

August 31, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

New! www.youthprogramdirectory.org

A regularly updated, free community web service providing robust search to more than 750 youth programs across King County, WA.

Serving Youth Ages 5-25 with Programs in:

- Arts & Culture
- Basic Needs/Health
- Career Exploration and Job Training
- Education
- Leadership, Service and Social Justice
- Mentoring
- Recreation

Seattle, WA – Just in time for the new school year parents, guardians, school counselors, teachers, community workers and youth from across King County can, for the first time, go to a comprehensive, regularly updated web directory (www.youthprogramdirectory.org) and select programs from more than 750 free and reduced-fee programs and services for youth ages five to twenty-five.

Users of the directory can search by program category, keyword, zip code and distance from zip code. Initial search results can be further filtered by program sub-category; participant age; the time of day programs are offered; as well as by the languages spoken by program staff.

Program detail pages include contact information; location information and Google map links; program description details; as well as additional links to related programs.

The directory listings will be regularly maintained and updated by King County 2-1-1.

“The need for such a comprehensive and user-friendly resource has existed for many years,” according to Jessica Werner, Executive Director of the Youth Development Executives of King County and a lead partner for the project “but the funding and partnerships required to design, build, and sustain such a directory service for the county’s youth remained pretty elusive” until now.

The Youth Program Directory’s purpose goes beyond providing access and awareness of existing programs for youth and families in King County, additional goals include:

- Understanding the landscape of available programs in order to identify gaps in service across King County.



- Improving partnerships between schools and youth serving organizations to ensure young people have enriching activities during out-of-school hours including summer.

The phrase “It takes a village” is a very apt description for how the Youth Program Directory came into being as it would not have happened without the persistent and coordinated efforts of a dedicated group of community partners led by:

- Youth Development Executives of King County (www.ydekc.org)
- The Road Map Project / Community Center for Education Results (www.roadmapproject.org)
- SOAR (www.childrenandyouth.org)
- King County 2-1-1 (www.crisisclinic.org)
- A working group of community youth workers and youth participants who met regularly to inform the Youth Program Directory’s development and progress.

This community effort engaged multiple funding partners to support the initial start-up costs including: the United Way of King County; the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; the Road Map Project’s Aligned Funders’ Rapid Resource Fund; Puget Sound Educational Service District; Seattle City Club; the Suburban King County Coordinating Committee on Gangs; the Aspen Institute through CCER; and the City of Seattle Human Services Department.

To learn more about the Youth Program Directory, its partners, and funders check out:
<http://youthprogramdirectory.org/about-us/>

If you represent a youth-serving organization that is not yet included in the directory, please go to:
<http://youthprogramdirectory.org/list-your-program/>

If you are interested in becoming a funder of the Youth Program Directory please visit:
<http://youthprogramdirectory.org/about-us/become-a-funder/>

Media Inquiry/Contact Info:

Jessica Werner
Executive Director, Youth Development Executives of King County
206.336.6912 | jwerner@ydekc.org

Nicole Yohalem
Opportunity Youth Initiative Director, Community Center for Education Results
206.838.6610 | nyohalem@ccedresults.org

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