



FUND FOR INCLUSIVE RECOVERY: INVESTMENT MEMO

August 2020

Seattle Foundation launched this effort to ensure COVID-19 response was timely, equitable and shaped by the community

Context

- Seattle Foundation recognizes that 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
 - 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. The journey to an equitable post-COVID-19 future will **require investing in long-term, systemic interventions**
 - But in the near-term, **scarce resources must be targeted to the areas where communities, particularly those most vulnerable, have expressed greatest need**
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Purpose of this project

The purpose of this project 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

This effort is a critical first step to reimagining and rebuilding efforts that will allow every resident of our region to thrive

Unique benefits of this work

- Provides a **real-time, cross-cutting synthesis** of the **diverse challenges facing focus populations** in the Greater King County Area that existed before the COVID-19 crisis but have been exacerbated
- Creates a **shared baseline understanding of systemic inequalities across actors and sectors** to support a wider call for immediate investment and longer-term re-invention
- Elevates the **voice and perspectives of community members** in the prioritization of challenges and solutions
- Defines a set of **actionable investments against community priorities** that can be implemented in the short-term

Focus of Investment Memo



The Community Advisory Group prioritized seven areas for investment development

1

BIPOC-LED ORGANIZATIONS

2

CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND POWER

3

**HOUSING &
HOMELESSNESS**

4

EDUCATION

5

**FOOD
SECURITY**

6

**CRIMINAL
JUSTICE**

7

**BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH**

We integrated a diverse set of inputs to identify investment opportunities for each area

Key inputs to investment memo development



Interviews with community leaders and area experts



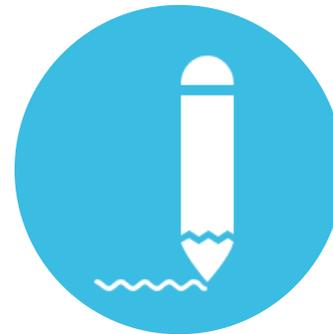
Small group conversations with key stakeholders (e.g., capacity builders, non-profit leaders, philanthropic partners)



Desk research into promising practices and organizations



High-level quantification of size of need in King County



Offline input from key stakeholders on promising investment opportunities

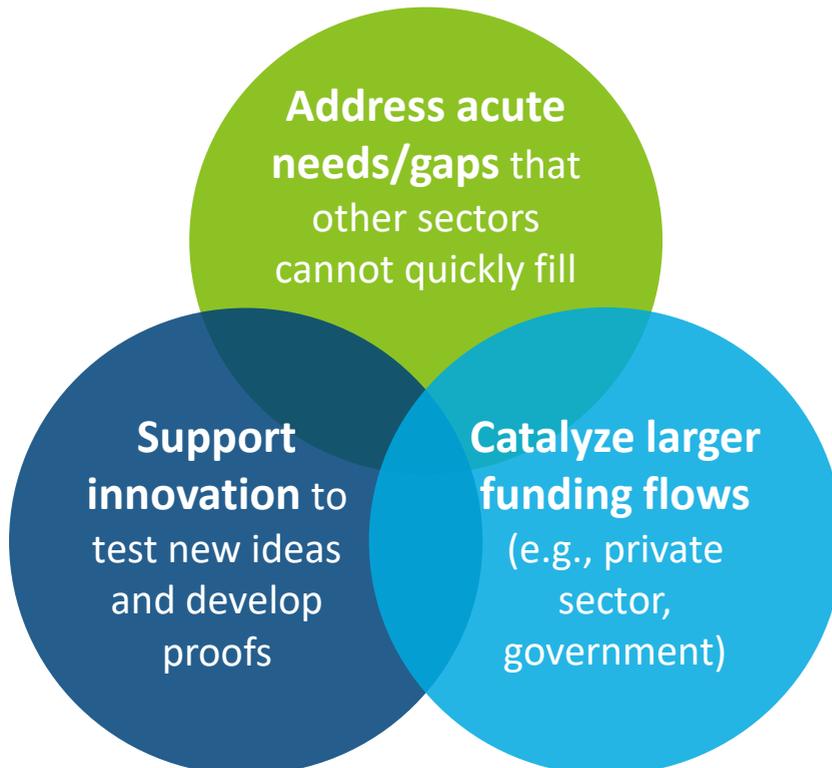
We have identified 3-6 “impact ready” investment opportunities for private philanthropy within each area

What are “impact ready” investment opportunities?

For the purposes of this work, “impact ready” investments are **high-impact interventions where money can be put to work for immediate impact, or plant the seeds now for longer-term impact.**

These investments are not comprehensive but rather reflect ways for **private philanthropy** to quickly address the highest priorities of the most affected communities

There are three types of “impact ready” investments captured in the investment memorandum



In the supporting investment memo document, we have provided a **rationale** behind each investment opportunity as well as a **high-level sizing of the need** and **example organizations** doing this work in the King County area

Community members elevated 30 investment opportunities

1 BIPOC-LED ORGANIZATIONS

- 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

2 CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND POWER

- Bolster BIPOC participation in elections and the census
- Support 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
- Strengthen the use of community spaces as 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 for previously incarcerated persons
- Catalyze criminal justice advocacy efforts
- Fund piloting 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

The Seattle Foundation has created two funds to facilitate investments elevated in the report

Advantages

- Coordinates investments and prevents grantees from being overwhelmed by multiple individual queries
- Leverages Seattle Foundation's relationships and knowledge of investment areas and organizations to guide allocation of dollars
- Supports creation and tracking of meaningful measurement impacts to assess impact of investments by establishing single point of funder contact
- Enables a connection/through-line between short-term crisis response and long-term systemic reform/ re-imagining



If you are interested in contributing to or learning more about the supporting funds, please reach out to the Seattle Foundation