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Bellevue Schools Foundation to Initiate Affordable Housing Research Research made possible with \$250,000 grant from the Amazon Housing Equity Fund

BELLEVUE, Wash. – The [Bellevue Schools Foundation](#) today announced it is examining workforce housing opportunities to support the Bellevue School District. The research, funded by a \$250,000 grant from the [Amazon Housing Equity Fund](#), will evaluate and assess housing options, preferences, and needs of Bellevue School District employees and help increase diversity in its teaching staff of almost 1,500 educators.

As the population of Bellevue continues to grow, identifying viable workforce housing options for Bellevue School District employees will help the District attract and retain a diversified, highly qualified workforce. The Bellevue School District serves over 19,000 students, enrolled in 30 schools. With 104 languages spoken and 41.2% of students speaking a first language other than English in the Bellevue School District, Bellevue Schools Foundation is committed to expanding funding for racial equity and amplifying the diverse voices and strengths of students and families within the Bellevue community.

Bellevue School District Deputy Superintendent for Financial Services & Operations, Melissa DeVita shares: “High-quality education starts with teachers and those who support them. We need to better understand the financial structures and potential benefits of creating workforce housing for Bellevue School District educators.”

The Bellevue Schools Foundation is the recipient of a \$250,000 grant from the Amazon Housing Equity Fund— Amazon’s more than \$2 billion commitment to create and preserve 20,000 affordable homes in its hometown communities of the Puget Sound region of Washington state; the area around Arlington, Virginia and Washington, D.C.; and Nashville, Tennessee. The funding will support the research study and consultancy services on the viability of affordable housing opportunities for teachers in Bellevue.

“It’s an honor to align our resources with Amazon to expand opportunities for the students and families of Bellevue. This partnership embodies the creative solutions possible when nonprofits and corporations build upon one another’s strengths and position in the community,” states Bellevue Schools Foundation Executive Director, Juliet Buder.

“We established the Amazon Housing Equity Fund from our belief that all people should have access to housing they can afford,” said Alice Shobe, global director, Amazon in the Community. “We’ve set out to help protect and create affordable housing for families with low-to-moderate incomes like teachers, but our approach also includes grants to advance housing research and analysis. We want to do our part to support Bellevue School District’s employee recruitment efforts through Amazon’s investment in affordable housing.”

The study is currently underway and expected to be complete by this fall. The study scope includes surveying Bellevue School District employees on housing priorities and challenges, researching how other school districts are creating workforce housing, and exploring potential sites and financing structures.

The announcement was shared at the Bellevue Schools Foundation’s annual event, Spring for Schools, which captures revenue critical to the Foundation’s support of all 30 schools in the Bellevue School District. Distributions to the Bellevue community from the Bellevue Schools Foundation range from \$800,000 to over 1 million, annually.

ABOUT THE BELLEVUE SCHOOLS FOUNDATION: Established in 1979, Bellevue Schools Foundation (BSF) is the 1st foundation dedicated to supporting public K-12 initiatives in Washington State. Its mission is to promote and fund the best possible learning opportunities for all students in Bellevue’s public schools. As a pillar in the community, the Foundation is uniquely positioned to be a catalytic agent of positive change and advancement in the public education sector.

ABOUT THE AMAZON’S EQUITY FUND: Amazon’s Housing Equity Fund is a more than \$2 billion commitment to preserve and create more than 20,000 affordable homes in the communities it calls home. The Fund helps to create inclusive housing developments and preserve existing housing through low-rate loans and grants to non-traditional and traditional housing partners, public agencies, and minority-led organizations supporting communities of color.