School's Out™ Washington

King County Best Starts for KIDS

Best Starts for Kids

# Expanded Learning Strategy

## 2022 Information Session

# Agenda

- Best Starts & SOWA Partnership
- Strategy Overview
- Eligibility
- Youth Program Quality
- Evaluation & Reporting
- Timeline
- Submission Requirements
- Review Process
- Application Supports
- Accessing Online Application
- Q & A

# Meeting Logistics

This meeting is being recorded and will be posted on our website.

All participants are currently muted, but can communicate with the presenters through the chat feature or the Q&A.

## How to Ask Questions?

**Q&A**   Write your question into the Q&A feature at any point during the presentation.

Raise Hand   We will reserve time at the end to respond to live questions. During the open question period, you can "raise your hand" to indicate you have a question.

      Any questions that we are unable to answer today will be posted in the FAQ on the Fund's webpage.

# Best Starts for Kids & School's Out Washington Partnership

# School's Out Washington

- Over thirty years' experience providing services and guidance for organizations, to ensure all young people have safe places to learn and grow when not in school.

- Supporting communities to develop and implement quality afterschool, youth development and summer programs that meet the needs of their young people.

- Building a statewide quality improvement system by advancing the skills, knowledge and tools necessary to assure high quality programming.

# Best Starts & SOWA Partnership

- King County Best Starts has contracted with SOWA since 2017 to lead the BSK Out-of-School Time (OST) strategy.

- In partnership with King County, SOWA has lead planning for the Expanded Learning RFP process and will manage BSK Expanded Learning funding.

- Through this process, SOWA is committed to:

  - Being responsive and accountable to community

  - Collaborating closely with King County staff to ensure compliance and ongoing alignment to the goals of Best Starts for Kids

# Expanded Learning Strategy Overview

# Expanded Learning Overview

**Funding to expand programming to youth in underinvested communities or geographies**

**+**

**Participation in a Youth Program Quality Intervention**

**=**

**More youth engaged in higher quality expanded learning opportunities**

# Expanded Learning Overview

**Expands high-quality programming in underinvested geographies and underserved communities**
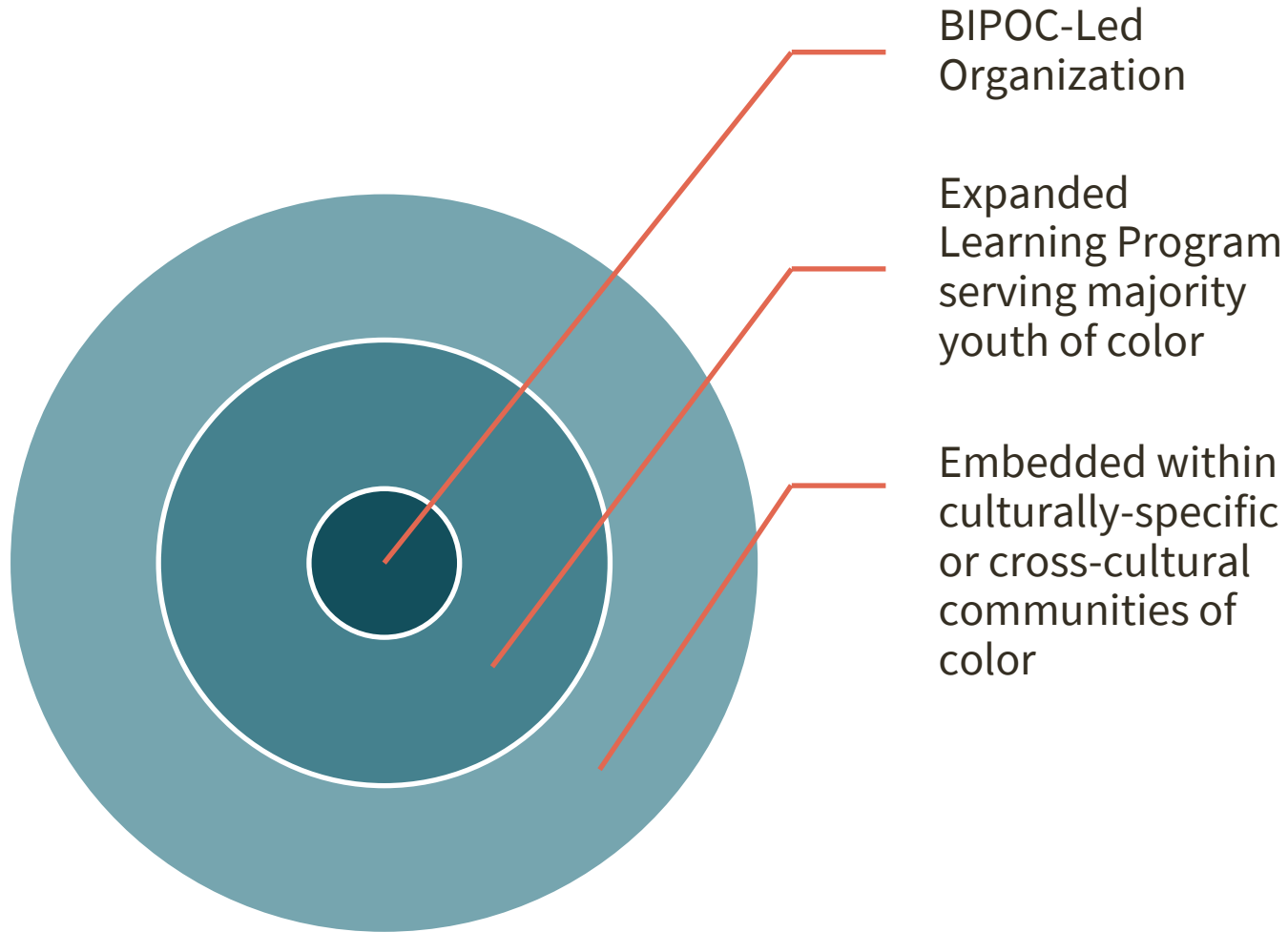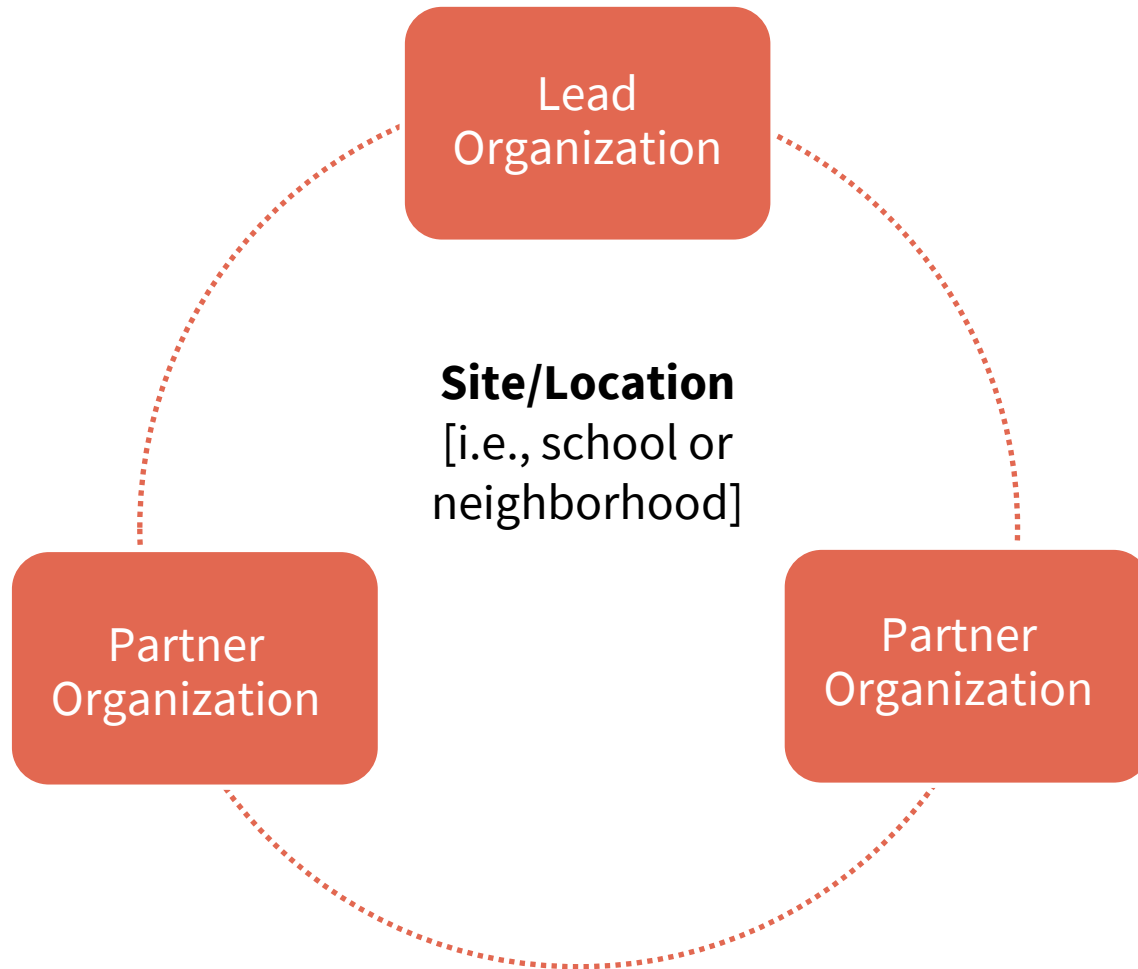
**BIPOC-Led Organizations**

**Place-Based Collaboratives**

# BIPOC-Led Model



BIPOC-Led Organization

Expanded Learning Program serving majority youth of color

Embedded within culturally-specific or cross-cultural communities of color

- Funding to individual organizations

- Typical funding is $60,000 to $100,000 per year

# Place-Based Model

Lead Organization

Partner Organization

Partner Organization

**Site/Location**
[i.e., school or neighborhood]

- Minimum of 3 organizations

- Supporting School or Housing Community

- Typical funding range is $100,000 to $300,000 per year, to be allocated across the collaborative

# Program Requirements: Dosage & Attendance

Focus on elementary and middle-school age youth (ages 5-13)

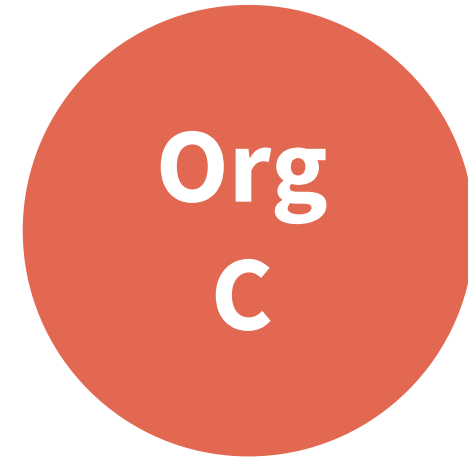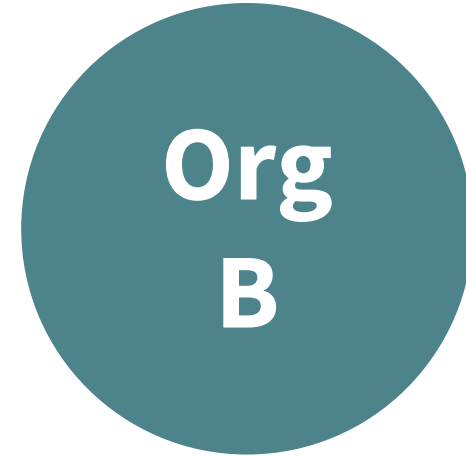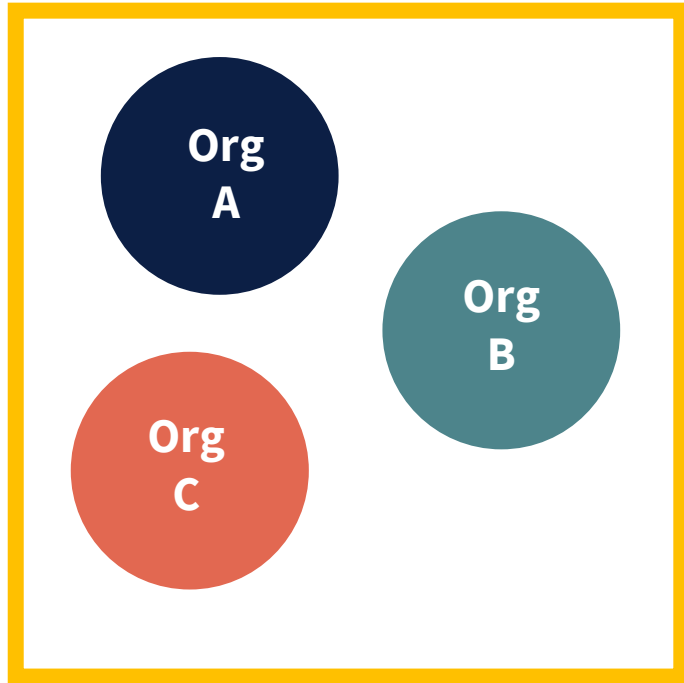| Program Offering | BIPOC-led Organizations | Place-Based Collaboratives |
|---|---|---|
| **Afterschool Programming** | *20 youth daily (on average)*<br><br>2 hours/day<br>2 days/week<br>32 weeks/year | *50 youth daily (on average)*<br><br>3 hours/day<br>4 days/week<br>32 weeks per school year |
| **Summer Programming** | [optional] | *50 youth daily (on average)*<br><br>6 hours/day<br>5 days/week<br>6 weeks per summer |

# Place-Based Collaborative Examples

# Place-Based Collaboratives

- Youth have access to more program offerings through the partnership. **Collaboration not competition!**

- A shared place or location is core to this model– whether a specific building, a neighborhood, etc. Ideally, youth from the school or housing community should be able to access **all** programming whether onsite or at a nearby location.

- Programming is designed collaboratively, and partners meet as a group across sites

- Partners can run joint programming, share staff, etc, but there should be clear distinctions (i.e., "this is our STEM club, with Organization B")
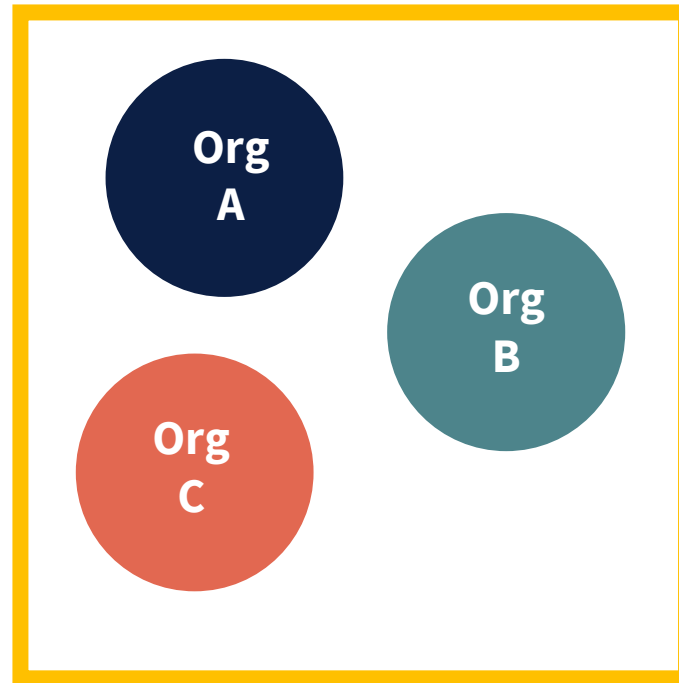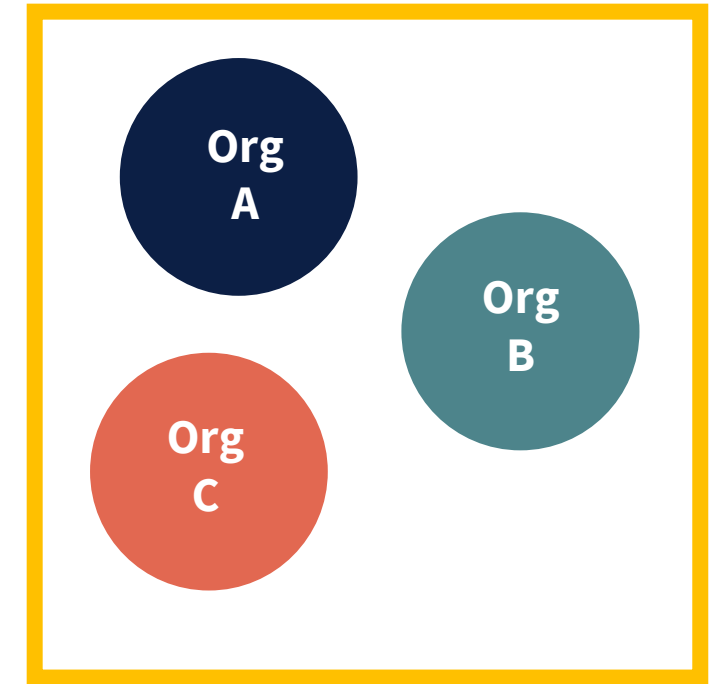
# Blue Sky Elementary School
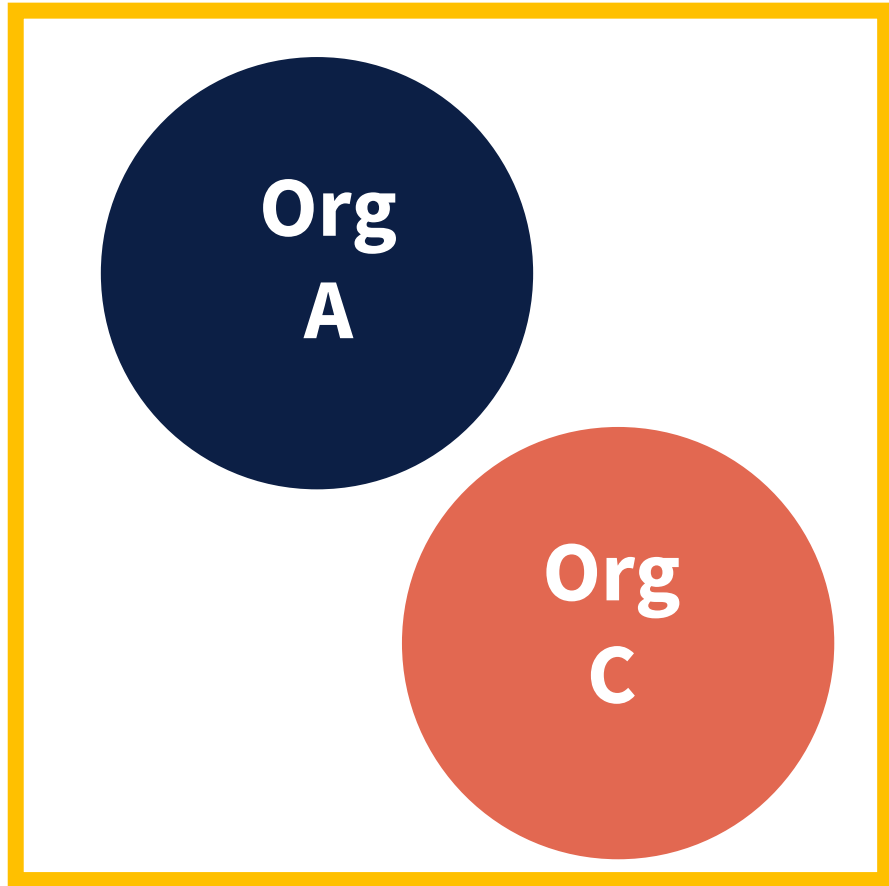
Blue Sky Housing Community
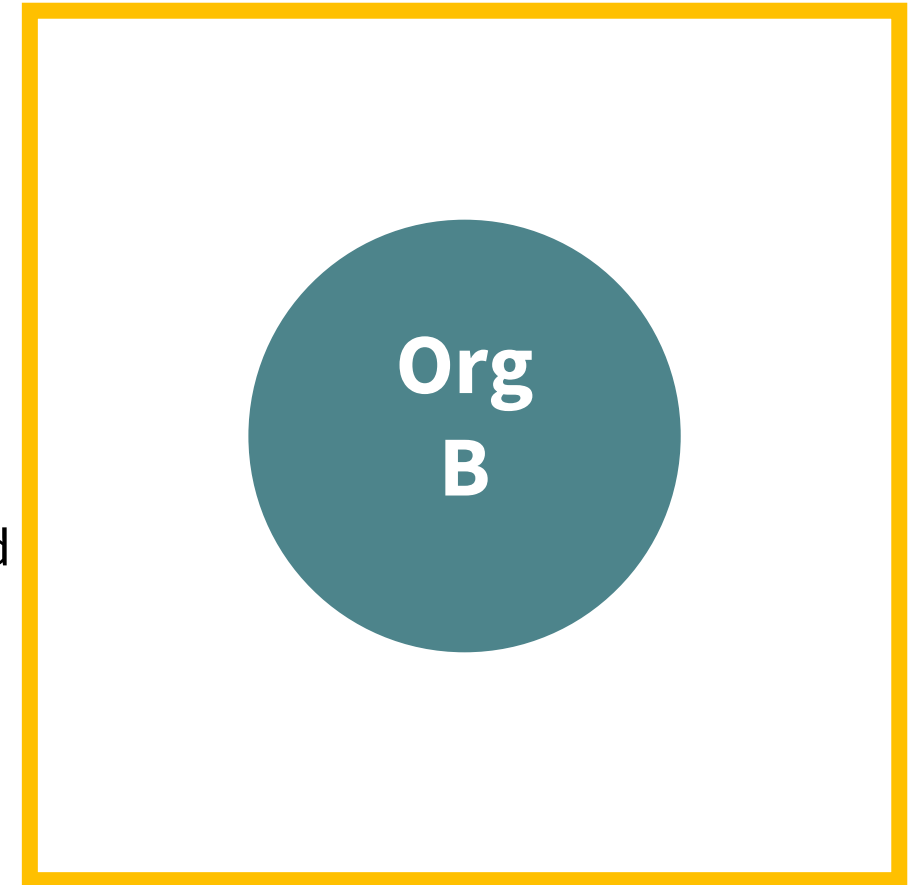
Sunshine Housing Community

Warm Breeze Housing Community

Org A
Org B
Org C

# Eligibility

# Eligibility

This request is open to nonprofit organizations, including religious organizations; community-based organizations; tribes and tribal organizations; and public or governmental agencies serving communities in King County. Small nonprofits and community-based organizations are encouraged to submit proposals.

**Applicants must meet one of these eligibility requirements:**

- A BIPOC-Led Organization that provides expanded learning opportunities for King County young people ages 5-13.

*OR*

- A Place-Based Collaborative of at least three partner organizations in which a school or housing community is collaborative lead, partner, or committed champion. The PBC will collaboratively provide expanded learning opportunities for King County young people ages 5-13.

# Virtual Programming

This initiative is designed to support high-quality youth programming, and to best engage adult staff in our professional development services.

The spirit of this design emphasizes in-person programs. We know that virtual programming has many benefits, and welcome up to 50% of program hours (as described in each model's dosage requirements) to be virtual.

Virtual programming must be live and interactive. Any asynchronous, on-demand, or self-paced programming is a welcome supplement to other programming but will not be included in dosage.

Additional adaptations may be discussed as we continue to navigate public health guidelines.

# Youth Program Quality

# Quality is *Opportunity*

**Programs provide opportunities for youth
to connect, belong, learn, and thrive**

# Quality is *Action*

**Program staff collaborate to plan and design
programs to meet the needs of youth**

# Quality is *Impact*

**High quality programs support youth to
be successful in life, school, and work**

# Funding + Professional Development

SOWA's robust suite of services support youth workers through a holistic Continuous Quality Improvement process. Together, this is known at the Youth Program Quality Intervention

**Coaching**  A dedicated coach partners with your organization to support goal-setting, program design, problem solving, and day-to-day youth work.

**Training**  Learn about specific youth work best practices, Social Emotional Learning strategies, the nuts and bolts of Quality Improvement, and so much more!

**Assessment**  Participate in cyclical, non-judgmental program observation in order to gather data, identify strengths and growth areas, and inform goal setting.

**Peer Learning**  Build relationships with other providers in your community, trade knowledge and information, and support each other's growth and development.

*I can **share concerns and challenges and hear solutions** from others that are also participating in YPQI. The networking of the programs has been especially helpful as many programs are willing to **share their learning resources and ideas**. The "new" ideas and resources have helped keep youth engaged in programming.*

**BSK OST Grantee**

*Over the years we've seen how the tool has been used to strengthen our youth engagement practices by helping improve our outcomes. A lot of our staff came to our organization with skill sets that gave then the keen ability to relate to the youth they serve, but one of the advantages of being trained in YPQI is it keeps the staff grounded and keeps the principal of "environment" at the forefront of every one's mind.*

**BSK OST Grantee**

# Cohort-Based Structure

Organizations have differing levels of familiarity with the formal Youth Program Quality Intervention process, differing levels of program readiness (such as high Quality staff practices, Continuous Quality Improvement infrastructure), and differing funding amounts and capacity to fully participate in this work.

We want to right-size the experience based on what's going to help organizations, and how they'll be able to engage. To best support programs, the Expanded Learning Initiative provides tailored, scaffolded access to Quality supports through 3 distinct but aligned cohorts.

# Tailored Services

SOWA's coaching, training, and assessment supports differ for each cohort. The timeline and expectations are most distinct during the onboarding phase of the initiative. The Program Quality Readiness Cohort will have a slower ramp-up process than the Continuous Program Quality Improvement or Deepening Quality Cohorts.

Participation from staff at multiple levels of an organization is expected. Time commitments will vary across organizational roles and cohort placement. Grantees should plan for cohort-based Quality work to require between 35 and 60 hours per year.

# Training

A streamlined suite of required trainings will prioritize key foundational information, creating increased flexibility and choice for grantees to pursue additional SOWA training content. Required trainings include:

- Introduction to Program Quality Assessments

- SEL PQA Basics

- Planning With Data

- Learning Community Meetings

We will also provide a suggested menu of additional SOWA trainings that are aligned to the priorities of each cohort.

# Evaluation & Reporting

# Best Starts Headline Indicators

- Youth are **thriving**

- Youth have **supportive adults**

- Youth have **hope** for the future

- Families, schools and communities provide **supportive environments** for youth

- Youth are **physically active**

- Youth are **not using substances**

- Youth are **succeeding** in school

# Evaluation Planning

| Evaluation Framework | Technical Assistance |
|---|---|
| **How much** did you do?<br>• Number of youth served<br>• Number of hours of programming | Alignment to Scope of Work and reporting requirements |
| | Realistic goal-setting |
| **How well** did you do it?<br>• Program Quality<br>• Capacity and partnership gains | Some portion of funding dedicated to evaluation, with strong recommendation to work with external evaluator |
| Is anyone **better off**?<br>• Youth-level outcomes | Pool of recommended external evaluators |

# Reporting Requirements: Timeline

- Reporting on a semi-annual basis
  - January-June (submitted July)
  - July-December (submitted January)

- Core Reporting materials:
  - Performance Measurement Report (quantitative)
  - Narrative Report (qualitative)
  - Financial Report

- Additional documentation required 1x/year: background checks, insurance, 501c3 status

# Performance Measures

| How much did you do? | How well did you do it? | Is anyone better off? |
|---|---|---|
| • Youth served<br>• New youth served<br>• Youth consistently engaged<br>• Programming hours<br>• Staff | • Parent satisfaction<br>• Youth satisfaction<br>• Participation in Youth Program Quality Intervention | • Youth-level outcomes (determined by program) |

# Timeline

# Timeline *(subject to change if necessary)*

| | |
|---|---|
| RPF issued | March 10th, 2022 |
| Info sessions | March 17th – April 20th, 2022 |
| **Final day to ask questions** | **April 20th, 2022** |
| **Proposals due** | **April 27th, 2022 by 11:59 pm** |
| Responses reviewed & rated | April – May 2022 |
| Notice of selected and non selected proposals | June 2022 |
| List of selected organizations published | June 2022 |
| Project implementation | July 2022 |

# Submission Requirements

# Submission Requirements

**Proposals must be submitted online!**

| BIPOC-Led |
| --- |
| **Application** |
| **SOWA Budget Template** |
| **Signed Letter from Fiscal Sponsor** (if fiscally sponsored) |

| Place-Based Collaborative |
| --- |
| **Applications** (Lead & Partners) |
| **SOWA Budget Template** |
| **Signed Letter from Fiscal Sponsor** (if fiscally sponsored) |
| **Letter of Support** (school or housing champion) |

# Application Checklist: Place-Based Collaborative

## Place-Based Lead

- Collaborative Application
  - Lead Partner Program/Org Information
  - Place-based Collaborative Program Information
  - Proposal
  - Certifications
- SOWA budget template
- Signed letter from fiscal sponsor (if applicable)
- Letter of support from school or housing community (if they are PBC champion)

## Place-Based Partner

- Partner Application
  - Partner Program/Organization Information
  - Certifications
- Signed letter from fiscal sponsor (if applicable)

# Application Checklist: BIPOC-Led
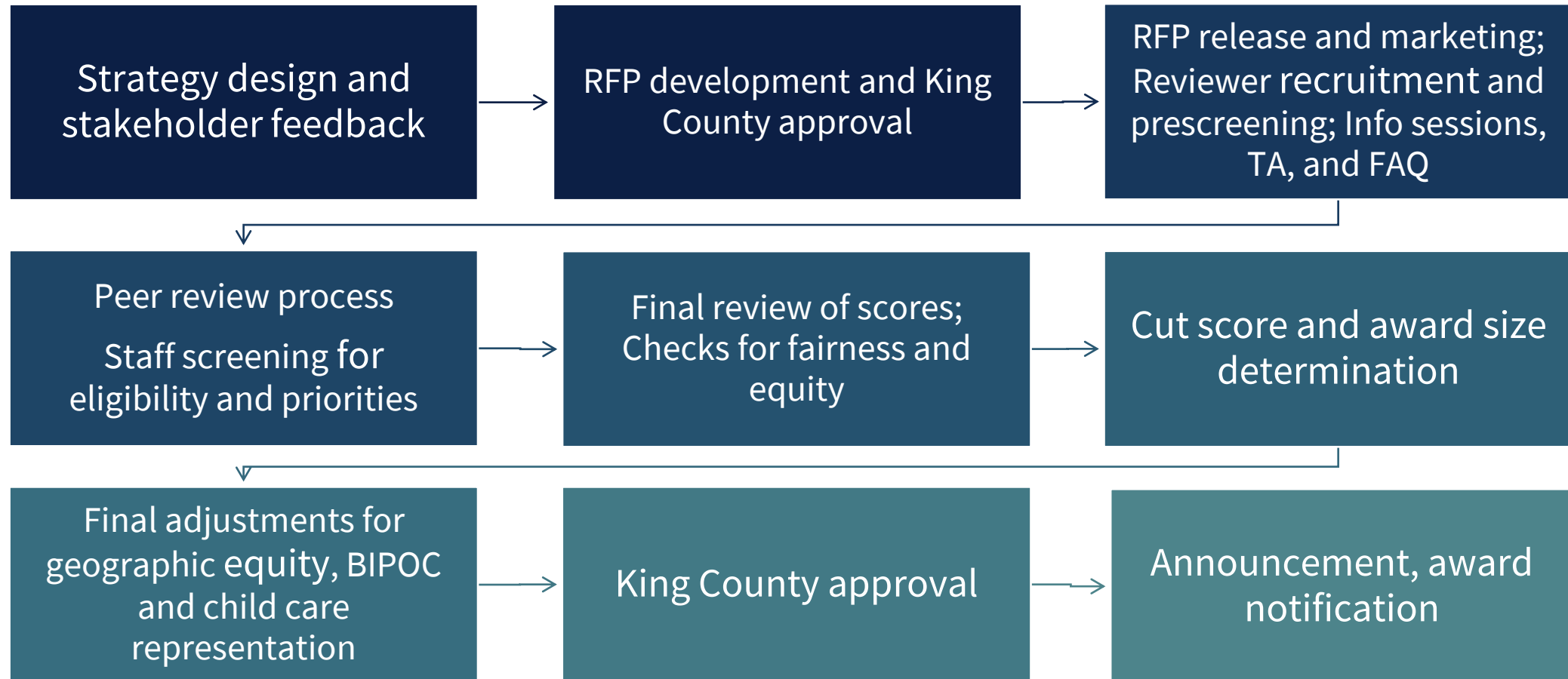
## BIPOC-Led

- Application for BIPOC-Led Organizations
  - Program/Organization information
  - Proposal
  - Certifications
- SOWA Budget Template
- Signed letter from fiscal sponsor (if applicable)

# Review Process & Rating Criteria

# Overview of Process—Design, RFP, Peer Review

Strategy design and stakeholder feedback → RFP development and King County approval → RFP release and marketing; Reviewer recruitment and prescreening; Info sessions, TA, and FAQ

Peer review process
Staff screening for eligibility and priorities → Final review of scores; Checks for fairness and equity → Cut score and award size determination

Final adjustments for geographic equity, BIPOC and child care representation → King County approval → Announcement, award notification

# Selection Process: Rating Criteria (Pg 12-16)

Providers will deliver expanded learning programming that increases participation of BIPOC youth and youth in poverty, meets program requirements of BIPOC-Led or Place-Based Collaborative grantees, and contributes to BSK headline Indicators **(35 points)**

- Applicant clearly describes the young people served and how they will increase access for BIPOC youth and/or youth living in poverty

- Applicant clearly describes how they will meet program requirements

- Applicant provides detailed programming plan

- Applicant have rationale for their work will contribute toward BSK headline indicators.

# Selection Process: Rating Criteria (Pg 12-16)

Providers will further high quality programming within their organizations through expanded learning opportunities for young people designed to meet their needs & interests, staff development & continuous quality improvement, and tangible commitment to equity and racial justice **(35 points)**

- Applicant explains why their programming is responsive and likely to meet interests and needs of youth population served

- Applicant comprehensively discusses their aspirations for staff development and continuous quality improvement

- Applicant clearly defines how their organization is advancing equity and social justice

# Selection Process: Rating Criteria (Pg 12-16)

Providers will contribute to strengthening the expanded learning ecosystem in King County through: strategic partnerships to increase young people's access and improve quality, meaningful and ongoing connections with parents, families and communities, and identifying & addressing systemic gaps and participating in collective systems building **(30 points)**

- BIPOC-Led Applicant defines and discusses meaningful and ongoing connections with their communities

- Place-Based Applicant defines roles for each organization in the collaborative that are likely to contribute toward high-quality programming for young people

- Applicant discusses approach to collaboration and interdependence with parents, family and communities

- Applicant identifies and is positioned to help address gaps in access to programming in their communities and youth populations

# Selection Process: Rating Criteria (Pg 12-16)

Budget **(not rated)**

- Applicant proposes costs that are reasonable and justified

- Applicant proposes costs that align with proposed activities

- Applicant provides a complete 3-year budget

- Applicant allocates up to 10% to evaluation activities

- Applicant includes staff time for participation in the Program Quality Intervention

# Application Supports

# Application Supports: Trainings

### Program Design: Linking Activities to Outcomes

What does it look like to design a program or partnership with outcomes in mind? This workshop will support Expanded Learning programs to describe and refine their program plans using a logic model framework. In this interactive session, we will offer time within the workshop for participants to learn from another person in the field or work collaboratively with partners attending the session together.

### Developing Your Community Partnership Ecosystem

If a partnership ecosystem is, "the network of interconnected organizations and adults who provide a system of supports for students," then who are the people and organizations in your community partnership ecosystem, and how are they connected. This workshop is designed for people who are part of developing a multi-organization collaborative to support young people.

For more info, visit: https://schoolsoutwashington.org/king-county-best-starts-for-kids-expanded-learning-initiative/bsk-rfp-information-session-workshops/

# Application Supports: King County BSK Technical Assistance

Free technical assistance is available through BSK **to address linguistic, cultural and other barriers that might prevent organizations from seeking funding**. Technical assistance consultants can:

- Help potential applicants determine whether or not they are a good fit for this funding opportunity

- Provide guidance on how best to answer questions

- Support application development, including editing and budget review

For more info, visit: https://beststartsblog.com/2022/02/22/technical-assistance-support-now-available-meet-our-consultants/

# Application Supports: Information Sessions

More information sessions about the RFP and application will be held via Zoom Webinar.  Potential applicants are encouraged to attend.

For dates and times, please visit: https://schoolsoutwashington.org/king-county-best-starts-for-kids-expanded-learning-initiative/bsk-rfp-information-session-workshops/

When we were awarded the BSK grant, that funding increased our organizational budget by 25 percent, yet the gains for our organization have been exponential. **[This initiative] has completely transformed and affirmed our work, our capacity, and our communities**.

# Accessing the Online Application

# Questions and Answers

## How to Ask Questions?

**Raise Hand** — We will now respond to live questions. You can "raise your hand" to indicate you have a question, and we will 'unmute' you when it is your turn.

**Q&A** — You may also continue to pose written questions in the Q&A. Our team is working to respond to common questions in writing. Any we are unable to respond to today will be posted to our online FAQ.

*To ensure an accurate answer, we may defer answering some questions that are new to us until we can confer with our colleagues. Responses to those questions will be posted to our online FAQ.

# Questions & Answers

**What questions do you have now**?

Additional questions (or questions we can't answer now) will be answered through the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) process available on SOWA's **Expanded Learning webpage**. SOWA will respond to all questions received via email at **expandedlearning@schoolsoutwashington.org**

All questions received in the information sessions or via email will be posted to the FAQ.