The FeelFit Bike Hub

Our plan to put 150 King County kids on bikes

Project plan and estimated budget · October 2026

Executive Summary

FeelFit Foundation exists on the belief that good health should never depend on a person's ability or their income. The FeelFit Bike Hub is one of our Community Builds: a hands-on project with a clear finish line. Between now and June 2027, 100 to 150 King County kids will earn a refurbished bike by helping repair donated bikes alongside trained volunteer mechanics. Every one of them will ride home with a fitted helmet, a lock, lights, and the skills to keep their bike rolling.

We are starting on the Eastside, where no free or earn-a-bike program serves families today. Our estimated year-one budget is $56,960, and we are seeking $20,000 from the Microsoft Community-First Grant to put the bikes, helmets, locks and lights directly into kids' hands.

Why This Matters

A bike is three things at once: daily exercise, a way to get to school, work and friends, and a sense of independence. For a young person in a family without a car, or without money for a new bike, it can change what their week looks like. Yet the kids who would gain the most are often the least likely to have one.

- In the 2025–26 school year, 25% of Bellevue School District students were low-income and 438 were homeless; in Lake Washington School District (Redmond and Kirkland), 457 students were homeless (OSPI Washington State Report Card).
- About 9% of Bellevue households have no car (U.S. Census American Community Survey, 2020–2024).
- Roughly 11,000 Bellevue, 5,600 Kirkland and 4,300 Redmond residents live below the poverty line (U.S. Census American Community Survey, 2020–2024).

Why the Eastside

King County already has wonderful bike programs, and we have learned a great deal from them. Bike Works serves Southeast Seattle. Bicycle Rescue for Youth and Cascade Bicycle Club's Major Taylor Project serve South King County. The Eastside's recent e-bike rebate program offered discounts, not free bikes, and closed in June 2026. We found no program giving free or earned bikes to kids in Bellevue, Redmond, Kirkland, Issaquah or Sammamish. That is the gap the Bike Hub fills.

How the Bike Hub Works

Bikes From Our Community

We don't buy bikes; our community gives them. Like every established bike charity we studied, we will collect donated bikes through community drives, police unclaimed-property programs, the King County Surplus Warehouse, recycling partners and workplace campuses, where abandoned bikes often wait for a second life.

Monthly Neighborhood Workshop Days

Once a month, the Bike Hub opens its doors at an Eastside community space for a neighborhood workshop day. Families gather, neighbors drop off bikes, kids work side by side with volunteer mechanics, and graduates ride out on bikes they earned. It is FeelFit's community spirit, brought to a bike stand.

Earn a Bike, Keep It Rolling

Between workshop days, small groups of young people, roughly ages 12 to 18, complete 15 to 25 hours of hands-on repair sessions. Each of them fixes one bike for another child in the community, then fixes one to keep. They graduate with a safe bike, a fitted helmet, a lock and lights, along with the confidence that comes from building something with their own hands.

Volunteer Mechanics and Mentors

Our sessions are led by trained adult volunteer mechanics, with about one mentor for every five to eight young people and a part-time coordinator keeping everything on track. Every adult volunteer is background-checked through the Washington State Patrol before working with kids.

Reaching the Kids Who Need It Most

We will work with organizations that already serve Eastside families, such as Hopelink, so that bikes reach children whose families could not otherwise afford one.

Safety First

We follow a clear youth-protection policy: two adults present at every session and no one-on-one time with minors. The program carries general liability and abuse-and-molestation insurance. Every rider leaves with a properly fitted helmet and basic riding-safety know-how.

Learning From Those Who Came Before

The Bike Hub is built on a proven model. These organizations have shown that donated bikes, hands-on learning and caring mentors can put thousands of kids on bikes:

Organization	Where their bikes come from	How it works	Reach
Bicycle Rescue for Youth (South King County)	Donations from the Sheriff's office, county surplus, Rotary and churches	Free bikes, helmets and locks, distributed through food banks and schools	600+ youth since 2015
Bike Works (Seattle)	7,000–8,000 donated bikes a year	8-week Earn-A-Bike: fix one to give, one to keep	Thousands of bikes a year
Cascade Bicycle Club, Major Taylor Project	Donated bikes	After-school clubs; graduates earn a bike, helmet, lock and light	About 200 youth a year
Phoenix Bikes (Virginia)	Donated bikes	Free, 20–25 hours over 12 weeks	300–400 youth a year

Who We'll Work With

We believe the best way to serve kids well is to learn from, and work alongside, people who already do this work. We are building relationships with:

- **Bicycle Rescue for Youth**, for mentoring from an organization our size that has run this model since 2015.
- **Bike Works**, for Earn-A-Bike practices, mechanic training and donated bikes.
- **Cascade Bicycle Club's Major Taylor Project**, for youth bike-safety curriculum.
- **Hopelink**, to connect us with the families who need bikes most.

Estimated Budget

Our year-one budget is organized in three tiers. **Essential** costs are the minimum needed to run safely and send every child home with a bike, helmet, lock and lights. **Additional** costs improve quality and capacity, and volunteers and in-kind gifts can offset them. The **Buffer** is held in reserve for donation shortfalls and price changes.

Tier	Category	Item	Cost
Essential	Bikes and safety gear	Parts to refurbish 150 donated bikes (about $60 each)	$9,000
Essential	Bikes and safety gear	150 certified helmets, bought in bulk	$1,800
Essential	Bikes and safety gear	150 U-locks	$6,000
Essential	Bikes and safety gear	150 front-and-rear light sets	$3,000
Essential	Shop equipment	4 professional repair stands	$1,120
Essential	Shop equipment	2 starter tool kits	$462
Essential	Shop equipment	Shop supplies: grease, lube, cable housing, rags	$1,000
Essential	Space	Storage container for donated bikes, 12 months	$1,500
Essential	People and safety	Liability and abuse-and-molestation insurance, year one	$1,600
Essential	People and safety	Volunteer background checks (free for Washington nonprofits)	$0
Essential	People and safety	First-aid kits, gloves, eye protection	$400
		Essential subtotal	**$25,882**
Additional	People	Part-time program coordinator (10 hours a week)	$15,000
Additional	Transport	Cargo van rental for bike pickups and clinics	$2,400
Additional	Shop equipment	Specialty tools: truing stand, wheel and bearing tools, pumps	$1,500
Additional	People	Training for 2 lead volunteer mechanics	$1,000
Additional	Program	Supplies and snacks for about 30 sessions	$1,800
Additional	Program	Outreach, translation, printing, graduation celebration	$1,200
		Additional subtotal	**$22,900**
Buffer	Bikes	Purchase up to 30 used bikes if donations fall short	$3,000
Buffer	All	10% contingency	$5,178
		Buffer subtotal	**$8,178**
		Total year-one budget	**$56,960**

Figures are estimates based on current retail and nonprofit pricing.

Funding the Bike Hub

We are requesting **$20,000 from the Microsoft Community-First Grant** to fund what each child takes home: bike parts, helmets, locks and lights ($19,800). That gift is easy to see and easy to count: 150 kids, each with a safe bike, a helmet, a lock and lights.

FeelFit Foundation will fund the remaining essential costs. Our volunteers, in-kind donations and community fundraising will cover the additional tier, and the buffer stays in reserve. If full funding takes longer, we will begin with a 75-child first round and grow to 150 in the following season.

Timeline

When	What happens
November – December 2026	Partnerships, insurance, storage and volunteer mechanics in place; youth-protection policy adopted
January – February 2027	Community bike drives and donations from surplus and unclaimed-property programs
March – May 2027	Monthly neighborhood workshop days begin, with small-group repair sessions in between
June 2027	100 to 150 bikes delivered; graduation celebration and impact report

Measuring Success

Measure	Goal
Bikes delivered to King County kids	100–150
Young people completing earn-a-bike sessions	100–150
Hands-on repair hours by young people	1,500+
Volunteer mechanic and mentor hours	1,000+
Riders still riding regularly three months later (follow-up survey)	75%+

Planning for Challenges

Challenge	How we'll handle it
Too few donated bikes	Several steady sources rather than one drive, plus a buffer to buy up to 30 used bikes
Workshop and storage space	An Eastside community space for workshop days, plus a rented storage container while we seek donated space
Enough volunteer mechanics	Recruiting from FeelFit's volunteer community and training lead mechanics
Keeping kids safe	Insurance, background checks, a two-adult rule and fitted helmets for every rider

Why the Bike Hub Fits the Community-First Grant

What Microsoft looks for	How the Bike Hub delivers
A clearly defined community need	No free or earn-a-bike program serves Eastside kids, where 25% of Bellevue students are low-income and nearly 900 students across two districts are homeless
Alignment with mission and expertise	Health access regardless of ability or income is FeelFit's mission; active community events are what we do
Community impact	100 to 150 bikes, helmets, locks and lights, plus repair skills that keep bikes on the road
Benefit to underserved people	Bikes reach kids through organizations that already serve low-income families
Achievable in time and budget	A proven, donation-based model with no construction or permits; finished by June 2027
How funding launches the project	The grant buys exactly what each child takes home; without it, the Bike Hub cannot start

Join Us

Every bike in the Bike Hub starts as a gift. You can donate a bike, volunteer as a mechanic or mentor, or give to help a child ride. Learn more at **www.feelfitfoundation.org**.