

**2021 Supporting Youth and Young Adults for Success RFP  
Data and Literature Review Highlights**

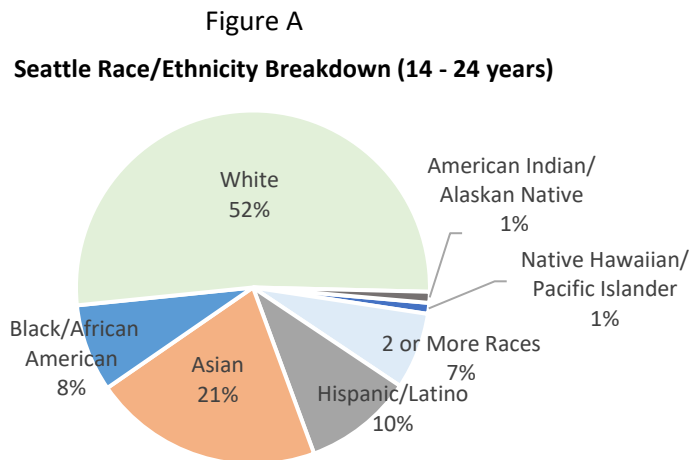
**A. Priority Population and Focus Population**

- 1. Priority populations** are identified as a group (or groups) comprising a specific demographic (seniors, youth, families, etc.) or having a specific issue in common (unemployed, violence involved, etc.). The priority population for this investment opportunity is **low-income youth and young adults of color**.

Youth and young adults of color typically have the highest disparities in social, economic, and educational attainments. Like many major cities, Seattle’s youth of color and their families experience barriers to education and jobs with living wages at higher rates than their White counterparts. For young people between 16 – 24 years old living in Seattle, 80% who identified as American Indian/Alaska Native have household incomes less than 200% of the federal poverty level.<sup>1</sup> Lower incomes among young people, coupled with other disparities based on race, are a significant contributing factor to school dropout rates, criminal justice involvement, and difficulties in making a successful transition to adulthood.

- 2. Focus populations** are identified as specific racial or ethnic groups within the priority population with the highest disparities in the investment area, according to available data. Priority populations and focus populations for this funding are based on HSD’s results-based accountability framework, to ensure that the department’s investments are dedicated to addressing disparities.

Figure A shows the breakdown of Seattle’s youth and young adult population by race/ethnicity.<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Public Use Microdata Sample. (2013-2017). Produced by Public Health - Seattle & King County, Assessment, Policy Development & Evaluation, Nov. 2019

<sup>2</sup> Washington State Office of Financial Management, Forecasting Division. *Single Year Intercensal Estimates 2001 – 2017 & 2001 – 2018*.

The Education Research & Data Center (ERDC) compiles data about Washington state students as they move through early learning, kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, post-secondary to the workforce sector and links the data from multiple state agencies to inform law makers.

According to the ERDC, Seattle youth of color with only high school diplomas make significantly less than the 50% (\$48,000 in 2017) of the area median income and are not earning enough to live in the city by age 26.<sup>3</sup>

The Washington State Department of Health conducts the biennial Healthy Youth Survey on 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders about safety and violence, physical activity and diet, alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, and related risk and protective factors. The 2016 and 2018 Healthy Youth Surveys show that 35% of Seattle's Hispanic/Latino, 38% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, 34% Black/African American, 31% Asian, 27% multiethnic, and 21% American Indian/Alaskan Native middle and high schoolers did not have a trusted adult to talk to.<sup>4</sup>

Given the data, focus population(s) for this investment opportunity are:

- Asian
- Black/African American
- Hispanic/Latino
- Native American/Alaska Native
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

Applicants should demonstrate an intention and plan to address the disparities associated with the above focus populations.

Applicants may specialize in specific groups within the list of focus populations. Proposals that clearly describe a plan to address significant needs among other populations will also be considered. For example, the following groups are not priority or focus populations for this RFP, but experience disparities in addition to those they face as young people of color.

**a. English Language Learners**

As Seattle's younger population becomes increasingly diverse, there are also challenges for youth who have come to the city as refugees or immigrants. Research identifies unique risk and protective factors for immigrant and refugee youth and English language learners, suggesting that their success now will affect future generations.<sup>5</sup> Immigrant and refugee young people show heightened disparity in a number of benchmarks that are indicators of future success, including education. In 2018, 27% of low-income students from Seattle Public Schools did not graduate on time. For English language learners, the disparity is even greater; their graduation rate were 24% lower than non-English language learners.<sup>6</sup> Culturally and linguistically relevant

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<sup>3</sup> Education Research & Data Center. *High School Graduate Outcomes*. Retrieved from <https://erdc.wa.gov/data-dashboards/high-school-graduate-outcomes>

<sup>4</sup> Washington State Department of Health and Human Services. *Washington State Healthy Youth Survey. Average 2016 & 2018*.

<sup>5</sup> Hunt, D., Morland, L., Barocas, R., Huckans, M., Caal, S. 2002. *Understanding, Preventing, and Treating Problem Behaviors Among Refugee and Immigrant Youth*. The Center for Multicultural Human Services.

<sup>6</sup> Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. 12 August 2016. *Seattle School District Report Card*.

programming that focus on strengths and assets are critical to ensure the success of young people from immigrant and refugee communities, both academically and professionally.

**b. Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender/Questions (LGBTQ)**

LGBTQ youth experience disproportionate rates of depression, suicide, homelessness and placement into foster care homes and juvenile legal institutions. In addition, many LGBTQ youth and young adults of color face additional challenges and are more likely to be verbally and physically harassed regarding their sexual orientation and race/ethnicity.<sup>7</sup>

**c. Older Youth and Young Adults in Foster Care**

In Washington, 19% of the youth in foster care are 14 and older. By age 21, young people who have been in foster care in Washington have worse employment, educational and housing outcomes than other young people in foster care nationwide and young people in Washington state in general.<sup>8</sup>

**d. Youth and Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness**

Youth experiencing homelessness have an increased risk for substance abuse, mental health problems and involvement in the juvenile legal system.<sup>9</sup> In 2019, there were 1,089 unaccompanied youth and young adults included in the Count Us In point in time count of people experiencing homelessness in King County. The majority, 1,007, were between the ages of 18 and 24. This number does not include youth and young adults who are under 25 and are either with parents or are parents themselves.

Thirty-eight percent (38%) of the unaccompanied youth and young adults included in the count identified as white, 34% as Black/African American, 20% as Hispanic/Latino, 12% as multiple races, 10% as Native American/Alaska Native, 3% as Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and 3% as Asian.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Kann, L., Olsen E, McManus, T., Harris, W., Shanklin, S., Flint, K., Queen, B., Lowry, R., Chyen, D., Whittle, L., Thornton, J., Lim, C., Yamakawa, Y., Brener, N., Zaza, S. 2015. *Sexual Identity, Sex of Sexual Contacts, and Health-Related Behaviors Among Students in Grades 9–12 — United States and Selected Sites*. Retrieved from <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.ss6509a1>

<sup>8</sup> The Annie E. Casey Foundation. 2018. *2018 Washington Profile Transition Age Youth in Foster Care*. Retrieved from <https://www.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/washington-fosteringyouthtransitions-2018.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> Washington State Department of Social and Health Services. January 2015. *Homeless and Unstably Housed K-12 Students in Washington State*.

<sup>10</sup> Applied Survey Research. 2019. *2019 Count Us In Report*. All Home King County. Retrieved from <http://allhomekc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/KING-9.5-v2.pdf>.