



## King County Youth Program Directory Frequently Asked Questions

### WHAT is the Youth Program Directory?

The King County-wide Youth Program Directory will be a comprehensive, accessible, and timely source of information about youth programs and services available across King County. There is strong demand for an online directory from a diverse set of stakeholders (schools, community organizations, non-government agencies, parents/guardians, and youth) who share a common need to find opportunities for young people.

### WHAT ARE THE GOALS of the Youth Program Directory?

- Increasing access and awareness of existing programs for youth and families
- Understanding the landscape of available programs in order to identify gaps
- Improving school/community partnerships for student success by facilitating referral and program access

### WHO WILL USE the Youth Program Directory?

#### Primary Audiences:

- School staff who need to identify appropriate and accessible programs and services for students
- Community-based organizations who want to communicate with the public about their program offerings
- Parents/guardians who want to find programs for their children
- Youth who are interested in connecting to programs and services

#### Secondary Audiences:

- Policymakers and funders to help them better understand the reach and breadth of the youth services sector and to identify gaps in services.

### HOW IS THE Youth Program Directory being populated?

The new directory will be an extension of the King County 2-1-1 portion of the Washington 211 database (<http://win211.org/>), but will use a different URL and front end interface to reach multiple intended audiences. A part-time staff member will be housed at 211 to ensure the YPD stays updated and includes program offerings not currently in the 211 database.



## WHY is this different?

Previous attempts to create youth services directories have floundered, due to a lack of collective commitment from a broad base of supporters and the lack of a sustainability strategy. We feel that the active involvement of multiple partners throughout the planning stages, and in particular, our partnership with King County 211, have paved the way for a successful and sustainable effort. The new directory will build upon a valuable community asset and existing infrastructure which will contribute significantly to project sustainability.

## WHO is leading this project?

A range of organizations are actively involved in and committed to this project including YDEKC, SOAR and the Road Map Project, along with other partners. This planning group has met regularly over the past two years to conduct an environmental scan, fine-tune project goals, and advance the work. Recent accomplishments include drafting categories and fields for the site and identifying database requirements, implementing an RFP process to identify a web designer for the “front end” of the directory, working with King County 211 to understand their database architecture and fundraising to support the launch of the project.

**Youth Development Executives of King County (YDEKC)** is a coalition of youth-serving organizations working together to advance the youth development field in order to improve outcomes for young people. To learn more, please visit [www.ydekc.org](http://www.ydekc.org).

**SOAR** builds and strengthens effective partnerships to support children and youth. SOAR manages the King County Youth Development Network and the King County Youth Advisory Council. To learn more, please visit <http://www.childrenandyouth.org>

**King County 2-1-1** provides the most comprehensive information on health and human services available to King County residents. Their database of more than 5,000 services which will feed the new Youth Program Directory is part of the Washington Information Network 211, and King County services are maintained as part of the WA 2-1-1 Community Resources Online database.

**CCER** is the backbone organization that staffs **the Road Map Project**, a community-wide effort aimed at improving education to drive dramatic improvement in student achievement from cradle to college and career in South King County and South Seattle. CCER will help ensure this work continues to connect to multiple work groups and will help spread use of the directory across the region.

**Puget Sound ESD** is leading work on a regional data portal that includes long-term plans to facilitate sharing of data between schools and CBOs. The ESD has been involved in our planning efforts to offer targeted technical advice on the youth program directory project and to ensure current efforts to compile information about CBO services informs future efforts affiliated with the P2 project.

Additional project partners include City of Seattle, Seattle School District, School’s Out Washington, the Suburban King County Coordinating Committee on Gangs, College Access Network, United Way of King County, and others.

## Fundraising & Sustainability

We are thrilled to have received startup funding from United Way of King County (\$20K), the Gates Foundation (\$10K), Road Map Project Rapid Resource Fund (\$20K), Seattle City Club (\$5K), Suburban King County Coordinating Committee on Gangs (\$5K committed) and CCER through Aspen (\$5K). We almost have the launch and first year costs covered, but we will have a **\$35,000-\$40,000 / year** fundraising need to keep the directory current and relevant in the long term.

## Contact

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## SAMPLE SCREEN SHOTS – STILL IN DEVELOPMENT, but looking good!!

