



The Community Impact Report is produced annually by the Planning & Public Policy team at United Way of King County. Our focus is on providing context for our key strategies and progress towards our 2020 strategic plan goals.

The report highlights:

- Demographics
- Community level indicators
- Annual results
- Influence and leverage of United Way investments on community conditions

HELPING STUDENTS GRADUATE

Giving Kids An Equal Chance

- Parent-Child Home Program
- Quality Child Care
- Early Intervention



Our signature effort in our early learning work is the **Parent-Child Home Program**

We will continue to play a strong role in this successful, evidence-based home visiting program for low-income, isolated families that includes:

- Offering Parent-Child Home Program (PCHP) at scale, helping all kids succeed in school
- Investing in PCHP at a significant level for the foreseeable future
- Continuing to play key county-wide role in coordination, training, data collection and evaluation, and advocacy

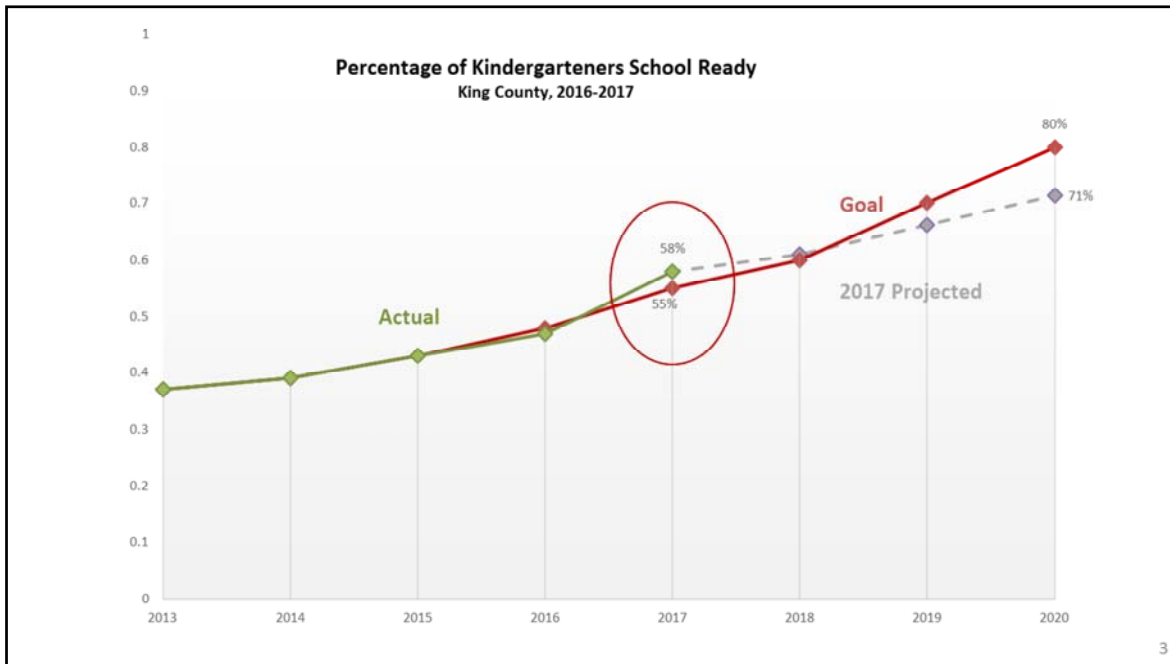
Our other strategies include improving the quality of childcare and early intervention.

Improving Child Care

- Children arriving at kindergarten who've been in the care of nurturing adults, with good social and literacy experiences, are prepared to succeed in school and beyond.
- Many low-income parents can't afford quality care and have few options for safe environments for their kids.
- United Way investments will make high quality child care accessible to low-income families.
- This means educating family, friend and neighbor caregivers and training providers caring for kids with special needs.

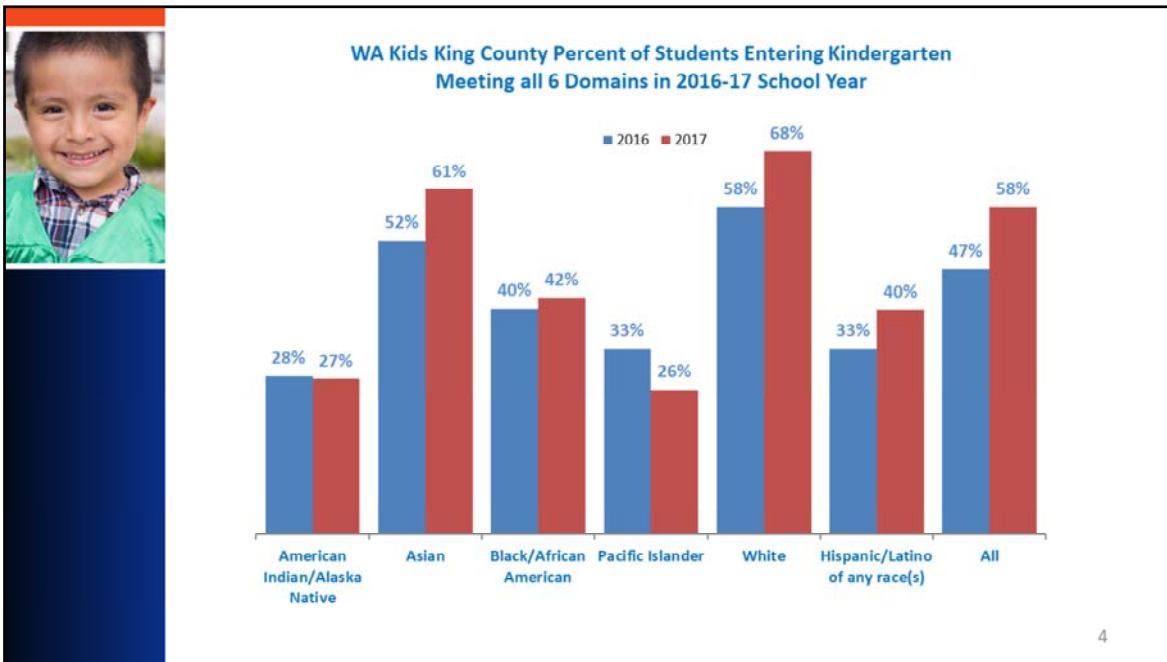
Early Intervention

- Early diagnosis of developmental delays can reduce the intensity of help required later in a child's life; for some children, it eliminates need for special education.
- We'll continue to invest in programs that identify challenges early so children get physical and language therapy and families receive guidance as soon as possible.
- We also support special training for providers who screen for delays, so they can work better with parents and make appropriate referrals.



We are making progress on this goal, and are on track/exceeding our goal for this year. Our PCHP program serves 2- and 3-year old children, who don't enter kindergarten for a couple more years. Other programs supported by our partners like Seattle's Pre-school for All and King County Best Starts will also begin having a greater effect in the next two years. So we do expect this trend to continue to accelerate.

Kindergarten readiness increased from 47% to 58%, overall. But not all groups have improved.



Kindergarten readiness improved for Asian, White, and Hispanic, but only slightly for Black/African American, and declined for American Indian/Alaska Natives and Pacific Islanders.

Note that data for sub-groups within the Asian population is not available, and which likely masks existing disparities.



What we accomplished

80%
of kids are ready for
kindergarten 

- 1,038 families served through Parent-Child Home Program
- 22,700 families served overall
- 7,900 parents improved skills
- 118 child cares improved quality
- 3,100 children w/delays met goals

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22,700 families participated in United Way-funded educational and support activities to improve their skills in supporting children's early development. Of those, 7,900 measurably improved their skills.

We also supported training and quality support to 118 early care and education program staff.

3,100 children with developmental delays and disabilities met developmental goals.

The community level data provides justification for PCHP (especially effective for families from diverse backgrounds) as well as the Early Learning Racial Equity Innovation Fund. A strong evaluation component for PCHP gave us the ability to influence King County to provide funding to continue scaling up PCHP.

HELPING STUDENTS GRADUATE

Supporting Youth

- Reconnecting Youth
- Keeping Youth Connected
 - Dropout prevention
 - Barrier reduction



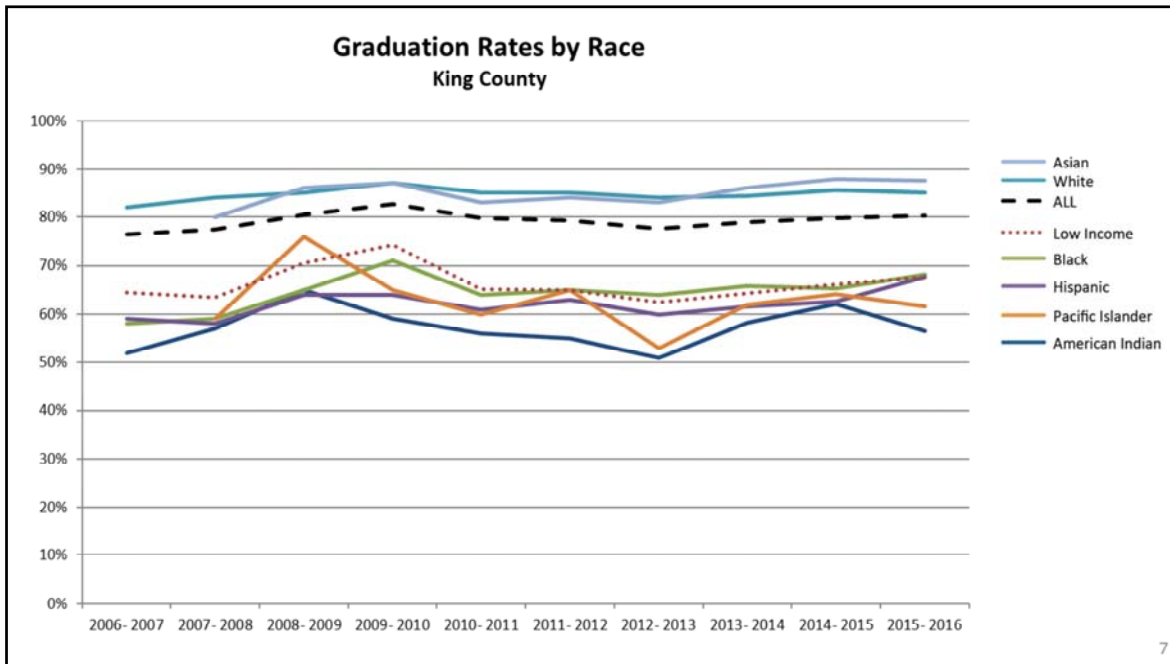
We've always invested in youth, and we've increased our focus in this area.

Our signature effort is **Reconnecting Youth**:

- In King County, 15,000 young people ages 16–21 have stopped their education short of a high school diploma or GED.
- Without a high school equivalency or a GED, their prospects are bleak.
- We have the advantage of an untapped state funding source that can be leveraged to help a youth get back on track.
- United Way is uniquely positioned to bring the right partners and resources together to create the system necessary to engage with disconnected young people, connect them to the support they need, a high school equivalency and on the track to college and career.
- By 2020, we'll have helped 7,200 young people get back on track.

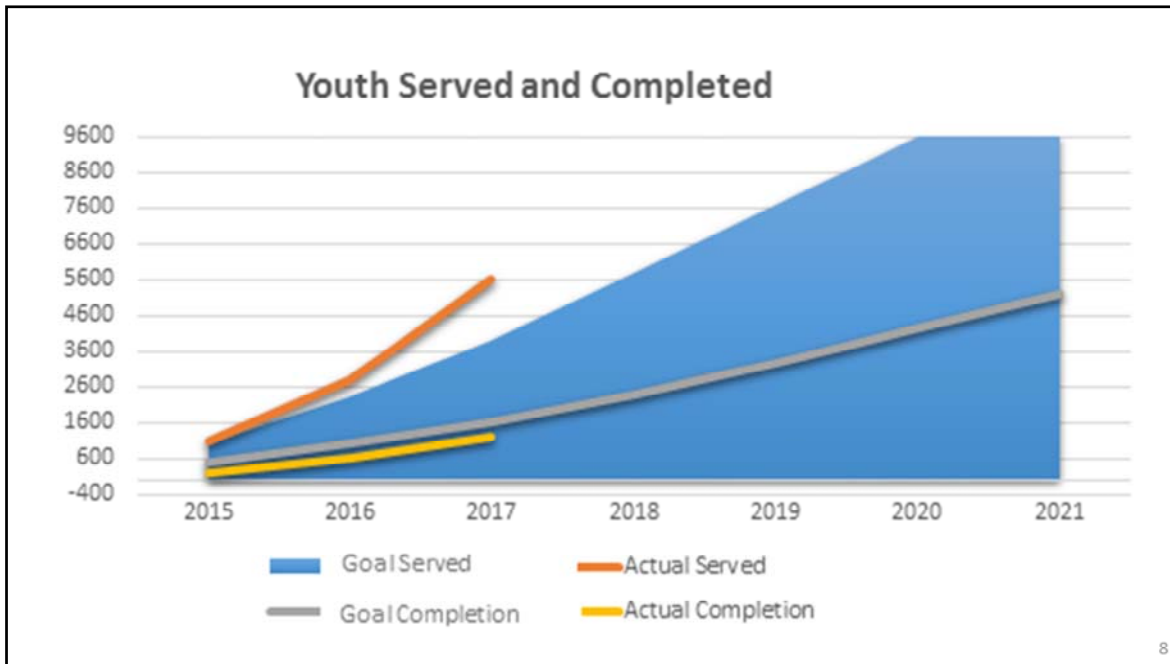
Keeping youth connected

Our school-age youth work focuses on keeping youth in school and on a path to graduation, slowing down the pipeline of young people who get off track. This includes: out of school time activities, general as well as acculturation services focused on youth from racially, ethnically and economically disadvantaged populations; and services that stabilize and remove barriers in young people's lives, such as for youth with significant health or behavioral barriers to education.



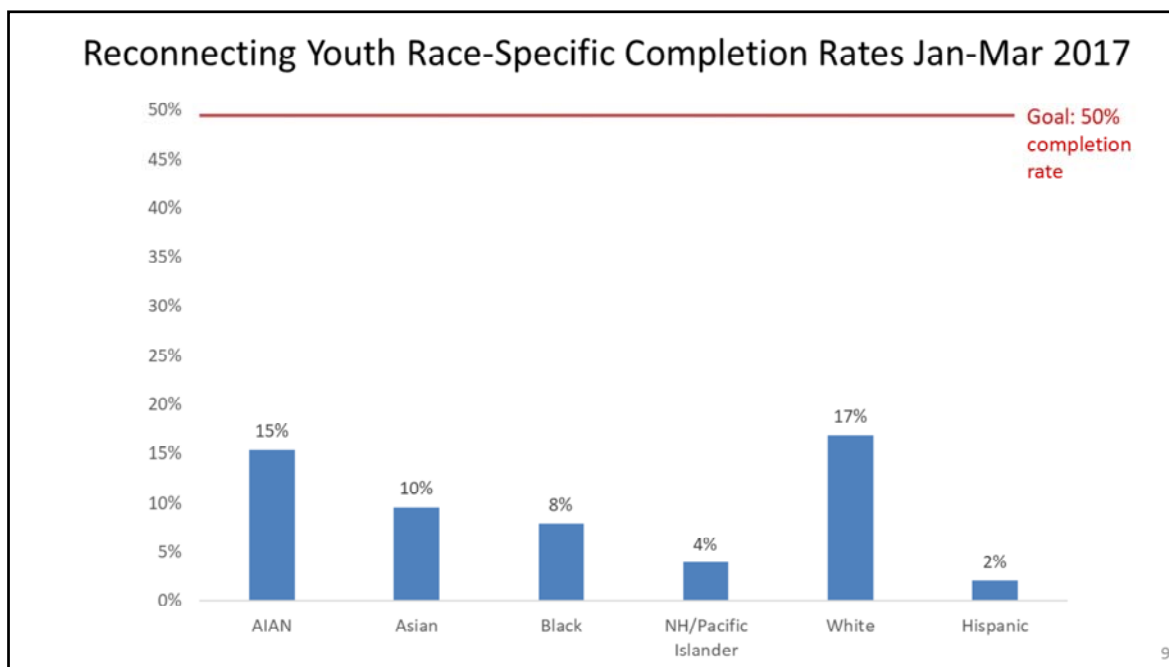
A high school diploma is essential to getting a good-paying job. The trend lines show that graduation rates remain alarmingly low for some populations. Graduation rates have been in the 50-60s for students of color for the ten years shown here.

Graduation rates remain largely unchanged from last year for white (1% decline) and Asian (unchanged). It declined for American Indian/Alaska Native (5%) and slightly for Pacific Islanders (2%), and increased for Hispanic (5%) and slightly for black (3%).




We exceeded our goal for youth served, and enrollment by race in the reengagement system is in proportion to the dropout population. We met our numbers for this year to get to our goal of 50% completion by 2020 for students in the reengagement system. Youth are staying in the system quarter to quarter, so while it may be taking them longer to complete, they are staying engaged.

Note: Numbers are cumulative



However disparities persist in completion rates. This shows completion rates by race/ethnicity in comparison to our goal of 50% completion rates for students in the reengagement system. Seventeen percent of white students completed a credential compared to 2% for Hispanic, 4% for Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander and 8% for Black.



What we accomplished

50%
of disconnected youth
are on the path to
success

- Reconnecting Youth:
 - 2,814 youth engaged
 - 590 completions
- 2,400 youth improved on academic goals
- 16,000 gained developmental skills/behaviors

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Of the 15,000 disconnected youth ages 16-21 in King County, we plan to re-engage 7,900 by 2020. We are leveraging federal/state dollars available to help youth get back on education/career track. We continue to exceed our re-engagement goals, and are on track in our GED/high school completion goals. We used peer connectors to increase retention for youth of color and we are continuing to modify strategies to improve results. The focus in the system right now is to zero in on the needs of Hispanic youth first, because they reflect some of the greatest disparity. This work is still forming, but may take the shape of asking programs that are receiving Back on Track outcome improvement assistance, to implement strategies that are youth centered/informed that will strengthen the retention, academic progress, and completion experience of Hispanic youth in particular programs.

This year, in our work to prevent youth from dropping out, we made changes to focus more directly on drop-out prevention and on those youth most at risk for dropping out (through barrier reduction), including youth of color through acculturation services.

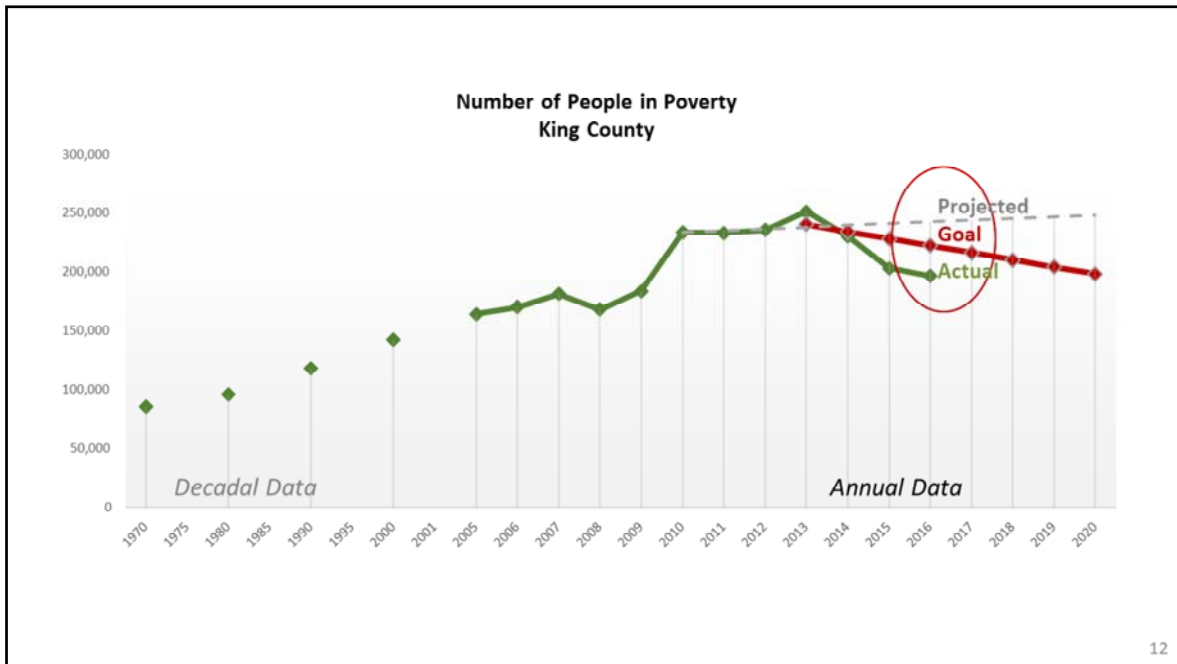
Note numbers are for 6 months, not full year.

BUILDING FINANCIAL STABILITY

- Free Tax Prep Program
- Fuel Your Future
- Benefits Hub
- A Place to Turn in Crisis
- Poverty Solutions

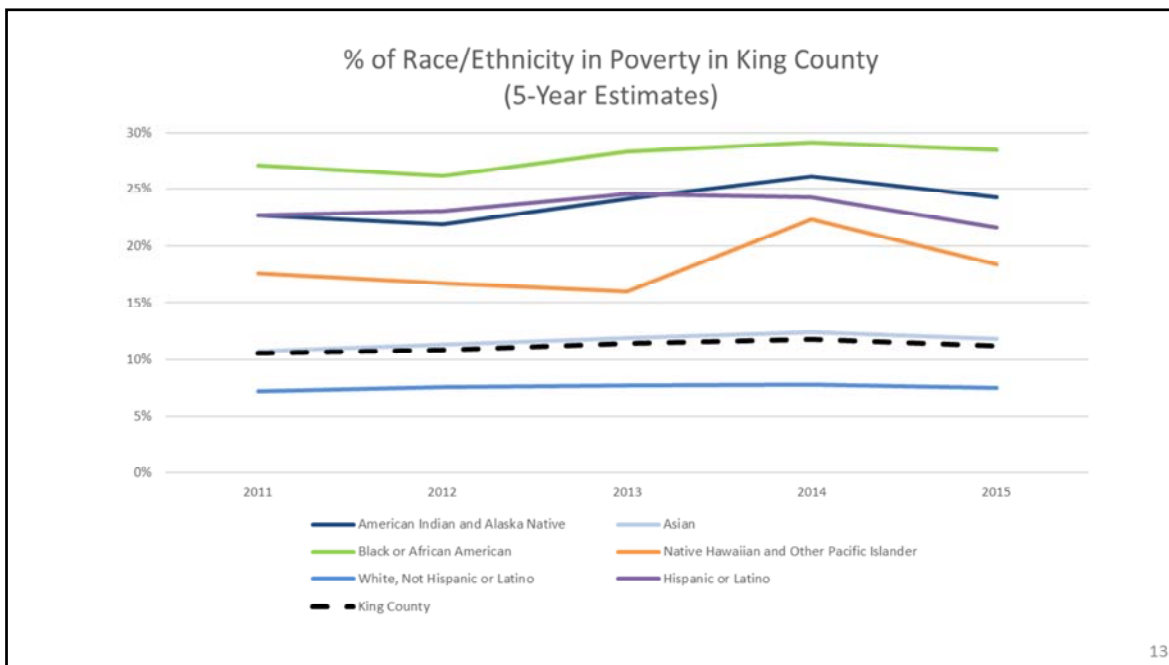


- Our core strategy is to connect people to benefits they qualify for, but are not taking advantage of.
- We've honed in our investments to focus on helping families be financially stable, which includes focusing on hunger since we know that struggling families often are forced to make decisions between feeding their kids and keeping the lights on.
- We'll continue to grow the Free Tax Prep campaign, making sure families are receiving the Earned Income Tax Credit
- Our hunger work focuses on kids with Fuel Your Future that leverages National Service (VISTA) members, places them in schools to provide nutrition education and access to federal nutrition programs. This includes helping schools implement Breakfast After the Bell and summer meals programs.
- The Benefits Hub continues our strategy to connect people to benefits with a focus on community colleges.
- We'll continue to invest in 211 – a service that's critical to helping people connect with services.
- In FY18, grants are being reorganized around lifting income above the poverty line through new poverty solutions grants.



We continued to see a decline in the number of people living in poverty in King County. There were 203,000 people in King County with incomes below the federal poverty level in 2015, down to 196,000 in 2016. We don't claim total credit for this reduction, but we believe we contributed to it.

Poverty has reduced by 26,847 out of the 50,000 since 2015. It was 230,043 in 2014 and then went down to 203,196 in 2015. Note the decline was not as sharp from this year compared to the previous year decline.



Racial disparities remain. The dotted line shows poverty for King County as a whole. Non-Hispanic whites (7%) are below the King County rate (11%), Asians (12%) are slightly higher than the King County rate, and all other race/ethnic groups are well above the King County rate. Of all groups, African Americans carry the highest burden, with nearly 1/3 experiencing poverty. And ¼ American Indian/Alaska Native experiencing poverty.

NOTE: Data is from 2015 5-year estimates from Census. The 2016 data (which comes from the 1 year estimates, not the 5 year) is omitted due to unstable rates.

While Asians as a whole are at the King County rate, we recognize this category is diverse, and masks disparities. Overall, 12% of the Asian population of King County had income below poverty level in the last 12 months. However, this average masks differing rates of poverty among sub-groups, with populations such as Indonesian, Pakistani, Vietnamese, Taiwanese, Cambodian and Laotian having above average poverty, and Asian Indian, Japanese, and Filipino having below average poverty levels.

And racial disparities in income have widened, especially here in King County. From recent Communities Count data, the national black/white income gap is substantial (\$22,794 in 2016, according to the American Community Survey), **which pales in comparison to King County's whopping 2016 disparity of \$45,733.** And the disparity in King County has gotten worse. While in 2006 King County blacks earned \$56 for every \$100 earned by whites, **by 2016 the gap had widened, with King County blacks earning only \$50 for every \$100 earned by whites.**



What we accomplished


50,000
people rose out of poverty

- Free Tax Prep Program:
 - **22,700** Tax Returns, **\$30M**
 - **680** people lifted out of poverty
- Fuel Your Future:
 - **600,000** summer meals
 - **250,000** school breakfasts served
- **1,560** people got jobs
- **12,000** people accessed financial interventions

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We are approaching poverty on several fronts. Our signature products are Free Tax and Fuel Your Future. We continue to expand Free Tax each year, leveraging volunteers and using tax hubs to connect people to other benefits. Other strategies include help with employment, signing up for safety net benefits, meeting basic needs like food banks, information and referral, and free healthy meals for kids.

To address racial disparities and attempt to accelerate poverty reduction, we launched poverty solutions to find innovative solutions to lift people out of poverty.



ENDING HOMELESSNESS

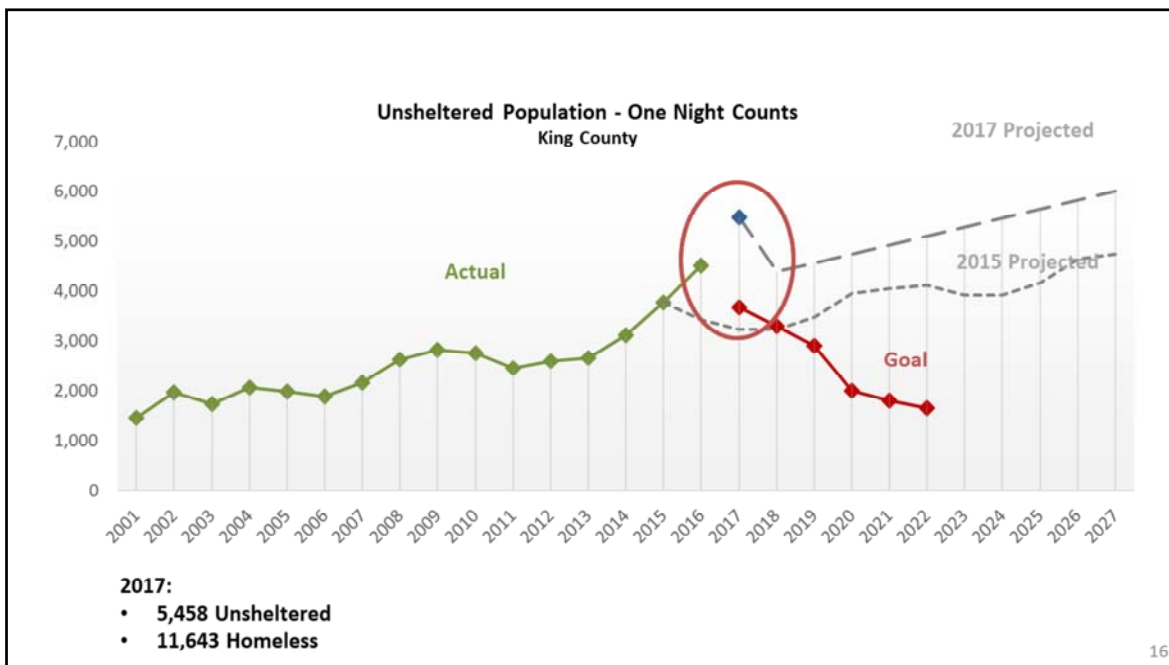
- Streets to Home
- Jobs Connect
- Systems Improvement



Our work around ending homelessness is to make homelessness rare, and if it does happen, allow people to rebound quickly so that it is brief and one-time.

- Signature efforts are Streets to Home and Jobs Connect
 - **Streets to Home**
 - **Give outreach workers new tools** to provide people sleeping on the streets with quick help like transportation to stay with nearby family.
 - **Get people back into housing quickly** via help with credit counseling, moving costs and case management.
 - **Jobs Connect** – connect people experiencing homelessness to employment
- **Community-wide strategy**

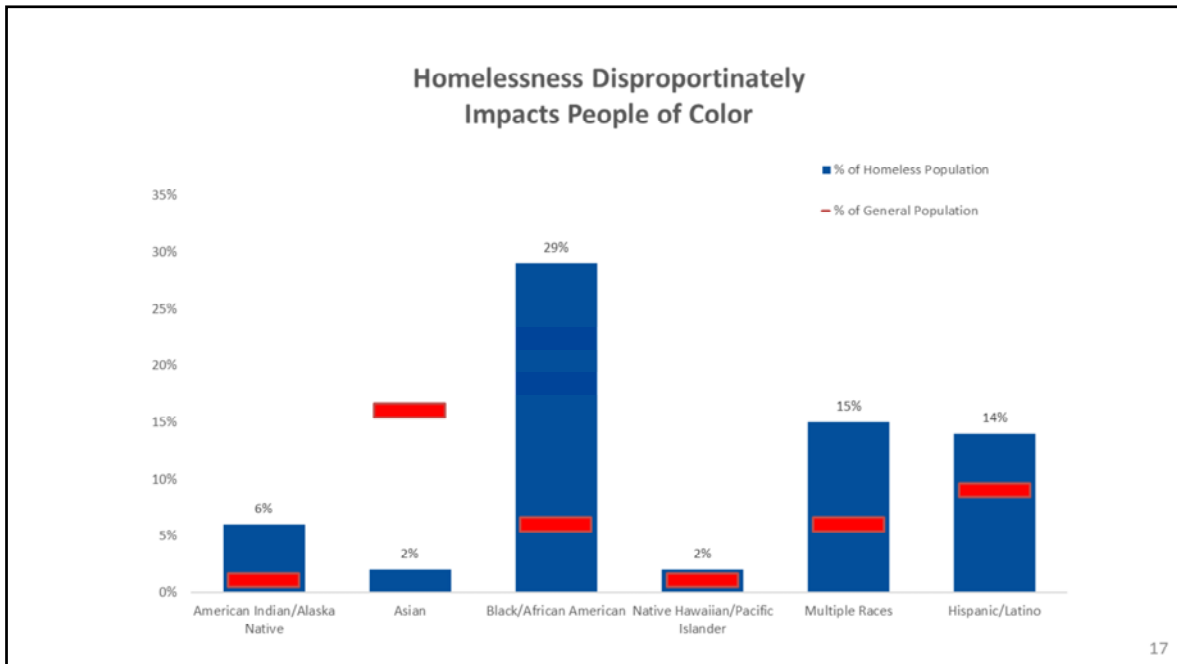
This is a huge opportunity to adjust our system to be more effective, coordinated and focused on the right level of services for homeless individuals and families.



Last year, homelessness increased even more than we expected.
The One Night count found 11,643 people homeless; 5,485 were unsheltered

Due to changes in the count methodology in 2017, results cannot be directly compared to previous years.

With additional years of data, projected unsheltered has significantly increased. While the system has housed more people than ever, the homeless count continues to rise because we haven't stopped the inflow of people into homelessness (justice system, foster care, mental health).



Disproportionality exists among persons experiencing homelessness. This shows percent by race/ethnicity among persons experiencing homelessness (blue bars) in comparison to percent each groups makes up in the general population (red bars). American Indians/Alaska Natives, Black/African American, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, multi-racial and Hispanic are all over-represented in the homeless population.



What we accomplished

50% 
reduction in the number
of unsheltered people
in the annual One Night
Count

- Streets to Home: 584 housed
- Jobs Connect: 163 attained employment
- 2,518 people received supportive housing services
- 1,100 helped at Community Resource Exchange
- Implementing new community-wide strategy

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The reason people are homeless is that they can't afford housing. Most become homeless due to a financial crisis like loss of a job. Health, family issues and credit and criminal background issues can contribute to loss of income and housing. They also can *result from* homelessness, and more than half of people experiencing homelessness need help with one or more of these issues. Research has found however, that the best results come when people get housing first. Services to address issues that threaten their stability in housing or opportunity to increase their incomes are more effective after housing has been secured. While we prioritize work to get people into housing more swiftly, we are also finding that with the large population of unsheltered people in King County and plentiful jobs, that many are willing, able and anxious to work while they wait for housing. We also engage in public policy work to influence policy – e.g. Housing Trust.

Our work on homelessness is focused in two areas: Streets to Home (using funds for whatever is needed to get a person housed) and Jobs Connect (connect to employment so people can retain housing), for which we are leveraging our business relationships to scale up the program. We are also working with the City of Seattle and King County to implement the new community wide data and research-based strategy to end homelessness in King County. We opened nearly all our homelessness investments to adhere to Focus Strategies/Poppe recommendations, and the City of Seattle likewise opened their homelessness investments to align. We still are hopeful that, if our new community-wide plan can be fully implemented, we should still be able to achieve our goal.



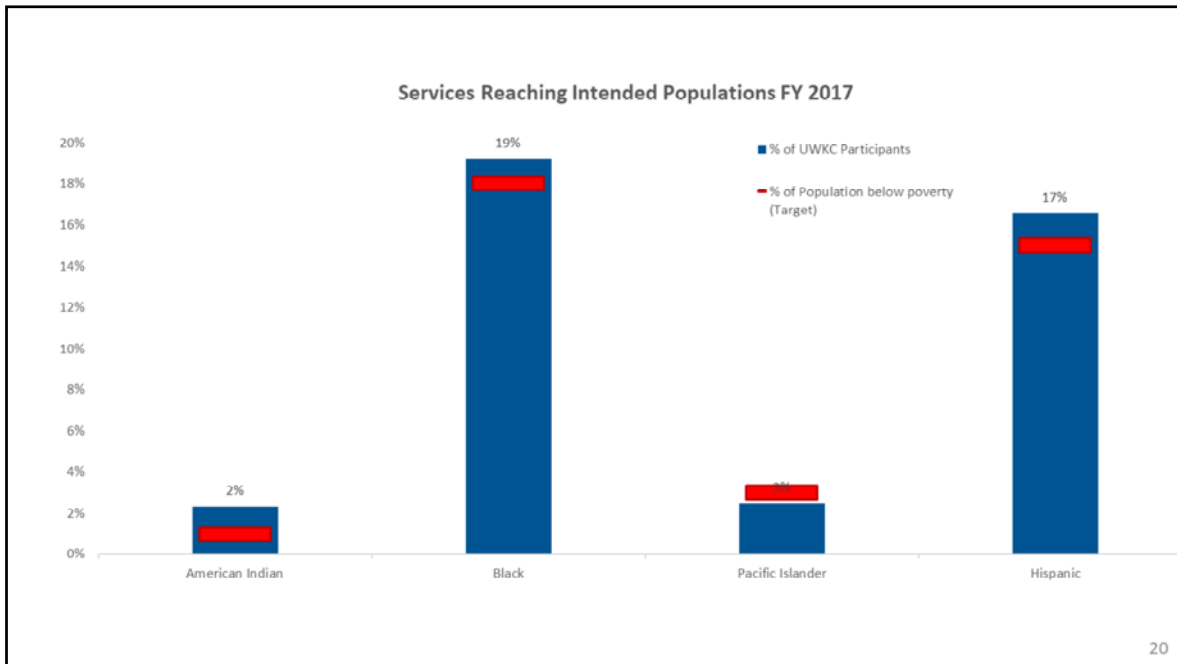
United Way Grant-making

- **\$31.2M** invested
- **620,000** people served
- **38,000** outcome achievements

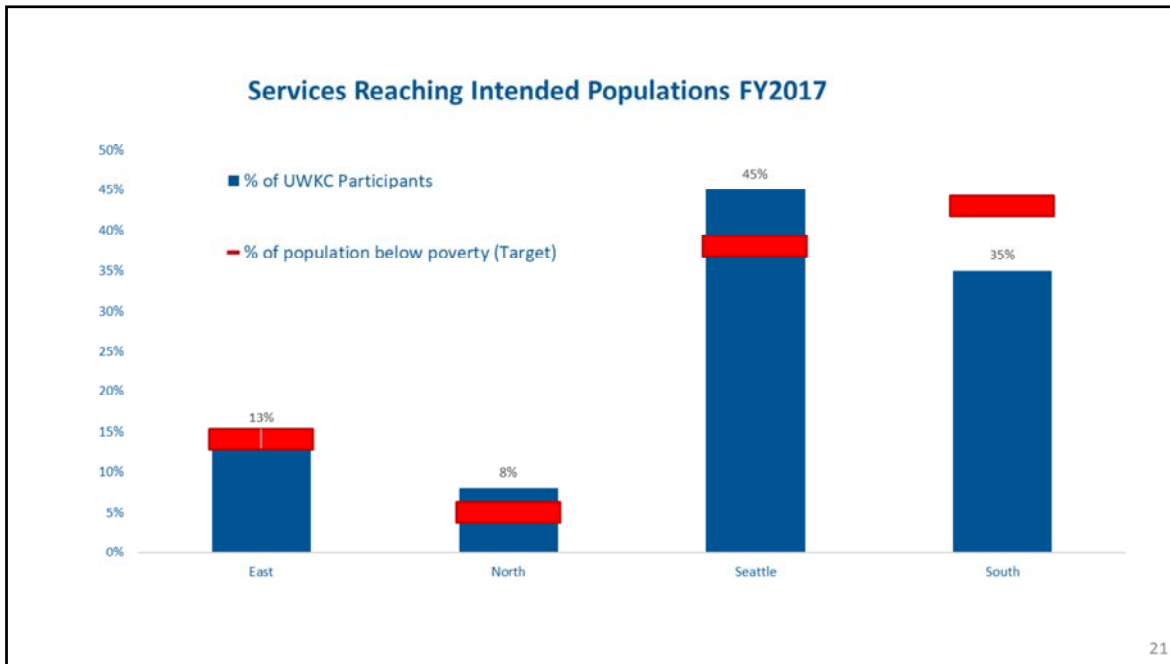
Focus on Equity: Investing in populations disproportionately impacted

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And here is a high level summary of all our grantmaking results. Over 620,000 people received a service supported by United Way of King County and 38,000 engaged in services that resulted in a measurable change in their situation. We work to make sure our support is reaching those most in need and the next couple of slides show the results of those efforts.



We try to allocate our funding to programs that will serve people in proportion to need. We look for indicators of need for each of our investment areas. Because all of our goals focus on helping people with low incomes and especially communities of color that are impacted disproportionately by barriers to opportunity, we use race and poverty as the indicators of need overall for all our services combined. The red rectangles show the percent of people below poverty represented in each race and ethnic group. The blue bars show the percent of people benefiting from our support represented in each group. We are satisfied by the results shown here that our overall support is reaching those most in need by this measure. Note this is not outcomes achieved.



When we use poverty and geography, we find that we are missing the mark. We continue to work on increasing services in South King County where a large portion of people in poverty live. A particularly large portion of children of color live there as well.



Leverage

28,523 volunteer connections

200 AmeriCorps deployed

43 Project LEAD graduates

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We changed the focus of volunteer engagement work to volunteerism as point of entry to United Way. We have started by working with Emerging Leaders and engaging them in groups projects as a point of entry to United Way.

We've continued to increase the number of AmeriCorps deployed to community based organizations throughout King County.



Public Policy

Students Graduate

- Expanded ECEAP program

Financial Stability

- Expanded TANF workfirst exemption timelines for higher education students

Ending Homelessness

- Reauthorized the Document Recording Fee

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In our work to influence at the policy level, below is a summary of outcomes:

Students Graduate: Expanded ECEAP program, including increasing reimbursement rates, backfilled grant-related reductions in home visiting, and passed a dual language learning pilot for early learning and K-12

Financial Stability: Expanded TANF workfirst exemption timelines for higher education students from 12 to 24 months

Ending Homelessness: Reauthorized the Document Recording Fee



Meet Contextual Challenges

- Constant affordable housing challenges
- Shifting demographics, increased diversity in language/culture
- Racial disparities

Further Evaluation

- Benefits Hub
- Poverty Solutions (new)
- Early Learning Racial Equity Innovation Fund (new)
- Youth Acculturation Services

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Trends include the following (C Mefford):

1. Population growth
2. The composition of people living here will change – increasing diversity, 18% foreign born, people of color will make up the majority by 2040 in the Seattle area.
3. The way people live will change-higher density, constant affordable housing challenges, constant mobility challenges, access to services/jobs, suburban urbanization.

As we think towards the future and ways to address trends, some questions to consider include:

- How do we address homelessness given the seemingly intractable problem of housing affordability? Our public policy works seeks to address.
- How do we make a dent on racial disparities that continue to persist? We'll evaluate new strategies and begin collecting outcomes by race/ethnicity.
- How do we expand strategies to effectively serve increasing diverse and emerging immigrant/refugee populations? Live United for Equity, nimble and innovation funds will hopefully give us the ability to address.

Other strategies we are pursuing all appear to be doing well, and merit further evaluation to determine how they can best contribute to achievement of our goals.

Together, we're building a
community where **people have
homes, students graduate** and
families are financially stable.

