



## **Youth Development Executive of King County's Capacity Building Services for King County Best Starts for Kids Grantees**

[Youth Development Executives of King County](#) (YDEKC) is a coalition of more than 100 youth-serving non-profit organizations and a capacity builder in youth development and education. Our mission is to connect, strengthen, and amplify the leaders of youth-serving organizations so that all Black, Indigenous and youth of color thrive. We build bridges between schools, communities, families, and across systems with a whole child, whole day approach. Since many systems and agencies serving young people – from K-12 schools to nonprofit organizations – have structurally racist foundations, we shift practices and policies to create healthy, thriving, youth-focused organizations and environments.

YDEKC cultivates collaborative relationships and facilitates collective learning experiences to support leaders in youth-serving organizations, schools and school districts, and the County to build and sustain school-community partnerships at the program/site, organization, and system levels. Our lead capacity builders each have two decades of experience in youth development and cross-sector partnerships. We offer tools and strategies to strengthen partnerships via our [School and Community Partnership Toolkit](#).

### **Capacity building activities related to cross-sector school and community partnerships may include:**

- Assessing readiness to partner with a school and/or another community-based organization, including identifying your organization's strengths and resources, guiding questions to prepare for partnership, and understanding what type of partnership you are seeking
- Mapping needs and assets, including mapping your partnership ecosystem (all the partners and people that are part of the community), understanding community or school needs, exploring potential partnerships, and preparing for initial partner meetings
- Establishing partnership, including building a shared vision, documenting partnerships with memorandums of understanding and partnership charters, and planning for a human-centered approach to partnership between two or more CBOS and/or with a school
- Working together, including facilitating equitable partnership meetings, communication and feedback practices, shared decision-making, effective coordination, and developing a community strategy
- Evaluating programs and partnerships, including developing a program or partnership logic model, planning for evaluation, reflecting on partnerships, sharing and analyzing partnership data, and strategies for building sustainable partnerships

### **Types of capacity building offered by YDEKC:**

- Coaching on partnership practices (group or individual)
- Coaching on development and implementation of partnership tools (group or individual)
- BSK-wide workshops from our Partnership Curriculum, on topics such as
  - Mapping Your Partnership Ecosystem or Developing Your Community Partnership Ecosystem (for collaboratives of three or more organizations)
  - Program Design: From Activities to Outcomes
  - Crafting a Communication Strategy to Tell Your Story
  - Building Sustainable School-Community Partnerships and Programs
- Customized partnership workshop from our Partnership Curriculum for a single organization
- Peer learning cohort (Best Starts for Kids Cohort start date to be determined)