



# The Seattle Public Library

**Date:** April 5, 2017

**To:** Marcellus Turner, City Librarian

**From:** Tom Fay, Library Programs and Services Director  
Heather McLeland-Wieser, Asst. Director Public Services  
Valerie Wonder, Managing Librarian, Community Engagement

**Re:** **Proposed Changes to Mobile Services Criteria for Youth Sites**

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## **Summary**

A 2016 analysis of current Mobile Services to youth (childcares and preschools) revealed that we are not reaching a significant number of children from low income families. The Library proposes adjusting our criteria to remedy that situation and bring library services to those who are most likely to have barriers to access.

## **Service and criteria background**

The Library offers youth services in all 27 of our locations which are evenly distributed throughout the city. In order to bring Library resources and services to people who have difficulty accessing these locations we also offer Mobile Services. Our Mobile children's services focus on reaching children from low income families and children with disabilities. Our Mobile children's services focus on visiting preschools and childcares to reach children from low income families and children with disabilities. Our Bookmobile currently provides monthly service to 2195 children at 39 preschools and childcare centers. Because we cannot reach all centers in Seattle, it is important that we are intentional about where we provide service.

Prior to 2013 we had traditional criteria for which preschools and childcares could receive service – focused on number of children serviced, distance from a branch, and availability of parking for our vehicle. In 2013 we sought to bring equity to the program by adding the criteria that all sites served must accept childcare subsidies<sup>1</sup> or be part of government programs such as Head Start, Step Ahead Preschool, Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), or the Seattle Preschool Program.

## **Current sites – not reaching low income children**

In early 2016 we reached out to all sites to collect current data. This time we asked not only whether they accept subsidies, but also the number of children they serve that are in fact subsidized. We then realized that the majority of our sites are not connecting us to a significant number of low income youth.

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<sup>1</sup> Subsidies such as Working Connections Child Care through DSHS, or The City of Seattle Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP).

- 6 do not serve a single child receiving subsidies
- 15 serve student populations in which less than 10% receive subsidies
- 4 serve populations in which 10-25% receive subsidies
- 14 serve student populations in which over 25% receive subsidies

### **Potential sites**

There are many childcares and preschools that we are not serving. At least 30 Head Start, Step Ahead, ECEAP, and Seattle Preschool Program (SPP) locations are not currently receiving specialized library services (these programs serve primarily families that are below 110%, 130% or 300% of the federal poverty level, \$26,730, \$31,590 and \$72,900 respectively for families of four). In addition, there are private preschools we do not reach that serve large numbers of children who are subsidized or have disabilities.

### **Proposed changes**

Mobile Services proposes adjusting our criteria for monthly service in order to ensure that we connect with low income families or children with disabilities. This means prioritizing schools that are a part of Head Start, Step Ahead, ECEAP, or Seattle Preschool Program, private schools that serve student populations in which over 25% receive subsidies, or schools that serve primarily students with disabilities.

Sites that transition off monthly service will continue to receive annual bookmobile visits, and will be connected to local branches and Children's librarians who can provide alternative services.

### **Risks**

Currently, our services are concentrated in the north end, with 23 sites located north of the ship canal. Prioritizing low income families results in shifting our monthly services to the south and the far north (see maps). The resulting changes disproportionately impact City Council Districts 4, 6, and 7. District 4 currently has 8 sites and will drop to 2, District 6 currently has 9 sites and will drop to 0, District 7 currently has 2 sites and will drop to 0. By comparison, District 2 will go from 2 sites to possibly 16 (see list of sites).

### **Revised Criteria**

Mobile Services visits preschools and childcare centers that:

1. Are a free or low-cost early learning program for low income families, including the following:
  - Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP)
  - Head Start
  - Seattle Step Ahead
  - Seattle Preschool Program

OR Are a full or extended day program that accepts at least one of the following subsidies and has at least 25% of students currently using these subsidies:

- City of Seattle Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)
- Working Connections Child Care (DSHS)

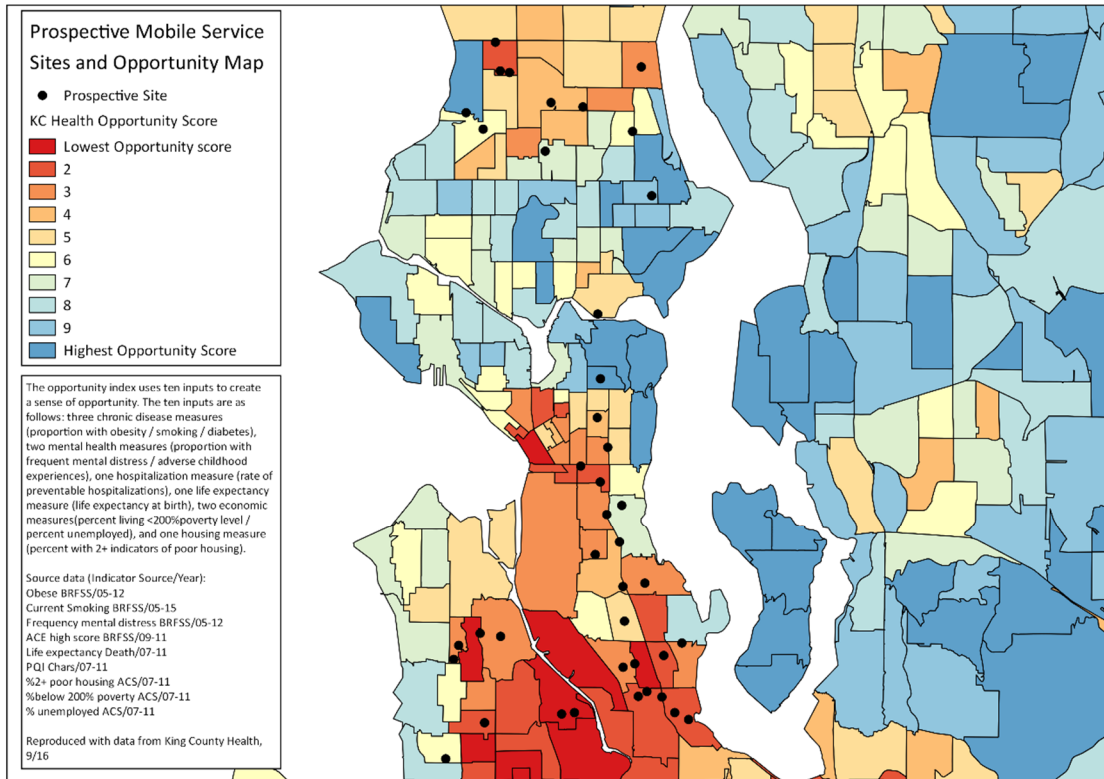
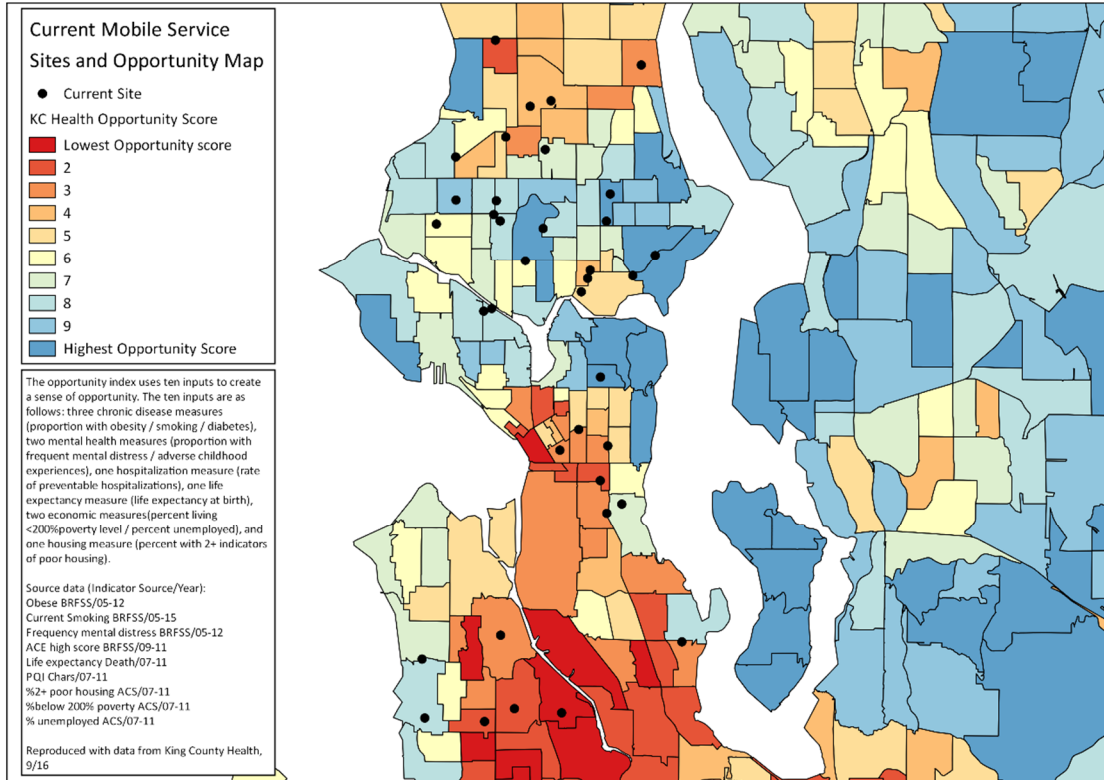
OR Serve primarily students with disabilities.

2. Are within the Seattle city limits
3. Have at least 20 children enrolled
4. Are not within easy walking distance to a public library branch (5 blocks, no major obstacles)

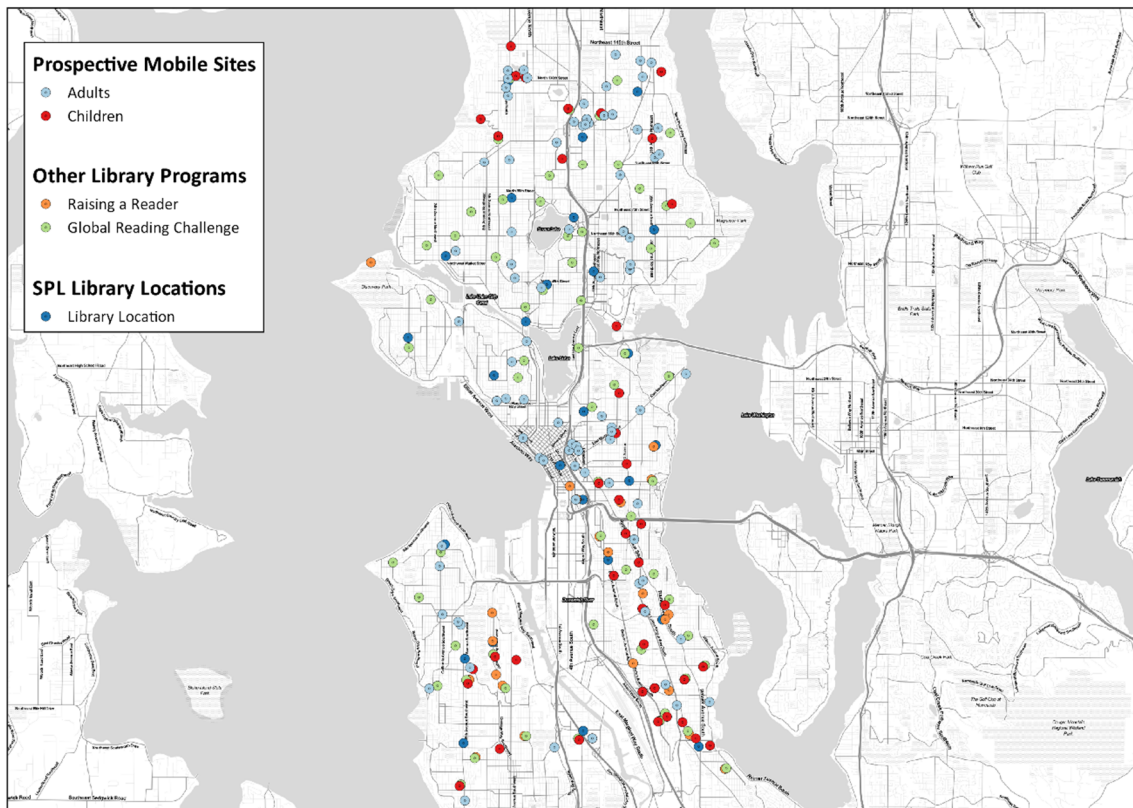
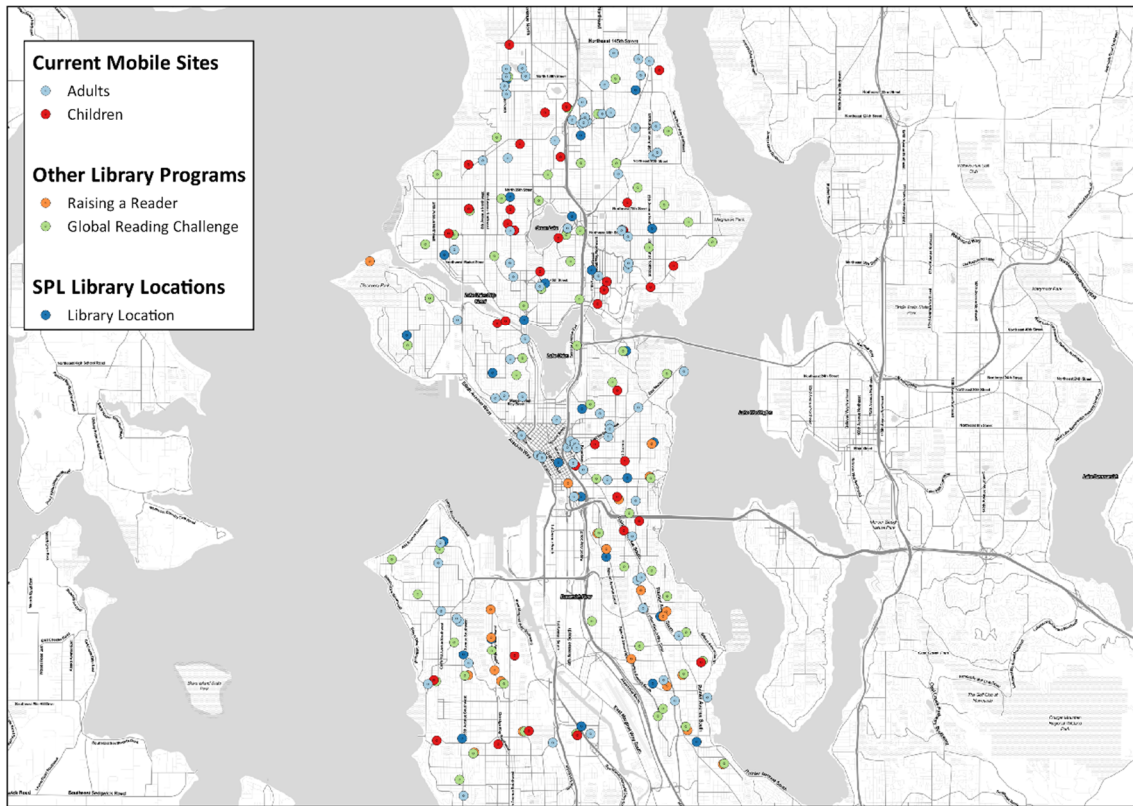
Priority will be given to programs that serve primarily families at or below 300% of Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Council district	Name of institution	Program	Total # students	# subsidized students	% subsidized students
1	The Cottage School at Gatewood		42	5	4%
1	Fauntleroy Children's Center		110	11	10%
1	Ages in Stages Child Care		55	10	18%
1	South Seattle College Preschool & Childcare Center		30	10	33%
1	YMCA Concord	SPP	18	11	61%
1	Learning Way School & Day Center		45	30	67%
2	Kids Co. At Graham Hill		19	11	58%
2	Wellspring Family Services Early Learning Center		50	50	100%
3	Mother's Place		95	3	3%
3	UW Children's Center at Harborview Medical Center		70	5	7%
3	Wee are the World Child Development Program		49	18	37%
3	Causey's Learning Center Main	ECEAP/SPP	40	36	90%
3	Causey's Learning Center MLK	ECEAP/SPP	25	23	92%
3	Prospect Enrichment Preschool	ECEAP	24	24	100%
4	Interlake Child Care & Learning Center		59	0	0%
4	UW Children's Center at West Campus		56	0	0%
4	University Temple Children's School		60	1	2%
4	Perkins Preschool		72	2	3%
4	Children's Center at Burke Gilman Gardens		65	10	15%
4	Trettin Drop In Preschool		28	6	21%
4	Children's Learning & Care Center		45	10	22%
4	UW Children's Center at Laurel Village		60	30	50%
5	Northwest Hospital Child Care Center		70	1	1%
5	Early Learning & Development Center Broadview		75	6	8%
5	Alpha Montessori School		32	8	25%
5	North Seattle College Child Care Center		48	12	25%
5	Olympic Hills at Cedar Park	Head Start	20	20	100%
5	Northgate Elementary School	Head Start	40	40	100%
6	Agape Childcare Center		52	0	0%
6	Early Learning & Development Center Greenwood		58	0	0%
6	Green Lake Preschool & Childcare		50	0	0%
6	Montessori Garden		40	0	0%
6	Phinney Neighborhood Association - Whittier Kids		45	2	4%
6	Small Faces Child Development Center		150	7	5%
6	Ballard First Lutheran Childcare and Preschool		68	4	6%
6	Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church Child Development Center		85	5	6%
6	Orca Children's Center		30	2	7%
7	North Queen Anne Childcare Center		110	2	2%
7	Hilltop Children's Center		100	3	3%

The criteria change will help us focus services for preschools and child cares in low-opportunity areas where families most likely have barriers to access:



Bookmobile services are just one of the many services the Library provides throughout the city:



**Action required/requested:** Informational only, no action required at this time.