

# Pierce County

Office of the County Council

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: All Councilmembers

FROM: Jason Escareno, Senior Legislative Analyst

DATE: April 9, 2019

SUBJECT: Puget Sound Taxpayer Accountability Account (PSTAA)

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### **General Background:**

The Puget Sound Taxpayer Accountability Account (PSTAA) was created as an amendment to the 2015 Transportation Revenue Package by the Washington State Legislature. The Legislature created PSTAA to direct certain funds into a protected account that is to be paid to the counties in the Sound Transit taxing district and directs that the funds be used for educational services to improve educational outcomes in early learning, K-12, and postsecondary education. The estimated funding available to Pierce County over 18 years, from 2018-2035, is \$123 million.

The Pierce County Executive's office solicited proposals from the public through a Request For Information (RFI) process, #2068 "Use of Puget Sound Taxpayer Accountability Account Funding for Educational Services." They had 14 responses.

The Pierce County Council passed R2018-102 to establish a Stakeholder Group to recommend a strategic plan for the expenditure of funds related to the PSTAA.

### **Stakeholder Group:**

The Stakeholder Group was established in November 2018, with 20 area agencies represented. The agencies involved were those who had submitted an RFI, as well as a few organizations who were recommended for participation. The group met a total of seven times over five months, with the final two meetings being professionally facilitated by Jennifer Arnold from Reciprocity Consulting. These agencies all serve low-income, homeless or in foster care, or other at-risk or vulnerable youth and children within the Sound Transit 3 area. The agencies involved were:

1. Amara
2. Bates Technical College
3. Clover Park Technical College
4. College Success Foundation
5. Communities in Schools – Puyallup
6. First5FUNDamentals
7. Graduate Tacoma
8. Metro Parks Tacoma
9. Metropolitan Development Council
10. Pierce College District
11. Pierce County Libraries
12. Puget Sound Educational Services District
13. Sound Alliance – SHAPE

14. Tacoma Community College
15. Tacoma Housing Authority
16. Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
17. Treehouse
18. UW Tacoma

The agencies had an opportunity to present to the Stakeholder Group about their scope of work and how the PSTAA funds could impact the work of their agencies or programs as related to low-income, homeless, or in foster care, or other at-risk and vulnerable youth and children.

**Recommended Principles:**

The Stakeholder Group discussed strategies for the PSTAA funding over the final four meetings. Jennifer Arnold from Reciprocity Consulting helped the group to gain consensus on their principles for making funding decisions as shown below and in the attached. These are:

1. Community engagement and co-design
2. Needs assessment
3. Data-informed planning
4. Racial equity lens
5. Prevention lens
6. Transparent process
7. Focus on prenatal-25 with support for families
8. Funded activities linked directly to goal

Please let me know if you have questions or need additional information.