

2022 Mini Grant Awardee Project Summaries

The following youth-serving organizations were awarded mini-grants in 2022. For information about current grant opportunities, go to kcowa.us/youthgrants

[Bainbridge Youth Services](#)

A Youth Advisory Board consisting of 10 Kitsap County middle- and high-schoolers will lead the Healthy Bainbridge Alliance Project. The Youth Advisory Board developed an action plan to advocate for and bring about community improvements for healthy youth development.

[Way Finding Therapy](#), [Cultivate Counseling Services](#), and [Yellow Chair Conversations](#)

Way Finding Therapy, Cultivate Counseling Services, and Yellow Chair Conversation, an independent group of therapists who work together, will invite youth from Kitsap County to attend workshops to discuss emotional regulation, attachment, communication skills, accessing emergency services, and practice writing and telling stories to one another in community. Through storytelling, the group will highlight styles of relating and will provide resources to continue working to understand how youth can relate to one another in their community.

[Partnering for Youth Achievement](#)

Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church's youth mentorship program, Partnering for Youth Achievement, empowered youth through "Learning by doing Mentoring Circles". Youth lead the charge on planning and executing workshops, trips, and various group projects. Participants had the opportunity to meet elected officials, community leaders, and subject matter experts. Youth also learned how to pass a bill in congress and lead a team to the capital to support an agreed upon initiative.

[Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe](#)

PGST hosted two individual single day cultural focused retreats, for both middle and high school youth during spring break in 2023. The retreats provided activities using the PGST Youth Department's

own protective factors, known as C.E.D.A.R, (Culture, Education, Drug-Free, Action, and Responsibility). Each retreat was held at a local camp or conference center to provide PGST youth with the opportunity for a day of hands-on activities, learning cultural protective factors and substance use prevention tools.

[Summit Avenue Presbyterian Church](#)

In response to data indicating how disproportionately LGBTQ+ youth attempt suicide, Summit Avenue Presbyterian Church organized and hosted a community-wide suicide-prevention workshop aimed at teens and their parents. Youth and their parents along with any person who works with children were welcomed to the workshop. Guest speakers from an array of backgrounds spoke to the audience on strategies to prevent suicide.

[Native Horsemanship Youth Program](#)

Native Horsemanship Youth Program continued to offer horsemanship classes, after school programs, day camps, and supervised visit sites to families in CPS or tribal child welfare. Working with the horses in their traditional way helps children and families develop as leaders and learn patience, gentle communication, and healthy boundary setting. Their program has now served multiple generations in the community. Benefits include reclaiming Indigenous knowledge and skills, finding a sense of self and connection, healing from trauma, and gaining skills to pursue lucrative careers in the historically white and wealthy equine world. Supporting youth in healing and developing powerful self-esteem helps the whole community heal from racism, generational trauma, and poverty.

[Kitsap Immigrant Assistance Center](#)

To help shape the physical space where families wait with their children or gather for meetings, KIAC's teen clients engaged in a collective art experience to design and paint a mural within the KIAC lobby. This experience was facilitated by a consultant from Urbanists Collective, a local group committed to serving the community through art and public engagement. This project and the resulting, permanent mural within the KIAC office created a community of belonging and ownership.

[Love Me for Me](#)

During spring break, Love Me for Me offered two camp programs to give participants a place to go during the school break and learn a hands-on skill while building confidence. STEAM is a program that offered different lessons in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math. Volunteer instructors with backgrounds in engineering, biochemistry, and math assisted participants in learning about relevant STEAM topics and conducted hands-on experiments and activities. Total Self-Care: Skin, Hair, and Confidence Workshop is an after-school, enrichment workshop for youth to learn about the importance of developing and maintaining a total self-care regimen. Participants learned new skills and gained a deeper understanding of how to care for themselves and their community.