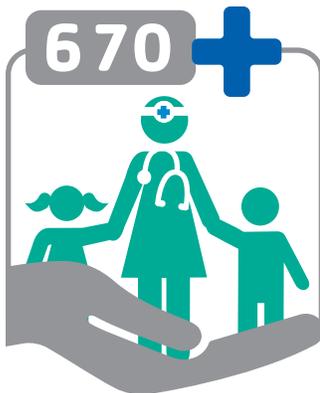




CREATING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY & MOBILITY

C A S E F O R S U P P O R T



OUR MISSION. The YMCA of Greater Seattle (the Y) is committed to building a community where all people, especially the young, are encouraged to develop their fullest potential in spirit, mind and body. We believe that investing in our young people, particularly those who are furthest from opportunity, is key to future economic mobility and breaking the cycle of inter-generational poverty.

OUR KIDS. According to the 2020 Census, the nation as whole is more racially and ethnically diverse than it was a decade ago.¹ **There are nearly 2.3M people in King County, one in five are under the age of 18**, and 46% of residents in King County identify as non-white, a 10% increase from 2010.² Nearly one in four King County residents (23%) are foreign-born, with 28% speaking a language other than English.³ Poverty rates also continue to climb, particularly in South King County. School districts (Auburn, Federal Way, Highline, Kent, Renton & Tukwila) in South King County are now responsible for educating 55% of the county’s students living in poverty.⁴

HOW WE ARE RESPONDING. The Y has been one of many community partners working on several fronts to minimize economic loss and disrupt poverty for our region’s most vulnerable families and children, with a particular focus on education, housing, and comprehensive services⁵. Over the past year, **we continued to provide child care and day camp, including emergency child care for first responders to over 670 children** of working families, ensuring they received on-going care and support while schools were closed.

We also launched the Y LEAP Academy – a full-day program designed to support kids and families with distance learning and school-day care along with enrichment activities – in collaboration and partnership with 11 of our region’s school districts to support children and families struggling with virtual learning.

Finally, we supported nearly 5,500 young people through our Social Impact Center’s housing, behavioral health, employment and training, violence prevention, and foster care services. We provided a continuum of critical housing supports by increasing available housing for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness from 300 units in 2019 to 450 in 2021; assisting 600 youth find permanent housing, and supporting 950 young adults avoid eviction and remain in stable housing.

Looking Toward 2025

BROADENING ACCESS TO EARLY LEARNING. At the Y, we believe that early educational readiness is one of the most important contributions we can make to placing our young people on a pathway to economic mobility, which can also shift the economic trajectory for an entire family. We believe one of the most powerful levers to breaking the cycle of inter-generational poverty is an accessible and affordable education both in the classroom and outdoors. More specifically, we are working alongside our school systems and other early learning providers, to make sure our young learners and their families are prepared and empowered for early success on their educational pathways.

SUPPORTING YOUNG ADULTS TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.

For some of our young people, experiencing early trauma in their lives can lead to experiences that find them lacking stable housing, education and/or employment and ultimately causing them to step off a path toward economic mobility. We are unequivocally committed to making sure that our young people experiencing health and social risk factors build the skills and social networks and have safe housing and comprehensive services needed to succeed and reach their full potential.

Joining Us > How You Can Help

We need partners to create economic mobility and opportunity for our region's young people and their families. We need your support to double the number of young children and families we serve, furthest from opportunity, in the classroom and outdoors. Your support will also help us expand our support of young people experiencing early trauma by providing housing and comprehensive services in partnerships with others in community to place them on productive paths.

By 2025, we will:

- Expand the number of Y Early Education Centers and increase the number of children experiencing poverty who are kindergarten-ready following their enrollment in our affordable, and accessible, high-quality early learning programs to give them the best start on their educational pathway.
- Launch programs in partnership with schools and the community to support the caregivers of our children furthest from opportunity to build their confidence and competency in supporting their child's early learning and navigating the first year of school.
- Increase the number of youth and young adults who are successfully diverted and transitioned from systems of care, including homelessness, foster care, residential behavior health, and juvenile justice to independence.
- Increase the number of youth and young adults pursuing their educational goals, securing employment, and stably and safely housed in permanent households.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED and help to support economic opportunity and mobility for our young people, view [volunteer opportunities](#) or email us at give@seattlemca.org.

FOOTNOTES

- ¹ U.S. Census Bureau, [The Chance That Two People Chosen at Random Are of Different Race or Ethnicity Groups Has Increased Since 2010](#), August 2020.
- ² U.S. Census Bureau, [Race & Ethnicity in the U.S.](#), August 2020
- ³ U.S. Census Bureau, [King County, Washington](#), July 2019
- ⁴ Communities Count, [Child Poverty Moves South from Seattle](#), December 2017.
- ⁵ Comprehensive services include: mental health, substance use support, crisis response & intervention, foster care placement and transitions, justice systems diversion, and employment & training.



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