



Memorandum

TO: SATPAL SIDHU, COUNTY EXECUTIVE

FROM: Ann Beck, Community Health & Human Services Manager

RE: County Council Approval of 2025-2026 Healthy Children's Fund Implementation Plan

DATE: NOVEMBER 7, 2025

Purpose:

The *2025–2026 Healthy Children's Fund (HCF) Implementation Plan* builds upon the foundation of the 2023–2024 plan, maintaining focus on improving outcomes for children and families across Whatcom County. This next phase emphasizes continuity, accountability, and measurable impact, while ensuring stability for existing programs and strategic enhancement of early learning and family support systems.

Key Priorities for 2025–2026

1. **Expanding Early Learning and Care**
 - o Continue and extend funding for successful early learning and child care programs.
 - o Increase access through expanded family subsidies, provider rate augmentation, and capital investments in facilities.
 - o Strengthen the early learning workforce through professional development and credentialing opportunities.
2. **Supporting Vulnerable Children**
 - o Sustain and enhance funding for mental and behavioral health, housing stability, and parent support services.
 - o Expand access to early parenting and infant basic needs programs in partnership with local agencies and food banks.
3. **Strengthening Administration and Accountability**
 - o Launch public dashboards and annual reports to enhance transparency and track progress toward “metrics for success.”

Evaluation and Accountability

The County will continue to employ a rigorous evaluation framework, including internal performance measures and the required independent audit. Progress will be shared publicly through reports and dashboards, reinforcing transparency and data-driven decision-making.



Community Engagement

Extensive outreach and feedback were incorporated into this draft through surveys and engagement with key community partners, including child care providers, local organizations, County Council and advisory boards. The resulting plan reflects community priorities and strengthens partnerships for lasting impact.

Request for Council Action

Whatcom County Health and Community Services staff are asking for Council review and vote in support of adopting the *2025–2026 Healthy Children’s Fund Implementation Plan*. Adoption of this plan will enable continuation of vital services for children and families, ensure effective stewardship of public funds, and position Whatcom County to build upon the measurable progress made since 2023.