



Early Childhood Flood Recovery Assistance Program (DRAFT)

1. Current scope of needs for program
 - a. The Whatcom Long Term Recovery Group is working through a formal client intake process. We have received over 750 requests for support in recovering from recent flooding in Whatcom County. We have 423 households through the client intake process as of December 26, 2025.
 - b. Of those 423 households, 68 (16%) have children ages 0-5 years old, totalling 112 children. There are 204 children ages 0-18 in those same households. Currently 40% of households are Hispanic/Spanish speaking.
 - c. If the current rate of households with children ages 0-5 years old is maintained throughout the intake process, approximately $750 \times 16\% = 120$ households will potentially have children ages 0-5 years old that were impacted from recent flooding.
2. Program Purpose & Target Population
 - a. Purpose: To provide short-term, flexible financial assistance to families with children ages 0–5 who are recovering from flood-related impacts, supporting safety, stability, and security for early childhood well-being during the immediate recovery phase.
 - b. Target Population: WLTRG clients who have at least one child aged 0–5 years residing in the household, families experiencing unmet needs related to housing, safety, basic necessities, or child-specific recovery needs.
3. Assistance Structure & Amount per Family
 - a. Type of Assistance: Direct financial assistance and/or vendor payments for flood-related recovery needs, including but not limited to:
 - i. Temporary housing stabilization
 - ii. Child-related necessities (cribs, car seats, clothing, diapers, formula)
 - iii. Cleaning, mold mitigation, and safety supplies
 - iv. Utility assistance or replacement of essential household items
 - v. Transportation related to recovery or childcare access
 - b. Amount per Family:



- i. Maximum assistance per household: \$6,000 per family over 3 months
 - ii. Final assistance amounts determined through case review based on documented need, family size, and availability of funds
 - c. Assistance may be provided as:
 - i. Direct payment to vendors
 - ii. Reimbursement of qualified expenses paid since date of flooding
 - iii. Direct cash assistance
- 4. WLTRG Capacity to Receive & Distribute Funds
 - a. Organizational Capacity: WLTRG affirms the ability to:
 - i. Receive governmental funding through its established fiscal and banking systems
 - ii. Administer funds in compliance with governmental reporting, documentation, and audit requirements
 - iii. Maintain fund accounting and accurate financial tracking
 - b. Administrative Oversight:
 - i. Funds will be managed by the WLTRG Treasurer/Fiscal Agent
 - ii. All disbursements require documented disaster case management, evaluation of met criteria and dual approval by DCM Lead and Treasurer
 - iii. Records retained in accordance with funder and regulatory requirements
 - c. Coordination:
 - i. Program administered in coordination with WLTRG disaster case management
 - ii. Avoids duplication of benefits (e.g., FEMA, insurance, other disaster assistance)
- 5. Expected Needs in the Next 30 Days
 - a. Immediate Needs Anticipated:
 - i. Emergency household stabilization for families displaced or living in unsafe conditions
 - ii. Replacement of child-specific items lost or damaged by flooding
 - iii. Mold remediation and environmental safety supports
 - iv. Transportation and childcare-related expenses impacting parental employment and recovery



- b. Projected Demand:
 - i. Estimated number of households to be served in first 30 days: 120 families
 - ii. Average assistance per family: \$6,000 over 3 months (estimated)
 - iii. Total estimated 30-day funding need: \$240,000
- 6. Governance and accountability
 - a. Program updates will be provided regularly, including:
 - i. Number of families served
 - ii. Funds distributed
 - iii. Types of needs addressed
 - iv. Identified gaps or emerging needs
 - b. Reporting Schedule:
 - i. Monthly written reports
 - ii. Financial reconciliation and outcome reporting
 - iii. Participation in program review or monitoring meetings
 - c. Program Outcomes:
 - i. Improved safety and stability for families with young children
 - ii. Reduced recovery-related stress for caregivers
 - iii. Faster stabilization of households during early recovery
 - iv. Strengthened coordination between government, nonprofit, and community partners
 - d. Program Duration
 - i. Initial implementation period: 90 days, with potential extension based on demonstrated need and funding availability
 - e. Optional Add-Ons (If the Council is receptive)
 - i. Referral to early childhood services (Head Start, childcare subsidies, developmental screenings)
 - ii. Disaster Case Management follow-up at 60–90 days
 - iii. Data analysis to support future disaster planning for families with young children