



# Memorandum

**TO:** Satpal Sidhu, County Executive  
**FROM:** Charlene Ramont, Interim Director  
**RE:** Whatcom Family YMCA – Healthy Children’s Fund Innovative Services Contract  
**DATE:** **APRIL 4, 2025**

Attached is a contract between Whatcom County and Whatcom Family YMCA (YMCA) for your review and signature.

## ▪ Background and Purpose

This contract is a part of a broad learning community, which will over the course of 12 months, serve high need children and give us data for future investments that expand Kindergarten Readiness services across Whatcom County. The data gathered from this contracted is evaluated by a WWU professor, an expert in evaluation and Early Learning, and advances the Healthy Children’s Fund goals of kindergarten readiness, quality learning environments, and professional workforce, in an accessible and equitable manner.

This contract increases kindergarten readiness by providing access to music enrichment and developmental services including Speech-Language Pathologists and Occupational Therapists. These services will engage children ages 1 month through 5 years within their childcare/classroom setting on speech and motor skills. Music enrichment sessions will promote comprehensive kindergarten readiness along with clinical services, which will be used to identify and address possible developmental delays and are critical for all six metrics that define kindergarten readiness. YMCA will partner with Little Saplings Music, Bellingham Pediatric Therapy and Catalyst Therapies to provide these services to the children enrolled in its childcare programs. Providing these services in the classroom/childcare setting meets the needs of working families and provides equitable access to services. YMCA’s early learning program is economically integrated and approximately 22% of enrolled children are low-income.

Overall goals of the program are:

- To improve all children’s kindergarten readiness in six developmental areas: social-emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy, and mathematics.
- To increase the number of children with developmental delays, disabilities, or support needs who have regular engagement with speech-language pathologists and occupational therapy clinicians.
- To improve overall functional communication skills, emotional regulation skills, and social engagement of classrooms.
- To increase teachers’ understanding of early childhood or developmental milestones related to speech, language, motor skills, sensory processing, and social engagement, and how to integrate use of affirming tailored supports, as trained by clinicians, in the classroom setting to support children with varying developmental needs.



This contract is awarded as a result of RFP solicitation 24-66 and aligns with the Healthy Children's Fund Implementation Plan's Strategy Six by measurably increasing the quality and professionalism of Early Learning and Care through an innovative solution for an underserved population, specifically low-income children.

- **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this contract, in an amount not to exceed \$506,253, is the Healthy Children's Fund. These funds are included in the 2025 budget. Council authorization is required per WCC 3.08.100, as funding for this contract exceeds \$40,000.

Please contact Sarah Simpson, Children and Family Programs Supervisor at 360-410-2400 ([SSimpson@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:SSimpson@co.whatcom.wa.us)) if you have any questions.