Overview

Washington state’s No Child Left Inside program provides grants to provide outdoor engagement for underserved youth. Nonprofit organizations, schools, public agencies, and community-based groups are all eligible to receive grants through the program. The program prioritizes programs that engage students from low-income families or those that are struggling academically. Inspired by Washington’s efforts, Nevada and Minnesota have enacted similar policies.

Bill: HB 1677 (2007); reauthorized with SB 5843 (2015)

Target Audience

Outdoor access for low-income and disadvantaged youth.

Coalition

The legislation was supported by a diverse coalition called The Big Tent Outdoor Recreation Coalition that included groups such as REI, Trout Unlimited, The Trust for Public Lands and many more. A full list is available at: http://bigtentcoalition.info/Members

Funding

Current funding is $1.5 million from the state General Fund, which was reauthorized in 2019. These funds are administered as grants to organizations.

Impact

From 2015-2019, the program funded 58 projects which served a total of 30,196 children. This equates to 753,020 hours of education and funded 134 staff positions.

Contact Person: Martin LeBlanc, LBC Action, martin@leblancstrategies.com