



## **Puget Sound Taxpayer Accountability Account Proposal**

**Who we are:** *Tacoma Community House creates opportunities for immigrants and other community members in the Puget Sound region through comprehensive services focused on self-sufficiency, inclusion and advocacy.*

Tacoma Community House is a nationally respected, community-based service center for immigrants, refugees, and long-time South Sound residents seeking enrichment and pathways to self-sufficiency. For 108 years, we have helped countless individuals gain the skills they need to transition out of poverty, navigate a new culture, and find personal and professional success.

### **Who we serve**

Annually, we provide 3,800 program services to 3,500 individuals from over 100 countries through our four core programs: Education, Employment, Immigration, and Advocacy (for crime victims).

#### **Education Services**

- TCH served approximately 800 students
  - 550 through English language acquisition classes
  - 175 in basic education for adults
  - 75 through credentialed occupational training programs
- Eighty percent of students are immigrants and refugees.
  - Of those who are not U.S. born, the top countries represented are Ukraine, Vietnam, Mexico, Moldova, Yemen, Iran, Cambodia, and Russia
- Ninety-one percent of students are low-income

#### **Why we are important**

- English language acquisition is the most important factor for immigrants and refugees to fully integrate.
  - Increase employment opportunities
  - Increase access to services
  - Increases positive outcomes for children in K-12 system
- Unique Educational Institution
  - Great first step to educational institutions in the U.S.

- Big enough to be able to have leveled and structured classes
- Not so big that students get intimidated by a large campus with thousands of students
- Bridge/pathway to post-secondary education and employment
- Wrap-around services
  - Build English skills
  - Employment assistance - learn English in the morning, work with staff to find a job in the afternoon
  - Immigration - renew and adjust immigration status in the same building (Green cards, citizenship)

### **Investment**

- \$500,000 for capital
  - Complete new 27,000 square ft. building
  - Increase service capacity to 6000 people a year
  - Ten new classrooms
  - Two computer labs in new building
  - Classroom technology (Chromebooks, projectors, sound systems)
- \$500,000 for program development
  - Build new training and education programs for immigrants and refugees
  - Develop curriculum to share with other organizations so they can implement programs
  - Cover student tuition, supplies, certification and support services costs

### **Benefits to the community**

- More immigrants and refugees increase their English and hard skills
- More people go to work
- More people enroll in post-secondary programs
- Stronger and more diverse workforce
- Increased tax base for Pierce County