

Strategic Plan

Developmental Screening, Referral, & Connections to Services

2019-2027

Our Vision



All King County children and families receive high-quality developmental screening throughout early childhood that centers each child's and family's strengths and seamlessly connects them to appropriate, accessible, and timely developmental supports.

GOAL 1



Ensure coordination of early care, education, & healthcare systems so they quickly respond to families' needs.

Strategies

Establish/ strengthen ways for families, providers, and other stakeholders to assess whether the system is working and equitable.

Convene a committee led by families with a broad range of experiences in partnership with different types of providers for ongoing oversight and accountability.

Invest in projects that increase access to care that meets families where they are and centers families as experts.

Improve transition out of Birth to Three services through navigation support for families.

Encourage the State of Washington to explore integration of services for kids ages 0-3 and 4-5.

Invest in confidential communication and information sharing platforms that improve care coordination.

Enhance secure data collection and sharing across the prenatal-to-five service system, driven by and centering family and community voices.

What could this look like?

- Creating new ways for child service providers to confidentially share helpful information with other providers that work with your family so you don't have to
- Establishing a family-led governance group to assess King County and its service providers to inform changes to the way services are provided



GOAL 2



Strengthen the child services workforce through training and transforming organizations and systems.

Strategies

<p>Create opportunities for and recruit community members with relevant life experiences to join the workforce and become leaders.</p>	<p>Train, coach, and evaluate providers and interpreters on skills to support delivery of high-quality services.</p>	<p>Enhance the child service workforce by offering accessible training and resources through a wide array of platforms.</p>	<p>Create opportunities for child service providers to connect with peers to debrief and learn, building a greater sense of community to improve staff retention.</p>	<p>Encourage community agencies to enhance equity in the work place through improvements in compensation, benefits, decision-making processes, and time to participate in learning opportunities.</p>	<p>Increase the number of prenatal-to-five specialists to improve access to services.</p>
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What could this look like?

- Piloting innovative mentoring programs for community members with lived and living experience to become leaders in the child service provider workforce
- Strengthen training programs for providers and interpreters on skills like cultural humility, implicit bias, trauma-informed care, and strengths-based counseling



GOAL 3

Make developmental screening and services that celebrate developmental progress available and accessible to all families.



Strategies

<p>Increase awareness about the diversity of brain development and health among families and providers with easy-to-understand resources that celebrate progress and identify areas for skill development and supports.</p>	<p>Screen all kids for developmental progress, giving families everything they need to advocate for their children and providing options for where and how to access screening.</p>	<p>Create options for families to access screening through many different types of providers, organizations, platforms, and events.</p>	<p>Increase emotional and mental health supports and optional screening for parents and caregivers to promote healthy children and families.</p>	<p>Promote resiliency for all families by integrating trauma-informed approaches that promote families' strengths.</p>
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What could this look like?

- Work with community agencies all over King County to diversify where and how families access developmental screening
- Pilot programs that integrate emotional and mental health supports for parents while they are attending appointments to support their kids



GOAL 4



Drive equity by enhancing screening tools, practices, referrals, and services that meet families where they are

Strategies

<p>Improve the screening process by educating providers about how to discuss development with families in a way that meets families where they are.</p>	<p>Work toward screening being a routine, strengths-based, parent-led offering for all families.</p>	<p>Provide the same thorough and easy-to-understand information about available services and resources for families and providers through multiple platforms in many languages.</p>	<p>Ensure that parents and caregivers are equal partners in decision making around how to support the needs of each child and family.</p>	<p>Expand navigation supports for families, making it easier for caregivers to access support for their own needs while attending to the needs of their children.</p>	<p>Identify how social, emotional, and developmental progress is demonstrated across different cultures through research in partnership with communities.</p>
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What could this look like?

- Developing a new, publicly accessible platform with easy-to-understand information about resources in King County
- Funding work with communities to better understand how kids demonstrate developmental progress across cultures to improve screening tools

