



Washington Office of Superintendent of  
**PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

## *Youth-on-Youth Gang Violence Prevention*

**1. Purpose:**

The purpose of this proviso funding is to develop and provide Latino youth-on-youth gang violence prevention programming for students that targets Latino students ages 11-17 who are either involved or at risk of becoming involved in a gang or in gang activities. Eligible students must be enrolled in either the Moses Lake or Federal Way school districts.

**2. Description of services provided:**

The proviso provided Latino Civic Alliance (LCA) a total of \$250,000 to provide the ACHIEVE youth empowerment program, a three (3) part course that provides family and peer support that strengthens student and parental engagement in order to enhance overall achievement in the following: Family Support Services, Social Emotional Learning, and College and Beyond Planning/Pre-Apprenticeship Programs. The ACHIEVE program was established to address youth-on-youth gang violence prevention to be implemented within each district. This program was developed to address the needs of Latino students and families, intended to support each student individually based on their current circumstances and needs.

**3. Criteria for receiving services and/or grants:**

This contract was offered to Latino Civic Alliance due to their established partnerships with Federal Way and Moses Lake school districts. The legislative language required the funds bbe allocated to a nonprofit organization to develop and provide Latino youth-on-youth gang violence prevention program for students. The program must target Latino students ages 11 through 17 who are either involved in or at risk of becoming involved in a gang or in gang activities. Latino Civic Alliance provided the 15 years of experience in serving Latino communities while promoting advocacy and serving kindergarten through 12th grade social emotional learning, mental health wraparound services, and parent engagement programs in Washington state.



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## Beneficiaries in the 2022-23 School Year:

- Number of School Districts: 2
- Number of Schools: 18
- Number of Students: 30
- Number of Educators: NA
- Other: Community-based Organization: Latino Civic Alliance

### 4. Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding?

No

### 5. State funding history:

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2023	\$250,000	\$250,000

### 6. Number of beneficiaries (e.g., school districts, schools, students, educators, other) history:

Fiscal Year	Number of Schools
2022-23	Federal Way Public Schools (10)
2022-23	Moses Lake School District (8)

### 7. Programmatic changes since inception (if any):

The scope of the work has stayed relatively consistent throughout time.

### 8. Program evaluation or evaluation of major findings:

A total of 30 scholars were identified to have received support. Latino Civic Alliance continuously facilitated family and Indigenous healing circles to provide individual parent coaching or teach parents effective tools to work with their children and avoid conflict, violence at home or on the streets and gang activities. Latino Civic Alliance hosted monthly parent engagement family meetings to assist parents on how to better access the child’s education working with teachers, counselors, and the school district. Latino Civic Alliance met 25 set of parents to provide wraparound resource support. Additional partnerships included Seattle Children Hospital to offer a Fentanyl Town Hall with over 100 Latino family members were in attendance. Latino Civic Alliance also contracted with a gang expert with lived experience that played an instrumental role in helping the scholars understand the adversities of that path. The contractor also provided their expertise to offer parents support with prevention and early signs of substance use with



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strategies to address them. A total of 80% of scholars were referred to behavioral health services and partnered with providers successfully.

## **9. Major challenges faced by the program:**

Some of the major challenges faced by the program included MOU processes with districts. Additionally, school leadership shared that they have limited after school programming that has been funded consistently. School transportation for youth attending after school programming remained a challenge due to driver shortages. It is important to note that there are various factors affecting students such as: substance use (not limited to) Fentanyl usage among youth at higher rates, navigating the criminal justice system, and providing more in-depth parental/caregiver support including barrier reduction resources especially when Parent Survey findings concluded that 95% of them were victims of Domestic Violence.

## **10. Future opportunities:**

There is an opportunity to refine the relationship between the two school districts and Latino Civic Alliance especially in their student referral process and their proximity to physical space at the schools. Additionally, there is an opportunity to continue in-depth training for School Resource Officers (SRO) with culturally informed practices and a trauma-informed lens when working with families and caregivers that need additional support. SRO's are reporting an increase in violence, fighting, and bringing weapons to school. Some of the scholars who are enrolled with LCA program have family members involved in dangerous gangs and cartels in their native countries: Mexico, Guatemala, and El Salvador. Fentanyl usage among young people is at a high rate. Continuous funding for ongoing case management services will be needed for behavioral changes and sustainability.

## **11. Statutory and/or budget language:**

\$250,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2023 is provided solely for the office to contract with a nonprofit organization to develop and provide a Latino youth-on-youth gang violence prevention program for students. The program must target Latino students ages 11 through 17 who are either involved in or at risk of becoming involved in a gang or in gang activities. Eligible students must be enrolled in either the Moses Lake or Federal Way school districts. The nonprofit organization must have at least 15 years of experience serving Latino communities and promoting advocacy and must provide kindergarten through 12th grade social emotional learning, mental health wraparound services, and parent engagement programs in Washington.



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**12. Other relevant information:**

NA

**13. Schools/districts receiving assistance:**

[preliminaryfy23state-fundedprovisograntawardsupdated-42823.xlsx \(live.com\)](#)

**14. Program Contact Information:**

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