

graduate tacoma: improving social-emotional outcomes through summer learning

Graduate Tacoma | Tacoma, Wash.



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For more than ten years, Graduate Tacoma, has been leading the collective impact movement in their communities with one shared goal: helping every student achieve success, from cradle to college to career. With support from the Foundation for Tacoma Students, the partnership has made significant strides in improving learning outcomes for children in the city of Tacoma, Washington. Now, with this proven track record of supporting equitable outcomes in the community, Graduate Tacoma is playing a critical role in supporting the planning and delivery of federal relief funding available through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

In Tacoma, Washington, Graduate Tacoma, with support from the Foundation for Tacoma Students, has partnered with local leaders to administer \$750,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for county-wide expanded learning opportunity programs during the summer of 2021. The funding could impact nearly 130,000 students in the region and be sustained over a three-year period, giving school and community leaders the opportunity to test, learn and improve strategies over time.

The goal of the program is to expand learning opportunities with an intentional focus on social and emotional outcomes for children and youth in communities of color and communities experiencing poverty across Pierce County, Washington.

These services will be provided by a diverse range of community providers including nonprofits, colleges and universities, businesses and municipal agencies. Programming offered will prioritize engaging children in hands-on, experiential learning that builds critical social-emotional skills.

Graduate Tacoma will be providing support in a number of ways:

- 1.** Serving as the intermediary to re-grant federal dollars to community providers in every school district in Pierce County with a particular focus on those who serve disadvantaged and marginalized communities. The network member is the only cradle-to-career intermediary in the city of Tacoma and the foundation serves as the organizational hub — aligning goals, data, resources and cross-sector collaboration with partners.
- 2.** Scaling existing work in expanded learning opportunities for underserved student populations through the Out of School and Summer Learning Network.
- 3.** Scaling efforts and impacting children in the city of Tacoma and throughout Pierce County. Broadening the service area has already helped the partnership identify an additional 160 new community providers that will offer

a wide array of social, emotional and mental health supports for students.

4. Ensuring that program providers are committing to equitable learning opportunities through the provider application process. The application collects information that captures student populations served, geographic location and types of programming offered.
5. Working collaboratively with stakeholders to implement outreach strategies to connect with disengaged students.
6. Measuring the impact and success of programs by listening to student and community voices and collecting information around number and demographics of students served.
7. Providing a consolidated platform for stakeholders to access information and connect with resources — <https://www.tacomalearns.org/elo-programs>

Communities that make smart investments work together and not in silos. The millions of dollars in pandemic recovery for students offer a unique opportunity to join forces with stakeholders at all levels and leverage the civic infrastructure established by place-based partnerships to continue impacting change.

The partnership between Graduate Tacoma, the Foundation for Tacoma Students and Pierce County serves as a reference for communities across the nation and an important reminder of how cradle-to-career partners can be strong allies for local and state leaders during this time.



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