



Whatcom Healthy Children's Fund

Report to the Child and Family Well Being Task Force on the Healthy Children's Fund Implementation

Meeting Date: 6.24.24 **Updated Report 7/1**

Healthy Children's Fund Narrative:

Whatcom County Health and Community Services (WCHCS) Child Care Program Specialist Chelsea Johnson, partnered with Meredith Hayes Childcare Coalition Coordinator and applied for a Systems Mapping Grant with Start Early. Our team is a finalist for this grant and interviewed earlier this month. We will learn the status of our proposal by August 2024. <https://www.startearly.org/>

Fully funded through the Healthy Children's Fund Mobile Mama Therapy's Contract for Perinatal workforce expansion and the partially Healthy Children's Fund Contract for SEAS (Single Entry Access to Services) was approved Tuesday June 18th, 2024 by County Council.

Special Projects manager for the Human Services and Community Health division is actively working on a contract for St. Francis/Generations pre-school to turn on of their empty rooms into an infant room, increasing much needed capacity.

Allison Williams is leading a team of Whatcom County Health and Community Services staff and community partners through the review process of over \$2 million worth of applications received for the HCF Behavioral and Mental Health Expansion RFP that closed on June 11th, 2024.

Allyson Halverson is heading a team Whatcom County Health and Community Services staff and community partners through the review process of over \$1 million worth of applications received for the HCF Basic Needs RFP that closed on May 21st, 2024.

HCF Sub-Committee Update:

The Healthy Children's Fund Sub-Committee of the Child and Family Well Being Task Force met on June 17th, 2024 from 4-5pm. In attendance was: Ray Deck III, Ann Granberg, Chelsea Johnson, Colton Kaltenfeldt, Jamie Desmul, Pamela Jons, Tilda Doughty, Vesla Tonnessen, Christina Jackson, Katherine Orłowski, Allison Williams, Allyson Halverson and Sarah Simpson.

The group reviewed the current RFP template and process being used by the Healthy Children's Fund leads. Some of the feedback provided is below:

- Sending due-date reminders 1-week out
- Having an electronic option for submission
- TA support for providers before application and after award
- Developing a public facing decision tree related to choosing fund mechanisms (MRSC, sole-source, RFP)
- Potentially attaching a sample contract to RFP applications
- Providing the logic model used to develop the RFP in the application

Next steps for this group are to talk thru and review:

- Sample decision tree created by HCF Team
- New RFP template draft based on feedback

Staffing Updates:

We are excited to have had Allyson Halverson start in her new role as the Program Specialist for the Healthy Children's Fund on June 10th, 2024. Please enjoy reading more about her below, we are super lucky to have her on the team and hope you get a chance to work with her soon!

Allyson Halverson, BS, CCLS, CTP joins this work as a seasoned human services professional with a background in child welfare, child abuse prevention, and pediatric healthcare. Allyson began her career as a full-time Certified Child Life Specialist and Certified Trauma Practitioner and has trained or worked in some of the most prestigious children's hospitals across the East Coast including D.C. Children's Medical Center, Inova Children's Medical Center, Johns Hopkins Children's Hospital, University of Maryland Children's Hospital and The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Allyson spent the majority of her first career working in pediatric Emergency Departments, where she saw firsthand the profound prevalence of child abuse and neglect in communities. In 2017, Allyson was the youngest person in her cohort to receive the 40 under 40 award in Loudoun County for her work developing and launching the first "Sensory-Friendly" Pediatric Emergency Room in the mid-Atlantic region to better meet the needs of children with Autism and Sensory Processing Disorders.

In 2018, Allyson transitioned into non-profit leadership and began working for a mid-sized child abuse prevention non-profit based out of Northern Virginia. Within this role, Allyson built and led Trauma-Informed Community Networks in Loudoun and Prince William Counties and coordinated community driven initiatives aimed to reduce and prevent trauma across various systems in the community through education, training and implementing systemic changes.

Allyson came to Bellingham in July 2022 where she had the opportunity to provide stability and support, and launch several new programs for Opportunity Council as their Community Programs Coordinator. Allyson oversaw the expansion of the Kinship program and Whatcom Resource Information Collaborative, and launched new programming including Care Coordination and Basic Needs Outreach. Before leaving Opportunity Council, Allyson was honored by Chardi Kala Project and One Whatcom for her work to connect Opportunity Council services with the Punjabi speaking community in Whatcom County. Within every role Allyson occupies, she injects her deep values of community collaboration and equitable access to resources, with a focus on supporting vulnerable children and families.

Evaluation Updates:

Village Reach contractors Erin and Jenny sent the Evaluation Advisory Group members the second draft of the Evaluation Plan on Friday June 21st, 2024. They are looking for broad comments and suggestions. EAG members were asked to return edits by Thursday, June 27th, 2024.

Vesla Tonnessen and Sarah Simpson participated in an interview with the RAPID survey team. Whatcom County Health and Community Services is a finalist for the RAPID survey project. The team will be informed if they are a successful applicant in July 2024.

<https://rapidsurveyproject.com/>

Outreach & Communication Updates:

Whatcom County Health and Community Services staff Sarah Simpson and Chelsea Johnson, Child Care Consultant Casey Osborn-Hinmann and Child Care Coalition Coordinator Meredith Hayes are determining a set of questions to ask parents and caregivers to continue honing in on the Healthy Children's Fund Subsidy Program. This survey will be administered electronically, in-person at current child care facilities who are interested in partnering to shape this important program and family focused events in Whatcom County over the summer and early fall.

The Communications solicitation for a variety of HCF Comms support, including finalizing the communication and outreach plan has closed. We have 7 applications to evaluate.

In an effort to advance equity and ensure all families are welcomed into the Healthy Children's Fund conversation, the team is purchasing interpretation headsets to be used at events and convenings in the future.

Budget:

Please note that outstanding billing for personnel, contracts, registrations, reimbursements, and other services and supplies is not considered below

2023 Collected Fund Total: \$9,881,012

Anticipated 2024 Collected Fund Total: \$9,973,953

Early Learning and Care: Increasing affordable, high-quality, professional, and accessible early learning and child care opportunities.	
Current Spending Authority/Budgeted 2024	\$3,000,000
Awarded	\$0
In Contract Development	\$179,000.00
Executed Contracts	\$0

RFP's in Development	\$1,500,000
Open Fund Solicitation	\$500,000
Goal % of Fund	64%

Support for Vulnerable Children: Helping vulnerable children of all backgrounds, including homeless and at-risk children.	
Current Spending Authority/Budgeted 2024	\$3,000,000
Awarded	\$691,847
In Contract Development	\$2,043,100
Executed Contracts	\$170,925
Open Fund Solicitation	\$2,000,000
Goal % of Fund	27%

Administrative: staffing/evaluation/supplies/technology/contractors	
Budgeted/Planned	\$886,000.00
Spent (includes all spending)	\$76,000.00
Contracts Executed	\$64,989
Open Solicitations	\$39,000
% of Fund	9%

Funding Solicitation Status:

no funding mechanisms are included below if the contract has been approved

We have bi-weekly meetings with finance and legal to sort out questions and concerns as we build out solicitations

Early Learning and Care: Increasing affordable, high-quality, professional, and accessible early learning and child care opportunities.							
Name/Description	Strategy from Implementation plan	Drafting/ Research	Final Legal Review	Final Finance Review	Published	Selection Process	Awarded/Contracting
Drop-In Care	#6 Innovative ELC Approaches				5/22/24		
Innovation Fund	#6 Innovative ELC Approaches			6/17/24			

Professional Development Network	#2 Pathways to Stable ELC Workforce						2/14/24
ELC Subsidies/Rate Augmentation	#3 ELC Subsidies	1/4/24					
HUB Planning	#5 Create Regional ELC HUBS	5/14/24					

Support for Vulnerable Families: Helping vulnerable children of all backgrounds, including homeless and at-risk children.

Name/Description	Strategy from Implementation plan	Drafting	Finance Review	Legal Review	Published	Selection Process	Awarded/Contracting
Doula Services	#9 Expand and Enhance Early Parenting Supports						5/24/24
Housing	#8 Resources and Programs for Families Who Disproportionately Experience Housing Instability						4/23/24
Behavioral Mental Health	#7 Recruit Mental and Behavioral Workforce					6/11/24	
Basic Needs	#9 Expand and Enhance Early Parenting Supports					5/21/24	

