

NCCIC Is a Service of the Child Care Bureau

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**THE SOAR OPPORTUNITY FUND
SEATTLE AND KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

From 2001 to 2005, 27 private and corporate funders, along with the City of Seattle and King County, Washington, participated in the SOAR Opportunity Fund. Opportunity Fund partners joined efforts and resources to increase the quantity and quality of early learning and out-of-school time activities for children and youth in King County. The Opportunity Fund was created jointly by public and private sector leaders. Its original intent was to support and enhance a broad, community-based initiative that resulted in a six-step Blueprint for Change—a community action agenda for children from birth to 18 years in King County. Members of the Opportunity Fund made a commitment to learn together and invest in activities that would create high-quality activities in early learning, after-school programs, youth development, and family support. Investor members could use one or more of three approaches:

- The **Pooled Fund** consisted of member contributions of \$10,000 or more. Funding priorities and grantees were selected jointly.
- The **Private Aligned Fund** members agreed to make grants of at least \$10,000 in the broad range of Opportunity Fund target areas. These grants were eligible to receive Public Matching Fund grants.
- The **Public Matching Fund** was supported by the City and King County, which provided matching dollars for private grant making in the aligned areas.

From 2001 to 2005, Opportunity Fund members invested more than \$1,235,000 in **Pooled Fund** grants to community-based organizations and \$1,165,000 through **Public Matching Grants**. Members invested more than \$16 million in **Aligned Grants**.

For more information, products, and reports, contact Nancy Ashley at nancyashley@heliotropeseattle.com.