



SUPPORTING THE EQUITY FUND

United is the Way we build economic equity.

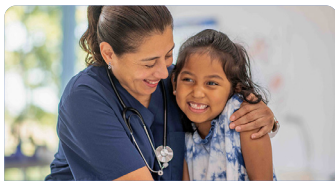


» Why Partner?

Too many communities have been denied opportunities and left to bear the greatest burden of poverty—not by chance, but by design. United Way of King County is stepping up to change that.

As a community safety net with over 100 years of trust and impact, United Way is investing in local organizations, supporting equity-driven programs, and advocating for policies that remove systemic barriers. Together, we can build an equal and equitable future where every community has the resources and opportunities it needs to thrive.

Organizations led by leaders of color receive **45% less funding** than their mainstream counterparts, limiting their ability to create lasting economic mobility in their communities.



Through our Equity Fund, we empower **39** local, community-led organizations of color with resources to create solutions that drive meaningful change.

SOLIDARITY—NOT CHARITY: HOW WE DO THIS WORK

At the heart of our Equity Fund is participatory grantmaking, a transformative approach that redefines how funding decisions are made.

By partnering with the communities impacted by these funds and giving them the power to decide how they're invested, we ensure those closest to the challenges lead in shaping solutions. This approach is rooted in and reflects our belief in shared responsibility and collective impact.

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What we have been experiencing with participatory grantmaking is really the beginning of restoration and healing for our communities and a way that we move together as a whole. United Way of King County has done that work and centered our Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities at the forefront. The participatory grantmaking model is letting us lead that process. It's truly the only way forward. There is no other way.”

—Russell Brooks, executive director, Red Eagle Soaring



Black Community Building Collective: We bring a coalition of 14 Black-led organizations together to form strategies, foster strength, and implement solutions to bring power to King County's Black community.

"The support through [Black Community Building Collective] funding has allowed me to increase my staff, and it's led to the launch of multiple programs."

–**Marshaun Barber**, founder and executive director, Reclaiming Our Greatness



Indigenous Communities Fund: Launched in 2020, United Way invests in Native-led nonprofits working collectively to lift up Seattle-King County's urban Native community. From food, education, and health to housing, social services, legal support, and leadership development, these organizations provide vital services and drive lasting change.



Racial Equity Coalition (REC): In Washington state, more than half of public school students are people of color. But many schools, particularly those serving low-income communities, lack the resources needed for students to graduate. Research shows that schools that create places of belonging help all students stay engaged and succeed. We invest in the Racial Equity Coalition, a group of 14 organizations that support in- and out-of-school programs that celebrate cultural identity, create belonging, and give students the tools they need to thrive. These programs help close opportunity gaps, boost school engagement, and build paths to long-term economic stability.

Racial Equity Coalition has served more than 1,900 young people across 25 languages and 76 ZIP codes!

» Opportunity

A more equitable society can lead to greater social stability and long-term business sustainability. Your partnership will enable us to invest in local organizations that know their communities best. It'll help us start undoing the systemic issues that have created inequities in our societies—in all the places where our employees live, work, and raise their families.

As a thank you, we'll acknowledge your company alongside other game-changers in our newsletters, blog posts, social media platforms, podcasts, website, and other marketing materials.

» Want to learn more?

Do you have space, supplies, or resources to share? We'd love to hear from you about your interest in reducing inequities and building an equitable future for everyone. For more information about these programs and their impact, please contact **Carrie Bates** at cbates@uwkc.org or 206.461.8501.

