

As part of the PSESD Early Learning Program community needs assessment we talked with parents and family members of children in our program. We asked them to identify the needs of low-income families with young children in their communities, as they experience and perceive them. At the June 10, 2014 Policy Council meeting, we facilitated discussions with members of the Policy Council, asking them to name the most pressing needs for low-income families in their communities and the resources they know of to meet these needs. This information complements the data collected as part of the Community Assessment report compiled by BERK, which includes quantitative data on community needs and qualitative data on the resources available in the two counties of the PSESD Early Learning Program.

A summary of the information shared at the June 10th Policy Council meeting is included below. Parents and families discussed needs and resources in small groups divided by county, so the themes from their discussions are organized by King and Pierce County. 26 parents were at the meeting and participated in these conversations.

King County

Needs

- Affordable childcare
- Transportation – especially to school
- High quality classrooms, regarding ratio of adults for children
- Affordable food for families
- Affordable housing
- Birth control (education)
- More Early Head Start slots
- Culture/existing policy
- Activities/job training/how many jobs
- Personal up-keep
- Training/education (tutors)

Issues

- Different states don't have as many resources as we do!
- Transportation – public bus hard to do
- Clothing – uniforms (family support)
- Family support (counselors)
- How do you have a voice in your situation?

Pierce County

Needs

- Housing
- Medical services (health/dental) including OT, PT & speech therapy)
- Clothing
- Food
- Mental health & counseling
- Financial
- Healthcare
- Transportation to work, school, etc.
- Financial support (work/connections to programs)

Issues

- Housing
 - Support for housing for people in educational programs currently on assistance
 - Lower waiting period & increased areas to use (i.e. community housing)
 - Must be homeless to get help
 - Section 8 = long waiting period
 - Very extreme differences
- Transportation
 - CRIPPLES a family's ability to improve their life/potential
- Financial support
 - Having money doesn't mean we can manage it; we need education
 - People don't know how to manage the income they get

Community Resources

- Associated Ministries
- Catholic Community Services
- Comprehensive Mental Health
- Hope Sparks Counseling
- Greater Lakes Mental Health
- Nativity House
- Guadalupe Vista (connected with CCS)
- Hillside Terrace
- Goodwill Industries
- My Sister's Pantry
- P.A.V.E.
- TACID
- [Care Net Pregnancy & Family Services of Puget Sound](#)
 - 1209 6th Ave, Tacoma, WA (253) 383-2988
 - 10828 Gravelly Lake Dr SW #101, Lakewood, WA 98499 (253) 984-6222
- [Pregnancy Aid of Tacoma](#)
 - 902 Market St **Tacoma** WA 98402. (253) 383-4100
- [Eloise Cooking Pot](#)

- 3543 e McKinley, **Tacoma**, Washington 98444 (253) 426-1994
- Compressive Life Resources (Mental Health, counseling, advocate services)
 - Proctor Street location
 - 253-396-5800 1201 South Proctor St. Tacoma, WA 98405
 - Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
 - Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:00 am – 7:00 pm
 - Downtown Tacoma Location 1305 South Tacoma Avenue, #305
 - Operating Hours Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
 - Access to third floor services is at the main Tacoma Avenue entrance
- Greater Lakes Mental Health (Mental Health)
 - 9330 59th Ave SW, Tacoma, WA 98499 (253) 620-5000
- Catholic Community Services (Housing, Mental Health, Other Services)
 - 1323 Yakima Ave, Tacoma, WA, US, 98405 · (253) 305-0836
- Associated Ministries Lakewood Office (All Types of services)
 - 3819 100th Street SW Suite 8C Lakewood, WA 98499 (253) 383-3056
- *Associated Ministries Tacoma Office (All types of services)
 - 901 South 13th Street Tacoma, WA 98405 (253) 383-3056
- Hope Sparks (Mental Health, Counseling, advocate services)
 - 6424 N 9th St, Tacoma, WA, US, 98406 · (253) 565-4484
 - 1420 S Meridian, Puyallup, WA, US, 98371 · (253) 845-0864
- TACID (Mental health and disabilities)
 - Tacoma Area Coalition of Individuals with Disabilities (TACID)
 - 6315 S 19th St Tacoma, WA 98466 (253) 565-9000
- PAVE
 - 6316 S 12th St, Tacoma, WA, US, 98465 · (253) 565-2266
- St Leo's (For Services they help with rent, utilities, money for ID etc.)
 - 710 S 13th St, Tacoma, WA, US, 98405 · (253) 272-6285