

Testimony at King County Council of the Whole (by phone)
July 28, 2020

Hello King County Councilmembers.

This is Jessica Werner, Executive Director of YDEKC, a coalition of more than 100 nonprofit youth serving organizations across King County, including dozens of BIPOC led organizations including many in the Racial Equity Coalition, many involved with King County Promise, and a vast majority with a focus of supporting children and youth of color.

I'm here to testify in support of quickly moving forward passage and adoption of the Puget Sound Taxpayer Accountability Account implementation plan as submitted to you. The plan builds on your guidance and multiple motions over the past 3 plus years, with community input, focus groups, advocacy and deliberation all along the way.

The PSTAA investment plan prioritizes programs and activities that complement the innovative investments in the Best Starts for Kids Levy across the age range and will help to ensure that we keep a long view of what our children and youth need now and will need going forward through recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the longstanding pandemic of structural and systemic racism in our community.

Please move approval of the implementation plan forward swiftly. Your action will also help to ensure that the state continues to distribute these funds every two years to King County rather than using them for other purposes. Thank you for your service and support – especially under these new conditions that you didn't sign up for - to ensure all of our kids are happy, healthy, safe and thriving.