

July 31, 2018

Jana Prince, Senior Buyer
Pierce County Procurement & Contract Services
950 Fawcett Avenue, Suite 100
Tacoma, WA 98402

Dear Ms. Prince:

Thank you for the opportunity to give feedback to the Pierce County Request for Information #2068, "Use of Puget Sound Taxpayer Accountability Account Funding for Educational Services."

The Health Department recommends a more inclusive community planning process for a funding stream of this size. Our preliminary recommendations are:

1. **Invest in facilities.** RCW 43.79.520 permits capital projects and building improvements. Several Pierce County neighborhoods with poor educational outcomes have no space for educational services to occur. For example, Parkland has no youth center facilities; Centerforce is the only community space in Springbrook; and very few family centers and family economic centers exist in the Sound Transit boundaries in Pierce County.
2. **Improve health in the communities paying the tax.** Children in poor health cannot learn well. Investing in the health of children and families will improve educational outcomes and save money for the county in areas such as social services and the justice system.
3. **Focus on early childhood first.** Fund child care centers in underserved areas, and early learning centers linked with elementary schools or senior centers. Invest in entrepreneurial approaches in early childhood, especially for vulnerable populations in the subareas of the transit authority.
4. **Support technical skill-building for youth ages 15-25.** As a secondary strategy, leverage our strong network of local community and technical colleges and apprentice programs. Help Pierce County's youth compete for higher wage jobs linked to local economic development goals.

We appreciate your partnership and consideration of these recommendations.

Sincerely,



Anthony L-T Chen, MD, MPH
Director of Health

Rec'd 7/31/18 4:00pm 