

2025 Children's Funding Institute

January 2025 | Children and Youth

About the 2025 Children's Funding Institute

The Children's Funding Institute, presented by Children's Funding Project and Funding the Next Generation, is our biennial training event for communities interested in securing local dedicated funding for kids. Through three days of intensive workshops, working sessions, and dedicated planning time, teams of community leaders gain the tools and expertise they need to win a ballot campaign for a voter-approved children's fund. Since 2019, nearly 500 people have attended our institute. Among our past attendees, 11 community teams have successfully created voter-approved children's funds that collectively generate **\$542 million annually** for kids. [Read more about voter-approved children's funds.](#)

Why Should Your Community Attend the 2025 Children's Funding Institute?

Creating a voter-approved children's fund requires months of preparation. The Children's Funding Institute helps communities kick-start the planning process. Our expert faculty teach community leaders how to define their fund's purpose, define how their community will administer the funding, place their measure on the ballot, fundraise, manage a campaign, and mobilize voters. At the end of the institute, attendees have an action plan that will move their community's effort from an idea to an Election Day success.

"We left [the October 2023 Children's Funding Institute in San Antonio] mobilized, galvanized, and inspired to come back to Austin and make this change."

—**David Smith**, CEO, United Way for Greater Austin; Travis County, TX; 2023 institute attendee



2025 Children's Funding Institute

Dates: June 3-5, 2025

Location: King County/Seattle, WA

Cost: Free*

Contact: Daniel Whitaker, manager, voter-approved children's funds, institute@childrensfundingproject.org

[Complete our general interest form to receive additional information.](#)

*Admission to the Children's Funding Institute is free; however, attendees will need to pay for their travel and lodging expenses. Discounted hotel room rates will be available. We will provide additional lodging information at the time of registration.

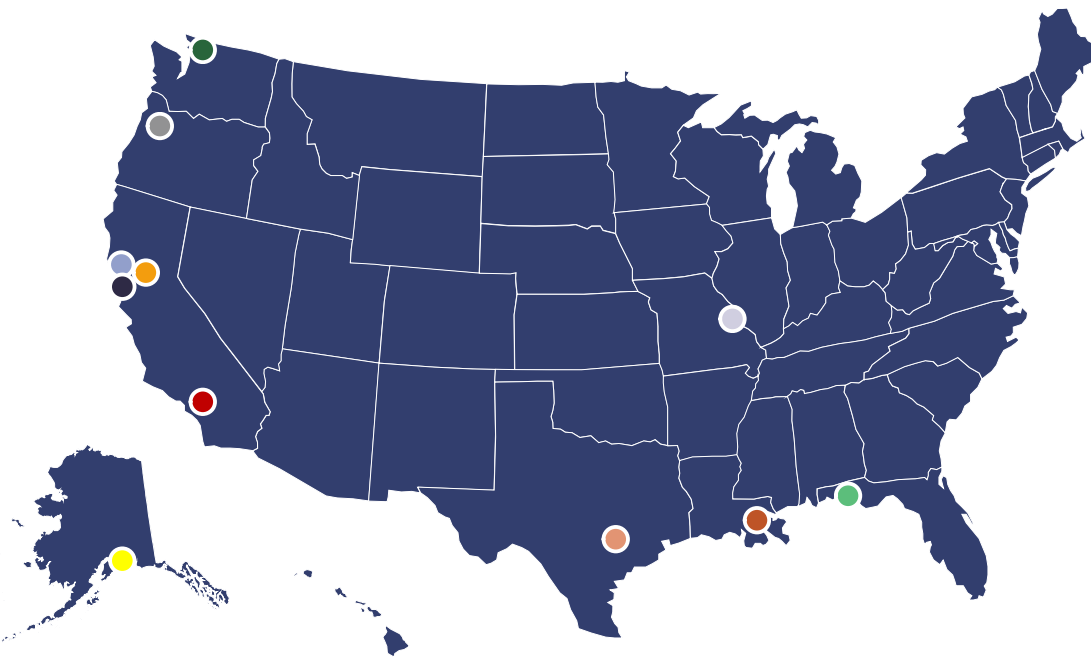
About the 2025 Institute Location

Each Children's Funding Institute takes place in a community that has chosen to invest in children through the establishment of a voter-approved children's fund. This year, Best Starts for Kids will welcome attendees of the Children's Funding Institute to King County, WA.

Established in 2015, [Best Starts for Kids King County](#) is a voter-approved initiative to support every baby born or child raised in King County to reach adulthood happy, healthy, safe, and thriving. By investing in community supports from prenatal development to adulthood, Best Starts catalyzes strong starts in early childhood and sustains those gains as kids progress to adulthood, launching King County's kids on a path of lifelong health and well-being. The Best Starts levy was reauthorized in 2021 with overwhelming voter support and will invest an estimated **\$879 million** in King County's children and youth through 2027.



Past Children's Funding Institute attendees have passed 11 ballot measures, collectively generating over **\$542 million annually**.



Funds established by institute alumni:

- Escambia County, FL - \$10.4 million
- New Orleans, LA - \$21.2 million
- St. Louis, MO - \$8.8 million
- Travis County, TX - \$75 million
- Whatcom County, WA - \$10 million
- Multnomah County, OR - \$202 million
- Sonoma County, CA - \$30 million
- Sacramento, CA - \$10 million
- Alameda County, CA - \$150 million
- Pomona, CA - \$20 million
- Anchorage, AK - \$5.5 million

Who Should Attend the 2025 Children's Funding Institute?

This year's institute is ideal for communities interested in pursuing a local ballot measure campaign over the next two years. To succeed, these types of campaigns require a broad coalition and collaboration from multiple members of the community. Consequently, interested communities must assemble a team of community leaders and advocates who attend the institute together. Teams should include three to five people who serve in the following types of community roles:

- Representative from an [intermediary organization](#), such as an existing nonprofit hub, early childhood collaborative, or organization that supports direct-service providers.
- [Local policymaker](#)—an elected or appointed leader, such as a mayor, county commissioner, school board member, or other government official, or representative staff member.
- [Local funder](#), including representatives from foundations or other philanthropic groups.
- Individual who represents families.
- Direct-service provider or individual who represents providers.
- Other community organizer or advocate for children and youth.

What Can Attendees Expect at This Year's Institute?

The Children's Funding Institute serves as an active working session for community teams combined with engaging panel discussions, presentations, and break-out learning sessions. With coaching and support from local and national experts, community teams develop their action plans for creating a voter-approved children's fund during the three-day event. Specifically, the institute provides

- dedicated time for teams to collaborate and develop their action plans;
- strategies for building a coalition with new partners and organizing supporters;
- guidance on policy development and design;
- information about polling, public opinion research, and messaging;
- success stories and lessons learned from past campaigns;
- opportunities to network and share ideas with other community leaders; and
- access to expert faculty to answer individual questions.



Children's Funding Project is a nonprofit social impact organization that helps communities and states expand equitable opportunities for children and youth through strategic public financing. [childrensfundingproject.org](https://www.childrensfundingproject.org)

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