continuing for 2022 through 2027 to fund services for King County residents in need. The levy's proceeds will be used to plan, provide, administer and evaluate a wide range of regional health promotion, prevention, early interventions and capital investments for King County children, youth and families.
- 3.a. Ordinance 19267, Section 7, requires the executive to develop and transmit for council review and adoption by ordinance an implementation plan for the Best Starts for Kids levy. The implementation plan, once effective, will govern the expenditure of the levy's proceeds until the

levy expires in 2027. The required implementation plan is Attachment A to this ordinance.

b. The implementation plan identifies the strategies to be funded and outcomes to be achieved with the use of the levy proceeds. The Best Starts for Kids implementation plan also includes a framework to measure the performance of the levy strategies in achieving their outcomes, including annual reporting on levy expenditures, services and outcomes.

c. For the purposes of this subsection 3., "outcomes" include, but are not limited to:

(1) capital investments for buildings and facilities, including, but not limited to, housing, that serve children and youth, ensuring adequate services and supports for pregnant persons and newborns;

(2) access to safe and healthy food;

(3) developmental screening for children for children and youth;

(4) programs that care for children and youth when they are not at home including childcare and out-of-school time program;

(5) programs and services that promote social and emotional well-being, mental health and a sense of belonging, connection and positive identity in children and youth; and

(6) programs and services that provide academic support and promote academic achievement.

4. The executive developed the Best Starts for Kids implementation plan in consultation with the King County children and youth advisory board and the communities of opportunity-best starts for kids levy advisory board. In developing the Best Starts for Kids implementation plan, the executive considered and promoted harmony with the previous Best Starts for Kids Implementation Plan approved by Ordinance 18373.

5. The previous Best Starts for Kids Implementation Plan described which strategies from the previous Best Starts for Kids Implementation Plan shall continue in the proposed Best Starts for Kids Implementation Plan. The implementation plan describes newly enhanced categories of

funding added to the levy, including a King County child care subsidy program, a child care workforce demonstration project, the expansion of out of school time programs for school-aged children, up to four new school-based health centers, the expansion of transitions to adulthood programs for youth and young adults.

6. The Best Starts for Kids implementation plan reflects the King County Youth Action Plan (YAP), adopted by Motion 14378. The YAP establishes a policy framework for the Best Starts for Kids levy by centering focus on equity and including diverse youth voices throughout the implementation plan creation process.

7. Motion 15888, adopted on June 1, 2021, requests that the executive, in developing the Best Starts for Kids Implementation Plan, identify strategies relating to prevention, outreach, and early intervention to address mental health and substance use impacts in children and youth five through twenty-four years old, that have been exacerbated due to the coronavirus 2019 pandemic; and consider programs and services that provide, expand or provide and expand access to substance abuse disorder supports for children and youth, including but not limited to, awareness campaigns on substance use.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

SECTION 1. The Best Starts for Kids Implementation Plan, dated July 30, 2021,

Attachment A to this ordinance, is hereby adopted to govern the expenditure of best starts for kids levy proceeds as authorized under Ordinance 19267.