**PIERCE COUNTY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TASK FORCE**

**About Us 2021**

**WHY:** The Pierce County Community Engagement Task Force was formed in May 2019 by the Pierce County Workforce Development Council and WorkForce Central in recognition that workforce services were not truly welcoming and accessible to everyone in our community.

**WHO WE ARE:** Anyone who shares our commitment to recognizing and addressing disparities in services and outcomes can join the Task Force; we currently have nearly 150 members from multiple sectors throughout Pierce County.

**OUR MISSION:** We use an innovative community engagement framework to integrate services with a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach to foster economic mobility of Pierce County individuals and families.

**WHAT WE DO:** The Pierce County Community Engagement Task Force’s work is driven by four work groups.

Leadership: This group supports the Task Force’s committees and plans overall strategic direction, systems alignment, and partnership opportunities. *(no example needed – this is enough)*

Organizational Structures: This group works to empower Pierce County organizations in examining and improving their policies and practices to become more equitable and inclusive for all community members.

* *EXAMPLE: Our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Welcome Packet is available to help organizations learn about racism and oppression, and we’re planning a DEI training series in 2021.*

Outreach and Engagement: This group collaboratively promotes available services, especially to historically underserved communities. They also identify unmet needs and coordinate Task Force members’ outreach efforts to fill gaps.

* *EXAMPLE: Task Force members joined to unload trucks of supplies that helped more than 400 high need families in the Eastside and Hilltop communities.*

People & Providers: This group focuses on building trusting relationships with diverse communities, facilitating resource navigation, and ensuring community voices are heard when services are developed and assessed.

* *EXAMPLE: We are creating a Speakers’ Bureau of people who have faced homelessness and other challenges; they will help organizations understand how to build and improve services that fully address their real needs and barriers.*

The Pierce County Community Engagement Task Force stands with the community to tackle our toughest workforce challenges. We are proactively seeking people’s stories, building trust, and creating hope as we strive to redesign services and systems in which no one is pushed aside or left behind.