

Opportunity Youth Initiative

Providing King County Youth with Employment Opportunities



Presenters and Guest Speakers

- Port of Seattle
 - Bookda Gheisar, Sr. Director, Office of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
 - Gail Muller, Project Specialist, Tourism, Economic Development
- Partner in Employment
 - Hien Kieu, Executive Director
- Seattle Goodwill Industries
 - Huan Do, Director
- Friends of Georgetown History and Industry, Youth Participants
 - Jake Bookwalter
 - Avery Brown

COVID – 19 King County

Total unemployment claims by ZIP code

South Seattle and South King County workers filed the highest number of claims per capita.



Unemployment claims in King County were 14 times greater in March and April than claims filed January and February.



Nearly 1 in 5 (18%) of the King County workforce filed unemployment claims between March 1 and April 25.

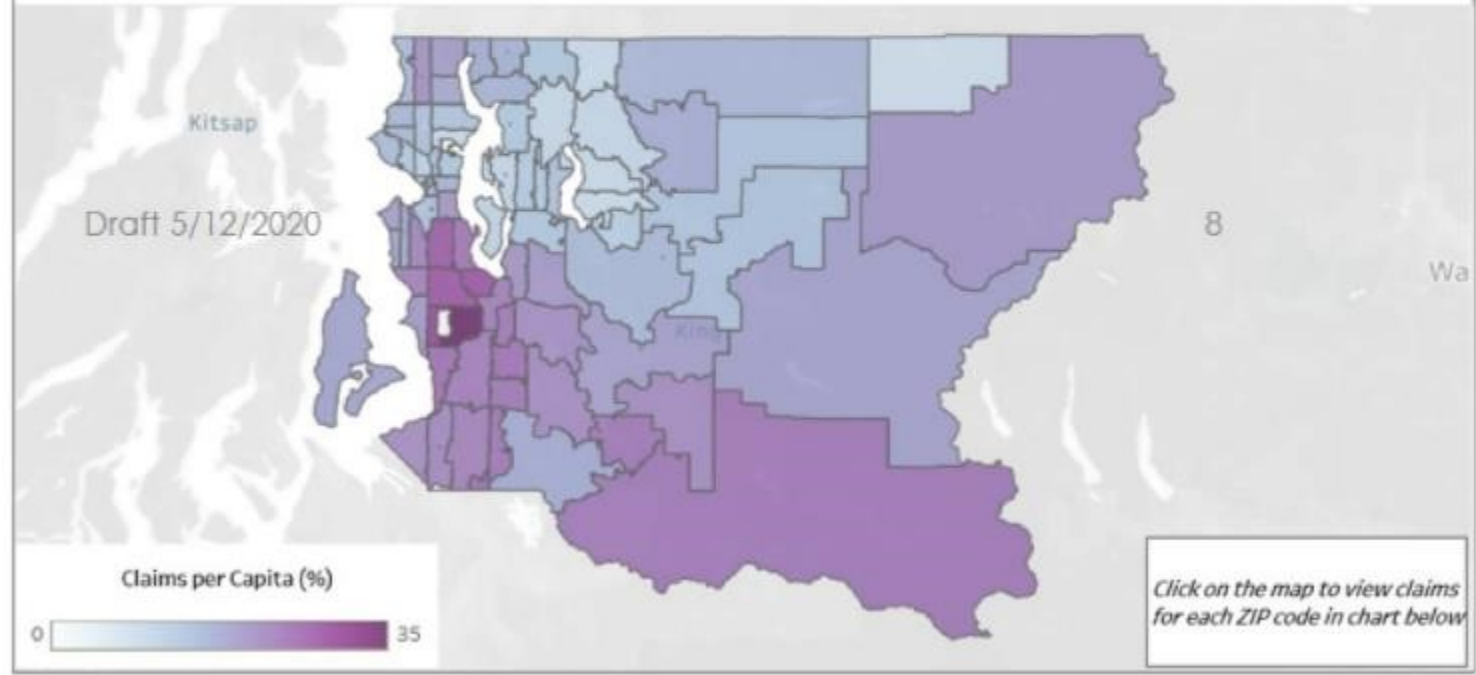


Workers with a high school or equivalent education and age 18-34 years filed the highest number of claims per capita.



Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Black/African American and American Indian/Alaska Native workers filed more claims per capita than did other workers.

Percent of adults age 16-64 filing claims through week of 04/26/20 - 05/02/20



Port's Response to Community Need

- COVID-19 Impacts
 - Extremely high youth unemployment
 - Disproportionately negative economic impacts on communities of color
 - Lack of public or private youth employment/internship opportunities
- Port Commissioners adopted the Opportunity Motion of up to \$1.5M for short-term employment opportunities for youth and expedited contracts for qualified organizations



Nearly **200** youth opportunities created

Focus on pathways to Port careers



Seattle Goodwill Industries: **70** youth



Partner in Employment (PIE): **33** youth



Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle: **76** youth

SEATTLE **PARKS** FOUNDATION

Seattle Parks Foundation: **17** youth

Maritime and Aerospace focus



- Training and Activities
 - Maritime industry, STEM, native marine life, environmental sustainability, shipping repair and maintenance
 - Guided in-person and virtual industry tours, career readiness workshops, Aerospace OSHA-10 certification, interactive panel of industry experts



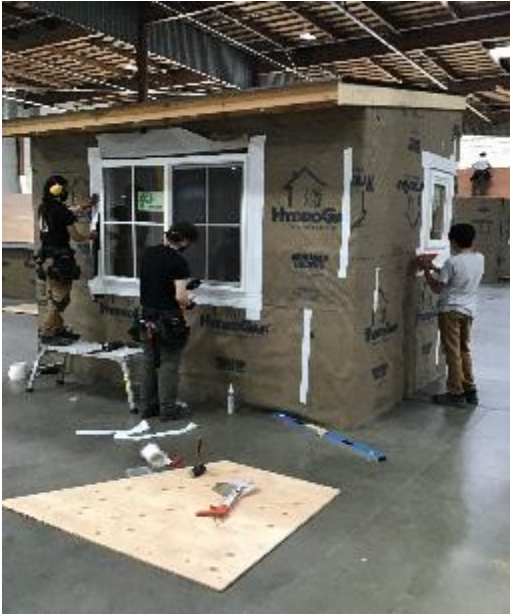
- Training and Activities
 - Green career environmental science education and training for forest and salmon habitat restoration with Mid Sound Fisheries
 - Youth met professional arborists, gardeners, horticulturists, restoration program managers, environmental educators, salmon biologists





Construction readiness

- Training and Activities
 - LIHI's pre-apprenticeship training for summer cottage build camp, ULMS Priority Hire construction readiness training, and ANEW's construction pre-apprenticeship for building tiny houses



- Training and Activities

- Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition: community engagement, restoration and environmental work, technology training, leadership curriculum development, training with Duwamish Valley Sustainability Association, interactive sessions with engineers, designers, planners and Port professionals, guided tours, career and educational planning
- Friends of Georgetown History and Industry: developed Georgetown walking tours, created The Georgetown Youth Council, and developed project charter or research paper as a result of training



Program challenges

- Compliance with **COVID** safety protocols slowed the pace of construction, adjusting for staff needed, and timing for multiple project completion
- **Weather, school schedules, air quality** at times
- **Transportation** to park sites



Participant Profile

Income

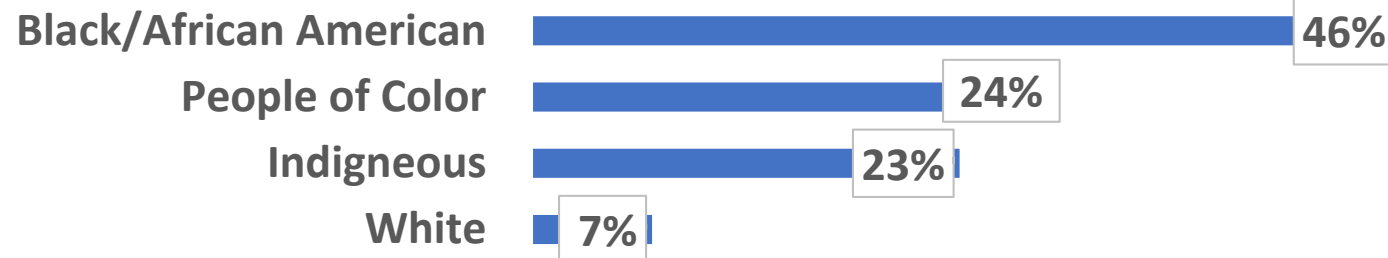
\$15/hour stipend

Age

16-19: 78%

20-24: 22%

Race



Gender

Female: 32%

Male: 68%

Removing barriers and challenges

- Student transition moment



Youth opportunities with **impact**

- 87% felt **more knowledgeable** about job opportunities in the industry (aviation, maritime, environmental or construction)
- 90% **learned new skills** to help them be successful in finding a job
- 81% **gained understanding** of their future career and/or educational goals and how to reach them
- 92.5% felt it was helpful for them to **earn a wage** for this internship

Youth Feedback

- **What challenges or barriers did you experience during your internship?**
 - As a woman, my voice was not heard at times.
 - COVID made everything complicated. Wearing a mask for the whole shift. Also getting all my hours every month was somewhat difficult too.
 - Transportation.
 - Family issues.
- **What did you like best about your internship?**
 - I liked building a house from the ground up!
 - I liked working with a diverse group of people, learning from each other and taking pride in the work we were doing for our community.
- **What are your upcoming plans after your internship?**
 - My goal is to become a professional welder in a union.
 - Going back to school pursuing the career path I wanted to for the rest of my life.

Thank You!



“Repeat after me: I can do this.”



“A little progress each day adds up to big results.”

