



Annual Report

June 2024 - July 2025



Letter from the Children's Council Board

The Children's Council strategic plan was unveiled in June 2024 and aligned with the Washington State Early Learning Plan's **5 Outcome Areas**. As we close out the first year of our Children's Council Strategic Plan, we are proud to share that we are off to a strong start. Together, we have laid important groundwork to build a brighter future for children and families in Skagit County.

This progress would not have been possible without the dedication of our Council members and the many community partners who contribute their time, expertise, and passion. Your commitment fuels this work, and we are deeply grateful.

Throughout these pages, we have highlighted a few successes in each area and provided a preview of what's to come in the year ahead.

We invite you to stay connected, follow our progress, and join our efforts by visiting our website at [ChildrensCouncilofSkagitCounty.org](https://www.ChildrensCouncilofSkagitCounty.org).

Together, we can ensure that every child in Skagit County has the opportunity to thrive.

With appreciation,

The Children's Council of Skagit County Board



Outcome Area 1

Powerful Communities and a Responsive Early Learning System

Our local early learning system has adequate infrastructure. This includes elements such as funding, governance, stakeholder engagement, planning, coordination, data, quality assurance, and evaluation.

Infrastructure

Advocacy

Data Systems

Family Voice

The Inspire Breakfast event brought together local leaders and other stakeholders from across our region to learn about local successes and ongoing needs of children and families.



Children's Council Meetings

Organizations represented

46

Number of Meetings

9 general meetings
10 board meetings

Meet & Greet Participants

41

We continued to build our Help Me Grow Skagit system in a variety of ways, including partnering with University of Washington to evaluate the Newborn Outreach Program. Here is the group presenting the results to the Skagit County Commissioners. The evaluation showed that families and hospital staff greatly value the support, and many hope to see the program continue and expand.



In the Year Ahead...

- Build out a data report card to track progress towards our goals.
- Create opportunities to include family voice in all areas of our work.

Outcome Area 2

Strong, Stable, Nurturing, Safe, and Supported Families

All families have the resources and supports they need to nurture their child and achieve overall family well-being.

Access to Social Connections

Parent Resilience

Access to Resources

Play & Grow groups are drop-in groups where parents with babies can build social connections while learning about a variety of topics to support healthy family development.

Play & Grow groups are offered weekly in English and in Spanish.



Family Resource Navigation services are now provided by Public Health, connecting families with services like food assistance and developmental screenings. Our Family Resource Center is operated by the Children's Museum. They host the Navigators, provide basic needs like diapers, formula, and car seats, and host family supports offerings.

In the Year Ahead...

- Strengthen our local online resource directory.
- Expand parent support group offerings.
- Bolster outreach efforts to underserved communities.

Resource Navigation



Families served since January 2025

62

Family Resource Center



Distributions of basic needs items

3510

Pregnancy Connections



Support calls with pregnant people

70

Newborn Outreach



479 Families visited

189 Referrals made

Pregnancy Connections offers resources and guidance for a healthy pregnancy journey. Newborn outreach is conducted at Skagit Valley Hospital and Island Health, welcoming new babies and connecting families with community supports. Both are universally offered services for all families in Skagit County.

Outcome Area 3 Positive Early Learning Experiences

Families have access to safe, engaging, and positive early learning experiences that promote school readiness and lifetime success.

Affordability & Availability

Seamless Transitions

Child Development Supports

Culturally Responsive



Help Me Grow Skagit and Skagit County Public Health partnered with local early childhood experts to share information through social media on different aspects of young children's development. Topics included communication, gross and fine motor skills, problem-solving, and social-emotional development.

Lantern

352 Skagit families are signed up for Lantern

Child Development

7 developmental messages were shared through social media during the "Spotlights" series

Lantern

Help Me Grow Skagit e-newsletters are delivered to families with developmental information and videos based on their child's age. Newsletters are available in English and Spanish and sent through the Lantern text platform. Families who sign up for Lantern receive texts with other developmental information and connection to local Skagit events.

In the Year Ahead...

- Increase the number of families engaging with the Lantern texting platform to receive child development information.
- Support transition report sharing between PreK and K teachers.
- Explore mobile early learning experiences.

Outcome Area 4

A Strong and Supported Early Learning Workforce

The early childhood workforce has access to training, supports, and compensation to sustain high-quality practices and services.

Public Awareness

Supported Workforce



During Advocacy Day in Olympia, representatives from the Children's Council shared stories with legislators about the importance of early care and education. They left behind tulip bulbs with a message describing how the bulb represents potential - given a healthy environment, it grows into something beautiful. We encouraged legislators to work together to ensure every young child has the opportunity to bloom!



Advocacy Day

100 Advocacy messages with tulip bulbs delivered to legislators

The Child Care Action Team worked with students from Western Washington University to begin development of a social media campaign to elevate the public image of early childhood professionals. The campaign is still under development, but we were able to share messages of appreciation via social media on Teacher Appreciation Day in May.

In the Year Ahead...

- Participate in regional advocacy events.
- Finalize the social media campaign about early childhood professionals.
- Establish referral pathways between child care and Help Me Grow Skagit.



Outcome Area


5 Healthy Children and Families

Families have access to coordinated comprehensive and integrated health care, developmental screening, and key social, behavioral and emotional supports.

Comprehensive Supports

Partnerships

Pop-up developmental screening events were hosted in partnership with Skagit Public Health, SPARC, and Steps. Parents were invited to attend to learn about developmental milestones and engage in screening activities.



Screening Events

Developmental Screening Pop-up Events
4



In January, we partnered with Whatcom County to host an in-person education event for pediatric and family medical providers on behavioral health. February through June, we hosted a virtual education series on the following topics:

- Media Use
- Recognizing Child Abuse
- Collaborating with Schools
- Infant Mental Health
- Partnering with Fathers



Continued Medical Education Events

- 33** people attended our in-person event
- 51** people attended at least one virtual education event

In the Year Ahead...

- Host a virtual education series for medical providers on safety topics including safe storage for medicine and firearms, safe sleep, and bike & water safety.
- Expand newborn outreach into the prenatal clinic visits.

Strategic Plan Outcome Areas

1 Powerful Communities and a Responsive Early Learning System



ADVOCACY



FAMILY VOICE



DATA SYSTEMS



INFRASTRUCTURE

2 Strong, Stable, Nurturing, Safe, and Supported Families



PARENTAL RESILIENCE



ACCESS TO RESOURCES



ACCESS TO SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

3 Positive Early Learning Experiences



AFFORDABILITY & AVAILABILITY



CHILD DEVELOPMENT SUPPORTS



CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE



SEAMLESS TRANSITIONS

4 A Strong and Supported Early Learning Workforce



SUPPORTED WORKFORCE



PUBLIC AWARENESS

For more information about the Children's Council and details of our strategic plan, visit:

ChildrensCouncilofSkagitCounty.org

5 Healthy Children and Families



COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORTS



PARTNERSHIPS

 **Children's Council**
of Skagit County

A Coalition of

UNITED GENERAL
DISTRICT 304

*Building Healthier
Communities*