



Memorandum

TO: SATPAL SIDHU, COUNTY EXECUTIVE

FROM: Allison Williams

DATE: April 24, 2024

RE: Child and Family Well-being Task Force Healthy Children's Fund Report

Child and Family Well-being Task Force co-chairs will present their first annual report to Council on the Healthy Children's Fund (HCF) on May 7, 2024. Section 5.2 of Proposition 5 The Healthy Children's Fund calls upon the Child & Family Well-Being Taskforce (Taskforce) with the support of the fund administrator to: "write and deliver an annual report to the public and the County Council. This shall include progress made towards agreed upon goals, outcomes, and metrics." The report describes the current landscape and systemic challenges to implementation of the fund and opportunities for improvement of fund administration.

- While initial HCF funding opportunities have launched, progress on broader childcare expansion strategies has been slower than anticipated.
- Staffing capacity within WCHCS and other county departments is impacting the efficiency of HCF administration.
- Streamlining internal review processes are needed to expedite the launch of additional funding opportunities.
- Legal clarity on the "Gift of Public Funds Doctrine" could remove roadblocks for certain strategies.
- Regular written reporting is needed to keep the Taskforce informed about HCF progress and upcoming initiatives.
- The Taskforce is committed to working with Whatcom County to overcome these challenges and ensure the HCF effectively addresses the critical need for affordable, quality childcare along with other community-identified supports for young children and their families.

Please call Allison Williams, WCHCS staff support to the Task Force, at (360) 319-2064 with any questions. Thank you.

