



Whatcom Healthy Children's Fund



Whatcom
County Council

Erika Lautenbach, Director
Amy Rydel, Health Planning
Specialist

February 21, 2023



Healthy Children's Fund



Ordinance 2022-045:

Established a dedicated fund to support young children and their families

Healthy Children's Fund



- **Annual for ten years, starting in 2023**
- **\$9.976 million expected in 2023** (may vary year-to-year)
- **Implementation Plan must be approved by County Council and submitted to County Executive by March 31, 2023**

The Healthy Children's Fund is an effort to transform our community by providing critical, new resources for children and families.



Vision



Early Learning & Care

- Reduce or eliminate waiting lists for early learning & care and support services.
- Early learning & care is affordable and families have high-quality options.
- An easy-to-use, comprehensive early learning & care network with regional hubs known for excellence and a thriving, professionalized workforce.

Support for Vulnerable Children

- Families can access services and care at the time it is needed.
- Resources are available to support parents in pregnancy, newborns, and new parents/caregivers.
- Support for children and families at risk of or experiencing homelessness and more safe housing options.

Vision



Equity

- Decreased disparities by race, income, and geography in access to high-quality early learning & care and support services.
- Rural communities are better served and have access to more resources.
- Services are culturally appropriate for children and families.

Systemic

- County processes are efficient and easy to navigate for staff and partners.
- An organized, easy-to-use system for accessing resources where community partners work together, in tandem, for families.
- The fund serves as a model for government and partner accountability and transparency.

Metrics & Evaluation



Goals

- Strategic Learning
- Accountability

Approach

- Evaluate the effects of the HCF to produce the best results, and ensure the most effective use of public funds.
- Adhere to the highest professional standards of the evaluation and scientific fields.
- Communicate data and results clearly, with respect, integrity, accessibility, and opportunity for community reflection.

Community Engagement



Who were the Implementation Planning Team members?

- Representatives from WCHD, the Executive's Office, and community groups

What Advisory Groups shared feedback?

- Child & Family Well-being Task Force
- Healthy Whatcom
- Whatcom Child Care Coalition
- Ordinance writing group
- Business and Commerce Committee
- Public Health Advisory Board
- County Council

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Implementation Plan Overview

- Introduction, Background & Vision
- Accountability, Roles & Process
- Spending Plan
- Funding Mechanisms
- Opportunities to Leverage Other Funding
- Communications & Community Engagement
- Metrics & Evaluation
- Conclusion
- Appendices & References



Funding Goals



- Demonstrate measurable outcomes showing progress towards desired results
- Center community
- Provide opportunity for innovation
- Adhere to Whatcom County Purchasing Policy
- Provide technical assistance to applicants as needed



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Table 5. Expected Revenue Allocation for Years 1-2: 2023-2024

	Ordinance Allocation Requirements	Years 1 & 2 Estimated	
		\$	%
Administration (including up to 3% Evaluation)	9%	\$1,795,688	9%
Priority Areas	91%	\$18,156,400	91%
Early Learning & Care	55-68%	\$12,800,000	64%
Supporting Vulnerable Children	20-36%	\$5,356,400	27%
Total	100%	\$19,952,088	100%

Early Learning & Care Strategies

- Provide funds for small capital projects to expand, renovate, or repurpose buildings to increase early learning & care slots in a mixed-delivery system.
- Coordinate current and develop additional pathways to ensure a stable early learning & care workforce to deliver high-quality programs for children.
- Improve access to early learning & care through subsidies that reduce the cost of programs for children from families which are cost-burdened.
- Ensure access to early learning and care by promoting the expansion and retention of the early learning & care workforce.
- Create regional early learning & care hubs that include shared administrative services, colocated early learning and other services for children and families, and support for smaller providers in the County (i.e. the “hub and spoke model”).
- Support innovative approaches to meet various Healthy Children’s Fund goals related to Early Learning & Care.

Supporting Vulnerable Children

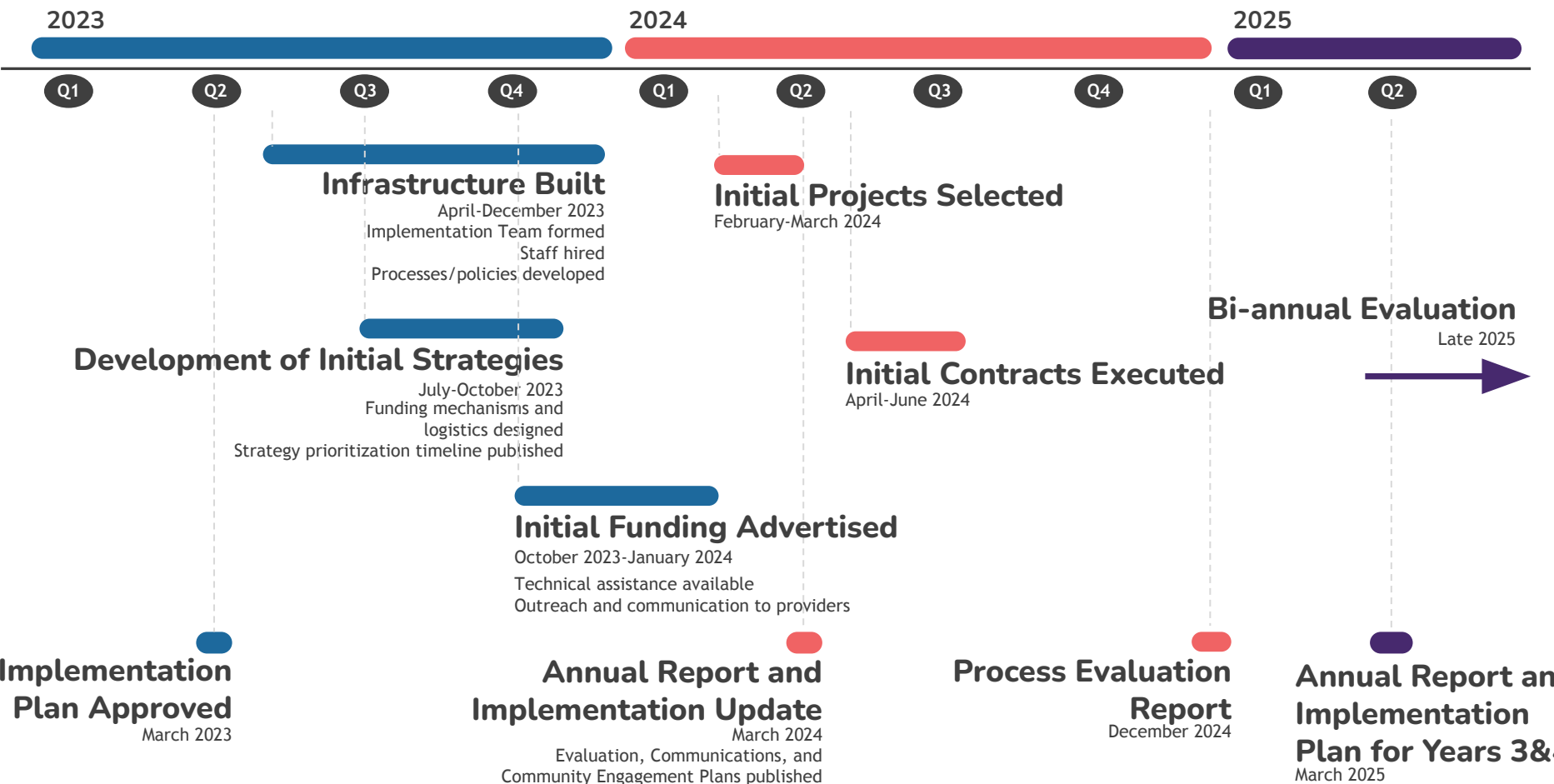
- Recruit Mental & Behavioral Health Workforce to Whatcom County.
- Develop and/or expand resources and programs for families who disproportionately experience housing instability.
- Expand and enhance early parenting supports.
- Integrate and co-locate services via coordinated access to resource navigation using the Help Me Grow model.

Administration



- 9% of the fund over the life of the levy
- High upfront and frontloading costs for evaluation, audits, other professional contracts
- Low initial cost for staff due to current ARPA-funded positions
- Adds Evaluation/Assessment Specialist and Associate Contract Coordinator

Healthy Children's Fund: Expected Timeline*



Implementation Plan



Key Considerations

- Start-up and launch will require time, which will impact Implementation and Evaluation timing
- Outstanding questions, particularly regarding contracts and funding mechanisms, are still in process

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Package for Council consideration:

- Resolution accepting the implementation plan (with plan following as Exhibit A)
- Three supplemental budget requests:
 - admin budget
 - vulnerable children
 - early learning and care

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Council Process:

- 2/21: Briefing on implementation plan/program components in COW, resolution/plan introduction
- 3/7: Briefing on supplemental budget requests and discussion of questions on program/implementation plan in COW, public hearing, supplemental budget request introduction
- 3/21: Discussion and decisions on amendment matrix in COW, passage of amended resolution and supplemental budget requests
- 3/31: Transmittal to County Executive