**YDEKC SEL School-Community Partnerships Cohort 2019-2020**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

***Project Description:*** *The SEL School-Community Partnerships Cohort is a 16-month peer learning cohort for CBO coordinators and managers building sustainable school-community partnerships and programs supporting the social emotional development of youth in grades Kindergarten through 12th grade in King County. We will learn and apply strategies and tools from our School-Community Partnership Toolkit, which provides supports for multiple stages of partnership: Assessing Readiness, Mapping Needs and Assets, Establishing Partnership, Working Together, and Evaluating Programs. The program will begin in March 2019 and end in June 2020.*

**Q: What is the School-Community Partnership Toolkit?**

A: The Youth Development for Education Results workgroup of the Road Map Project, staffed by YDEKC, has been working since 2011 to identify resources and strategies that are integral to creating and sustaining thriving, authentic partnerships between schools and youth-serving organizations. YDEKC led the development of the School-Community Partnership Toolkit, a set of tools designed to improve coordination between educators and community partners working toward holistic student success at multiple stages of partnership: Assessing Readiness, Mapping Needs and Assets, Establishing Partnership, Working Together, and Evaluating Programs. These resources are intended to help schools, school districts, and youth-serving CBOs build the web of partnerships that can provide every young person the opportunity and support they need to learn, lead, connect, contribute, and thrive. Check out the tools online at: [https://ydekc.org/resource-center/school-community-partnership-toolkit/.](https://ydekc.org/resource-center/school-community-partnership-toolkit/)

**Q: What is a peer learning cohort?**

A: Peer Learning Cohorts are one of the ways YDEKC serves its members and partner organizations in the youth development sector in King County. We bring together people working in youth-serving organizations to share ideas and strategies with each other, with an opportunity to learn and apply practices and tools. Our cohorts have focused on a diverse array of topics, from racial equity to measurement and evaluation. The SEL School-Community Partnerships Cohort will be our third cohort focused on school-community partnerships.

**Q: What does a typical session look like and what topics are covered?**

A: We design sessions to be interactive and engaging for participants. Each session will include a community building activity (often led by a cohort member), group discussion, introduction to at least one tool or strategy and an opportunity to apply it through practice or discussion, and reflection. Each session is 2 hours long. Sample cohort sessions include: Mapping Your Partnership Ecosystem, Approaching and Building a Shared Vision and Outcomes with a Partner, Developing a Logic Model and Mapping Activities to Outcomes, Communication Strategy: Elevating the Youth Development Sector’s Role in SEL, Washington State SEL Standards: Alignment and Implementation, Developing Sustainable Partnerships and Programs, and Social Emotional Learning: Strategies for Youth & Adults. Social emotional learning and racial equity will be integrated throughout the sessions. For more detailed descriptions of topics from previous cohorts, visit our blog at <https://ydekc.org/news/> to view posts on partnership.

**Q: Who facilitates the cohort?**

A: Anne Arias, Project Manager, and Mona Grife, SEL Strategy Manager, will be facilitating this cohort. Their bios can be found at <https://ydekc.org/about/staff/>. Sometimes we bring in other colleagues or partners to lead sessions. We will also design two or more sessions with a planning committee of participants, who will be encouraged to co-facilitate if they are interested in doing so.

**Q: What if I can’t make it to every session?**

A: Because this is a peer learning cohort, relationship building is an important part of the experience, so we expect you to try to attend at least 80% of the cohort sessions. If you can’t make it to a session, we encourage you to review the notes we send out afterwards and follow up with us if you have questions. We also encourage you to apply to the program with a colleague, when possible. In this case, you can follow up with each other between sessions, especially if one of you wasn’t able to attend.

**Q: Where will the cohort sessions take place?**

A: We will meet at various locations across South King County. We invite participants to host at their organization or school site so we have the opportunity to visit different partnership locations. If no one is available to host, we typically host at places such as Tukwila Community Center or the 2100 Building in Seattle.

**Q: What if my organization has already participated in one of YDEKC’s school-community partnerships cohorts? Can we participate again?**

A: Yes, we encourage your organization to apply to participate again, although we are also committed to including some organizations in this cohort who will be participating for the first time. This kind of investment helps to strengthen your organization’s capacity to build and sustain school-community partnerships. It would be a great opportunity for a staff person who is new to their role, a manager, or a colleague of the original cohort participant.

**Q: What can we use the grant award for?**

A: We encourage organizations to use the grant award to offset staff time and mileage, develop partnership activities, strengthen social emotional learning programming or staff development, or otherwise support the program and organization. We will distribute the grant award in two payments, one in 2019 and one in 2020. If you are accepted into the cohort, we will request the following items in order to process your grant award: an agreement signed by your Executive Director or other authorized signer and a signed and dated W-9 for your organization.

**Q: When are the cohort meeting dates?**

A: The cohort will meet monthly on the third Wednesday of each month, with some exceptions\*, starting in March 2019 and ending in June 2020. Meetings will take place from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The cohort will not meet in July and in August, instead of a cohort meeting, we will encourage all participants to attend YDEKC’s annual Whole Child Whole Day Symposium. Dates *for the first six months* are listed below.

* March 27, 2019\* (4th Wednesday)
* April 17, 2019
* May 15, 2019
* June 12, 2019\* (2nd Wednesday)
* Cohort will not meet in July
* August 9, 2019\* [YDEKC’s annual Whole Child Whole Day Symposium]

**Q: What happens if there is staff turnover during the program?**

A: If one or more of the cohort participants leaves their organization or takes a new job that does not relate to school-community partnership work, we encourage the organization to identify a new person, either in the same role or a related one, who can join the cohort in their place. We will meet with the new participant to orient them to the program.

**Q: How many people and organizations will participate in the cohort?**

A: Up to 20 people and up to 15 organizations will participate in the cohort. Our intention is to build a cohort made up of organizations that are diverse in size and scope and programs that are doing work in the K-12 spectrum in different areas of King County, with an emphasis on the Road Map region.

**For more information and to apply, visit ydekc.org/news/sel-new-school-community-partnerships-cohort/ today!**