



Whatcom Healthy Children's Fund

Caring today, shaping tomorrow



Subsidy Program

Strategy: Improve access to early learning & care through subsidies that reduce the cost of programs for children from families which are cost-burdened.

- **February 1** – HCS completes draft RFP, sends to legal and finance for review
- **February 25** – Legal and finance provide comments/questions and requests for changes. Review time is still unpredictable.
- **February 25 – March 7** – HCS works with legal and finance to resolve issues, finalize RFP
- **March 8 (must be a Wednesday)** – HCS submits RFP draft for notice and posting
- **April 8** – finance posts RFP
- **May 2** – RFP Q/A period ends
- **May 13 (must be a Tuesday)** – RFP closes
- **May 14 – 30** – Selection committee reviews proposals, meets to decide who to interview
- **June 1-15** – Selection committee reviews finalists; selects contractor
- **June 20** – Award letter sent
- **June 20 – July 20** - Contract development and negotiations; legal and finance review
- **July 25 agenda deadline** – HCS transmits contract to Council
- **August 6** – Council approves contract
- **August 7** – Contract start date



Implementation Team

The Implementation Team is a group of parents, providers, Child and Family Well Being Task Force members and experts in supporting vulnerable children and early learning and care services.

- **Meet every two weeks for two hours**
- **Current Project:** Develop 2025-2026 Implementation Plan
- **Meeting Themes:** Early Learning and Care and Child Abuse Data Deep Dives, Strategy evaluation, adaptation, forecasting and refining goals.
- **What's to come:** Refining recommended strategies, community feedback and editing.



RAPID Survey

The RAPID survey collects actionable, timely and relevant community-level data on the experiences, needs, use of programs and resources and well-being of adults in the lives of young children. The goal is to amplify parent voices locally, complement existing data collection, and build local capacity to transform data and caregiver voices to action.

Grant: August 2024-August 2026

Quarterly Surveys, focus on HCF key components: Child Care, Housing, Mental and Behavioral Health and Parenting Supports

Latest Survey: Opened on November 19th 2024 and Closed on December 9th, 2024.

- 353 Surveys Completed
- Respondents from all cities in our county



RAPID Survey

Example Questions :

1. In the past month, which of the following types of child care do you use for your child(ren) under the age of 6 years for at least 5 hours per week? *Select all that apply.*

- Any type of paid or unpaid center-based care, such as a pre-school, day care center, public pre-kindergarten, Head Start, or faith-based nursery school. Please do not include kindergarten.
 - Unpaid care by a relative, friend or neighbor for any child under the age of 6 years.
 - Paid care by a relative, friend or neighbor for any child under the age of 6 years.
 - Paid care from a home-based child care provider. Please include home-based care where the provider is paid to care for your child even if you are not making the payment.
- ☐ Not applicable, I do not use child care

2. Did you have any difficulty maintaining your subsidy (paperwork delays, recertification rules, etc.)?

3. What is helping you and your family the most right now?

Contracts

C-RECC: Early Learning and Care Expansion:

- Employer Supported Child Care Partnership
- Recruitment and Expansion of Licensed Child Care Providers
 - Up to 320 new slots with 35% reserved for Working Connections Child Care Subsidy recipients

Drop-In Care Child Care Program:

- Build a local Child Care Drop-In program for providers and families
 - Includes an online database of available slots and registration
- Priority for Foster Care and low-income families (below 85% SMI), private pay families access remaining slots



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