

Premera Blue Cross

SOCIAL IMPACT GRANTS

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Premera Blue Cross, through its Social Impact program, has **awarded \$2.2 million in grants to 22 organizations in Washington and Alaska**. Grantees' work ranges from trauma care for students in the Black community, to housing and behavioral health support for families experiencing homelessness, to transitional housing for teens.

The Carl Maxey Center: \$50,000 to support programs and services focused on addressing the needs of Spokane's Black community, which is impacted by racial disparities in almost all social determinants, including a life expectancy which is among the lowest in Spokane county.

AK Youth Force: \$25,000 to help fund a mental health support program for youth ages 12-19. Through workshops and partnerships with local organizations, they help youths build long-lasting relationship skills

while supporting their positive socioemotional development and healthy transitions into adulthood.

HopeSparks: \$75,000 for its *Building Futures* campaign, which will help the organization meet the increasing need for infant and early childhood mental health and early intervention services. HopeSparks is a recognized leader in behavioral health, early intervention, family support services, kinship care, home visitation and the integration of mental and physical health for children and families.

Together Center: \$350,000 to develop affordable housing and a full suite of wrap-around services together in one transit-adjacent location, aiming to keep people housed and cohesively address health inequities for East King County's ethnically and socioeconomically diverse population.

Vine Maple Place: \$300,000 to fund evidence-based behavioral health programs for families in deep crisis and increase capacity to reach 53% more moms and kids in the next two years.

Volunteers of America of Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho: \$350,000 to increase the capacity of its Crosswalk teen shelter and Supportive Independent Living Program (SILP), which addresses gaps in programs for 16 and 17 year olds who can't go home because of safety reasons and for whom foster care is not an option.

"When a community is in survival mode, as the Black community currently is, it can only focus on the symptoms of racism. An empowered and well-equipped community, however, is better able to focus its attention and efforts on racism's root causes and on identifying and developing the strategies that are necessary to dismantle systemic barriers. All of the Carl Maxey Center's efforts are focused on building power within Spokane's Black community."

– Sandy Williams, executive director, Carl Maxey Center

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