



2021 Annual Report

Sweetened Beverage Tax
Community Advisory Board

Letter from the Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board

November 18, 2022

On behalf of the Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board (CAB), we are pleased to release our 2021 Annual Report. Our work in 2021 continued to be shaped by the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic downturn, as well as the continued reckoning with racial injustice. Our [2021 recommendations](#) for the 2022 SBT budget focused on creating new direct investments in community-led food access and prenatal-to-three programs, as well as advocating to maintain critical food and childcare services during budget uncertainties. We also updated our [recommendations on equitable grantmaking](#).

Despite the upheavals and budgetary challenges that persisted in 2021, the Mayor's 2022 proposed budget and the final 2022 Adopted Budget approved by Council followed the CAB's recommendations, maintaining SBT-funded programs at existing levels and creating new, permanent community grant programs (the [Food Equity Fund](#) and the [Prenatal-to-Three Grants Program](#)). Programs and services supported by SBT revenues provided emergency food, increased access to healthy food, and supported child care providers and families during a time when these supports were needed most. Departments that administer the new SBT-funded grant programs also incorporated the CAB's grantmaking recommendations into their procedures and processes, making the City's grantmaking more equitable and accessible.

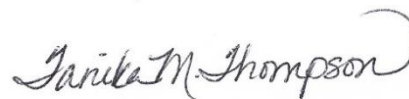
This report reflects all the CAB's activities in 2021. It also highlights the food access and child development programs and services supported with over \$22 million in SBT revenue. We hope you will look inside for full details of the 2021 investments. For an overview of the tax, why it was implemented, and how the revenue is invested, view [this fact sheet](#).

Please don't let your interest in the Sweetened Beverage Tax and the CAB end with your study of this report! We are building on our work in 2022 and hope you will continue to follow our efforts and provide us with feedback by joining us in person at our [monthly meetings](#) or sending comments to bridget.igoe@seattle.gov. For more information including meeting notices, budget recommendations, and reports of our community engagement efforts, [please visit our webpage](#).

Sincerely,



Jen Moss, Co-Chair



Tanika Thompson, Co-Chair

Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board (as of July 2021)

Jaimée Marsh	Position 1, Food Access Representative
Barbara Baquero	Position 2, Food Access Representative
Rebecca Finkel	Position 3, Food Access Representative
Tanika Thompson	Position 5, Community Representative
Christina Wong	Position 6, Public Health Representative
Laura Flores Cantrell	Position 7, Public Health Representative
Jen Moss	Position 8, Public Health Representative
Paul Sherman	Position 9, Public Health Representative
Munira Mohamed	Position 10, Early Learning Representative
Dan Torres	Position 11, Early Learning Representative

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Photo credit: Young learners at Launch Learning's Miller Annex Preschool selecting fresh, local summer produce at a pop-up farm stand hosted by the Farm to Table team.

Chapter 1 | Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board

Sugary drinks can lead to chronic illnesses like type 2 diabetes, heart disease, cavities, and weight gain and the people who consume more are at higher risk of premature death. Since January 2018, the City of Seattle has collected a Sweetened Beverage Tax (SBT), designed to improve the health of Seattle residents by reducing the sales and consumption of sugary drinks. In addition, proceeds from the SBT are dedicated to important programs that increase healthy food access and support child health and early learning. [Click here](#) for the SBT fact sheet.

At the same time the City passed the SBT, it also established the Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board (CAB) to advise and make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on programs and services supported by the tax revenue ([Ordinance 125324](#)). Investments supported by the Sweetened Beverage Tax are intended to benefit Seattle residents most affected by education and health inequities: Black, Native and Indigenous peoples, people of color, immigrants, refugees, and people with low incomes. The CAB also makes recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on other aspects of the tax and programs it funds, including the [evaluation of the effectiveness of SBT](#) and best practices for equitable grantmaking.

The CAB generally meets once a month in open and public meetings. Past and future meeting locations, agenda, and materials are posted on the [CAB webpage](#). There you can also learn more about the [composition](#) of the 11-person board. At the time we developed and issued our [2022 Budget Recommendations](#) (July 20, 2021), the CAB consisted of the following members:

Name	Position	Appointing Authority	Organizational Affiliation ¹
Jaimée Marsh	Food Access	Council	FEEST
Barbara Baquero	Food Access	Mayor	University of Washington
Rebecca Finkel	Food Access	Mayor	Nutrition First
Vacant	Community	Mayor	
Tanika Thompson	Community	Council	Got Green
Christina Wong	Public Health	Council	Northwest Harvest
Laura Flores Cantrell	Public Health	Council	Andy Hill Cancer Research Endowment
Jen Moss	Public Health	Mayor	WSU Extension SNAP-Ed
Paul E. Sherman	Public Health	Mayor	Community Health Plan of WA
Munira Mohamed	Early Learning	Council	East African Community Services
Dan Torres	Early Learning	Mayor	Bezos Family Foundation

1. Organizational affiliation provided for identification purposes only.

By design, the CAB is a group of community representatives with diverse experiences, areas of expertise, and opinions. However, when it makes decisions and recommendations, the CAB strives for consensus and a unified opinion or recommendation. The CAB does this by engaging in thorough and deliberate discussions, seeking out as much relevant information as possible, and testing our decisions against adopted **core values** and

budget principles which you can find [here](#). The CAB's values and principles are rooted in the fundamental conviction that investments supported by SBT revenues should benefit Seattle residents and communities most affected by education and health inequities.

Budget and Grantmaking Recommendations

The primary role of the CAB is to advise the Mayor and City Council on food access and child health and development programs and activities to fund with SBT revenue, in accordance with [Seattle Municipal Code 5.53.055 - Sweetened beverage tax-Allocation of proceeds](#). In 2021, we were making recommendations for the 2022 budget. While the health, economic, and social impacts of the pandemic continued, the projected SBT revenues allowed the CAB's recommendations to focus on priority areas that could also contribute to an equitable and just recovery.

In letters directed at the Mayor, City Budget Office, and City Council, our primary recommendations were to provide ongoing funding for two new community grant programs that were launched in 2021 (the [Food Equity Fund](#) and the [Prenatal-to-Three Grants Program](#)). Community grantmaking has long been a priority of the CAB, and the pandemic only emphasized the need to make direct investments in community-led solutions to food security and child health and wellbeing. Our 2022 recommendations also considered the possibility of another revenue shortfall amid COVID-19 uncertainties, and we advised City leadership to recognize the essential support provided by SBT-funded programs by backfilling any shortfalls. In addition to budget recommendations, we also made recommendations for equitable grantmaking across the City.

The following summaries provide more details from the formal recommendations issued by the CAB in 2021. All CAB recommendations over the years are posted on the [CAB webpage](#).

2022 Budget Recommendations - [view full letter here](#)

In July 2021, the CAB transmitted its budget recommendations for 2022 SBT revenue to Mayor Durkan to consider as she developed her proposed budget. Our recommendations included:

- **Restoring the Food Equity Fund in the Department of Neighborhoods to \$3 million and making it an ongoing program.** The Food Equity Fund (FEF) supports community-defined and community-led efforts to increase access to healthy, affordable, and culturally relevant food. In our [2021 Budget Recommendations](#), we recommended the City reduce the FEF by \$1.5 million for one year only, to support the creation of a new Prenatal-to-Three Grant Program at a time when the SBT budget was tight. We were explicit that any reduction to the FEF be limited to one year, which is reflected in this 2022 recommendation to restore the fund to its \$3 million per year baseline budget.
- **Allocating \$1.5 million to Department of Education and Early Learning to continue the Prenatal-to-Three Grant program.** The Prenatal-to-Three Grant Program (PN3) supports community organizations that specialize in high-quality prenatal-to-three and kindergarten readiness services that seek to reduce disparities in outcomes for children and families based on race, gender, and other socioeconomic factors. In 2021, the Mayor and Council approved one year of funding for this new

program. As SBT revenues were projected to increase in 2022, we recommended making the program ongoing as originally intended.

- **In the event 2022 revenues exceeded original projections, we recommended prioritizing these investments:** Expanding the Child Care Assistance Program, expanding supports for Family Child Care Providers, restoring funding for water bottle filling stations in community centers, restoring funding for CAB administrative support, and/or restoring funding to support evaluation of SBT-funded programs and services.

In our recommendations, we also asked City leadership to backfill any budget shortfalls with other sources such as federal COVID-19 relief funds, the SBT worker retraining reserve, or the SBT revenue stabilization fund. The recommendations also included sunsetting the five-year study evaluating the impact of SBT and emphasized the CAB's position that SBT funding should not go towards P-Patches.

Letter to City Council regarding the Mayor's 2022 Proposed Budget - [view full letter here](#)

In 2021, it was clear the Mayor Durkan closely considered the CAB's recommendations—her [2022 Proposed Budget](#) closely aligned with our guidance. The Mayor's budget continued funding for both community grant programs, kept all funded programs whole, and sunset the SBT evaluation. In October 2021, as Council deliberated the proposed budget, [we wrote to express our full support for the Mayor's budget](#) and urged Council to adopt the SBT budget proposal with no changes, which they did.

Letter to the Mayor with recommendations for equitable grants/RFPs - [view full letter here](#)

In light of the newly-launched SBT-funded community grant programs, we updated our 2018 grantmaking/RFP recommendations with an eye toward further advancing racial equity. The recommendations are grounded in input and findings from community engagement activities, research on equitable grantmaking practices, and CAB member expertise. The recommendations are also grounded in the CAB's equity-driven values. We appreciate City, and particularly the departments managing SBT-funded grant programs, for working closely with the CAB and other key stakeholders to develop and implement these grants equitably. The full recommendations are [available here](#).

Chapter 2 | 2021 Sweetened Beverage Tax Collections

Content provided by City of Seattle Department of Finance and Administrative Services (FAS)

The Sweetened Beverage Tax (SBT) is a tax on the distribution of sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs) in the city of Seattle. The tax is collected on the final distribution of SSBs by a distributor. The intent of the SBT is to tax the distributions of sweetened beverages into Seattle for retail sale in Seattle. Information for SBT taxpayers is available on the [tax webpage](#).

This chapter provides a summary of SBT collections in 2021, including the number of taxpayers, 2021 tax revenue collected, and reported ounces of SSBs. It also provides a historical comparison of tax revenues and reported ounces for 2018-2021.

Tax rate

The standard tax rate for the SBT is \$.0175 per ounce. There is a reduced tax rate for certified manufacturers. That rate is \$.01 per ounce.

Taxpayers

In 2021, there were 217 total tax filers, marking a return to near pre-pandemic levels. Total filers in 2020 had fallen by 16 to 204 from a high of 220 filers in 2019.

Only two firms, down from five firms in 2020, have received certification for the reduced tax rate. These are firms which manufacture sweetened beverages and have worldwide gross income of greater than \$2 million and less than \$5 million. Beverages from these manufacturers are taxed at the reduced rate of \$0.01 per ounce.

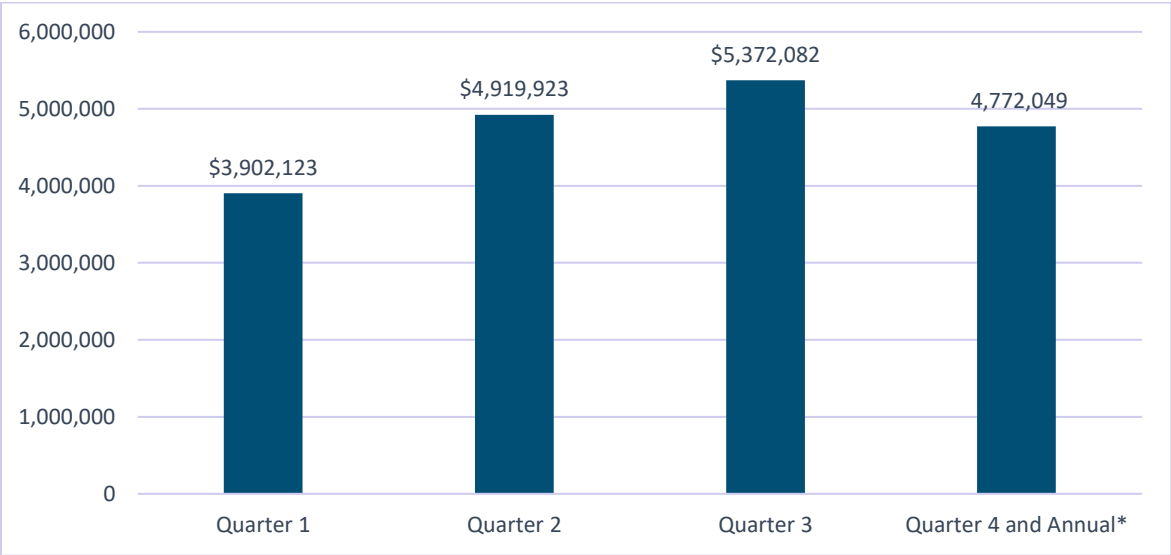
Of the 217 total tax filers, 60 are retailers that have issued redistribution certificates to 31 distributors. Under certain circumstances, determining the correct number of taxable ounces is better managed by the retailer receiving distribution of the beverages or concentrates. In these cases, retailers may issue a redistribution certificate to a distributor, which transfers the liability for making tax payments to the retailer from the distributors on those ounces of product that are taxable.

The City has also issued six exempt certificates, which exempts from taxation beverages manufactured by businesses with worldwide gross income of \$2 million or less. The City issued 20 exempt certificates in 2020.

2021 Tax Revenues

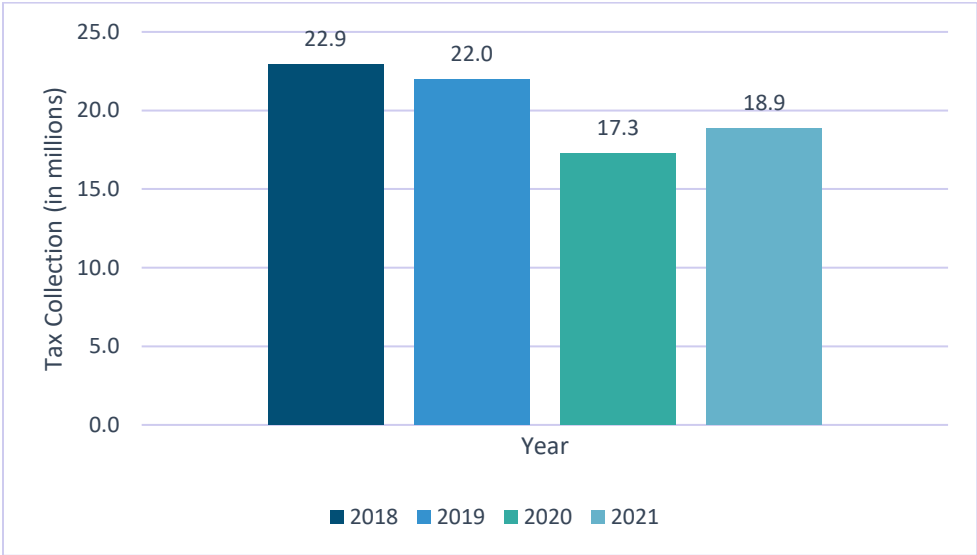
Total 2021 tax revenues increased by \$1.6 million from 2020 levels to \$18,966,177. Collections by quarter are shown in Chart 1 and suggest a slow recovery from the lows of 2020 and the effects of the Omicron variant on behavior.

Chart 1: 2021 SBT Tax Collection by Quarter - \$18,966,177 Total



We also now have data for four years of data collection (Chart 2), which also clearly demonstrates the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic had on consumption and corresponding tax revenues. Consumption and revenue are recovering, but gradually.

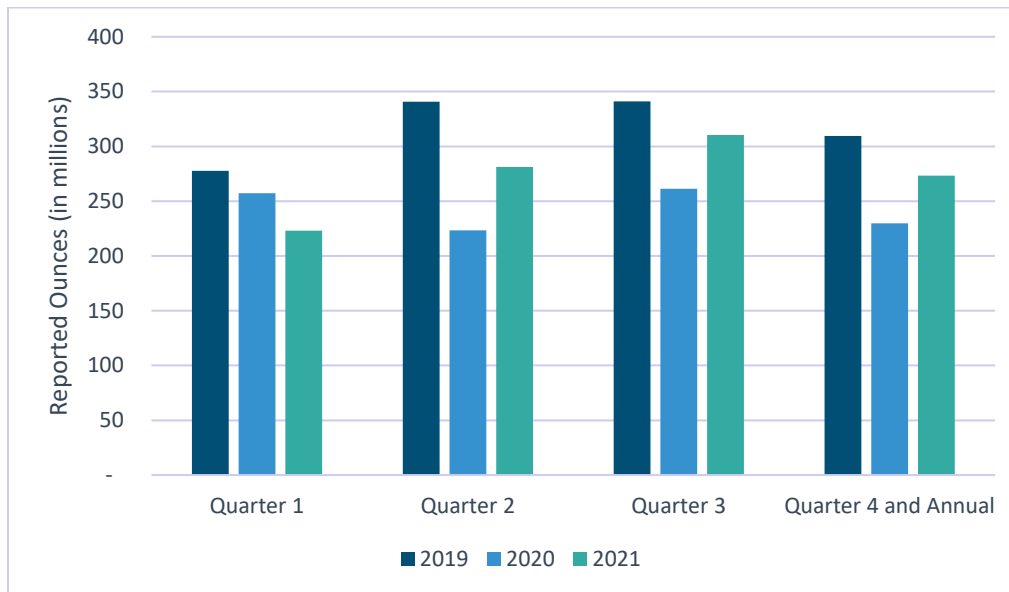
Chart 2: SBT Tax Collection - 2018 - 2021



Reported Ounces of SSBs

Taxpayers reported over 1.08 billion ounces (approximately 8.5 million gallons) of SSBs distributed into the City of Seattle in 2021. Total reported ounces are down from 1.27 billion in 2019 (a 14.2% decrease) but have increased nearly 12% over 2020 consumption, a change that is at least in part due to recovery from decreased consumption caused by COVID-19 shutdowns (see charts 2 and 4). Reported ounces by quarter and year are shown in Chart 3 below. The first quarter grouping captures elements of both the onset of the pandemic in March of 2020, thus depressing consumption relative to 2019, and the reality that Q1 2021 was at the trough of consumption. This illustrates both the underlying seasonality of SSB consumption behavior within the years and the evolving effects of COVID.

Note: These figures are calculated by the City based on taxes reported. They should not be considered a complete or accurate measure of actual beverage consumption.

Chart 3: Total Ounces of SSB by Quarter

Ounces Reported by Beverage and Tax-Rate Categories

The two main categories of beverages reported for purposes of taxation are **concentrates** used in fountain beverages served at restaurants and other venues, and **ready-to-drink beverages** such as those sold at grocery stores and other retailers. Due to restaurant and other venue closures, reported concentrate ounces fell approximately 52% in 2020 to 200.5 million ounces from 414.1 million ounces in 2019. In 2021, concentrate ounces grew slightly from 2020 levels (22.7%), but the total is still considerably lower than before the pandemic. Ready-to-Drink ounces, which have always been higher than concentrate, also experienced a decrease in the pandemic. However, that decrease was not as significant (9.3% versus 52%) and reported sales in 2021 are nearly back to 2019 levels (a difference of just -1% or 8.3 million ounces). In addition, ready-to-drink beverages still make up most of the reported consumption, and in fact the overall share increased from 67% in 2019 to 77% in 2021 (see chart 5). This relatively stable base of store-bought, ready-to-drink consumption explains to a large degree why total consumption and revenues didn't fall even further during 2020. All of these changes are illustrated in charts 4 and 5 below.

Of the total ounces reported, approximately 211,000 (0.02% of total) were taxed at the reduced rate of \$0.01 per ounce (applies to beverage firms with a worldwide gross income of greater than \$2 million and less than \$5 million). This represents an increase of 88% or approximately 99,000 ounces from 2020. Approximately 4.4 million ounces of beverages were reported but exempt from taxation. This is an increase of approximately 734,000 ounces or nearly 20% from 2020.

Chart 4: 2021 Reported Ounces of SSB by Drink Category

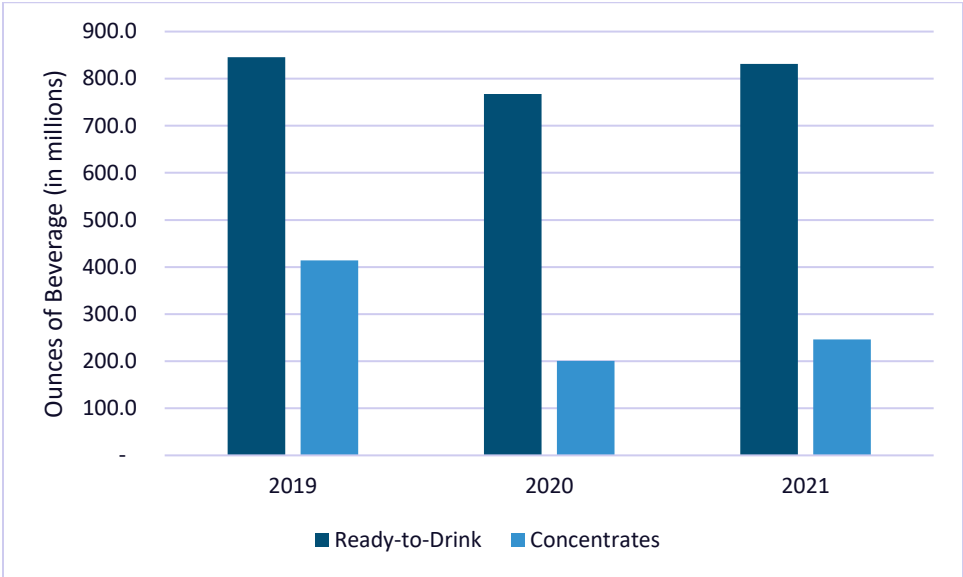
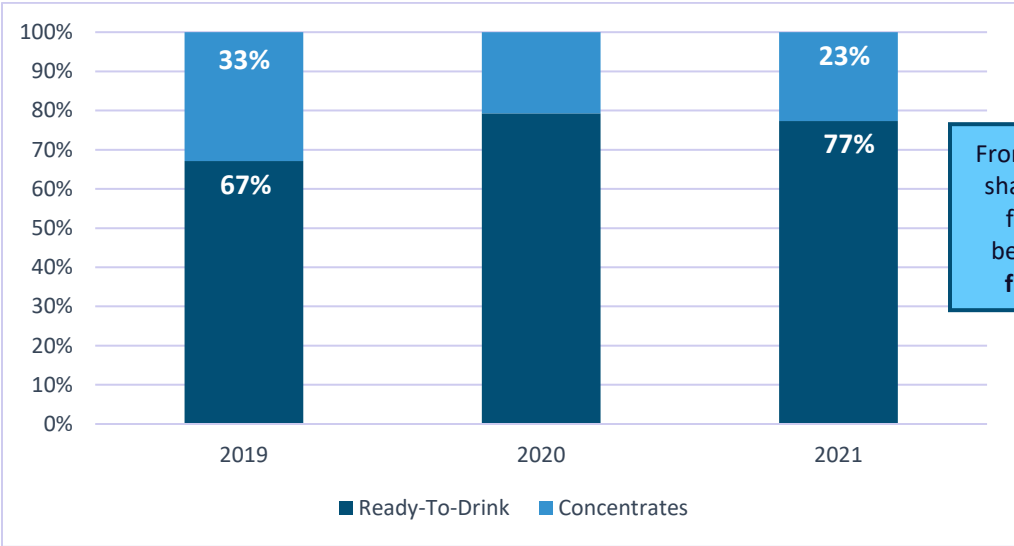


Chart 5: Share of Consumption, 2019-2021



From 2019 to 2021, the share of consumption for ready-to-drink beverages increased from 67% to 77%.

Chapter 3 | 2021 Investments

Seattle's Sweetened Beverage Tax (SBT) was designed to improve the health of Seattle residents by reducing the sales and consumption of sugary drinks. It also raises revenue for important programs that increase healthy food access and support child health and early learning. Proceeds from the SBT are spent in accordance with City of Seattle ordinances (Ord. 125995, § 1, 2019; Ord. 125886, § 2, 2019; Ord. 125718, § 1, 2018; Ord. 125324, § 3, 2017). For more information, see the [Seattle Municipal Code 5.53.055 - Sweetened beverage tax-Allocation of proceeds](#).

Below is an accounting of 2021 investments and actual spending.

Investments, by investment area	Dept ¹	2021 Final Budget ²	2021 Expenditures	Page ³
One-time Investments (per ordinance)				
Sweetened Beverage Tax Evaluation	AUD	\$1,000,000	\$200,000	39
One-time Investments (Other)				
Fresh Bucks Vouchers	OSE	\$112,500	\$112,500	N/A
Water bottle filling stations in schools	OSE	\$36,662	\$39,662	25
Food Access & Health Promotion				
Fresh Bucks	OSE	\$6,190,764	\$6,207,816	15
Food Banks, Meal Programs, and Food Systems	HSD	\$3,453,610	\$3,557,127	14
Farm to Table	HSD	\$1,125,589	\$1,142,200	21
Healthy Food in Schools	OSE	\$761,407	\$754,017	23
Food Policy	OSE	\$132,483	\$106,266	N/A
Food Equity Fund Community Grant Program	DON	\$1,472,939	\$1,246,759	27
CAB Administration	OSE	\$169,410	\$160,160	N/A
Recreational Programs	SPR	\$424,708	\$64,810 ⁴	N/A
Early Learning and Child Development				
Child Care Assistance Program	DEEL	\$3,084,345	\$2,779,493	31
Health and Developmental Supports	DEEL	\$2,535,209	\$2,535,209	32
Home Visiting	DEEL	\$803,783	\$803,783.00	34
Family Child Care Support	DEEL	\$298,410	\$298,410	37
Birth-to-Three Coaching and Training	DEEL	\$623,873	\$451,251	36
Prenatal-to-Three Grant Program	DEEL	\$1,500,000	\$37,281	38
SBT Central Administration	DEEL	\$543,946	\$541,241	N/A

1. Department key:

- AUD: Office of the City Auditor
- DEEL: Department of Early Learning and Education
- HSD: Human Services Department
- OSE: Office of Sustainability & Environment
- SPR: Seattle Parks and Recreation Department

2. *2021 Final Budget* includes any carryforwards, automatic rollover of certain budgets like grants, quarterly supplemental budget legislation, standalone legislation, budget transfers between accounts, and technical corrections.
3. Page in this report where there is more information about this line item.
4. This funding goes toward scholarships for youth to participate in recreation programs provided by Seattle Parks and Recreation. In 2020 and 2021, those programs were largely not operating due to COVID-19, which accounts for that underspend. Going into 2022, SPR plans to use these funds for programming to support youth participation in summer and after school meal programs.

Chapter 4 | Healthy Food Access Investments

Content provided by City of Seattle Office of Sustainability & Environment and the Human Services Department

The City of Seattle envisions an equitable food system where everyone – regardless of income, race, or life situation – can access and afford healthy and culturally appropriate food. To achieve this vision, the City invests in a range of strategies and interventions designed to reach people of all ages and in the many places where they access food (in community, child care, schools, food banks, meal programs, etc.). Ultimately, the City's multipronged approach helps make healthy, culturally responsive food available and affordable, while supporting a sustainable local food and agriculture economy.

The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic crisis dramatically increased food insecurity rates in Seattle and intensified patterns of existing racial inequities. As the pandemic continued in 2021, the City worked closely with the CAB and other external stakeholders to support community-led solutions to address food insecurity and to modify and expand new program delivery models to ensure critical resources were provided to the communities that needed them most. The City's work focused on serving those disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, including seniors, low-income children and families, communities of color, immigrants, refugees, and unsheltered individuals and families.

Significant accomplishments for these 2021 SBT investments, including continued COVID modifications, include:

- **Continued alternative service models for emergency food and nutrition education:** Food banks, meal programs, and child nutrition programs continued adapted service delivery models, working with transit and other partners to offer meals and groceries for pick up or delivery. Seattle Public School students had access to fresh produce, preschools and afterschool programs continued receiving Farm-to-Table produce bags, nutrition education was provided virtually and outdoors, and more.
- **Extended Fresh Bucks benefits:** Benefits for 2020 enrollees were extended through December 2021, to provide additional support in the continuing pandemic. Additionally, increased City investments in Fresh Bucks and year-end program savings made it possible to serve an additional 3,100 enrollees through 2021.
- **Extended community grants:** For the first year of the Food Equity Fund, the City reinvested in existing grantees that had received funding from 2020 one-time and/or sunseting grants, enabling 52 organizations to continue their food access programs and projects without interruption.

This section highlights the SBT-funded food access investments in 2021. The following investment areas are included:

Fresh Bucks
Food Banks
Meal Programs
Farm to Table

Healthy Food in Schools
Water bottle filling stations
Community Grant Programs

Fresh Bucks

2021 SBT Budget: **\$6,320,316**

Description

Fresh Bucks is a healthy food program that helps Seattle residents afford fruits and vegetables. Fresh Bucks provides incentives and vouchers that customers can use like cash to buy fruits and vegetables at participating farmers markets, neighborhood grocers, and Safeway stores.

For more information about Fresh Bucks, visit: www.Seattle.gov/freshbucks or SeattleFreshBucks.org

2021 Accomplishments

- More than **12,100 enrolled households** redeemed **\$5.2 million in Fresh Bucks voucher benefits**.
- Over **70 percent of all households participating in Fresh Bucks vouchers were from the program's priority populations**—low-income Hispanic, Black/African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander communities, immigrants, refugees, and those with language barriers.
- Fresh Bucks transitioned to a **new e-benefit system**, replacing the use of paper vouchers and enabling a more equitable and dignified shopping experience without the stigma that may be associated with paper vouchers. E-benefits also come with a more user-friendly transaction and reimbursement processing system for participating retailers, especially BIPOC-owned small businesses.
- Fresh Bucks customers could use their benefits at **38 Seattle retail locations**, including 16 farmers markets and farm stands, six neighborhood grocers and 16 supermarket locations.
- Fresh Bucks designed and led a new **retailer selection process**, grounded in customer and community priorities, to select new retailers located in neighborhoods with limited access to healthy foods, especially culturally relevant produce options. The first new retailer to join our network was **HT Oaktree Market**, an independent grocer located in the Licton Springs neighborhood with aisles devoted to Latino foods, Asian foods, Halal foods and European foods in addition to specialized produce. We will continue expanding access for customers by onboarding more of our newly selected retailers in 2022.
- **19 community organizations and health clinics** rooted in communities of color and low-income communities served as trusted partners of the program, connecting residents to the Fresh Bucks program and providing complementary activities such as cooking classes in virtual formats.



Photo credit: Fresh Bucks – co-owner at HT Oaktree Market

Fresh Bucks Partners

In 2021, the following partners helped to make Fresh Bucks possible in Seattle:

- | | |
|---|--|
| African Community Housing & Development | Neighborcare Health Systems |
| Ammana Warehouse & Grocer | Neighborhood House |
| Atlantic Street Center | Neighborhood Farmers Market Alliance |
| Casa Latina | Odessa Brown Children's Clinic |
| Children's Home Society of Washington | Pike Place Market Foundation |
| Chinese Information & Services Center | Pike Place Market Preservation and Development Authority |
| Delridge Grocery Cooperative | Public Health Seattle & King County |
| Fruteria Sandoval | Queen Anne Farmers Market |
| Got Green | Safeway Corporation |
| Harameyn Halal Grocer | Seattle Farmers Market Association |
| Harborview Medical Center | Seattle Indian Health Board |
| Horn of Africa Services | Somali Health Board |
| HT Oaktree Market | Tilth Alliance |
| Interim Community Development Association | United Indians of All Tribes |
| Kaiser Permanente | Villa Comunitaria |
| Lake City Collective | |
| Latino Community Fund | |
| Mendoza's Mexican Mercado | |
| Milepost Consulting | |

Food Banks

2021 SBT Budget: **\$3,453,610***

**This amount includes meal programs & systems supports.*

Description

Food banks provide nutritious food to low-income Seattle residents to combat hunger. Food banks provide groceries for infants, children, seniors, and people with special dietary needs, and help families access other food assistance (such as SNAP) and other non-emergency food resources. Staff and volunteers at food banks strive to offer culturally-specific food choices and create a welcoming environment for guests. In addition to on-site services, many food banks provide home delivery to homebound clients who are unable to come into food bank locations because of age, disability, or illness. Some food banks also supply weekend food backpacks to school-aged children and their families and provide mobile or pop-up food bank services to serve communities where they work and play.



2021 Key Accomplishments

SBT revenue was invested in food banks, including on-site, expanded home delivery (in response to COVID), mobile food pantry and weekend hunger services to benefit low-income individuals and families in Seattle experiencing or are at risk of experiencing hunger.

- SBT funding supported **18 food banks** at 20 locations to provide hunger relief and other services, as seen through **270,194 client visits** in 2021.
- Eight agency partners provided **55,634 weekend hunger backpacks for students**.
- SBT funds provided an additional \$917,012 in systems support that strengthened coordination across food banks (and meal programs) and improved purchasing and distribution efficiencies. For example, the **bulk buy program** with Food Lifeline helps get cost-effective nutritious food to food banks and meal programs, resulting in improved access to fresh produce, dairy, and protein.
- Food banks continued to use **expanded home delivery, reconfigured space, and innovative mobile food banking strategies** to maintain food access during the pandemic.
- Four organizations received awards through a competitive funding process to provide **geographically focused food bank and support services** in three underserved Seattle neighborhoods.

- SBT funds supported **COVID-related program operations**, including purchase of PPE and food distribution supplies.

Food Bank Partners

In 2021, the following food bank* partners were supported by SBT funding:

Asian Counseling & Referral Service	Puget Sound Labor Agency
Ballard Food Bank	Rainier Valley Food Bank
Byrd Barr Place	Seattle Indian Center
Cultivate South Park	Society of St. Vincent de Paul
El Centro de la Raza	South Park Senior Citizens
FamilyWorks	The Food Bank at St. Mary's
Jewish Family Service of Seattle	University District Service League
North Helpline	West Seattle Food Bank
Pike Market Senior Center	White Center Food Bank

*SBT funds also supported many food banks for home delivery services and/or student weekend backpack distribution and provided support to partner organizations such as Solid Ground, Food Lifeline, and others for their work supporting food distribution and food systems.

Meal Programs

Description

Meal programs provide nutritious food to seniors, people experiencing homelessness, and low-income Seattle residents to combat hunger. Meal programs hosted by diverse community-based organizations throughout Seattle, with a focus on those located in areas of highest need (central, south, southeast, and southwest Seattle). Here is an overview of the programs and who they serve:

- Community meal programs provide nutritious, well-balanced meals in a variety of locations **for unsheltered neighbors and others experiencing food insecurity.**
- Older adults in Seattle can access a range of meal program options, from congregate meals that provide social connections to home-delivered meals for those who are homebound (**congregate meals continued to-go and delivery options in 2021 due to COVID-19**). Transportation assistance is also available to help older adults travel to congregate meal programs, grocery stores, food banks, and farmers markets. In addition, SBT supports food and nutrition education, as well as fresh produce bags (Good Food Bags) for seniors participating in health promotion programming.



Photo caption: Members of El Centro de la Raza's Senior Winter Project partnered with The Station Coffee Shop for community meals and conversations.

2021 Key Accomplishments

SBT revenue was invested in dozens of culturally-specific meal programs to benefit low-income individuals and families in Seattle who are experiencing, or are at risk of experiencing, hunger.

- In all, nearly **664,191** meals were provided in community settings.
- Senior congregate meal programs provided **581,862 meals to 8,788 adults** aged 60 or older.
- **2,208 Good Food Bags** distributed through 16 community partners.
- Senior Home Delivered meals provided **6,384 produce bags** to complement meals.
- **12 nutrition education series workshops** were delivered to seniors. An average of 15 seniors attended each workshop.
- SBT funds supported **COVID-related program operations**, including purchase of PPE and food distribution supplies.
- **592,721 meals** delivered to **2,780 seniors and individuals** with a chronic medical condition (includes people under age 60).
- SBT revenue supported **new innovations**, such as a partnership between El Centro de la Raza and Tilth Alliance to provide hot meals for food insecure seniors, a new video series from Tilth Alliance

teaching cooking skills to immigrant and refugee seniors, and a 'Pots & Plans' nutrition education series from Chicken Soup Brigade highlighting nutritious, culturally relevant food.

Meal Program Partners

In 2021, the following meal program* partners were supported by SBT funding to provide meal programs:

- | | |
|---|--|
| Asian Counseling and Referral Service and its
community partners | OSL |
| Community House Mental Health Agency, Inc. | Phinney Neighborhood Association |
| Community Lunch on Capitol Hill | Pike Market Senior Center |
| El Centro de la Raza | Recovery Cafe |
| FareStart | ROOTS Young Adult Shelter |
| Filipino Community of Seattle | Seattle Chinatown International District PDA |
| Hunger Intervention Program | Seattle Indian Center |
| International Community Health Services | Sound Generations and its community partners |
| Lifelong Chicken Soup Brigade | Tilth Alliance |
| Mary's Place | United Indians of All Tribes Foundation |
| Mercy Housing | |

*SBT funds also provided support to partner organizations such as OSL, Mercy Housing, Food Lifeline, Pike Place Market Foundation, and others for their work supporting food distribution and food systems.



Photo credit: Hunger Intervention Program (HIP). The Hunger Intervention Program (HIP) hosts their East African Pop-Up Food Pantry at Northgate.

Farm to Table

2021 SBT Budget: **\$1,125,589**

Description

SBT investments support several Farm to Table initiatives aimed at increasing access to Washington-grown, fresh produce for programs serving children and older adults in Seattle.



Photo caption: Farm to Table educators from Tilth and Solid Ground offering a popcorn flavoring and tasting station at Tilth's Farm Fest in September 2021.

Farm to Preschool and Child Care

Farm to Preschool and Child Care makes grants funds available to Seattle Preschool Program sites and childcare programs so these sites can increase their offerings of fresh, Washington-grown food to the children in their care. Teachers and staff are encouraged to use the fresh produce for snacks, family nights, and school activities. Participating sites also engage in nutrition education where educators talk about food preparation, food justice, safety protocols, and seasonal produce. Families are also encouraged to take home kits with food items, materials, and recipes to cook together. In addition, children participate in field trips visiting farms, harvesting food, and training for providers.

In 2019, **Farmstand Local Foods LLC** was the successful applicant to the Human Service's Department [Request for Qualifications](#) focused on providing additional support to preschools and before and after school programs to purchase affordable, nutritious, culturally appropriate food from local farmers, farmers of color, and immigrant and refugee farmers.

Farm to Table for Older Adults

Most Senior Congregate Meal programs infuse Farm to Table activities across 14 sites. Activities include using seasonal products in their meals, sharing recipes, and making group site visits to farms. Registered Dietitians provide technical assistance and help to coordinate activities such as providing menu recommendations, promoting seasonal products, partnering with local immigrant/refugee owned farms, and purchasing culturally appropriate food items for sites. Funding is reflected in the Meal Programs section of this chapter.

Fresh Bucks to Go

Fresh Bucks to Go delivers free bags of local fruits and vegetables to approximately 70 participating Seattle Preschool Program sites so families can pick up healthy groceries at the same time they pick up their children. The bags are filled with enough locally sourced fresh fruits and vegetables to provide 2-3 servings per person for a family of four for 3-4 days. Each bag also contains information about the farmers who grow the food, and easy recipes that adults and children can prepare together using the produce provided. Fresh Bucks to Go vendors preferentially source from BIPOC, immigrant and refugee, and women farmers. To increase economic opportunities to farmers, Fresh Bucks to Go providers have also implemented crop planning with BIPOC produces, pre-purchasing crops as part of a pre-season agreement. This reduces food waste and creates a straight pathway to support our local farmers.

Out-of-School Time

Funding in this category allows the City to operate as a sponsor for the federal Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) afterschool programs. The program contributes to food costs and links home providers with a nutrition specialist to assist with menu planning. SBT funding also allows expansion of meal service at summer meal sites to include before and after school meals. In effect, this increases the number of locations offering children year-round free meals and snacks and programming.

2021 Key Accomplishments

- **Farm to Table - Preschool** partnered with 125 farms, including 43% local farms (King/Pierce/Snohomish counties), 30% BIPOC-led, and 40% women-led.
- Three partners distributed **35,775 bags of produce** to families with children in participating preschools.
- Pacific Coast Harvest tested an approach to enable Fresh Bucks to Go customers to **customize their produce bags** to enable families to choose **culturally appropriate produce** and/or order more than the free amount of produce at a discounted rate.
- Farm-to-Table - Preschool leveraged new funding from the City's **Equitable Communities Initiative** to increase purchasing relationships and nutrition education activities with BIPOC farmers.
- SBT funds augmented Office of Superintendent Public Instruction (OSPI) funding to serve 5,124 youth in **Out of School Time**. The **Summer Food Service Program** served 82,903 breakfasts and lunches, and the **Afterschool Meals Program** served 10,943 suppers.

- 750 individuals and families attended **Farm Fest**, a daylong celebration of urban agriculture in southeast Seattle created by Farm to Table partners.
- 333 children and 35 families participated in newly developed **virtual cooking classes**.

Farm to Table Partners

In 2021, the following organizations made Farm to Table possible:

Asian Counseling and Referral Services	Pacific Coast Harvest
El Centro de la Raza	Pike Place Market PDA
FareStart	Pike Market Senior Center
Farmstand Local Foods LLC	Solid Ground
Filipino Community of Seattle	Sound Generations
International Community Health Services	Tilth Alliance
Nourishian for Life	United Indians of All Tribes Foundation

Healthy Food in Schools

2021 SBT Budget: **\$388,000**

Description

With funding from SBT, the City supports more fresh, nutritious, sustainable, and culturally relevant foods within Seattle Public Schools (SPS) in partnership with the SPS Culinary Services Program and community partners ([click here](#) to read more). In 2021, SBT investments supported produce boxes, snacks, and recipe kits for students and families, in alignment with the district's approach to school nutrition amid COVID-19 closures and remote learning.

Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program

For the first part of 2021, students were still largely learning from home due to COVID-19. Seattle Public Schools continued to make school meals available for pick up at meal sites and through home delivery options for especially vulnerable families. The City used federal COVID-19 relief funds to expand on the SBT-funded Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) model and supplemented SPS meals with two-pound emergency food boxes of fresh produce. Households received at least eight different fruits and vegetables each month, available for pick up at one of SPS's 26 meal sites or home delivery. While the emergency FFVP program was not directly funded by SBT, it was made possible by tapping into the SBT-funded FFVP partnership between SPS and the City to accomplish the goals of its typical snack programs. Ultimately, over 200,000 fresh produce boxes were distributed to families to help meet their nutritional needs during this challenging time.

When the new 2021-22 school year started, most students were back in classrooms but still following social distancing guidance. This impacted our ability to provide FFVP in the classrooms, so the City worked with SPS to pivot the snack program to a weekly take-home produce box made available to 4,000 students attending 15 schools. Schools were selected was based on having high rates of students participating in the Free and Reduced-Price Meal program. Take-home boxes included four different fresh, whole produce items along with a recommended recipe.



Photo credit: Ad used to promote the FFVP program at Seattle Public Schools

2021 Accomplishments

- SBT-funded systems put in place for the typical FFVP were used to provide an expanded emergency produce box program funded by federal COVID-relief dollars, **enabling 200,000 fresh produce boxes (\$1.4 million value)** to be distributed to SPS families each week.
- From October-December 2021, SBT funded a **take-home FFVP model**, providing roughly **31,500 boxes of fresh produce** to families in need through 15 participating school sites.
- The take-home FFVP model served approximately **4,000 students** and their families each week.
- Students received over **20 different fruits and vegetables** in take-home FFVP boxes, to help them learn about or experience new foods.
- OSE supported SPS with purchases of fresh foods from local farmers for school lunches, including winter squash from Sherman’s Pioneer Farm on Whidbey Island and collard greens from the Black Farmers Collective in Seattle & Woodinville (pictured above).



Photo credit: Seattle Public Schools Culinary Services

Partners

In 2021, the non-emergency FFVP was available at the 15 participating schools below, and occasionally with community-based organizations.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Broadview-Thompson K-8 | • Olympic Hills Elementary |
| • Cedar Park Elementary | • Rainier View Elementary |
| • Concord Elementary | • Rising Star Elementary |
| • Denny International Middle School | • Rogers Elementary |
| • Bailey Gatzert Elementary | • Alan T. Sugiyama High |
| • Lowell Elementary | • West Seattle Elementary |
| • John Muir Elementary | • Wing Luke Elementary |
| • Northgate Elementary | |

Water bottle filling stations

2021 SBT Budget: **\$39,662**

Description

In 2020 and 2021, the City partnered with Seattle Public Schools (SPS) to install water bottle filling stations with the dual goal of increasing water consumption and reducing sugary beverage consumption to improve health and reduce single-use plastic bottles. To identify and prioritize schools that serve low-income families and communities of color, selection criteria were developed based on recommendations from the SBT Community Advisory Board and the race and social justice goals of the City and SPS.

The City and SPS originally estimated SBT resources budgeted for the project would cover the purchase and installation of 35 water bottle filling stations. However, this estimate was later reduced to 20 water bottle filling stations due to additional expenses related increased labor costs, asbestos abatement at several installation sites, and COVID protocols at worksites. Despite these constraints, SPS has agreed to use its own resources to cover installation costs for the remaining 15 stations purchased using SBT funds in the order of priority agreed to in the original Memorandum of Agreement signed with the City.

By the end of 2021, all 20 water bottle filling stations supported by SBT funds were successfully installed at 18 high-priority schools. Additionally, the City partnered with FEEST, S'Well, and Lonely Whale to distribute free water bottles and promote drinking water at two community events (see key accomplishments below).

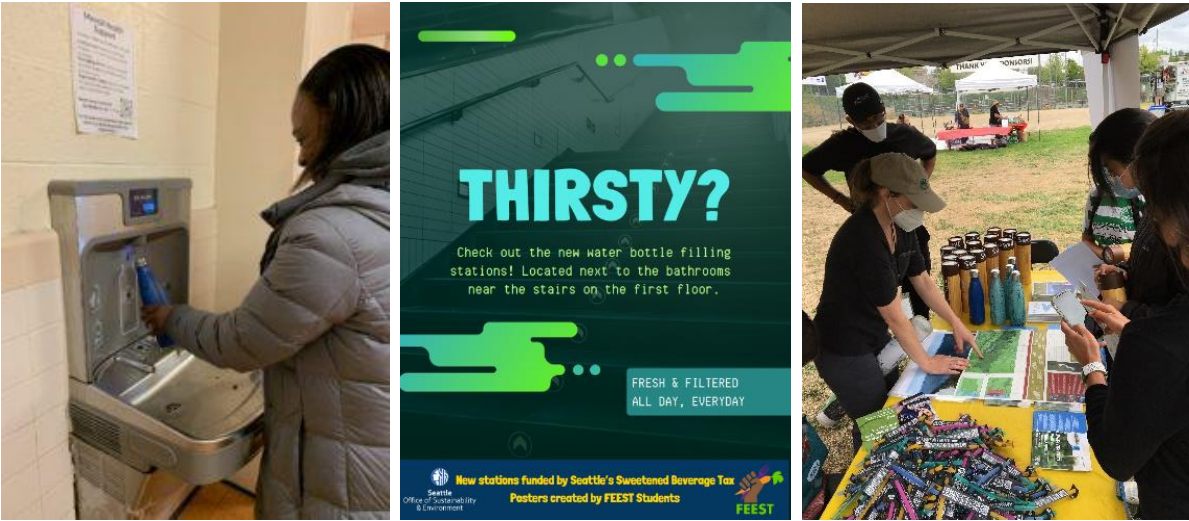


Photo credits: City of Seattle (left, right); FEEST (center)

2021 Accomplishments

- In 2021, **8 water bottle filling stations** were installed at **high-priority schools** serving a high percentage of low-income families and students of color. With 12 installations previously completed in 2020, this makes a total of 20 water bottle filling stations installed at **18 schools** with SBT funding; another 15 stations that were purchased with SBT funds will be installed by Seattle Public Schools by 2023.
- In partnership with [Cedar River Watershed](#), [S'well](#), and [Lonely Whale](#), the City handed out **2,450 water bottles** at Rainier Beach High School and the annual [Big Day of Play](#) event. These distribution events also included education about where the City's water comes from and why it is safe to drink. The bottles were donated by S'well.
- The distribution events and stickers provided to SPS to place on each station also incorporate designs from the youth-designed [Be Ready, Be Hydrated](#) campaign that was supported by the SBT.
- In addition to providing guidance for where to place stations at Chief Sealth and Rainier Beach high schools, **student leaders from FEEST designed posters** to promote the filling stations and encourage drinking water.

Partners

In 2021, the following partners installed and/or helped with promotion of drinking water:

Seattle Public Schools, Facility Operation Services

FEEST

Lonely Whale

S'well

Seattle Public Utilities - Cedar River Watershed

Seattle Human Services Department

Food Equity Fund*

2021 SBT Budget: **\$1,500,000**

*In past SBT annual reports, this program was referred to as the "Healthy Food Fund."

Description

The [Food Equity Fund](#) was developed in 2021 in response to recommendations from the Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board (CAB) to increase investments in community work led by those most impacted by food and health inequities: Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), immigrants, refugees, people with low incomes, families with young children, youth, and elders. This community grants program is administered by the Department of Neighborhoods (DON) and funds an array of unique and creative community endeavors that seek to increase equitable access and opportunities to grow, to learn about, and/or eat healthy, affordable, and culturally relevant foods.

In 2021, rather than launch another grant application process in the midst of the pandemic, the City used resources from the Food Equity Fund to extend the contracts of current grantees from other SBT-funded, food-related grant program. This enabled BIPOC-led grantees to continue offering food access services and programs to their communities without interruption or having to submit another grant application. It also gave DON time to work with the CAB and other community stakeholders to design and release the full Food Equity Fund application process in time for 2022 funding.



Photo credit: ACHD - Patrons interact with vendors at the African Community Housing & Development's (ACHD) Delridge Farmers' Market

Grantees from the following three community programs were extended with Food Equity Fund resources:

- **Food Access Opportunity Fund:** The Food Access Opportunity Fund was an early pilot of the Food Equity Fund and administered by Seattle’s Human Services Departments. Supported by SBT, this grants program increased healthy food access by investing in community-based projects designed and led by the people most impacted by race, social, health, and environmental injustices. Many of the projects funded by this program pivoted in 2020 to address increased and altered need caused by COVID stay-at-home orders and social distancing requirements. Management of the Food Access Opportunity Fund moved to DON in 2020 and has evolved into the Food Equity Fund.
- **COVID Community Food Fund:** A one-time, federally funded grant program set up during the pandemic by the City and United Way of King County to support community and BIPOC-led hunger relief efforts that formed in response to COVID-19.
- **Neighbor2Neighbor (N2N):** A grant and technical assistance program and a key strategy of Seattle Foundation’s Center for Community Partnerships. N2N supports grassroots efforts that lead to increased engagement, power and influence of community members affected by poverty and racial disparities. Priority is on efforts led by people from under-invested communities such as communities of color, Black, indigenous, immigrant, refugee, and low-income communities. In 2021, the City contributed SBT funds to this program for grants focused on food justice and security.

2021 Accomplishments

SBT revenue was invested in 35 culturally-specific organizations to provide projects benefitting low-income BIPOC individuals and families in Seattle around nutrition education, food production/distribution, and youth leadership in food justice. A sampling of outcomes from this funding includes:

- Establishing/sustaining three farmers markets in underserved areas: Clean Greens Farmstand in the Central District, El Mercadito Farmers Market in South Park, and Delridge Farmers Market in White Center. These farmstands engaged with **1,546** community members throughout the season.
- Providing **9,302** culturally relevant meals for older adults and families through in-person meal programs or delivered directly to their homes.
- Distributing **7,894** food baskets to priority populations.
- Engaging more than **135** BIPOC youth in food justice and or nutrition-related education and conversations.

Partners and Grantees

Below is a list of all grantees across three grant programs that had their contracts extended.

Afghan Health Initiative
African Community Housing & Development
American Polynesian Organization

AMpowering (Formerly known as Ravishing Women)
Avole Coffee, LLC
Black Dollar Days Task Force

Black Farmers Collective
Black Star Farmers (BSF)
Casa Latina
Coalition of Immigrants, Refugees and
Communities of Color (CIRCC)
Colored Girls Garden Club
COMIDA
Cultivate South Park
East African Community Services
Eritrean Association in Greater Seattle
FEEST
Filipino Community of Seattle
First Tongan Seniors Nutrition
Food is Love Project
Foundation for Sustainable Community (doing
business as Farmer Frog)
Hip Hop is Green

Horn Of Africa Services
Hunger Intervention Program
Kandelia
Nakani Native Program
Northwest Seattle Gambian Association
Nurturing Roots
Plant Based Food Share
Queer The Land
Rainier Beach Action Coalition
Restore and Repair Missionary Outreach
Somali Family Safety Task Force
Somali Health Board
Temple Lifestyle
United Indians of All Tribes Foundation
Villa Comunitaria
West African Community Council



Photo credit: [LEFT] ACHD - CAB member Bilan Aden and another patron show off purchases from the African Community Housing & Development's Delridge Farmers' Market. [RIGHT] Villa Comunitaria – A gardener weeds garden beds in a greenhouse as part of the Salsa de la Vida program.

Chapter 5 | Early Learning & Child Development Investments

Content provided by City of Seattle Department of Education and Early Learning

The City has a long history of funding programs that specifically aim to support families with young children furthest from opportunity. The SBT has provided an opportunity to fund and implement programs and services focused specifically on children from birth to age three. The Department of Education and Early Learning's birth-to-three initiatives align with other investments along the education continuum as well as complement the needs identified by partners, including King County Best Starts for Kids, Public Health - Seattle & King County, Seattle Public Schools, and community-based providers.

As with many small businesses, the effect of COVID-19 on child care continued to be challenging in 2021. Child care facilities experienced a sharp increase in operational expenses to meet heightened health and safety regulations. Vaccines were approved and released into the community, and employers were encouraged (or required) to make vaccines mandatory for employment. Many programs lost staff due to those requirements. Further staffing shortages related to hiring and retention evident before COVID-19 only increased throughout 2021 as programs and schools continued to reopen to in-person services. Many child care staff did not want to put themselves or their families at risk by caring for unvaccinated child/youth populations, especially since wages typically did not compensate for the increased risk.

Significant accomplishments and COVID modifications for these 2021 SBT investments include:

- **Responsive support:** Meeting young children, their families, and child care providers where they are, delivering services and supports that are responsive, trauma-informed, culturally and linguistically appropriate. The child care reimbursement model was also changed to offer subsidies based on facility enrollment, rather than attendance, to minimize the financial impact of COVID-related child absences.
- **Launching a community grant program:** The Prenatal-to-Three grant launched in 2021 to fund programs focused on increasing kindergarten readiness and reduce the disparities in outcomes for young children and families based on race, gender, or other socioeconomic factors. Ten organizations were selected to receive allocations from \$1.5 million of available funding.
- **Health and development supports continue:** In 2021 there was an increase in the number of families who enrolled in Developmental Bridge while on waitlists for permanent programs for children with disabilities.

The following section highlights these and other SBT-funded early learning investments in more detail. The following investment areas are included, in order of appearance:

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)
Health and Developmental Supports
Home Visiting

Birth to Three Coaching and Training
Family Child Care Supports
Prenatal-to-3 Grant

Child Care Assistance Program

2021 SBT Budget: **\$3,084,345**

Description

The [Child Care Assistance Program \(CCAP\)](#) was created to provide subsidies for licensed child care to working families in Seattle. The program is intended to align with the state subsidy program, Working Connections Child Care (WCCC), by providing financial assistance for families that have too high an income to qualify for WCCC, but would be financially burdened by paying for Seattle-based child care.

DEEL seeks to use CCAP for advancing racial equity and social justice by providing direct financial support to working families furthest from opportunity and maximizing benefits and minimizing barriers for Seattle's communities of color and low and middle-income communities. The current displacement of Seattle's historic communities of color and low-income communities in tandem with Seattle's increasing cost of living has renewed the program's racial equity and social justice emphasis.

A sliding scale is used to determine the level of child care subsidy the family will receive from the City, based upon the child's age, family size, and family gross income. CCAP serves families with children from birth to age 12 and who earn between 200 percent and 350 percent of the Federal Poverty Level income requirements. [For reference](#), in 2020, this income eligibility equated to an annual income range of \$34,480 to \$60,970 for a family size of two.

Parents are given a voucher that indicates the dollar amount of subsidy paid directly to the child care provider by the City each month. The parent must pay the difference between the City subsidy and the provider rate.

Key Accomplishments

- Expanded marketing and outreach to child care providers and families, resulting in **servicing 733 children in 2021, 85% of which were children of color.**
- Continued Payment for Participation, an **incentive model that provided additional compensation** to CCAP providers. This payment increase acknowledged the added expense providers assumed in the pursuit of meeting CCAP's quality standards. This incentive model also increased access to high quality child care by **incentivizing providers' participation in CCAP**, thereby boosting overall CCAP slot capacity.
- **Supported over 230 Seattle child care providers** in following best practices related to health and safety for children and youth throughout COVID-19 following recommendations from Public Health Seattle & King County (PHSKC), including remaining up-to-date with guidance changes rolling out from CDC and Washington State DOH.

Health & Development Supports 2021 SBT Revised Budget: **\$2,535,209**

Description

Two distinct but related SBT investments make up the Health and Developmental Support strategy. The first is the Developmental Bridge Program, which provides innovative developmental supports for children from birth to age three. The second is the expansion of multi-disciplinary health consultation services through the Child Care Health Program at Public Health – Seattle & King County.

Developmental Bridge Program

The City is funding the Developmental Disabilities Division at King County and three community-based organizations (Boyer's Children's Clinic, Northwest Center, and Wonderland Kids) to implement the Developmental Bridge Program. The Development Bridge Program or "Bridge" is a pilot initiative intended to align (or bridge) early intervention supports and services for infant and toddlers and their families. The initiative is fully funded by SBT revenue.

Bridge is intended to provide developmental services to children who were ineligible from federal programs but could benefit from individualized, quality early intervention services to promote ongoing healthy development and wellbeing. Read more about the program [here](#).

Child Care Health Program

SBT funding maintained an expansion of multi-disciplinary health consultation services for child care providers through the [Child Care Health Program](#) (CCHP) at Public Health – Seattle & King County. The CCHP team includes three Mental Health Consultants, two Community Health Professionals, one Registered Dietitian, and seven Public Health Nurses. Together, this team provides consultation services for providers who care for Seattle's young children, using public health approaches that are also community-informed, trauma-informed, culturally inclusive, and support environments that advance racial and social equity.

CCHP provides consultations to providers who accept Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) subsidies, with dedicated visits and support to providers with infant and toddler classrooms. Consultations cover a range of child topics including health promotion and disease prevention; mental and behavioral health; child development and learning; nutrition, food safety, and healthy mealtimes. Focusing on CCAP providers ensures these consultation services reach programs that serve children of families with incomes that fall between 200.1 percent and 350 percent of the Federal Poverty Level.

Key Accomplishments

In 2021, with dedicated SBT funding, the Health and Developmental Support Program:

- Responded to the surge in demand for Bridge services by serving **178 children, a 258% increase from 2019**.

- Child Care Health Program (CCHP) conducted weekly Zoom calls with **150 or more child care participants** beginning in April 2020 to provide the latest guidance, support, and to answer questions.
- CCHP developed videos to assist providers with COVID-19 disinfection and cleaning practices in English, Somali, and Spanish and put them on its website for 24/7 accessibility.

Partners

In 2021, DEEL worked with the following partners to deliver health and developmental supports:

Developmental Bridge Program Partners:

Boyers Children’s Clinic

Northwest Center Kids

Wonderland Developmental Center

Developmental Disabilities Division at King County

Child Care Health Consultations:

Public Health - Seattle & King County

Home Visiting/ParentChild+

2021 SBT Revised Budget: **\$803,783**

Description

ParentChild+ Home Visiting is an evidence-based home visiting program that empowers parents to use play to support the growth and development of their child. Each family is matched with a community-based early learning specialist who shares their culture and language. The specialist visits families twice a week with books and educational toys. Over the course of two cycles, families receive 92 home visits and acquire a library of 46 high-quality books and educational toys and 46 curricular guide sheets with tips on vocabulary-building, engaging conversation, skill development, social-emotional development, imaginative play, and literacy, music, and art activities.

This work is sustained by relationships, aiming to support parents in realizing their role as their child's first and most important teachers. ParentChild+ hires its workforce from the communities it serves, so specialists know the neighborhoods they are working in, the challenges that may come with living there, and the resources families can access. As a result, in times of great adversity, participating families are not alone. Instead, they have a network of support actively reaching out, ready to connect them to a wide range of community resources including food, housing, health care, and educational services.

At the conclusion of the program, ParentChild+ works to ensure children are enrolled in a high-quality early care and education program, the critical next educational step. This dovetails nicely with the Department of Education and Early Learning's continuum of early childhood programs and supports.

2021 Accomplishments

- During a time when many families opted out of continuing services, **ParentChild+ specialists retained over 80% of the families enrolled prior to COVID-19.**
- All implementation partners **continued virtual visits with the families they served.** Early Learning Specialists have continued to expand the scope of their support during the pandemic to support overwhelmed parents and very young children.
- **The seven grassroots ParentChild+ partners** involved in the process of co-creating and facilitating a participatory grant-making process continue to strengthen their coalition. The executive directors representing these organizations: the Iraqi Community Center of Washington, Southeast Youth & Family Services, Horn of Africa Services, InterCultural Children & Family Services, Voices of Tomorrow, Congolese Integration Network, West African Community Council, meet monthly and sometimes more often. In 2021 they hired a coordinator and a grant writer and worked together to apply for earmarked congressional funding.

Funding and Implementation Partners

In 2021, DEEL worked with the following funding partners:

Best Starts for Kids
Start Early
Stolte Family Foundation
United Way of King County
Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families
Atlantic Street/Rainier Beach Center
Children's Home Society of Washington
CSIC (formerly known as Chinese Information and Service Center)
Congolese Integration Network
El Centro de la Raza
Encompass
Horn of Africa Services
InterCultural Children and Family Services
Iraqi Community Center of Washington
Kindering
Neighborhood House
Southwest Youth & Family Services, Hudson Street
Southwest Youth & Family Services, Delridge Way
Voices of Tomorrow
West African Community Council
YWCA of Seattle

Birth-to-Three Coaching & Training

2021 SBT Budget: **\$623,873**

Description

Supportive relationships and positive learning environments benefit infants and toddlers as their brains develop and set the stage for their future success in education and later in life. Over the past decade, the City of Seattle has made significant investments in facilitating access and providing resources to improve quality in preschool settings. However, relatively few investments focus on programs that care for infants and toddlers. A dedicated, sustained focus on enhancing the quality of child-caregiver interactions in infant and toddler child care settings is critical in addressing opportunity gaps in education.

In 2021, DEEL worked with the Child Care Health Program at Public Health – Seattle & King County (PHSKC) to continue piloting an aligned, culturally responsive health consultation, coaching and training model for birth-to-three providers in Seattle. DEEL and PHSKC worked with an initial cohort of providers from the City's Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) to adapt a training, coaching, and consultation model to:

- increase teachers' knowledge, skills and abilities
- raise the quality of care provided in infant and toddler environments
- connect providers, teachers, and families to other early childhood system supports
- support children and families through their transitions within the early childhood system

2021 Accomplishments

- **Designed learning** kits aimed at inspiring family engagement and establishing connections between school and home.
- **Offered virtual and/or hybrid coaching** to 22 classrooms.
- **Provided self-care materials** in response to educators' expressed interest in attending to their emotional health.
- **Offered in-service training during non-traditional hours** to increase access for providers working full-time. Training topics included:
 - supporting social emotional development in infants and toddlers
 - healthy learning environments for infants and toddlers
 - responding to early childhood trauma
 - recognizing implicit and racial bias

Partners

In 2021, DEEL worked with Public Health – Seattle & King County to provide health consultation, coaching, and training for birth-to-three providers in Seattle.

Family Child Care Support

2021 SBT Budget: **\$298,410**

Description

Family Child Care (FCC), or child care that is licensed within a residential home and does not serve more than 12 children, is important to Seattle's efforts to improve the learning and development of children. FCC providers are an integral component of the local early learning system because of their ability to provide care during non-traditional hours and because they are typically located in families' own communities. FCC providers are small businesses owned and operated primarily by women of color and recent immigrants to the country.

FCC is unique from center-based child care and deserves specialized support. With funding from SBT, the City has continued to support the ParentChild+ FCC model and the ParentChild+ Home Visiting Program.

ParentChild+ FCC Model - An adapted, evidence-based home visiting model for FCC providers that uses a strengths-based approach to support quality child-caregiver interactions. This model provides visits with FCC providers who serve Seattle families with infants and children from birth to age five. In partnership with United Way of King County and Start Early, DEEL is supporting the expansion of this professional learning model to other parts of King County.

2021 Accomplishments

- **The Family Child Care model recruited 35 home-based child care providers** serving families not reached through the home visiting model, 18 in Seattle and 17 elsewhere in King County
- InterCultural Children and Family Services was added at the start of this program year as the **seventh FCC agency partner** (full list below).
- FCC providers and Early Learning Specialists (ELS) continued to rise to the challenge of operating their businesses and serving families during the COVID-19 crisis, especially as **FCC tend to enroll families in careers where working from home is not an option.**
- **ELs built great connections with providers** to better support virtual visits, including guidance with setup and translation. They also provided PPE and additional supplies as requested by providers such as organizational kits and educational supplies, colored paper and holiday gifts.

Partners

In 2021, DEEL worked with the following partners to provide family child care supports:

Atlantic Street Center
CISC
Horn of Africa Services
Southeast Youth and Family Services

Start Early (formerly known as the Ounce)
United Way of King County
Voices of Tomorrow
YMCA

Prenatal-to-3 Community Grant

2021 SBT Budget: **\$1,450,000**

Description

In 2021, DEEL developed and launched its first Prenatal-to-Three Community Grant program. A long-time priority of the CAB, this grant program supports groups interested in providing prenatal-to-three supports for Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), immigrant, refugee, low income, and English language learning communities.

This investment is intended to increase kindergarten readiness and reduce the disparities in outcomes for young children and families based on race, gender, or other socioeconomic factors. The program intends to accomplish this by supporting community informed proposals that address obstacles contributing to these disparities. These include providing families access to critical resources and services, supporting healthy and equitable births, increasing parental health and well-being, strengthening nurturing and responsive caregiver-child relationships and supporting optimal child health and development.

Approximately \$1.5 million was available for this grant program with up to \$150,000 available per awardee. The first grantees were announced in 2021 and will begin to receive funding in 2022.

2021 Accomplishments

- **10 grantees were selected** from 42 applicants. The communities that will be served reflect the diversity of proposals under consideration: Alaska Native, Native Indian, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, Latinx, QTBIPOC, non-English-speaking communities, Asian Indian, East Asian, West African, East African, immigrant and refugee communities.
- To increase access to this opportunity, **DEEL contracted with experienced and equity-driven consultants to provide technical assistance** at no charge to the community.

Partners

In 2021, DEEL worked with the following partners:

- Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board members
 - A couple board members served on the Prenatal to Three Community Grant review panel
- Technical Assistance Providers
 - Catherine Verrenti, Verrenti Consulting
 - Hassan Wardere, Bulle Consulting
 - Roxanne Hood Lyons, RHL Consulting
 - Jing Fong, RHL Consulting
 - Thy Nyugen, RHL Consulting

Chapter 6 | Sweetened Beverage Tax Evaluation

Content provided by Public Health - Seattle & King County

The ordinance that created the Sweetened Beverage Tax requires the City to work with academic researchers to assess the impact of the tax on the following ([Ordinance 125324](#), Section 5B):

1. Economic outcomes (such as household food expenditures, beverage prices and sales, jobs, and store revenues);
2. Health behaviors (such as dietary purchases and consumption);
3. Intermediate health outcomes;
4. Identification and assessment of food deserts in the City;
5. Effectiveness and efficiency of the foodbank network in the City.

The Office of the City Auditor contracts with researchers at Public Health - Seattle & King County, University of Washington Center for Public Health Nutrition, and Seattle Children's Research Institute to lead the five-year SBT Evaluation. Below is the executive summary for the evaluation published in 2021. The full report is [available here](#), and [here is an FAQ](#) that includes a shorter summary of the evaluation. Visit the [CAB webpage](#) to access all of the SBT evaluation reports and stay up-to-date as future reports are published.

Norms and Attitudes Toward the Sweetened Beverage Tax 24 Months after the Tax's Implementation - Executive Summary

Jones-Smith JC, Knox M, Walkinshaw LP, Chan NL, Saelens BE, Sawyer L, Oddo V

This study assessed whether the SBT impacted Seattle adult residents' attitudes and perceptions about the tax itself as well as knowledge and attitudes about the healthfulness of sugary beverages. We additionally assessed self-reported and perceived changes in sugary beverage consumption, reasons for changes in consumption (if applicable), exposure to positive and negative messaging around the tax, and perceptions regarding the use of tax revenue.

We administered surveys (over the phone or online) about attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors to assess these outcomes. The pre-tax survey was administered October-December 2017, before Seattle's SBT was implemented in January 2018, and the post-tax survey was administered nearly two years after tax implementation (September-November 2019).

We surveyed adults living in Seattle as well as adults living in comparison areas. The comparison areas—Minneapolis, Minnesota, and three smaller cities in the Washington D.C metro area— were chosen based on well-matched demographic characteristics, political leanings similar to Seattle, and being in places without a sweetened beverage tax. The repeated cross-sectional sample (i.e., not the same people over time) included approximately 2,800 people split approximately evenly across Seattle and in the comparison areas

and pre-tax and post-tax surveys. We also aimed to recruit sufficient samples of lower- and higher-income respondents in Seattle and the comparison areas. We conducted difference-in-differences analyses to assess whether and how attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors changed between 2019 and 2017 and ultimately, whether the changes differed between residents in Seattle versus those in the comparison areas. The difference-in-differences estimates were our primary indicators of whether the tax had an impact on any of these outcomes.

Key Findings

- We found that there was no detectable impact of living with a Sweetened Beverage Tax on overall support for the tax—support for the tax declined in Seattle, but not to a statistically greater degree than it did in the comparison areas, indicating potential trends in attitudes, rather than a consequence of the living with a tax itself. (Seattle tax support: 60.4% → 57.8%; Comparison areas: 58.9% → 58.2%; difference in change over time for Seattle versus change over time in the comparison areas was -1.9 percentage points and was not statistically significant).
- Most (more than 90% of) participants in Seattle had heard of the Sweetened Beverage Tax. A substantially larger proportion of participants in Seattle had been exposed to negative messaging about the tax compared to positive messaging and relative to respondents in the comparison areas. Specifically, 47% of Seattle residents reported hearing negative messaging about the tax, while only 28% reported hearing positive messaging. In the comparison areas, 29% of respondents had heard something negative while 20% had heard something positive about these types of taxes.
- There were notable differences by income level in attitudes and beliefs about the impact of the tax and in self-reported behaviors:
 - For Seattle residents with lower incomes:
 - Their perceptions of how the tax would impact most economic outcomes (e.g., affect family finances or lead to job loss) did not significantly change as compared to those with lower incomes in the comparison areas.
 - More believed that sugary beverages increase risk for chronic diseases, as compared to changes among comparison area participants with lower incomes.
 - There was a statistically significant decrease in the proportion of lower-income Seattle residents consuming >1 sugary beverage per day as compared to the those with lower incomes in the comparison areas (-16.9 percentage points).
 - Many of these statistically significant findings among residents with lower incomes were the result of small improvements among the lower income population in Seattle compared to unexpected substantial worsening of the same outcomes among people with lower incomes in the comparison areas. For example, the proportion of high consumers decreased by 1.9 percentage points among

- Seattle respondents with lower incomes, but increased by 15 percentage points among respondents in the comparison areas with lower incomes.
- For Seattle residents with higher incomes:
 - Beliefs about the impact of the tax on several economic outcomes became significantly more negative in Seattle versus the comparison areas. Specifically, higher-income Seattle residents were more likely to believe the tax would negatively impact small businesses and family finances as compared to changes over the same period of time for comparison areas respondents.
 - There was a decrease in the proportion of higher-income Seattle residents versus higher-income residents in the comparison areas who endorsed the idea that the tax would have a positive impact on the health and well-being of lower income people and people of color (-15.1 percentage points).
 - There were no statistically significant changes about healthfulness of sugary beverages nor in self-reported consumption as compared to changes over the same period of time among higher income participants in the comparison areas.
 - A majority of respondents thought that the tax would be more burdensome for people with low-incomes or people of color (76% in Seattle and 73% in the comparison areas).
 - About half of individuals surveyed (49% in Seattle and 50% in the comparison areas) perceived that sugary beverage taxes will improve health and well-being and improve access to affordable healthy food for people with low-income and people of color in Seattle. Results were similar by income.
 - The majority of respondents agreed with using Sweetened Beverage Tax revenues to improve food access as well as to expand services and support for young children, which generally aligns with how funds from the tax revenue are being used in Seattle.

2021 Annual Report

The Sweetened Beverage Tax Community Advisory Board

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