

# PSTAA K-12 Community Based Supports

*PAS Briefing + Consult Session*

March 2026

 King County

**DCHS**

Department of Community  
and Human Services

# Purpose of Today's Session

## ● PART ONE (30 minutes)- Strategy Briefing

- Provide brief (re)orientation to PSTAA K-12 community-based funding strategy
- Provide brief overview of the funding pilot- REC's Love & Liberation
- Review post pilot phase, timeline, and next steps

## ● PART TWO (30 minutes)- Consult Session on Process

- Collect feedback and ideas on Post-Pilot design process

# What is the PSTAA K-12 Community Based Supports Funding Strategy?

- **10% of PSTAA funds** (from an estimated \$318 million over 18 years) dedicated to K-12 community-based supports
- **Goal:** Invest in programs that close educational achievement gaps and increase high school completion for the PSTAA prioritized populations\*.

## Initial Investment

- Expands **Racial Equity Coalition (REC)**'s **Love & Liberation** youth programs (est. 2019).
- Pilot prioritizes **participatory grantmaking**, empowering REC members to decide how resources are invested across their organizations

# What is Love & Liberation?

- a racial justice initiative focused on self-liberation and system change to improve academic/life outcomes for youth of color.
- led by the Racial Equity Coalition (REC), a collaborative of 14 BIPOC-led nonprofits.
- encompasses programs & services for youth ages 10-19 that are rooted in positive cultural identity development
- funded by public-private partnership - United Way of King County & King County PSTAA

## Meet the Racial Equity Coalition



# How does the funding model work?



## *Investment Profile*

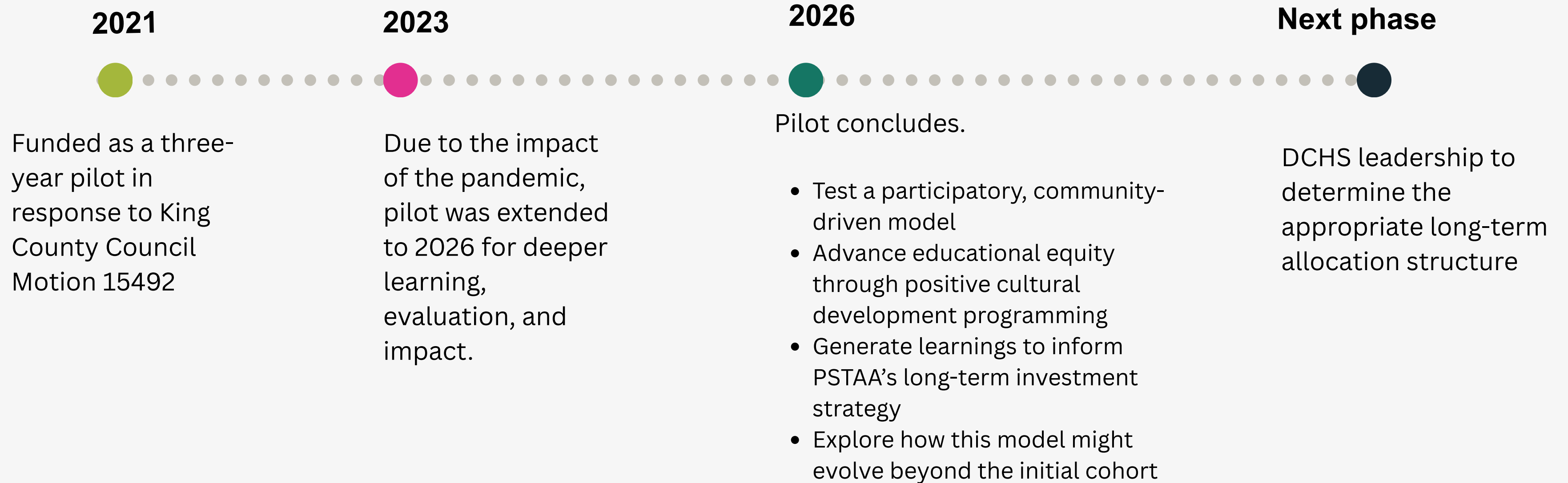
- 2021-2023- *Initial Pilot Funding*
  - PSTAA invested \$4,051,000
  - United Way of King County (UWKC) invested about \$3.6 million.

- 2023- 2026- *Pilot Extension Funding*
  - PSTAA invested \$4,325,000
  - UWKC invested \$3.6 million

**TOTAL Pilot Investment= \$15,576,000**

- PSTAA= \$8,376,000
- UWKC= \$7,200,000

# PSTAA Investment Timeline



# Investment Impact (at-a-glance)

1500 + youth served annually

Youth reached across 60 + zip codes

Majority BIPOC youth served

- 85% of youth reported strengthened cultural identity (2024)
- 84% reported increased sense of belonging (2024)
- 81% reported strengthened self advocacy skills (2024)

“

*“When I was in 7th grade, I was going through a really difficult transition... I remember feeling lost—like no matter how hard I tried, I just couldn’t keep up... But then I met my math tutor... They helped me find my confidence again... That experience was a turning point in my education.”*

*-student supported by 4C Coalition*

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# Key Learnings

*Learnings from a Community-Driven Public- Private Partnership- UWKC & REC- 12/2025*

## 1 Relationships are the foundation.

There is no formula for community-driven partnership. Trust built through consistent, in-person engagement, and shared decision-making is what sustains the coalition-not just the funding structure.

## 2 Qualitative data tells the real story.

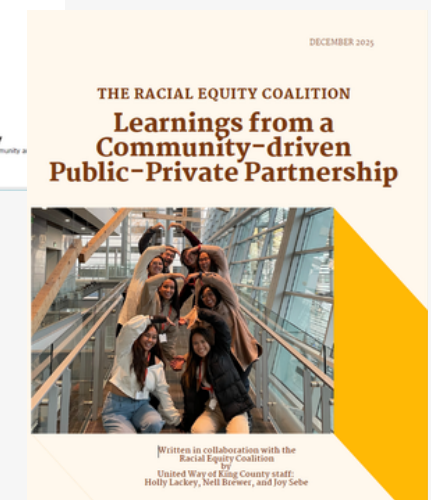
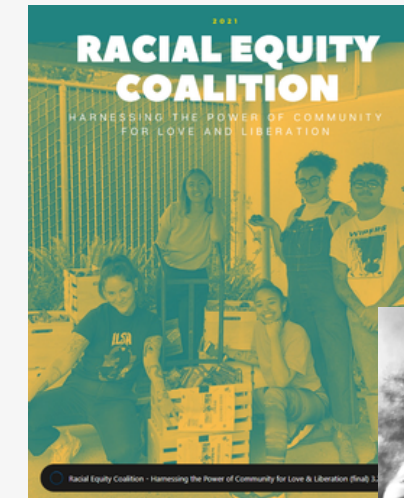
Quantitative metrics alone cannot capture a young person’s sense of belonging or cultural identity. Community-centric reporting- narrative, culturally relevant, and co-designed- better reflects true impact.

## 3 Participatory grantmaking requires real resources.

Inviting grantees into participatory processes creates additional labor. Funders must acknowledge this, dedicate staff, compensate Steering Committee members, and build in adequate time.

## 4 Stable flexible funding enables community impact.

Multi-year, unrestricted funding allows organizations to plan ahead, pay living wages, collaborate, and respond to community needs- rather than operating from scarcity and urgency.



**What's Next**

# Moving from Closed Cohort to Equitable Access

The next phase of investment is shaped by the following governing conditions.

## Completion of the Pilot as Designed

L&L was established as a time-bound initiative to test and inform broader strategy.

## Shared Public-Private Governance Alignment

KC & UWKC are aligned on a long-term structure grounded in shared stewardship & a sustained commitment to educational equity

## Public + Private Stewardship Standards

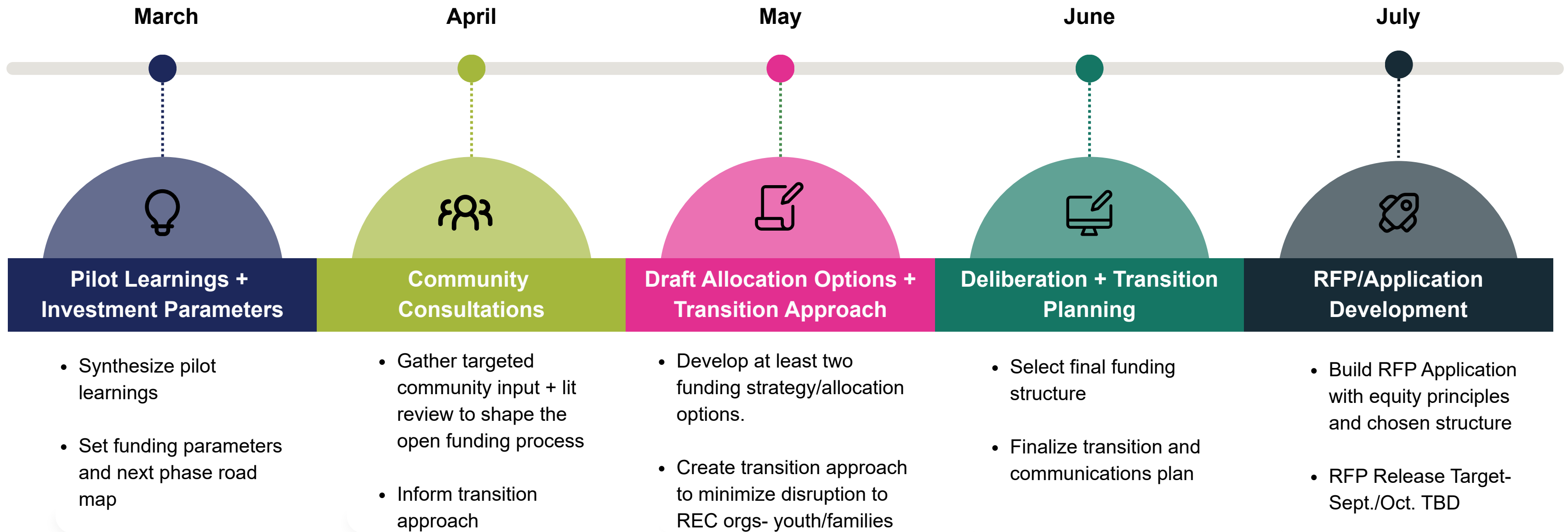
King County distributes community investments through transparent processes that ensure accountability and equitable access.

## Flat Funding Environment

Total funding remains constant while demand for youth development resources grow.

# Post- Pilot Design- Timeline

Goal: The competitive structure (governance, budget, timeline) and next phase of investment strategy will be finalized



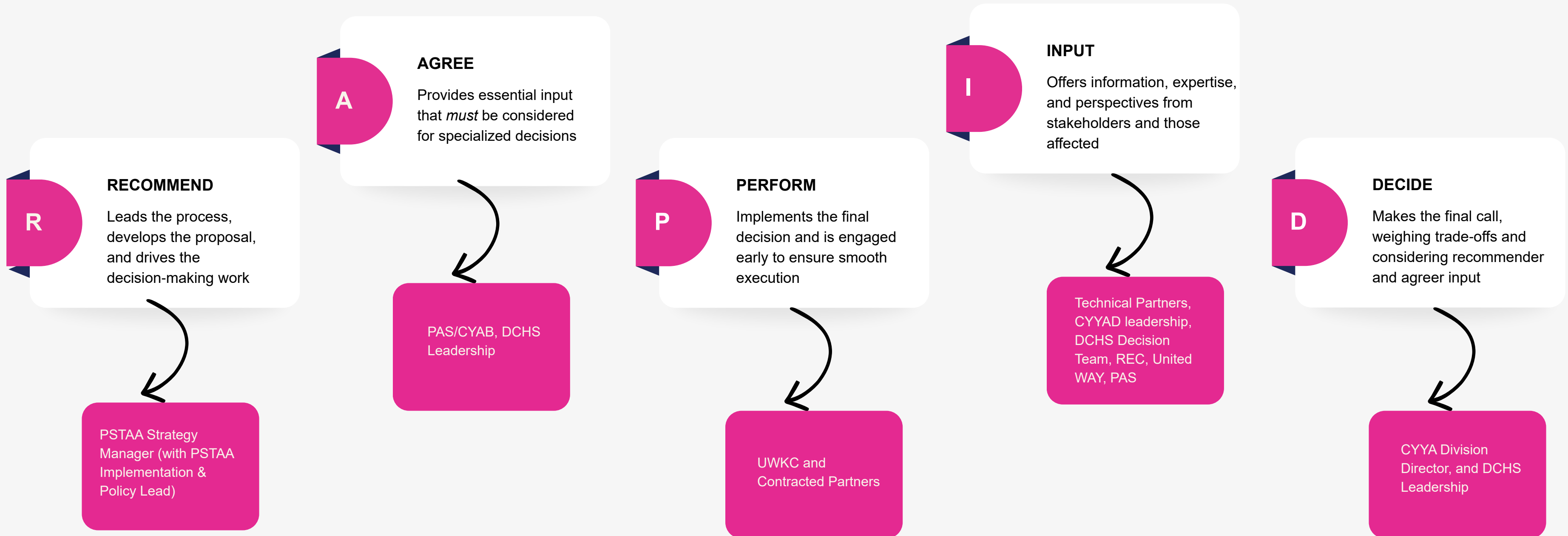
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# Post-Pilot Design Phase will Determine:

- How will insights from the pilot—particularly youth and community voice, learning outcomes, and county priorities—inform the next phase of PSTAA K–12 investments?
- What should the long-term competitive funding process look like, given that all future models will use an open, competitive approach?
- How should the public-private partnership structure evolve based on what we learn from the pilot?
- What supports or transition strategies are needed to minimize disruption for the current cohort?

# PSTAA- Decision- Making & Roles

The PSTAA team will use the RAPID decision-making protocol to articulate roles when PSTAA funding strategy decisions are to be made, requiring multiple people to play roles.



*What insights or questions emerge for you as we look at the roles, decisions, and next steps in this funding strategy?*

# PAS Consultation on Design Process

# PAS Consultations

## INPUT

Offers information, expertise, and perspectives from stakeholders and those affected

### 1. PAS Input (**today**)

- Feedback on post pilot design process

### 2. PAS Subgroup Input- (**April TBD**)

- Thought partnership on fund allocation design development based on consultations

## AGREE

Provides essential input that *must* be considered for specialized decisions

### 3. PAS Agreement on Design Options (May 18th)

# Next Phase- Design Parameters

## ➤ PSTAA DIRECTIVES & PRIORITIES

PSTAA Implementation Plan  
& Motion 15492

## ➤ PILOT LEARNINGS

- REC REPORTS
- UWKC REPORTS
- PILOT ASSESSMENT REPORT

## ➤ TARGETED CONSULTATIONS + LITERATURE REVIEW

- UWKC, REC, PAS, CYYAD Leadership, BSK
- Youth Action Plan

# Next Phase- PSTAA Directives & Priorities

## PSTAA Key Directives

- Dedicate 10% of PSTAA funds to programs that increase high school completion for prioritized populations
- Fund services such as expanded learning, physical education access, mentoring, case management, and culturally integrative supports
- Allow CBOs to partner with schools and local governments to deliver programming
- Fund organizations with strong, practice-based experience serving prioritized populations

## Competitive Priorities

- Alignment with county priorities (YAC, BSK)
- Emphasis on serving children, youth, and families of color and reducing racial achievement gaps
- Preference for organizations whose staff and leadership reflect the communities served and bring relevant lived experience

- **Total Annual Funding Available: Approximately 2.4 million (1.2 from PSTAA, 1.2 from UWKC)**

- *What else should be considered in the next phase of this PSTAA K-12 investment strategy?*
- *In your experience with open competitive funding processes, what would you want to make sure that we include or avoid?*

