

Community-Based Youth Development

Budget Language

\$100,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2025 is provided solely for the office for grants to school districts to develop and implement capacity building supports for community-based youth development. School districts receiving grants under this subsection will offer programs that serve youth between the ages of 11 and 19.

Proviso Purpose

The purpose of this grant was to strengthen the capacity of school districts and their community-based youth development partners to provide high-quality, equitable, and accessible youth development for students aged 11 to 19. The grant aimed to foster sustainable partnerships, build organizational capacity, and share best practices in youth engagement and support.

Services Provided

School's Out Washington (SOWA), in partnership with OSPI, provided technical assistance, thought partnership, and professional development to two school districts – Granger and Bethel – and their respective community-based organizations (KDNA, D.R.E.A.M. Foundation and Empower Youth Futures). Services included:

- Monthly virtual partnership meetings (7 total)
- Resource sharing and referrals
- Site visits and observational feedback
- Professional development at the Bridge Conference
- Administration of a grantee feedback survey

Criteria for Receiving Services/Grants

Eligible school districts were required to:

- Have an existing and established relationship with a community-based youth development organization.
- Commit to monthly meetings with OSPI, SOWA, and their CBO partner.
- Share at least one-third of the grant funding with their CBO partner.
- Engage in capacity-building and share learnings.



Beneficiaries in the 2024-25 School Year

Number of School Districts:	2
Number of Schools:	N/A
Number of Students:	22,944
Number of Educators:	N/A
Other (CBOs):	3 (D.R.E.A.M Foundation, Empower Youth Futures, KDNA)

Are Federal or Other Funds Contingent on State Funding?

No.

State Funding History

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2025	\$100,000	\$74,487

Number of Beneficiaries Per Fiscal Year (e.g. School Districts, Schools, Students, Educators, Other)

Fiscal Year	Number of Beneficiaries
2025	2

Programmatic Changes Since Inception (If Any)

This body of work has been discontinued by the legislature. Beginning July 1, 2025. OSPI is no longer implementing this grant program.

Additionally, both districts adapted their programming in response to youth needs and logistical challenges:

- Bethel's D.R.E.A.M. program integrated more intentional social emotional learning (SEL) components alongside athletic training.
- Granger's KDNA program expanded club offerings based on student interests and began exploring rebranding and scheduling changes to attract more high school students.

Program(s) Evaluation or Major Findings

Key findings from site visits and grantee feedback include:

- Strong leadership and pre-existing partnerships enabled swift and effective implementation.

- Programs significantly increased youth engagement, confidence, and school connection.
- Transportation and sustained funding remain critical barriers.
- The grant enabled meaningful capacity building, including staffing, equipment, and program expansion.

Major Challenges Faced by Program(s)

- Transportation: Especially in rural areas like Granger, long bus rides and lack of transit options limited participation.
- Sustained funding: Both districts expressed concern about maintaining momentum without continued financial support.
- External disruptions: Granger faced attendance challenges due to ICE raids in the region, impacting student participation.

Future Opportunities

This body of work has been discontinued by the legislature. Future opportunities will depend on future legislative direction and resources dedicated to the work. If the work were continued, the following could be considered:

- Expand mental health partnerships and year-round programming.
- Develop train-the-trainer models to scale impact.
- Increase family engagement and storytelling efforts.
- Secure ongoing funding for staffing, supplies, and transportation.
- Provide continued technical assistance and coaching for school-community partnerships.

Other Relevant Information

N/A

Schools/Districts Receiving Assistance

[Click here to see a list of all OSPI grant recipients in the 2025 Fiscal Year.](#)

Program Contact Information

Name: Francesca Matias
Title: Youth Engagement Program Supervisor
Phone: 360-725-6319
Email: francesca.matias@k12.wa.us