



Renton Innovation Zone Partnership

Summary Report

April 25, 2019 - December 31, 2021



INTRODUCTION

In 2018, the Renton Innovation Zone Partnership Improvement Plan was published, calling for significant coordination between community based organizations, the Renton School District, City of Renton, King County and other key stakeholders. Since then, significant progress has been made to coordinate activities to improve the lives of students and their families in Skyway & Renton Highlands.

The COVID-19 pandemic has deeply impacted our work and focus, but the strength of the partnership has allowed us to navigate through the daily challenges and provide the much needed support. It forced us to shift our approach as a backbone and become more direct service. Along with this, we have incubated several new strategies and programs that are now part of our Basic Needs work.

Our Early Learning action team has built a strong foundation for an early learning system to support entrance into the Renton School District system and being prepared for kindergarten.

Looking ahead, we are committed to the sustainability of new strategies that have emerged out of the pandemic, which is why the RIZP staff must get back to our primary backbone function.



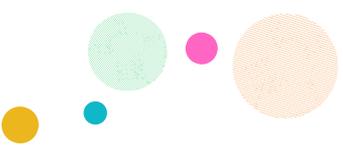
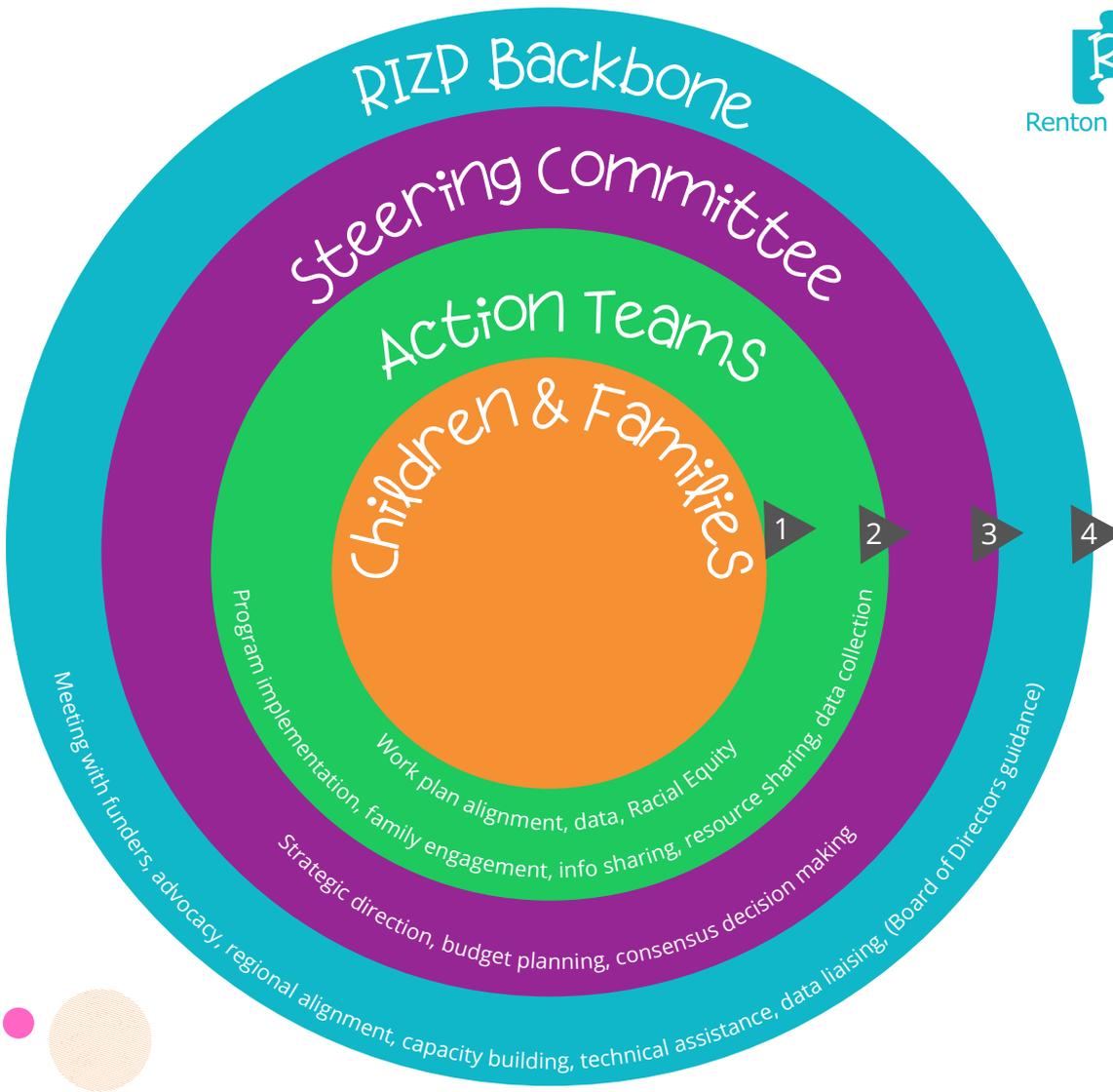
PROGRESS TO DATE

The RIZ Partnership has gained momentum both to increase services to children and families and to build the collaborative infrastructure needed for a new way of working.

To further our progress, we formalized our partnership to improve role clarity and reach a healthier level of accountability between partners and our backbone functions. In June of 2021, we initiated our first Partnership Agreement process that described the actions for both partners and backbone staff. To date, we have over 30 partners that have signed this annual agreement.

In addition to this Partnership Agreement, we had many discussions around a structure that would support this accountability and describe to outside stakeholders how we function as a partnership. The image below is our vision for our partnership. Functions and information flow are represented within this image and we hope it continues to inform our strategies and how we refine our processes to maximize collaboration and reach our long term goals.

RIZP STRUCTURE



Structure Key

- #1. Community-led decision making, Youth & Family voice
- #2. Work plan development, consensus decision making, data sharing, Outcome measurement
- #3. Strategic decisions, advocacy direction
- #4. Data & Outcomes reporting, Direct advocacy, regional alignment

Children and families are the main focus of our work, which is why they're placed at the center. From there, information flows out as it pertains to community input, strategic decisions, and data. As there are different action teams guided by the partnership steering committee, children and families benefit a great deal from these collaborative measures. The structure of the RIZP shows how our work is done, who it's geared towards, and the cross-functionality of available resources.

ACTION TEAM DEVELOPMENT

Since RIZP staff were hired in late 2018 and on, we have heard the consistent message from partners that they would like to be more involved in decision-making and the strategic direction of the partnership. After all, what we decide as a backbone directly impacts our partners, the direct service providers.

In 2021, as part of our strategic update, we developed a new governance and decision-making model, to give more power to partners and instill more confidence in the partnership overall.

To lead a relationship-based, data informed collaborative network to advance racial equity and create healthy learning opportunities for all children throughout the Renton Innovation Zone.



Ryan Quigtar
Executive Director

Organizational Culture, Supervise RIZP Team & Build Relationships with Community



Jasmine RaeLynn
Assistant Director of Communications

Public Relations, Design, Marketing and Communications



Christabel Fowler
Operations Manager

RIZP Budget, Office Coordination, Grants Writing, Fiscal Sponsorship & Event Management



Italiana Hughes
Community Impact Manager

Data Quality and Reporting, Grant Writing and Meeting Coordination

As we grow into the Cradle to Career continuum and look to become our own 501c3 in the future, we must also build up our backbone team.

Communications Coordinator	0.5 - 1.0 FTE
Operations Coordinator	0.5 - 1.0 FTE
Community Impact Manager	1.0 FTE
Advocacy/Policy Manager	1.0 FTE

RIZP INNOVATION FUND

The RIZP Innovation Fund was created to support projects and organizations in the Skyway-West Hill and Renton Sunset-Highlands neighborhoods to move us towards our targets for students at our 4 elementary schools. Since February 2020, the RIZP has awarded \$90,000 in Innovation funds to six organizations.

Kindering was funded to expand their Stepping Stones preschool program to a dual-language model and build bilingual skills for toddlers. Supporting Parents in Education and Beyond (SPEB) was funded to implement a parent-led cohort at Campbell Hill elementary to build community and family engagement.

Sound Discipline and The Renton School District were funded in collaboration with Supporting Parents in Education and Beyond (SPEB) and the Seattle Black Child Development Institute (Seattle BCDI) for a project to support families of color at the 4 RIZP schools in social and emotional learning work. In addition to this, Restoration House Ministries NW received funding to support housing stability and food insecurity at their Church location and weekly food distributions. RIZP has had various challenges around implementing the Innovation Fund. Innovation Fund recipients have had various challenges around implementing their planned proposals due to the impacts of COVID-19.

Awardees: Sound Discipline (March 2020, \$15,000), Kindering (March 2020, \$15,000), Supporting Parents in Education and Beyond (SPEB) (March 2020, \$15,000), Techbridge Girls (June 2020, \$15,000) and Dare2Be/ Urban Food System Pact (UFSP) (July 2021, \$15,000), and Restoration House Ministries NW, (October 2021, \$15,000).

The backbone staff became funders, which created an uncomfortable power dynamic towards partners. In one instance, we were denying funding to partners for pilot programs and meeting with them in the same vein to discuss our action team strategies. This did not sit well with

either side and quickly became something the backbone staff did not want to continue, once the funding ran out. However, this funding did bring out new ideas, although not funded, that later on would

Congratulations, to the February 2020 RIZP Innovation Fund Recipient!

Sound Discipline
 “We empower educators, parents and caregivers to create respectful, equitable communities in which all children thrive.”
 -Sound Discipline



Congratulations, to the February 2020 RIZP Innovation Fund Recipient!

“We believe our children's success depends upon strong partnerships between parents, schools, and communities.”
 -Somali Parents Education Board



Congratulations, to the February 2020 RIZP Innovation Fund Recipient!

“We embrace children of diverse abilities and their families by providing the finest education and therapies to nurture hope, courage and the skills to soar.”
 -Kindering



inspire the RIZP to expand into middle school. Three of our partners, at separate times, applied for

funding to support a fifth-to-sixth grade transition pilot program, but we denied funding because it did not help us reach our 3 year targets of improving kindergarten readiness, third grade reading, or fourth grade math proficiencies.

Congratulations, to the June 2020 RIZP Innovation Fund Recipient!

“We excite, educate, and equip girls from low-income communities by delivering high quality STEM programming that empowers girls to achieve economic mobility and better life chances.”
 -Techbridge Girls



Congratulations, to the July 2021 RIZP Innovation Fund Recipient!

“We are working in partnership to build a just and equitable local food system within the Skyway Community.”
 -Urban Food Systems Pact



Congratulations, to the October 2021 RIZP Innovation Fund Recipient!

“We participate in the rebuilding of lives by making available some life survival resources such as food, clothing and shelter. Under our management is a Safe House where some are able to start over. Seek treatment, and help get. We believe everyone deserves a second chance.”
 -Restoration House Ministries N.W.



FUNDING WITHIN RIZP



EXECUTIVE'S BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS FOR SKYWAY



COUNCILMEMBER GIRMAY ZAHILAY



\$10 MILLION SEED MONEY FOR A SKYWAY COMMUNITY CENTER



\$10 MILLION FOR PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING IN SKYWAY & WHITE CENTER



32,000 HOURS OF NEW METRO SERVICE TO SKYWAY



\$4.6 MILLION IN MARIJUANA TAX REVENUE REDIRECTED FROM LAW ENFORCEMENT TOWARD COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS IN KING COUNTY



\$750,000 START-UP FUNDS FOR SKYWAY & WHITE CENTER TO DESIGN ALTERNATIVE SYSTEMS OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Through community advocacy and working with our King County Councilmember, Girmay Zahilay, we were able to secure several million dollars in the 2021-22 County Biennium Budget.

This is a big accomplishment towards building our collaborative infrastructure and lessening the barriers our students and families face.



The chart below shows the amount of funding received, which action team it supported, and a brief summary.



Renton Innovation Zone Partnership

Funding Within The RIZP

Source of Funds	Funding Amount	Associated Action Team	Funding Summary
Boeing	80,000	Early Learning	Creates an early learning system
PSESD	25,000	--	Addresses data access and use capacity among schools, extended learning organizations, early learning providers and school partnerships
Alberstons	50,000	Basic Needs	Fresh food and/or grocery gift cards given to Skyway families during COVID-19 pandemic
Boeing	55,000	Early Learning	Expand early learning system we've been creating since 2019 by focusing on service delivery to early learners and building capacity of families and providers
Albertsons	10,000	Basic Needs	Fresh food and/or grocery gift cards given to Skyway families during COVID-19 pandemic
Group Health Foundation	50,000	Basic Needs	Skyway Food pantry operations and supplies
All in Washington	40,000	Basic Needs	COVID-19 Vaccine outreach
US Bank	50,000	Basic Needs	Granted to CIS-Renton for rental assistance
Best Start for Kids King county Help Me Grow	200,000	Early Learning	Establish a culturally-appropriate coordinated early learning system for RIZ parents/families
Chase	20,000	Basic Needs	General Basic Needs funding
Group Health Foundation	75,000	--	Unrestricted Community Learning Grant covering a 3-year grant period
Total RIZP Funding	655,000		

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

As part of RIZP's continued growth, we will be establishing ourselves by becoming an official 501c3. When we initiate this decision, we will begin with the following steps:

501c3 Steps	Approximate Time	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6	Month 7	Month 8	Month 9
Hire a lawyer	3 months	█								
RIZP Name Change	6 months	█	█							
Corporate Filings: Articles of Incorporation, 1023, Bylaws, Registering, Board meeting minutes	12 months	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Accounting: Set up fiscal year, bank account, hire an accountant, hire an auditor	4 months	█	█	█	█					
Administration: Hire insurance broker, apply for sales tax exemptions and permit	4 months	█	█	█	█					
Human Resources: Register with Employment Dept and IRS, Set up payroll, set up hiring criteria, benefits and personnel policies	4 months	█	█	█	█					

MIDDLE SCHOOL TRANSITION

Over the last few years, we have been asked countless times from community members and partners alike, why we don't focus on supporting middle school students. There are many RIZP partners who have already been working with students in middle school. We will continue growing our strategies across the continuum during the grant period. It's possible by the end of this grant period, we're discussing a transition to high school strategy.

Since April 2021, the RIZP has brought together various community partners and school staff to have initial conversations around designing a program to support elementary students and their families during their transition to middle school. We have collaborated with partners and families to host two Community Cafes, which allowed us to hear directly from families what their transition experience was like, in addition to their questions, concerns, and suggestions on what school leaders and staff can do to make the transition better for future students.

Beginning in January 2022, there will be an official Middle School Transition Action Team. This action team will convene community partners, middle school and elementary school administrators and staff, and students and families on a monthly basis. The goals are to 1) understand what a successful transition to middle school means to students and their families and 2) design a transition program that will support the needs of students and their families beginning in Spring of 2022. Our long term outcome is to improve 6th grade math and language arts proficiency as measured by the SBAC.

Join Us!

Community Cafe
MIDDLE SCHOOL TRANSITION

If you have a current 6th or 7th grade student at Dimmitt or McKnight middle schools, come join us for a community conversation about your family's transition from elementary school!

Wednesday
August 11th, 2021
6:30pm-8:00pm

Join Us Virtually!

Community Cafe'
MIDDLE SCHOOL TRANSITION
part II

If you have a current 6th or 7th grade student at Dimmitt or McKnight middle schools, come join us for a community conversation about your family's transition from elementary school!

Wednesday
October 6th, 2021
6:30pm-8:00pm

A financial incentive will be provided for families who attend!

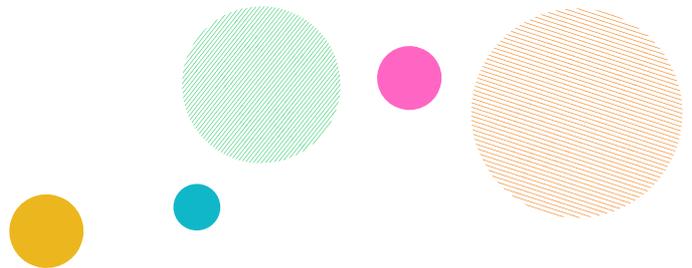
To register visit:
<https://bit.ly/MiddleSchoolCommunityCafe>

In partnership with:

RIZP SUMMARIZED BUDGET

In 2019-2021 RIZP's budget included start-up costs including office furniture and supplies, and the addition of 4 staff members after the Executive Director. In 2022-2024, RIZP plans to add 4 additional staff members, increase our office size, and purchase new laptops for the growing team.

Renton Innovation Zone Partnersership BUDGET SUMMARY			
	2022	2023	2024
	5 positions	9 positions	9 positions
Personnel & Benefits	\$ 403,440	\$ 671,681	\$ 718,698
Payroll Taxes, Etc..	\$ 41,030	\$ 73,854	\$ 73,854
Operations (rent/space increases, internet, subscriptions, additional laptops)	\$ 148,682	\$ 212,035	\$ 205,362
Fiscal Sponsor Fee	\$ 177,600		
TOTAL	\$ 770,752	\$ 957,570	\$ 997,914
Miscellaneous	10%		
Fiscal Sponsor fee	12%		
Annual payroll increase	7%		
Inflation Rate	3%		



The chart below shows the proposed budget for each action team and projections for the next 3 years.

Basic Needs Budget	\$ 221,800	\$ 228,454	\$ 235,307.62
Funding Secured	\$ (20,000)		
Early Learning Budget	\$ 135,100	\$ 139,153	\$ 143,327.59
Funding Secured	\$ (139,000)		
Middle School Transition Budget	To be determined		
Funding Secured	\$ (50,000)		

CONCLUSION

These past 3 years the RIZP has been working diligently to meet the needs of the Skyway/West-Hill and Renton Highlands communities. From assisting with basic needs to providing educational opportunities, to connecting families to resources, the RIZP has established a strong foundation for community-based organizations, students and families.

Through hard work and dedication, the RIZP continues to support new, emerging strategies brought forth by community partners that will help us to achieve our common goal; sustainability. As part of our action team work, we've had the ability to roll up our sleeves and come face-to-face with our community throughout the pandemic. While focusing on academics, we were also able to support families with streamlined resources, connect students to hands-on activities, work with key partners and system stakeholders to shine a light on the areas and individuals that needed assistance the most.

Outside of the pandemic and the shift of responsibilities, our organization became the liaison between the community and available resources. With the focus on academics, family engagement, and basic needs, the RIZP was able to navigate through some of the hardest challenges faced by our families. While the pandemic helped to shine a light on the immediate and existing needs of our community, it was our responsibility to continue to support students, parents, partners, and individuals.

To date, our progress has been overwhelmingly positive, supportive, innovative, and groundbreaking. With many highlights from our work, a few of the RIZP's most memorable moments include:

- Our in-person math and STEM events for early learners in 2019 that had over 110 families in attendance
- Engaging with community members by supporting our food pantries that served over 400 families
- Hosting the community's first drive-through event during the start of the pandemic, distributing over 500 resources to over 208 students and 116 families
- Distributing 50,000 pounds of potatoes with community partners in the Renton Highlands

We were established and created to ensure that our community's children are thriving, supported, connected and are inspired to learn. Through our work we've done just that, and still have so much more work to do while ensuring sustainability.

We are looking forward to continuing our work within the Skyway-West Hill and Renton Highlands communities.

In just 3 short years, this is our work and what we provide to our students, families, and most importantly our community; this is the summary of the work of the RIZP.

