

YDEKC Advocacy Agenda

Youth Development Executives of King County, a coalition of **100 executive directors of non-profit youth serving organizations**, recognizes the interconnectedness of the challenges and issues facing young people and families in our communities. Young people need social, emotional, academic and physical well-being supports to successfully navigate childhood and adolescence to become healthy, contributing adults in our communities. Our members recognize the intersection of the issues and possibilities faced by our communities and support legislation and budget priorities at all jurisdictions that close opportunity gaps and eliminate disparities based on race while advancing the livelihood of all young people – particularly our most vulnerable.



Youth Development Executives of King County
Working together to advance the youth development field

UPDATED 1/24/2017

New Revenue, Better Coordination



NEW, ADDITIONAL AND SUSTAINABLE REVENUE SOURCES ARE NECESSARY TO ENSURING YOUNG PEOPLE CAN REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

- **No Cuts: Solutions to the McCleary ruling to fully fund basic education must include new revenue.** *Positive outcomes for children require investments in K-12 education and the basic supports that help children learn.*
- **Close** outdated and unnecessary tax preferences as outlined in the Governor's Budget and adopt new sources of revenue.
- Support the Creation of a Children's Department for Children, Youth and Families to ensure better coordination.

YDEKC stands with Our Economic Future/Revenue Coalition, Partners for Our Children, The Children's Alliance and many others.

Afterschool & Summer



YDEKC SUPPORTS EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AND COLLABORATIONS TO IMPROVE STUDENT SUCCESS

- Continue the Expanded Learning Opportunities Quality Initiative to support students afterschool and through the summer.
- Implement Washington State Expanded Learning Opportunities Council 2016 Recommendations.
- Support Capital funding for dedicated space for Out of School Time Programming.
- Increase Learning Assistance Program (LAP) Funding from State to Districts

YDEKC stands with the Expanded Learning Coalition led by School's Out Washington.

Safe Housing for Youth



YDEKC SUPPORTS POLICIES THAT ENSURE HOMELESSNESS IS RARE AND BRIEF

The Homeless Youth Act will reduce and prevent youth and young adult homelessness in our State. Additionally, the YEAR Act will allow full access to society by sealing all juvenile records. However, there is more work to be done:

- Youth Consent to Participate in HMIS (Homeless Management Information System)
- Expand funding for the Homeless Student Stability & Opportunity Gap Act
- Monitor the Housing Trust Fund
- Ensure sustainability of the document recording fees that supports essential services.

YDEKC stands with the Child Welfare Advocacy Coalition, WaCHYA, and UWKC on these issues.

Path to Living Wage Jobs



YDEKC SUPPORTS ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION, CAREER DEVELOPMENT & LIVING WAGE JOBS

- Ensure financial access to postsecondary opportunities includes aspiring citizens.
- Seal juvenile records to allow full access to society.
- Legal Financial Obligation Reform (LFO) and “Ban the Box.”

YDEKC stands with the UWKC on these Issues.

Social, Emotional and Behavioral Health & whole child Well-Being



YDEKC SUPPORTS LEGISLATION THAT IMPROVES WELL-BEING

- Support legislation (HB1518) that advances Social and Emotional Learning practices including adoption of the state SEL Benchmarks Report from October 2016 & funds the SEL workgroup for another budget cycle.
- Expand Family Assessment Response and Crisis Family Intervention.
- Support Breakfast after the Bell and other summer meal programs (HB1508).
- Medicaid Behavioral Health Access: additional support to ensure access to behavioral health/treatment for low-income children and adults.

YDEKC stands with the Children’s Alliance, SEL for WA, King County Youth and Family Association, UWKC, and others on these issues.

Increasing Equity



YDEKC SUPPORTS POLICIES THAT INCREASE RACIAL EQUITY AND DECREASE DISPARITIES

- Eliminate unfair and exclusionary discipline practices at schools. Support SB5155 to eliminate suspensions in grades K-2.
- Support implementation of the Opportunity Gap bill (HB1541).
- Fully restore TANF to support economic security of families.
- Ensure culturally specific, communities of color-led and smaller organizations are able to participate in funding opportunities.
- Support minimum wage, but ensure mitigation support for non-profits.

YDEKC stands with the Equity in Education Coalition and many others on these issues.

For more information about YDEKC, please contact:

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