



MEMORANDUM

TO: Whatcom County Council Members

FROM: Satpal Singh Sidhu, County Executive
Tyler Schroder, Deputy Executive

DATE: August 3, 2020

SUBJECT: Whatcom ReStart – Childcare Grant Allocations (CARES Act)

Since the inception of the Governor's State of Emergency Proclamation on February 29, 2020, Whatcom County has been working hard to respond to the crisis due to the outbreak of novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Public Health and Safety measures included the Stay Home – Stay Healthy order which extended and deepened the adverse financial impact already felt by businesses in Whatcom County.

With this burgeoning crisis, the Feds adopted the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) which appropriates funding for specified uses to states and certain local governments. On June 16, 2020 the County Council adopted Ordinance 2020-035 which appropriates \$12,391,500 dollars received from the Federal CARES Act Fund. Countywide there is more than \$16,300,000 dollars from the CARES Act to support government and community services.

Thanks to countywide collaboration, the Whatcom ReStart grant program was established to deploy \$3,400,000 of CARES Act funding through business grants; with \$700,000 allocated to support the childcare industry in Whatcom County. The purpose of the program is to support licensed childcare providers impacted by COVID-19 in order to further economic recovery and support working families.

Representatives from Whatcom County, the City of Bellingham, and community partner, Opportunity Council, met regularly over the course of three months to build the application, solicit submissions, review eligibility, and offer funding recommendations. Insights into the childcare industry from Opportunity Council's Childcare Aware of NW Washington program proved invaluable throughout the process.

Applications were due August 7, 2020 via the City of Bellingham on-line Share Point system, and divided into two categories; 1) licensed childcare providers with 50 or more spots; and 2) licensed childcare providers with fewer than 50 spots. The Opportunity Council staff, including those serving as childcare provider coaches, brought their

extensive knowledge to the review of 18 applications for providers with fewer than 50 licensed spots. A review team of community members knowledgeable about, but not employed by, the childcare industry to review the applications submitted by eight licensed providers with 50 or more spots; team members included those representing the Whatcom County Health Department, United Way, and Mt. Baker Foundation.

Applicants were awarded points in three categories; 1) social/demographic factors, ; 2) enrollment data; and 3) financial information. This included but was not limited to considerations of vulnerable populations served, toddler and infant care, and participation in state and federal subsidy programming to enable more inclusion of low-income households.

To distribute the funding in the most efficient and equitable manner, the County and City of Bellingham collaborated on contract development. Childcare providers recommended for funding are included on the attached funding list. The Executive Office is preparing contracts for those entities identified in the County/Small Cities column. You'll find two County funding recommendations exceed \$40,000.

MORE Smiles Learning Center	\$50,000
Whatcom Family YMCA	\$295,221

Both of these contracts are on today's agenda for Council review and approval.

We are seeking a motion of support from the Whatcom County Council in acknowledgement and support of distributing these CARES Act dollars to our very valuable childcare businesses as recommended by the countywide Childcare review team comprised of representatives from Whatcom County, City of Bellingham, Opportunity Council, Health Department, United Way, and Mt. Baker Foundation.

**WHATCOM COUNTY
EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE**
County Courthouse
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Satpal Sidhu
County Executive

Provider	Location	Funding: County /Small Cities	Funding: City of Bellingham
Licensed Providers w/ # spots < 50			
MORE Smiles Learning Center	Blaine	\$50,000	
Lil Sprouts	Blaine	\$5,044	
The Growing Tree	Blaine	\$15,000	
Little Angels Daycare Preschool	Ferndale	\$10,000	
Gardenview Montessori School	Bellingham	\$6,000	
Happy Hearts Child Care	Multiple Sites	\$12,000	
Hunter's Childcare	Bellingham		\$12,000
Pauli's Playschool Childcare	Bellingham		\$9,166
James Place Child Development	Bellingham		\$10,000
Olive Diaz Childcare	Ferndale	\$10,000	
Little Britches Family Childcare	Bellingham		\$16,000
Little Star Child Care	Bellingham		\$15,000
Shooting Stars Home Child	Bellingham		\$2,000
Nature's Little Helpers	Bellingham		\$9,885
Leah's Place Childcare	Ferndale	\$3,000	
TLC Daycare	Ferndale	\$10,000	
Blue Heron Montessori Child Care	Bellingham	\$15,000	
Bell Creek Outdoor Learning Center	Deming	\$8,000	
Licensed Providers w/ # spots >= 50			
B'ham Childcare & Learning Center	Bellingham		\$25,000
Semiahmoo Kids Kamp	Blaine	\$25,000	
St Francis / Generations Childcare	Bellingham		\$50,000
Kids Korner	Bellingham		\$12,000
Whatcom Family YMCA	Multiple Sites	\$295,221	
The Firs Bible After School Adventure	Bellingham UGA	\$15,000	
Western AS Child Dev Center M	Bellingham		\$15,000
Gabriel's Ark Kids	Bellingham	\$71,000	
Total		\$479,265	\$191,051

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\$71,000