

# Executive summary

## Context

The COVID-19 pandemic is having **far- and long-reaching destructive effects** across the region and **compounding racial and economic inequities** that have long existed. At the same time, our community is experiencing a **moment of reawakening**, and we must build on the momentum and local assets and wisdom to create a community-driven, sustainable plan for change. We believe **private philanthropy plays a critical role** in both meeting acute near-term needs and building the infrastructure for a more equitable future.

As a community foundation, **we believe one of our unique roles is in bridging the needs of our community with philanthropists eager to have impact close to home**. The purpose of this document is to **spotlight community informed “impact ready” investment opportunities** so local funders can quickly move capital to address the intensification of disparities on Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities due to COVID-19.

## Key Findings

One of the key differentiators of this report is that it is rooted in **deep collaboration with local community leaders**. Community leaders (as represented by the Community Advisory Group) determined the focus areas for investment, and approved all recommended investment strategies captured in this document. Specifically, they elevated seven areas:

- BIPOC-led nonprofits
- Civic participation & power
- Housing and homelessness
- Food security
- Behavioral health
- Education (including childcare/early learning, K-12, and postsecondary/career prep)
- Criminal justice

For each of these areas we have **identified 3-6 investment opportunities** (see visual on next page) with illustrative example organizations doing related work in King County. In addition to the area-specific investments, we also elevated three cross-cutting investments that have potential benefit across multiple areas.

For a deeper look into the rationale behind these investment areas and their prioritization as well as the underlying barriers driving some of the challenges facing BIPOC communities, we have also created a **supplemental “Impact Overview”** report that details both pre-existing inequities in King County and actual/predicted COVID-19 impacts.

## Next steps

We hope this document will lead you to consider new types of investments and organizations that might not have been on your radar previously. To facilitate contributions to the investments identified in this document, the **Seattle Foundation has created a Fund for Inclusive Recovery**, and is actively working with partners to source and diligence organizations working across all these investment areas. For more detailed information on how to support the investments spotlighted in this document, please contact Kris Hermanns at [k.hermanns@seattlefoundation.org](mailto:k.hermanns@seattlefoundation.org).

# Investment summary

### BIPOC-LED ORGANIZATIONS

**1**

- Provide flexible, multi-year funding to organizations (also captured in cross-cutting investments)
- Identify and support grassroots organizations through community-based intermediaries
- Support or create a community-determined fund

- Create working capital fund to improve solvency
- Expand access to external capacity building supports and services
- Support sustainability and impact of BIPOC leaders

### CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND POWER

**2**

- Bolster BIPOC participation in elections and the census
- Support and sustain the pipeline of BIPOC elected leaders
- Fund fellowships to support “non-traditional” community-based leadership

- Support youth leadership development
- Advance existing structural reform and power building efforts

### 3 HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

- Expand the supply of socially-distanced housing supports
- Support wraparound services that keep people in their homes
- Prevent homelessness via diversion strategies
- Advocate for supportive policies to address short- and long-term challenges

### 4 EDUCATION

- Support local public schools in navigating remote & hybrid learning environments
- Strengthen the use of community spaces as safe, alternative learning environments
- Connect local child care providers with needed financial resources
- Provide job training and reskilling programs to support newly unemployed

### 5 FOOD SECURITY

- Expand food banks and distribution of high quality and culturally relevant food
- Grow community and urban farming efforts as an alternative model to traditional food banks and grocery stores
- Advocate for supportive and expansive food policy

### 6 CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- Strengthen re-entry supports
- Catalyze criminal justice advocacy efforts
- Fund alternatives to the existing criminal justice system

### 7 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

- Bolster community-sensitive crisis referral systems
- Build capacity of community behavioral health care providers
- Support integrated approaches to care

### ← CROSS-CUTTING INVESTMENTS →

Provide flexible, multi-year funding to organizations

Give flexible financial support via cash assistance

Close the digital divide through increased technology / internet access