



Memorandum

TO: SATPAL SIDHU, COUNTY EXECUTIVE

FROM: Ann Beck, Community Health and Human Services Manager

DATE: 10.10.24

RE: FUNDING LANDSCAPE FOR ARPA AND HCF SPENDING IN WHATCOM COUNTY

Whatcom County Council has dedicated one-third of the County's ARPA funding to increase access to quality childcare. Healthy Children's Fund (HCF) is now also available for both increasing access to childcare and supporting vulnerable children through community programs. With both of these funding sources able to support similar projects, staff would like to share what has been funded through executed contracts, what is currently in contract development, and what is planned for future projects. Health and Community Services (HCS) staff will provide a detailed description of projects funded through ARPA and the HCF projections through 2026 during this presentation.

ARPA funds have primarily supported capital projects that expand physical spaces for child care sites. Over the course of two RFP's, a variety of projects have been funded through ARPA funds to provide capital that increases childcare slots across Whatcom County. The Imagine Institute staff will join HCS staff to discuss the in-home child care expansion project, funded through ARPA.

HCF has been planning, preparing and funding providers to fill those spaces with accessible, affordable and quality care. HCF increased resources and programs for families who are disproportionately experiencing housing instability, bolstered our mental and behavioral health workforce and services for the 0-5 and caregiver populations, expanded and enhanced early parenting supports and provided resources to integrate and co-locate services via a coordinated access to resource navigation. Each of these projects is consistent with one of the ten priorities approved by Council in the two-year implementation plan.

With the ongoing efforts across multiple funding sources, this briefing will review what Whatcom County has funded and what we are planning to fund in the future.

Please call Ann Beck at 360-778-6055 if there are any questions. Thank you.