



We're Moke than just a bandaid.

LaunchNW is a community mission dedicated to creating wraparound support networks of innovative programs and partnerships to comprehensively address students' needs from birth to career attainment.

'Collective impact' serves as the guiding principle of our work. It is the collaborative process of combining the knowledge and efforts of separate community groups towards a common outcome, particularly by **creating** systemic change, implementing programs and collecting data to evaluate our progress along the way.



"...without LaunchNW and the think I'd be where I am now. Community means, as a whole, people who are there for you to help you and agree with the choices you make, but also help you with those choices."

- Oliver Sherette, Student at Spokane Community College in the Skilled Trades Program (STP), LaunchNW Promise Scholar, and Mpower mentee



Community means you, too.

Our efforts rely on community involvement, and we're just getting started.

Learn more on how to get involved at launchnw.org





The problems facing our youth are interlocking, fundamental, and often result from and further perpetuate cycles of poverty, homelessness and poor mental health—all of which disrupt dedicated learning and career attainment.

If we want to create a healthy community of fulfilled and engaged adults, we must start at the beginning.

RISING COSTS OF LIVING

Many families in our region are forced to work multiple jobs or move away entirely as wages stagnate and families are unable to keep up with the growing price of normal living expenses.¹

HOUSING INSECURITY

According to national research, approximately 60-80% of the homeless people in most cities had their last permanent residence in that same city. Thousands of families and individuals in our region experience homelessness or housing instability as housing prices have skyrocketed in recent years.²

SKILLS DEFICIT

More than 75% of jobs in Washington State require some form of post-high school education. Yet only 48% of students in Spokane County pursue post-high school education.³

GENERATIONAL POVERTY

While many pathways exist to leave poverty, systemic realities often make it difficult for those who grew up in poverty to access those pathways.

STUDENT ISOLATION

Experts have shown how growing up in a phone-based environment has led to unprecedented rates of isolation and loneliness for young people, particularly those in poverty who are affected by an inverse 'digital divide,' where safe, real-world social interaction and activity is markedly less accessible for underserved youth.⁴

MENTAL HEALTH

Over 1/3 of youth in our region meet the threshold for generalized anxiety disorder. Our youth are in the midst of a mental health crisis, as evidenced by increasing rates of depression, anxiety and suicide.⁵

ATTENDANCE

Across our region, school districts often report that over 30% of their students miss a month or more in a school year, meaning that they miss out on a large portion of their vital education time. ⁶

KINDERGARTEN READINESS

Annual assessments show that in many regional school districts, fewer than 40% of incoming students meet standards for kindergarten readiness.⁷



How does LaunchNW aim to solve these problems?

The mission of LaunchNW is to galvanize communities through a collective impact approach to identify, address, and prevent barriers to student wellbeing and success to ensure every child finds belonging and travels their best journey from birth to career attainment.

While we work on short-term solutions for these challenges, we must also invest in holistic, long-term strategies to create systemic change and address underlying causes.



Over half of high school graduates in our region are not pursuing post-high school education or workforce training. ⁸

EXPLORE SOURCES + DATA





"I was drawn to the Navigator position as someone who had great coaches and advisors in my life, because I understand firsthand the positive impact that involvement in activities can have on a student's life."

- Aaliyah Ashley-Meek, SPS Engagement Navigator



"I truly enjoy building trust and connection with our community members, and seeing young people come together through sports, storytelling and shared culture. I'm proud of what we're building together."

- Irshad Ahmad Rahimi, Manzanita House, Cultural Center Engagement Navigator Meets students and families where they are to immerse kids in activities that help every child grow real relationships and wellbeing within their community.

Deficient social skills and mental health pose a threat to not only our children, but also our society. One powerful antidote to these consequences is ensuring youth have access to out-of-school opportunities.

A joint effort with Spokane Public Schools (SPS), Engage In Real Life is poised to enrich the lives of our children thanks to a partnership-based approach which sees SPS, early learning focused organizations, cultural centers, youth/family nonprofits and community organizations all working together to immerse children of all ages in our community and Out-of-School-Time (OST) activities.

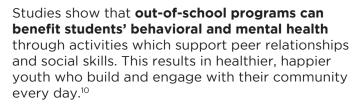


Numerous studies by researchers specializing in child and adolescent wellbeing have found that time spent

INPLAY

is crucially important for children's social development and wellbeing.¹⁰







Explore youth opportunities on EngageIRL!

Visit engageirl.com







"Through our partnership with Mpower, we surround students with mentors, resources, and opportunities so they can dream big, plan ahead, and soar after graduation. We're showing what's possible when a community comes together to help every student thrive-it truly takes a village."

- Debra Raub, Executive Director, Communities In Schools of Northeast Washington

Connects high school students with mentoring, career exploration and wraparound supports uniquely tailored to their needs as they plan their future.

Every student has their own ideal pathway from high school to career attainment. Mpower helps them discover it.

Though led by LaunchNW, Mpower harnesses collaborative engagement across the entire community, including local school districts, nonprofit organizations and universities. These partners match high school students with invaluable mentors alongside holistic community supports. Engaging with a trusted mentor helps young people immerse themselves in community and map out a path for life after high school, while community supports equip them with the aid necessary to overcome obstacles along the way.¹¹ Combined, these two benefits of Mpower facilitate the unique realization of every child's potential.

You could be a

mentor! Connect with our team to

find the best fit for

you.







According to the research, youth with a mentor:

AIM HIGHER.

They set greater educational goals and are 30% more likely to enroll in post-high school training or education than youth without a mentor.

GET INVOLVED.

They are 45% more likely to participate in sports or other extracurricular activities, and 44% more likely to volunteer regularly at school or in their community.





FEEL BETTER.

They experience fewer symptoms of poor mental health, like anxiety or depression, compared to youth without a mentor.12



ACTIVE OYOUTH

MENTAL HEALTH · MENTORING · COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT · FINANCIAL AID



"When I consider how I got from "point A" to "point B"-and I think maybe I'm at "point R" at this slice of the 21st century—the journey would not have been possible without my mentors. In formal and informal circumstances, for brief passages and long seasons, my life has been shaped by men and women who guided me along the way. It feels only natural to move from mentee to mentor. *In doing so, I've been clued-in* to the secret: it is undoubtedly a reciprocal experience. I'm glad to serve as a mentor to [Audrey] and learn from her, and I'm thankful that LaunchNW is here to facilitate this connection."

- Bryan Stanfill, Director, Behavioral Health and Wellness, Goodwill Industries, Adult Mpower Mentor

Ensures getting involved is easier than ever before for would-be volunteers and mentors.

All It Takes Is One (AITIO) is a movement that inspires, mobilizes, and supports our community on its journey to foster belonging and success for every child. Founded on the belief that each of us has a role to play in creating a more connected community for youth, AITIO inspires connectedness through communitybuilding initiatives. It mobilizes action by connecting volunteers to their best fit and supports local efforts to bring the community together.

Through this facilitation, we foster volunteer engagement, strategic partnerships, actionable advocacy and heighten public awareness around community needs; all fundamental components of the LaunchNW mission.

LaunchNW connects families, schools, and community partners to ensure students access every dollar of financial aid available to them as they pursue their educational dreams.

Estimates suggest that graduating high school seniors across the US leave up to \$4 billion on the table annually in unclaimed grants and scholarships.14

Complementing our focus on affordability in higher education, the FAFSA Opens Doors program looks to maximize countywide understanding and completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA), giving students the most fiscal resources possible for their learning. We prioritize sustained development of key relationships with businesses, school districts, community-based organizations, cultural centers, faith-based organizations and higher education institutions. Our relationship with these partners enables us to provide a variety of opportunities for students and their families to complete the FAFSA/WASFA application and earn critically important aid.

Are you a business,

community or cultural

organization?

We want to work with

you in raising FAFSA

awareness.





"WASFA and FAFSA are important tools for Latino and Hispanic students, as many may feel discouraged about their chances of attending universities, colleges or vocational schools. Nuestras Raíces Centro Comunitario focuses on empowering Hispanic and Latino students and their families by guiding them through the financial aid application process. Our staff not only assists with these applications but also explains the resources available in Spanish. At Nuestras Raíces, we create a welcoming and inclusive environment where Hispanic and Latino students can take pride in their culture, roots and language. We strive to motivate them to pursue their educational goals and build a brighter future."

- Li Velasco, Director of Education at Nuestras Raíces, LaunchNW Partner



Visit the 'All It Takes Is One' section of our website to get started.

COMM



"I've always wanted to be someone who inspires. Being an athlete, going to the other schools, and seeing how much of an impact you have on [others], especially younger kids-really, that inspired me. I feel like becoming a teacher would be one of the greatest ways to make that impact. The [LaunchNW Promise Scholarship | helps me [with] things that I need, like textbooks. I don't have to stress it. I'm very grateful that I was chosen for the scholarship."

- Hartman Warrick, Rogers High School alumus and current WSU student, LaunchNW Promise Scholar

LaunchNW **Promise Scholarship**

Makes the impossible possible for our underserved students.

Affordability is the biggest barrier to education, whether that be in the form of a registered apprenticeship, technical certification, credentials or two-to-four-year degrees. Yet education itself is one of the most powerful disruptors of generational poverty, which creates a unique paradox: how can those in poverty escape it if education is financially out of reach?

This non-competitive, needs-based scholarship fills the 'last dollar' gap for students, supplementing existing financial aid to help pay the actual cost of attendance at local institutions. With the LaunchNW Promise Scholarship, we remove barriers to access financial resources, which would otherwise prohibit brilliant youth from learning and thriving.

To learn more about eligibility criteria for our LaunchNW

The LaunchNW College Navigator Program offers comprehensive guidance and support to students pursuing regional colleges, apprenticeships, or trade programs after high school.

Navigators provide direct support as students transition into and progress through their post-high school journey, working closely with both students and campus partners to create personalized success plans and foster meaningful campus connections. They help students explore career pathways, access resources, and create opportunities for belonging. Meeting students where they are and guiding them forward with purpose is the most powerful way to break cycles of poverty, unlock lifelong opportunities, and ensure every young person travels their best journey.



"As a First-Generation college graduate, I know first-hand how challenging it can be to navigate higher education, and the profound impact that counseling and mentorship can have on this journey. With a strong passion for student success and advocacy, I'm thrilled to be serving as a LaunchNW College Navigator, where I will be able to provide wrap-around support and help guide students like Simaf to overcome barriers and help them achieve their goals!"

- Mayra Frans, College Navigator at Whitworth University



Donate!

Your contributions toward LaunchNW strengthen our Promise Scholarship's ability to change lives.



"Serving as the LaunchNW Youth Council Chair has grown me in ways I wouldn't have known possible. It's inspired me to take risks, aim for new heights and expanded my love for my community. Most importantly, I've learnt that the future of our communities is in our hands and we are more than capable of positively impacting the world around us."

Youth Voice involves our youth in identifying and proposing their own solutions to issues affecting their community.

The LaunchNW Youth Council is made up of 20 high school students from across Spokane County. These young leaders shine a light on the challenges important to vouth in our community and work together to create or fund — meaningful solutions.

The Youth Council is more than just an advisory group. The council fosters civic engagement, builds leadership skills, and gives young people a real voice in shaping the future of their community. The impact goes both ways: as students gain confidence and agency, the broader community benefits from their insight, innovation, and



The work of LaunchNW in partnership with Innovia Foundation has already begun in rural communities across eastern Washington.

Students from Dayton, Northport, and Pomeroy High Schools are currently eligible for the LaunchNW Promise Scholarship and LaunchNW has programming in our small communities in Spokane County. LaunchNW seeks to break down barriers to access post-high school education.

Our strategies thus far have included support for FAFSA completion, more than \$920,000 in grants to allow communities to build post-high school pathways, a college navigator program to help students transition to college and trades, and an awareness campaign centered on the need for post-high school education. Further, LaunchNW has supported implementation of LaunchNW in Whitman County by partnering with Palouse Pathways.

Rooted deeply in the commitment and work of Innovia Foundation to serve our rural communities, LaunchNW strives to meet the post high school access needs of all of our service region.

"I talked to one of our parents whose daughter received the \$5,000 scholarship. This mom said that with this scholarship, her daughter has her first year in college all paid for, and she is so thankful for that "last in" scholarship so she can focus on her academics without having to work part-time."

-Katie Leid, former principal and school board director in Dayton School District

"Columbia County has been home to my family for generations, and I have seen how the generosity of community members over the years has greatly benefited our county. LaunchNW scholarships provide an opportunity to help ensure all Columbia County children can reach their potential and fulfill their dreams."

-Kris Takemura, Co-Chair, Columbia County Forever



"LaunchNW is really going to be a game-changer for Pomeroy once we get up and going. Once parents realize that this program is available for their child just for graduating from Pomeroy High School, they might parent differently... they might encourage their kid to do different things.... and they might be able to let their child dream bigger without worry of college debt. This is going to change our community for a generation, and I can't wait to see the impact."

> - Sarah Meyers, Director of the Pomeroy Partners for Healthy Families Coalition

Interested in bringing LaunchNW to your community?

Contact us at launchnwinfo@innovia.org

NVOLVED

VOLUNTEER

If you'd like to support our efforts as a volunteer or mentor, reach out! Together we can affect lasting, structural change.

DONATE

Your fiscal support of LaunchNW allows us to continue our mission of bold collaboration and positive growth across the community. Thank you for your contribution.





LaunchNW is an initiative of Innovia Foundation. Learn more about Innovia and our mission to ignite generosity that transforms lives and communities at innovia.org.

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Office Hours: Mon - Fri: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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