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# Youth Action Plan Update 2021



“We have a powerful potential in our youth, and we must have the courage to change old ideas and practices so that we may direct their power toward good ends.”

-Mary Mcleod Bethune

# Community Input

## Developing the Youth Action Plan

- 130 youth survey responses
- 3 youth forums
- 11 key informant interviews
- 21 organization survey responses
- 1 Safety Forum
- 160 individuals participated in Kent Service Providers Network meetings
- 19 Core team members met monthly



# Big Picture Approach

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Work at multiple levels – from top leadership groups to neighborhood coalitions

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Align structures, goals and strategies.

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Assure mutually reinforcing interventions.

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Assess through shared measurements.

# Youth Voice

**“Youth should be at the center of informing programs and policies that impact them.”** (Stakeholder interviews and focus groups)

- Glover Empowered Mentoring held 3 forums to hear directly from Youth about their experiences in Kent.
- 132 Surveys from Youth in Kent were collected.
- Research shows that involvement in youth organizing contributes to the social-emotional and academic development of young people in powerful ways, while also promoting their civic engagement. (Transforming Young People and Communities, Funders Collaborative on Youth Organizing)

# Catalyst to changing the odds for youth in Kent

## VISION

All youth in Kent have what they need, when they need it, to be empowered and engaged in their community.

## Priorities:

- Opportunities to learn and grow
- A safe neighborhood to call home
- A healthy lifestyle and environment

Improve  
health,  
academic,  
and economic  
outcomes for  
youth.

Youth are  
engaged in  
and have  
positive  
attachment to  
community.

# RESULTS



Build on and expand existing partnerships, programs and services for young people and coordinate public and private programs to better serve our young people.

Children, youth and families access and actively participate in high quality, culturally responsive, and engaging programs that promote positive child, youth and family development.

Promote safe and supportive environments that foster healthy youth and families.

Youth access and continue to utilize effective resources to support their positive development and ability to fully participate in community life.

# GOALS



## Measures of Success

- On time graduation from high school with a plan for college or career path and the necessary means to attainment
- Positive attachment to community
- Employment Experience
- Community Safety
- Access to Health Promotion Services and Activities
- Stable Housing
- System or Organizational Infrastructure and Capacity
- Equity

## Recommended Strategies

- Engage a multi-sector advisory body, including representation from youth and parents/caregivers.
- Support existing youth advisory councils and utilize youth voice to provide input and guidance to developing and implementing policies and activities that affect youth and families in Kent.
- Establish a local afterschool coalition, including both City programs and community-based providers.

- Identify and enhance safe places for children and youth that promote high quality culturally responsive afterschool/summer/extended learning programs.
- Identify opportunities to create and/or support community wide campaigns:
  - Attendance Matters
  - Mentoring
  - Youth Employment
- Expand case management and multi-agency intervention teams supporting a multi-tiered system of supports that provide targeted wrap-around supports based upon unique needs of individuals, programs, and schools.

## **CORE TEAM PURPOSE/FUNCTION**

- Identifying and measuring shared outcomes and best practices of resources and services for youth.
- Providing relevant professional development (PD) opportunities to all providers serving youth.
- Assisting to define and communicate consistent policies and procedures related to youth.
- Utilizing data to improve sound decision making to support youth.
- Providing valuable connection and networking with high quality youth service providers.
- Promote youth program resources and services.

# Recommendations to build a sustainable structure

Establish	Establish a Leadership Roundtable
Develop	Develop processes to ensure Youth Voice
Continue	Continue the work of the Core Team
Promote	Promote effective city-school collaboration
Continue	Continue to expand the Youth Providers Network

# City Role

- Keeping the collaborative moving along, focus on systems level work, and support aligned strategies;
- Cultivating community engagement and ownership;
- Connecting and brokering relationships between business and cultural organizations;
- Connecting to regional youth-focused efforts;
- Providing staff support to the Core Team, Youth Leadership Core Team, Provider Network and workgroups; and
- Hosting the Youth Initiative on the City's website;

# Organizations currently participating in Core Team

King County Housing Authority	King County Library Systems	Public Health - Seattle King County	Puget Sound Educational Service District	Communities In Schools - Kent	Kent School District
City of Kent Parks, Recreation, and Community Services	Glover Empowerment Mentoring	KYFS	Centro Rendu /SVDP	Kent School District	Atlantic Street Center
Community Network Council	RAP	Mother Africa	Living Well Kent	CRB – Communities of Rooted Brilliance (Previously Coalition for Refugees from Burma)	Cities Rise
		Kent YMCA	Public Health Placed Based Strategy team		