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THRIVE BY FIVE WASHINGTON AWARDS NEARLY \$800,000 IN GRANTS TO STATE'S 10 REGIONAL EARLY LEARNING COALITIONS

Funds to support parent outreach and connect local work to statewide efforts to improve early learning

SEATTLE – In an effort to help local communities strengthen their efforts on behalf of children in their first years of life, Thrive by Five Washington has awarded \$783,000 in Community Momentum grants to 10 regional early learning coalitions.

Thrive by Five Washington, the state's nonprofit public-private partnership for early learning, has worked with and helped to support these 10 coalitions over the past several years. Over the past year, the coalitions reworked their boundaries and now collectively serve all of the state's 39 counties.

"The coalitions are an incredible partner and resource to everyone working at the state level in early learning," said Nina Auerbach, president and CEO of Thrive by Five Washington. "They help us reach families, organizations and potential supporters in ways that we couldn't do on our own. We're extremely grateful for their work and commitment, and we're excited that there are an increasing number of opportunities – and an increasing amount of interest – to work together to implement programs, influence policy and support children and families."

During 2012, grant money will help the coalitions build a regional infrastructure to support early learning work and engagement; participate in the implementation of the Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS), a formal process that engages everyone in a child's life for the transition from home/preschool into kindergarten; and continue their implementation of the state's "Love. Talk. Play." campaign, which is aimed at parents with children birth to age 3. All coalitions also will complete a regional project that reflects an early learning priority in their community.

The Bezos Family Foundation, WK Kellogg Foundation, Washington State Department of Health and the Washington State Department of Early Learning helped make these grants possible.

Grant awards are as follows:

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| ▪ First 5 FUNdamentals of Pierce County (Pierce County) | \$57,000 |
| ▪ Inland Northwest Early Learning Alliance (Ferry, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane Adams, Whitman and Stevens counties) | \$90,000 |
| ▪ North Central Early Learning Coalition (Chelan, Douglas, Okanogan and Grant counties) | \$80,000 |
| ▪ Investing in Children (Yakima, Kittitas and Grant counties) | \$80,000 |
| ▪ West Central Early Learning Coalition (Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Grays Harbor and Thurston counties) | \$75,000 |
| ▪ Support for Early Learning and Families (SELF) (Clark, Skamania, Klickitat, Cowlitz, Pacific and Wahkiakum counties) | \$79,000 |
| ▪ SOAR (King County) | \$82,000 |
| ▪ Northwest Early Learning Coalition (Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish and Whatcom counties) | \$87,000 |
| ▪ Olympic-Kitsap Peninsulas Early Learning Coalition (Clallam, Jefferson, Mason and Kitsap counties) | \$75,000 |
| ▪ Southeast Early Learning Coalition (Asotin, Garfield, Columbia, Franklin, Benton and Walla Walla counties) | \$78,000 |