



2020 FFN Report

Overview

So much has already been said about 2020 and the compounding challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the racial reckoning brought on by continued racism and violence towards Black and Brown people, and the political unrest surrounding the 2020 election. In 2020, our communities and families – especially Black, Indigenous, and People of Color – experienced compounded hardships related to COVID illness, social isolation, loss of income, and emotional strain.

The people and organizations CCR's Family, Friend, and Neighbor programs work with were not spared the sometimes devastating effects of the viral and racist pandemic. We saw in our communities a greater reliance on Family, Friend, and Neighbor care as families' child care, work, and school situations became more uncertain and fluid. As the pandemic spread, schools shifted to remote, virtual learning with students attending from their homes. We heard from community partners that many families relied more than ever on youth - who were at home now - to provide child care for younger siblings. Families rearranged care previously provided by grandparents and other elders whose age put them at greater risk. Both elders and children deeply felt the loss of being together in person.

We were humbled to witness the ways that BIPOC communities, families and community organizations worked together - as they always have - to support one another and to plug the holes in our society's broken and racist education, health care, early learning, mental health, employment, and economic systems. We, along with our community partner organizations, became more adaptable than we could have ever imagined. We scrambled to get the latest public health recommendations out to our networks in languages and methods that worked for families. We transitioned our in-person programs (particularly Kaleidoscope Play & Learn) into virtual settings. We dusted off FFN programs that had been sitting on the shelf, waiting for the funding to bring them back to life. We responded to opportunities to get vital health and safety supplies and cash grants out to FFN caregivers. We advocated our elected officials, public agencies, and private funders for a racially equitable and just response to families' needs.

There is no way we could have done this alone. 2020 reminded us just how necessary grassroots organizations run by and for BIPOC are to the well-being of marginalized communities, families, and children. We worked with long-time community partner organizations and built new partnerships to reach additional cultural and geographic communities. Without these organizations, we would have left behind so many more families and communities.



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FFN Caregiver Experiences and Concerns



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In the early days of the pandemic, we started hearing about what families were concerned about and experiencing from Kaleidoscope Play & Learn facilitators. Concerns in the earliest days were focused on information about COVID-19 and how to prevent infection. As the pandemic wore on, families' concerns and needs changed.

Beginning in April, we surveyed Kaleidoscope facilitators each month about families' concerns and needs so that we could better understand and respond to them. At that time, no other agency was capturing the experiences of FFN caregivers and parents from marginalized BIPOC communities. We shared the findings from the surveys as well as the anecdotal information from facilitators with funders, public agencies, elected officials and others to inform their decision-making.

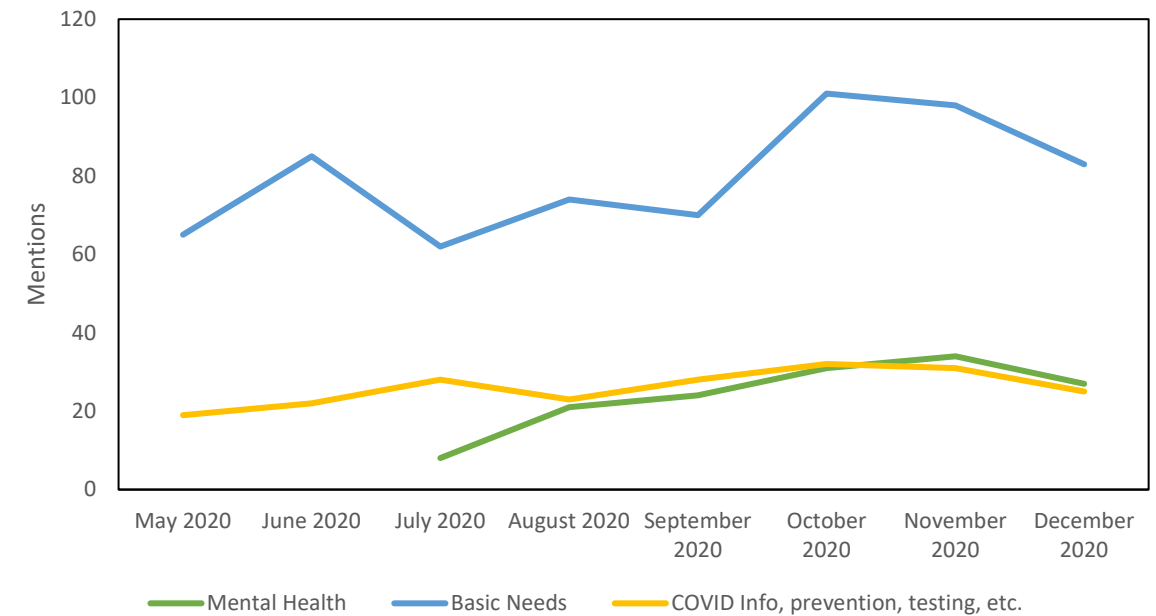
Facilitators consistently reported high levels of concerns around income stability and the ability to afford basic needs like food, housing, diapers, formula, and health care. Mentions around mental health concerns - for both caregivers and children increased over time as well. Concerns over COVID information continued through the year as safety guidelines and resources such as testing changed. Please note that while the graph shows concerns over time decreasing towards the end of 2020, there was a steep upward increase of all three concern areas in early 2021.

Facilitators also reported concerns about:

- Supporting school-age children with remote learning
- Racial discrimination and immigration status
- Access to internet and devices
- Activities to do with young children

BY THE NUMBERS

Frequency of Concerns Mentioned by KPL Participants



QUOTES

"The loss of my brother [to COVID-19] who was so young and healthy has greatly affected my emotional well-being. I spend a lot of time asking myself "why?" and I'm no longer able to take care of the children as consistently as I used to."

"I used to work two full time jobs to support my family, but now I only have one job. I worry about paying bills. I don't want my kids to get COVID."

"The children are alone and can't play with friends. They are more focused on TV and phones because they are bored. I have more stress because I worry about my children getting COVID-19."

"I want [decision-makers] to know that mental health programs are so important and really worth it. Taking care of kids is really hard. For new parents with depression or mental illness, being able to be with other families at least once a week can save lives. Some people can just get through it, while others have a tough time."

Kaleidoscope Play & Learn



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Kaleidoscope Play & Learn groups are play groups facilitated by community based organizations, schools, libraries, early learning programs, and other organizations. Groups typically meet in-person weekly in neighborhood locations with facilitators coming from the cultural community of the participants. Child Care Resources provides training, facilitator peer learning conversations, consultation, guidance, curriculum, evaluation, and other support to the groups.

The COVID-19 pandemic started affecting Kaleidoscope groups in Washington State in January 2020 with attendance declining in January and February, particularly in groups in the Asian-American community, who were hearing about the virus from family and friends in East Asia. Groups in King County – the epicenter of the pandemic in the US - were the first to stop meeting. The Washington Governor’s Stay At Home order in March forced all of the groups to close. Throughout this time, we coordinated with group facilitators (already trusted advisors to their groups’ participants) to pass along public health information to help families stay safe.

CCR, as the hub of the program, quickly decided to focus on supporting KPL facilitators in shifting from in-person groups to supporting group participants in staying connected through virtual gatherings, social media, and one-to-one phone and text communication. KPL facilitators all over the state rose to the challenge as community leaders adjusted their scope of work to the new reality where families and FFN caregivers needed their support more than ever. Because of the dire needs in some communities, several group facilitators were unable to provide virtual gatherings and instead rightly focused their efforts in connecting financially struggling families with food, housing, health care, COVID testing, and other basic needs.

Most groups continued through the year offering a combination of live or recorded virtual gatherings, social media connections, and assisting individual families with basic needs. Some supplemented their groups with activity packets mailed to families. Some groups met outside. One group in Whatcom County met drive-in style in the library parking lot with families staying in their cars while the facilitator led activities and story time with a microphone.

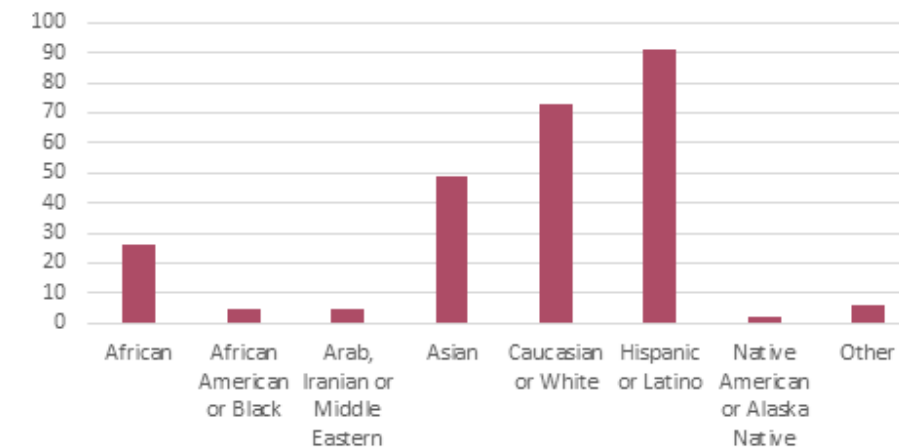
A mutual support community developed among facilitators as CCR offered weekly facilitator webinars to share public health resources, offer guidance on virtual and social media platforms, and information about community health and wellness resources. Facilitators who hosted virtual gatherings invited participants whose groups had discontinued. Virtual gatherings allowed participants to join groups happening anywhere in the country.

The weekly facilitator webinars did not shy away from addressing the racism families and communities were experiencing due to the pandemic and the racial reckoning and protests following the murders of George Floyd, Breanna Taylor, and other Black people. Facilitators and CCR staff built a community where candid and supportive conversations could happen about how all of these events were impacting children, families, communities, and the facilitators and their families – and how KPL groups can be a safe and healing space for families.

In spite of uncertainty in 2020, new KPL groups formed and started in Washington State and other places across the US. Not surprisingly, caregivers and parents appreciated continued connection with others as they socially distanced from neighbors, family, and friends. Caregivers expressed that virtual KPL groups were a bright spot in their and their children’s weeks.

BY THE NUMBERS

Race/Ethnicity of Kaleidoscope Play & Learn Participants in Washington State



4,404

FFN caregivers and parents participated

4,954

FFN children participated

150

groups in Washington state

48

organizations facilitated groups in Washington

49

organizations facilitated groups in 6 other states

46%

of participants predominantly speak a language other than English at home

QUOTES

“The weekly book readings were great. Even though my child’s attention span is shorter, the familiarity of hearing your voice during those circles was helpful. The craft kits and supplies have been so wonderful. I don’t feel alone as a parent. We are all going through the same thing. We are a team. In our groups I learned how important self-care is and the importance of talking through things. I felt safe to talk about anything without being judged.”

“The information I’ve been given about what’s going on in the community helps me a great deal since I’m staying home. [The facilitator] also sends me resources about COVID-19 such as how to take care of yourself, food banks, face masks, activities, storybooks on Facebook, and the most useful thing is being able to speak with the facilitator and let your feelings out. I’m really sad about the death of my brother due to COVID-19 and I feel much better when I talk to you.”

Brothers & Sisters

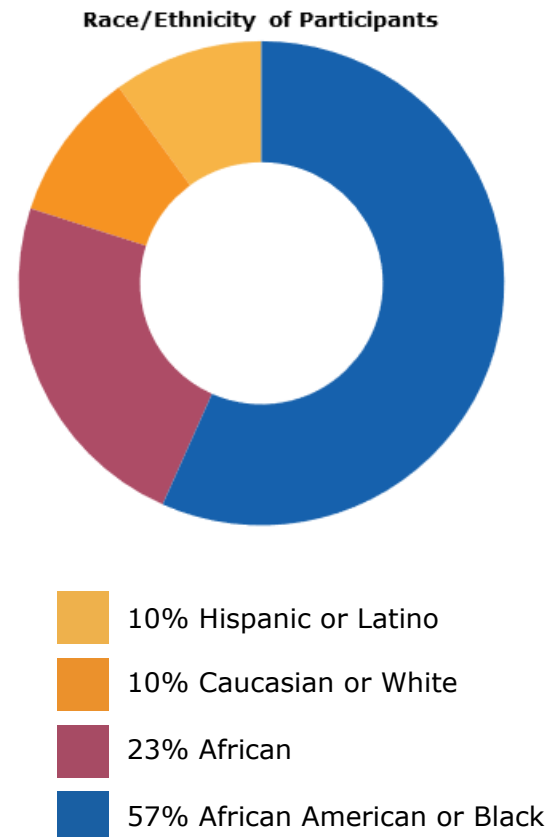
2020 presented us with a unique opportunity to revive Brothers & Sisters, one of our signature FFN programs. Brothers & Sisters is specifically designed for the many middle- and high-school aged youth who take care of their siblings and other young members of their extended family and neighborhood. The program brings youth together for eight 2-hour long trainings on topics such as child development, how children learn through play, nutrition, and home safety. The Brothers & Sisters curriculum is designed with youth learners in mind and incorporates experiential learning, fun activities, and time for discussion and peer learning and support.

We connected with several BIPOC organizations to gauge their interest and staffing capacity to provide Brothers & Sisters in their communities. With an enthusiastic response, we secured funding and converted the in-person curriculum for a live, virtual format over Zoom.

We trained, supported, and funded Brothers & Sisters courses in collaboration with:

- Childhaven/Renton Area Youth & family Services
- First Five Years & Beyond
- Horn of Africa Services
- Mission Africa

BY THE NUMBERS



31 youth participants (ages 11 - 21 years)

72 children (ages 9 months - 10 years)

97% of participants said the information they learned from Brothers & sisters changed the way they take care of young children

100% said they know more about child development

100% said they feel more prepared to handle an emergency involving a child in their care

"I've safety proofed the house when there are kids around."

"When I am taking care of the child I am with I have to interact with them and not be on my phone."

"I liked [that] we learned about mental and physical development and what type of toys they should be playing with at what age because it was interesting and it can definitely help me."

QUOTES

Allen Family Center

Over the last 3 years, Child Care Resources has been involved in a partnership to develop and provide services at the Allen Family Center, located in South Seattle. The Allen Family Center is a "one-stop" family support center focused on preventing and addressing family homelessness. Other partners include: Mercy Housing, Mary's Place, and Refugee Women's Alliance.

CCR worked with building designers to create spaces for young children and programs for young children and their FFN caregivers and parents living in the neighborhood. Our plans were to launch in-person programs to coincide with the opening of the Allen Family Center in Spring 2020, but with the pandemic in full force, we restructured our services to include:

- Welcome packets for Gardner House families with young children to promote upcoming programs. The packages included children's scissors, construction paper, crayons, glue, children's books, face masks, toothbrushes and caregiving information for parents and caregivers in a variety of languages.
- Two weekly virtual Kaleidoscope Play & Learn groups, facilitated by Chinese Information and Services Center and Horn of Africa Services. These groups were attended by Gardner House families as well as families from the surrounding neighborhood. Families who attended represented a variety of home cultures and languages.
- One full course of Brothers & Sisters program facilitated by Horn of Africa Services;
- Early Learning Conversations, facilitated by Chinese Information and Services Center (started December 2020)



Allen Family Center, a family resource center, is located on the first floor of Gardner House in the Mt. Baker neighborhood

COVID EMERGENCY RELIEF

Because of Child Care Resources' long history of supporting FFN caregivers through our network of community partnerships, we were approached by local public and private funders to provide direct support to FFN caregivers through the distribution of emergency supplies, cash grants, and gift cards.

We worked with existing community partner organizations and developed new relationships with additional organizations, especially those run by and for BIPOC to reach BIPOC FFN caregivers, including those who do not have immigration documentation.

This relief work was heavily focused in King County as the primary funder for this work was Seattle/King County Public Health. After many years of advocacy with our community partners to have FFN care recognized and included in policy and resource decisions, County staff included FFN caregivers in their relief programs.



BY THE NUMBERS

752
caregivers

1,764
children

\$166,440
distributed in cash grants
and gift cards

For King County grants,
recipients had incomes
0-91%
of the Federal Poverty Level

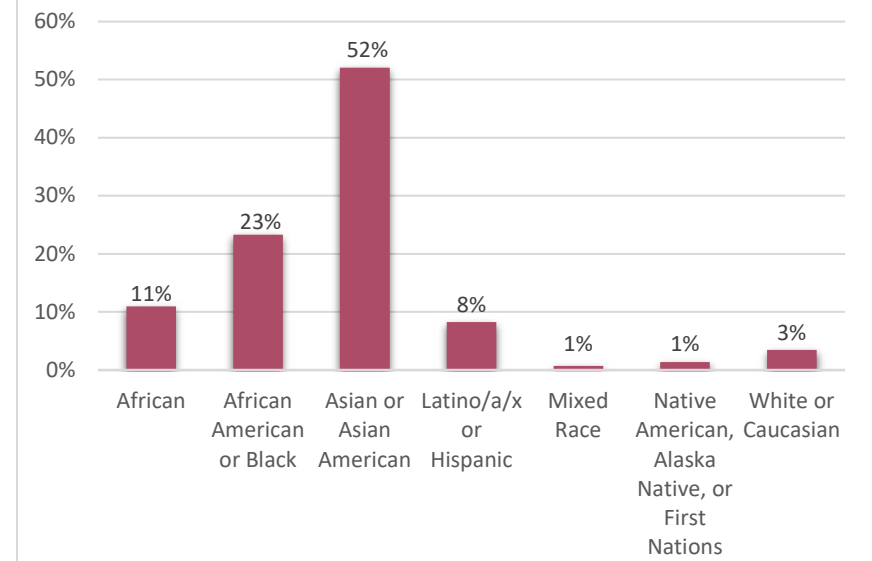
821
gallons of hand sanitizer

3,105
rolls of paper towels

7,460
children's masks

32,320
adult masks

Race/Ethnicity of King County FFN Grant Recipients



QUOTES

"This will support the children I have under my care as well as my own. I had to leave my job to care for my kids as well as my family members kids so we all could work."

"This would really help with food while my granddaughter is over during the days for school. I have currently lost my job due to COVID and have been looking consistently but nothing has come about yet."

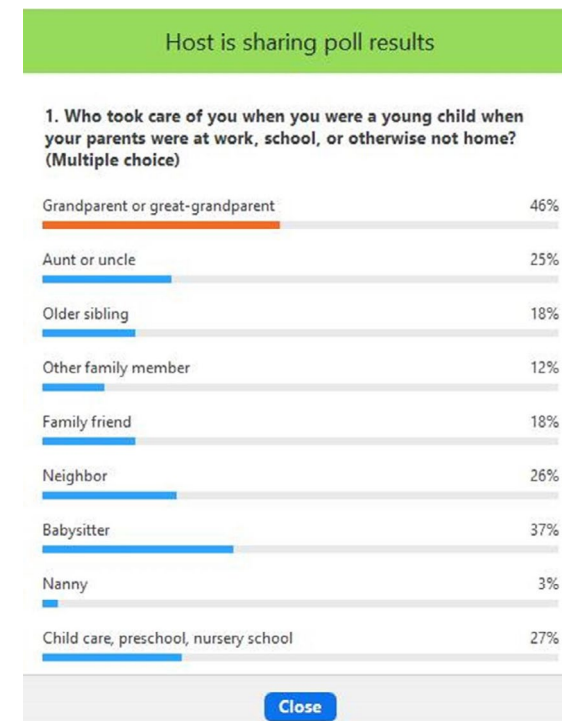
COVID EMERGENCY RELIEF SUMMARY

	Grocery Gift Cards	Supplies	Gift Cards	FFN Grants - King County
Description	\$200 gift cards from local and chain grocery stores	COVID home and personal prevention supplies, including face masks, hand sanitizer, gloves, bleach, hand soap, paper towels and toilet paper	\$500 VISA cards	\$1,000 grants
Target Recipients	FFN Caregivers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> King & Pierce County residents BIPOC Parents also included 	FFN Caregivers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> King County residents BIPOC Low income 	FFN Caregivers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> King County residents BIPOC undocumented immigrants BIPOC undocumented/unlicensed child care providers 	FFN Caregivers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> King County residents BIPOC Low income (200% of Federal Poverty Level or lower)
Number's Reached	207 caregivers	752 caregivers	100 caregivers	75 caregivers
Total Funding Amount	\$41,400	\$140,000	\$50,000	\$75,000
Funding Source	Child Care Aware of Washington with funding from Home Grown	Seattle/King County Public Health - CARES Relief	Seattle Foundation's All In Washington COVID relief funds	Seattle/King County Public Health

ADVOCACY

We continued to focus our advocacy efforts with elected officials and public and private funders to establish anti-racist, family-friendly FFN policies and to invest in community-driven, culturally-relevant programs. Our work in this area included:

- Providing information and guidance to national community and advocacy organizations about the impact of the impending pandemic was having in King County, as the US's first COVID hotspots
- Amplifying families' experiences and changing resource needs in meetings with local, county, state and national elected officials
- Hosting a statewide Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care Forum featuring a panel of caregivers and Kaleidoscope Play & Learn facilitators with an audience of community members, elected officials, researchers, funders, and advocates
- Contributing FFN expertise and language to Washington's Fair Start for Kids act to be presented to the 2021 Washington State Legislature
- Participating in the King County Child Care Task Force which resulted in inclusion of FFN-specific recommendations



Child Care Resources hosted an online Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care Forum featuring a panel of caregivers and Kaleidoscope Play & Learn facilitators. Poll results were gathered and audience members were asked, "Who took care of you when you were a young child when your parents were at work, school, or otherwise not home?"

Thank you to Our Community Partner Organizations!

Organization	Location	Type of Involvement
Alamance Partnership for Children	Out of State, NC	KPL Affiliate
Anson County Partnership for Children	Out of State, NC	KPL Affiliate
Atlantic Street Center	King County, WA	KPL Affiliate, Supplies Distribution
Auburn School District	King County, WA	KPL Affiliate
Bananas	Out of State, CA	KPL Affiliate
Beaufort-Hyde Partnership for Children	Out of State, NC	KPL Affiliate
Bellingham Public Library	Whatcom County, WA	KPL Affiliate
Birth to Three Developmental Center	King County, WA	KPL Affiliate
Blaine School District	Whatcom County, WA	KPL Affiliate
Buncombe Partnership for Children	Out of State, NC	KPL Affiliate
California Child Care Resource & Referral Network	Out of State, CA	KPL Replication Affiliate
Casa Latina	King County, WA	\$500 Visa Gift Cards
Center for Human Services	King County, WA	KPL Affiliate, Supplies, \$500 Visa Gift Card
Center for MultiCultural Health	King County, WA	Supplies, \$500 Visa Gift Card
Central Valley Children's Services	Out of State, CA	KPL Affiliate
Chatham County Partnership for Children	Out of State, NC	KPL Affiliate
Catholic Charities Serving Central WA	Yakima County, WA	KPL Affiliate
Child Care Action Council	Olympia, WA	KPL Affiliate
Community Minded Enterprises	Spokane, WA	KPL Affiliate
Child Care Resource Center – CA	Out of State, CA	KPL Affiliate
Child Care Resource Center – NC	Out of State, NC	KPL Affiliate
Child Strive	Snohomish County, WA	KPL Affiliate
Childhaven/RAYS	King County, WA	KPL Affiliate, Brothers & Sisters
Children and Youth Partnership for Dare County	Out of State, NC	KPL Affiliate

Organization	Location	Type of Involvement
Children's Council of San Francisco	Out of State, CA	KPL Affiliate
Children's Home Society (North Seattle Family Center)	King County, WA	KPL Affiliate, Supplies, \$500 Visa Gift Card
Children's Home Society (South King County)	King County, WA	KPL Affiliate
Children's Therapy Center	King County, WA	KPL Affiliate
Chinese Information and Service Center	King County, WA	KPL Affiliate, Supplies, \$500 Visa Gift Card
City of Tukwila	King County, WA	KPL Affiliate
Connections for Children	Out of State, CA	KPL Affiliate
Cumberland County Partnership for Children	Out of State, NC	KPL Affiliate
Danville Pittsylvania Community Services	Out of State, VA	KPL Affiliate
Denise Louie Education Center	King County, WA	KPL Affiliate
Douglas Education Service District	Out of State, OR	KPL Affiliate
Down East Partnership for Children	Out of State, NC	KPL Affiliate
East African Community Services	King County, WA	Supplies, \$500 Visa Gift Cards
El Centro de la Raza	King County, WA	Supplies, \$500 Visa Gift Cards
El Programa Hispano Catolico	Out of State, OR	KPL Affiliate
Encompass	King County, WA	KPL Affiliate, Supplies
Family Works	King County, WA	KPL Affiliate
Federal Way School District	King County, WA	KPL Affiliate
Ferndale School District	Whatcom County, WA	KPL Affiliate
First Five Years & Beyond	King County, WA	KPL Affiliate, Brothers and Sisters, Supplies, \$500 Visa Gift Cards
First Step Family Support Center	Port Angeles, WA	KPL Affiliate
Four Rivers Early Learning Hub	Out of State, OR	KPL Replication Affiliate
Great Beginnings	Out of State, OR	KPL Affiliate
Greenplay NW	King County, WA	KPL Affiliate
Harnett County Partnership for Children	Out of State, NC	KPL Replication Affiliate
Horn of Africa Services	King County, WA	KPL Affiliate, Brothers and Sisters, Supplies, \$500 Visa Gift Cards
Illinois Valley Family Coalition	Out of State, OR	KPL Affiliate

Organization	Location	Type of Involvement
Immigrant Refugee Community Organization	Out of State, OR	KPL Affiliate
India Association of Western Washington	King County, WA	KPL Affiliate
Indian Community School	Out of State, WI	KPL Affiliate
Iowa State University	Out of State, IA	KPL Affiliate
Iraqi Community Center of Washington	King County, WA	Supplies, \$500 Visa Gift Cards
Jackson County Library System	Out of State, OR	KPL Affiliate
Kids Unlimited	Out of State, OR	KPL Affiliate
Kidzu Children's Museum	Out of State, NC	KPL Affiliate
Kindering	King County, WA	KPL Affiliate
King County Library System	King County, WA	KPL Affiliate
Korean Community Service Center	King County, WA	Supplies, \$500 Visa Gift Cards
Latino Community Services	Out of State, NC	KPL Affiliate
Latino Network	Out of State, OR	KPL Affiliate
Lee County Partnership for Children	Out of State, NC	KPL Affiliate
Luther Memorial	King County, WA	KPL Affiliate
Mercy Housing	King County, WA	KPL
Meridian School District	Whatcom County, WA	KPL Affiliate
Metropolitan Family Service	Out of State, OR	KPL Affiliate
Mission Africa	King County, WA	Brothers & Sisters Program
Mother Mentors	Island County, WA	KPL Affiliate
Mount Vernon School District	Skagit County, WA	KPL Affiliate
Mt. Baker School District	Whatcom County, WA	KPL Affiliate
Multnomah County Youth and Family Services Division	Out of State, OR	KPL Replication Affiliate
Nooksack Valley School District	Whatcom County, WA	KPL Affiliate
Northwest Early Learning Hub	Out of State, OR	KPL Affiliate
NW Parenting Clatsop County	Out of State, OR	KPL Affiliate
Olympic Educational Service District 114	Kitsap County, WA	KPL Affiliate
OneAmerica	King County, WA	KPL Affiliate
Pathways LA	Out of State, CA	KPL Affiliate
Person County Partnership for Children	Out of State, NC	KPL Affiliate
Rockingham County Partnership for Children	Out of State, NC	KPL Affiliate

Organization	Location	Type of Involvement
San Juan County Health and Community Services	San Juan County, WA	KPL Affiliate
Sisters in Common	King County, WA	KPL Affiliate, Supplies Distribution
Skagit Children's Museum	Skagit County, WA	KPL Affiliate
Smart Start of Brunswick County	Out of State, NC	KPL Affiliate
Smart Start Rowan County	Out of State, NC	KPL Affiliate
Sno-Isle Libraries: Granite Falls Library	Snohomish County, WA	KPL Affiliate
Somali Family Safety Task Force	King County, WA	Supplies Distribution
Somali Health Board	King County, WA	Supplies Distribution
Southern Oregon Early Learning System	Out of State, OR	KPL Affiliate
Southern Oregon Educational Service District	Out of State, OR	KPL Affiliate
Southwest Youth and Family Services	King County, WA	KPL Affiliate, Supplies Distribution
Stanly County Partnership for Children	Out of State, NC	KPL Affiliate
Stay and Play Childcare and Learning Center	King County, WA	KPL Affiliate, Supplies Distribution
Sugarloaf Community Association	Out of State, OR	KPL Affiliate
The Family Place of Transylvania County	Out of State, NC	KPL Affiliate
Thompson Child and Family Focus	Out of State, NC	KPL Affiliate
Vashon Youth and Family Services	King County, WA	KPL Affiliate, \$500 Visa Gift Cards
Whatcom Center for Early Learning	Whatcom County, WA	KPL Affiliate
White Center Community Development Association	King County, WA	KPL Affiliate, \$500 Visa Gift Cards
Wilkes Community Partnership for Children	Out of State, NC	KPL Affiliate
Wonderland Child and Family Services	King County, WA	KPL Affiliate
World Relief Seattle	King County, WA	KPL Affiliate
YWCA	King County, WA	KPL Affiliate

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