



**Whatcom
Healthy
Children's
Fund**

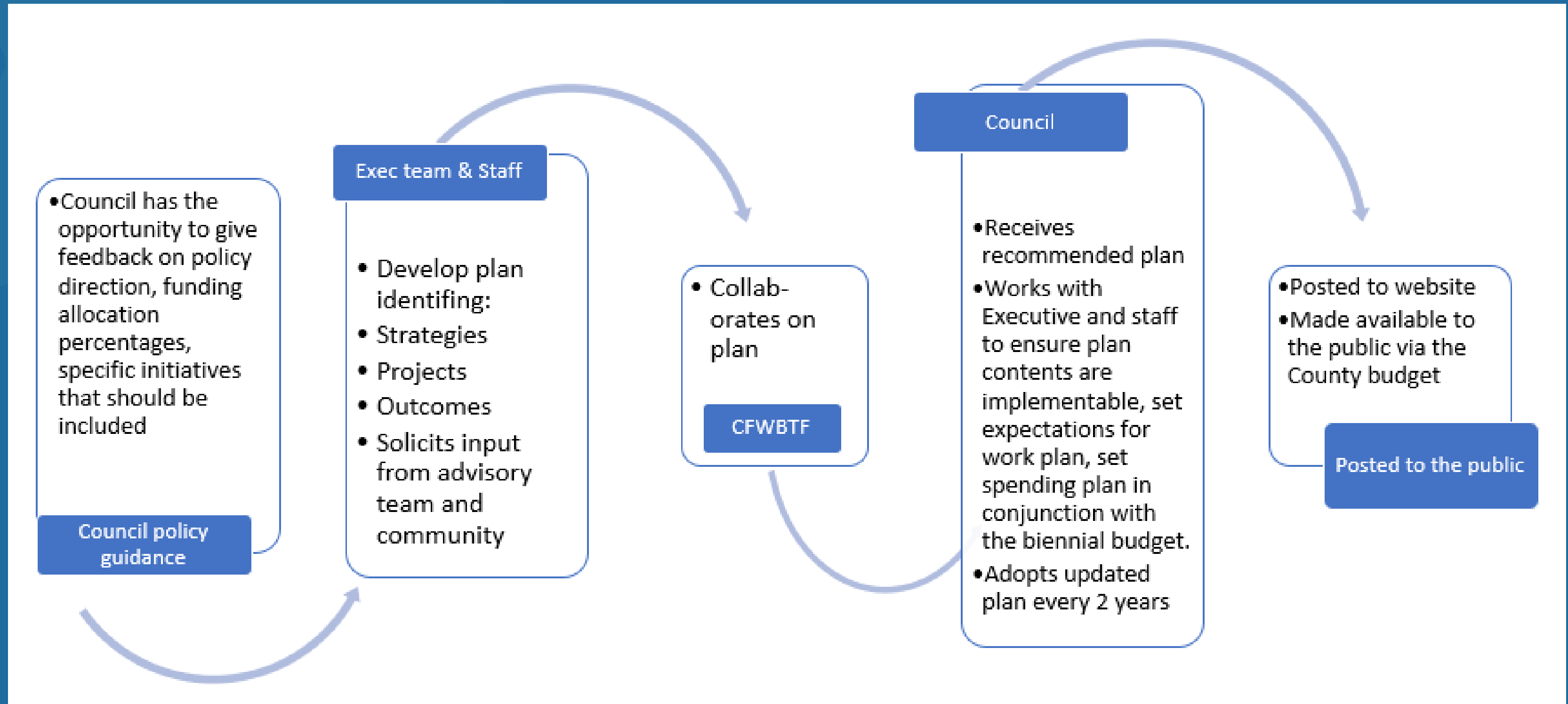
Caring today, shaping tomorrow



Agenda

- Review Implementation Planning and Feedback Processes
- Review Implementation Feedback Themes
- Present Final Implementation Plan

Implementation Plan process



Review of Ordinance Funding Allocations

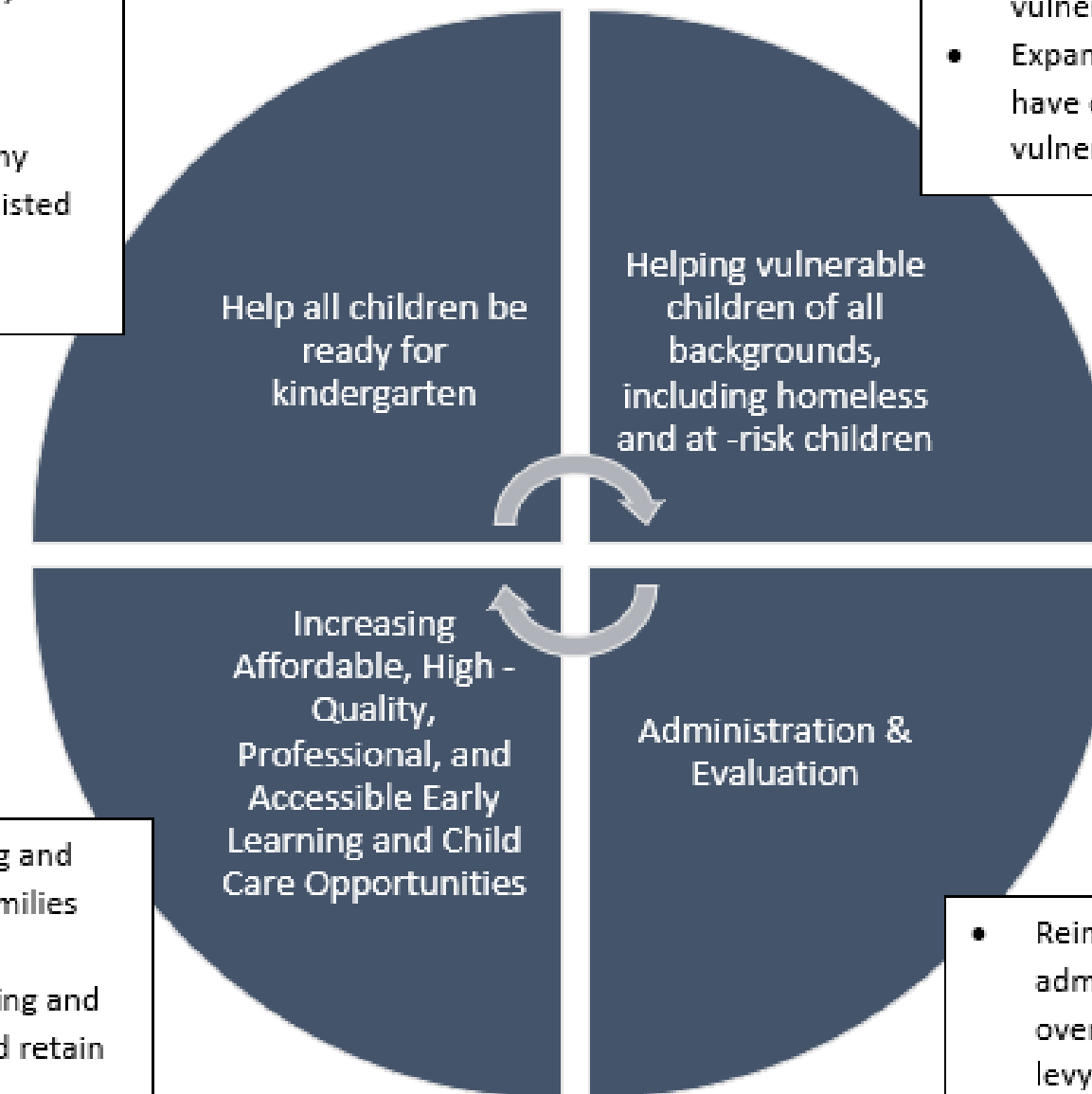
Ordinance does not specifically define actions to fulfill this goal, or specifically allocate funding.

OSPI/WaKIDS Whole-child Assessment measures: Social-emotional, Physical, Cognitive, Language, Literacy, Mathematics.

Whatcom County interpretation is any services that improve a child's skills listed above, within the early learning and childcare experience.

55-68% of funds

- Decrease the cost of early learning and child care experiences for both families and providers.
- Increase the quality of early learning and child care experiences. Attract and retain quality early childhood educators.
- Expand early learning and child care services that meet the varied needs of families and children. Geographic locations, ages of children, special needs, and a broad range of child care scheduling needs (including emergency child care opportunities) will all be considered in the development.



20-36% of funds

- Expand mental health services for vulnerable children and their families.
- Supporting interim housing services and trauma - focused system reform directed at vulnerable children and their families.
- Expand supports and services for families who have or are expecting children deemed to be vulnerable.

9% of funds, of which up to 3% for evaluation

- Reimbursements to the County for administrative costs, evaluation, and overhead shall be limited to nine percent of levy proceeds, with up to three percent used for auditing and evaluation.
- Every other year, a qualified independent auditor shall conduct a performance audit of the Healthy Children's Fund.

Comment Period

Open Comment Period: October 1st-17th 2025

The Draft Implementation Plan and community survey will be available to the public on the Whatcom County Health and Community Services website

Groups sent invitations to comment:

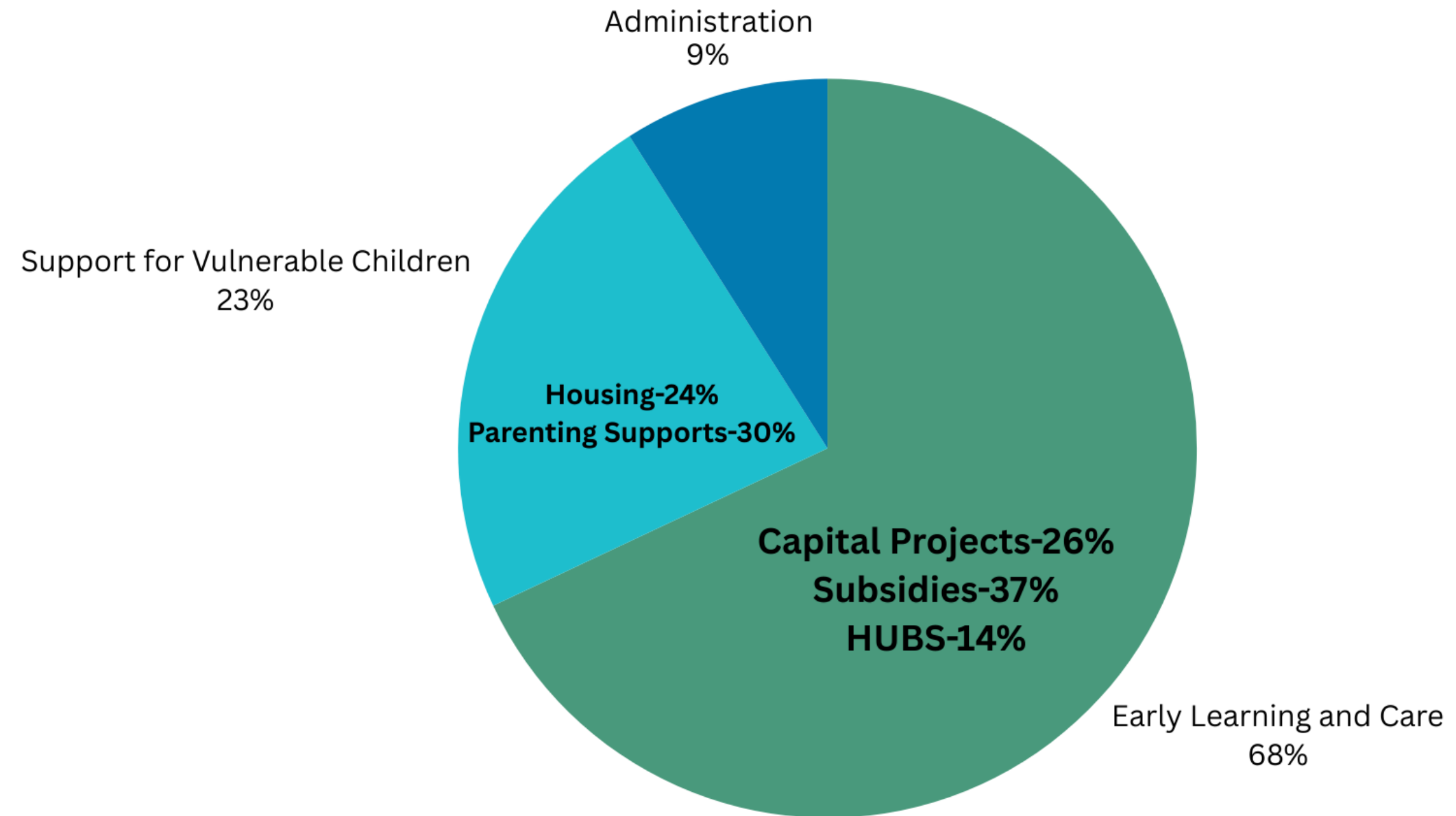
- *Healthy Whatcom*
- *Whatcom Child Care Coalition*
- *Whatcom Public Health Advisory Board*
- *Racial Equity Commission*
- *Commission on Sexual & Domestic Violence*
- *Business & Commerce Committee*
- *Whatcom Small City Mayors*
- *Local Chambers of Commerce*
- *Current Healthy Children's Fund Contractors*

DRAFT Implementation Plan Feedback Themes

- Strong Community Investment
- Measuring Success
- Inclusion
- Funding Eligibility and Expansion
- Mental Health and Family Stability
- Technical Assistance

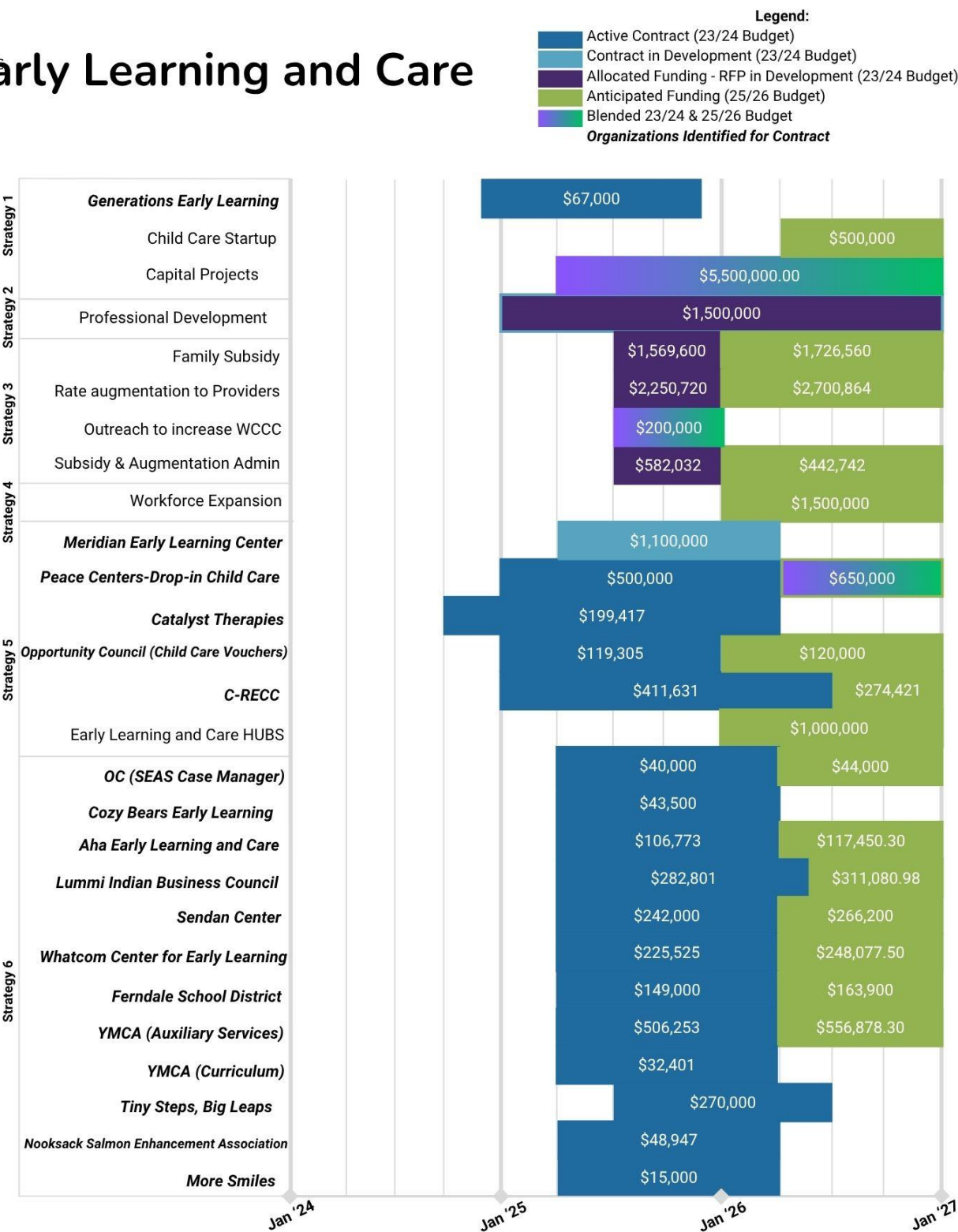
Draft 25/26 Implementation Plan

This pie chart depicts how funding allocations correspond to County Council's stated priorities in the Draft Implementation Plan.



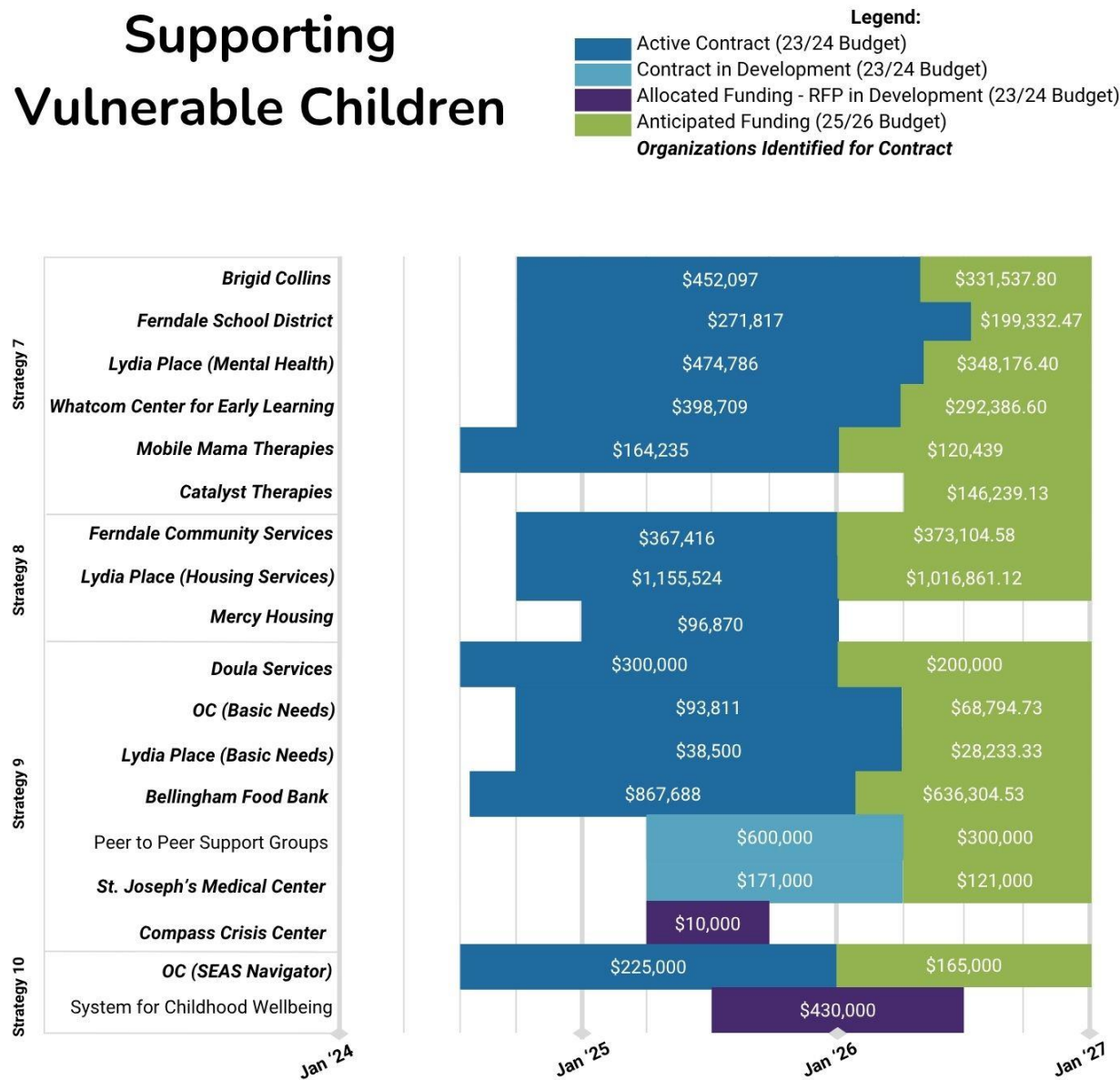
Draft 25/26 Implementation Plan

Early Learning and Care



Strategy 1 Fund small capitol projects to expand, renovate, or repurpose buildings to increase early learning & care slots.
Strategy 2 Coordinate and develop pathways to ensure a stable early learning & care workforce to deliver high-quality programs for children.
Strategy 3 Improve access to early learning & care through subsidies that reduce the cost of programs for cost burdened families.
Strategy 4 Ensure access to early learning & care by promoting the expansion and retention of early learning and care workforce.
Strategy 5 Create regional early learning & care hubs with shared administrative services, co-located early learning and other services for children and families and support for smaller providers in the County.
Strategy 6 Support innovative approaches to meet various Healthy Children's Fund goals related to early learning & care.

Supporting Vulnerable Children



Strategy 7 Recruit Mental and Behavioral Health Workforce to Whatcom County.
Strategy 8 Develop/expand resources and programs for families experiencing housing instability.
Strategy 9 Expand and enhance early parenting supports.
Strategy 10 Integrate and co-locate services via coordinated access to resources.

Food Bank & Infant Basic Needs Spending

Total: \$1,503,993

Food will be eligible on 2026 amended contract

Current Contract

- \$867,688 (18 month contract)

Imp Plan Contract Renewal Recommendation

- \$636,305 (12 month contract)

Looking Ahead

- **Councils Interest:**
 - Clearly defining “vulnerable children” in alignment with funding allocations
 - Refining and focusing strategies to drive measurable, system-level change
- **Plan for 2026:**
 - Begin co-design plan with Council and Subject Matter Experts
 - Adopt next Implementation Plan in time for 2027-2028 budget cycle
 - Involve Director Thomaskutty