



**Whatcom
Healthy
Children's
Fund**

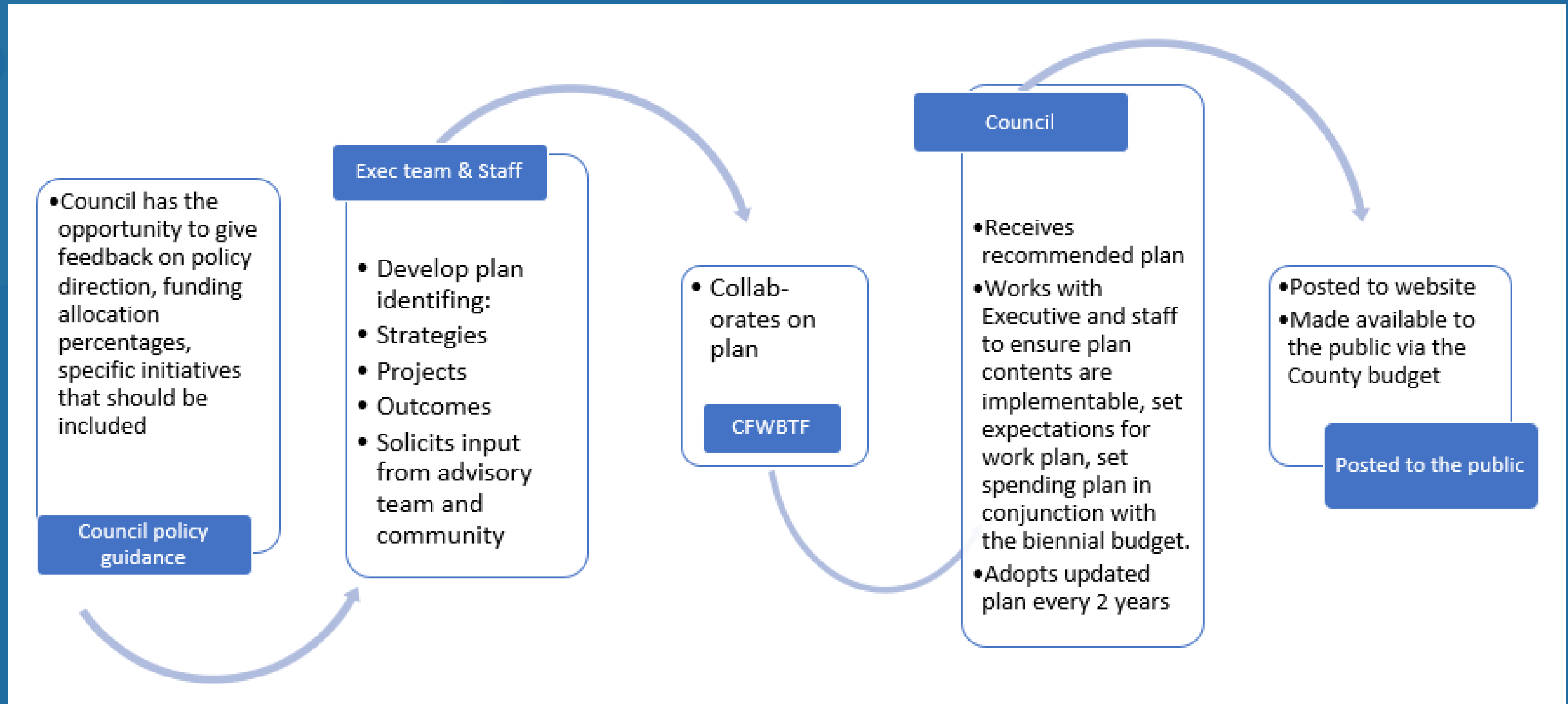
Caring today, shaping tomorrow



Agenda

- Review Implementation Planning and Feedback Processes
- Review Implementation Feedback Themes
- Present Final Implementation Plan

Implementation Plan process



Review of Ordinance Funding Allocations

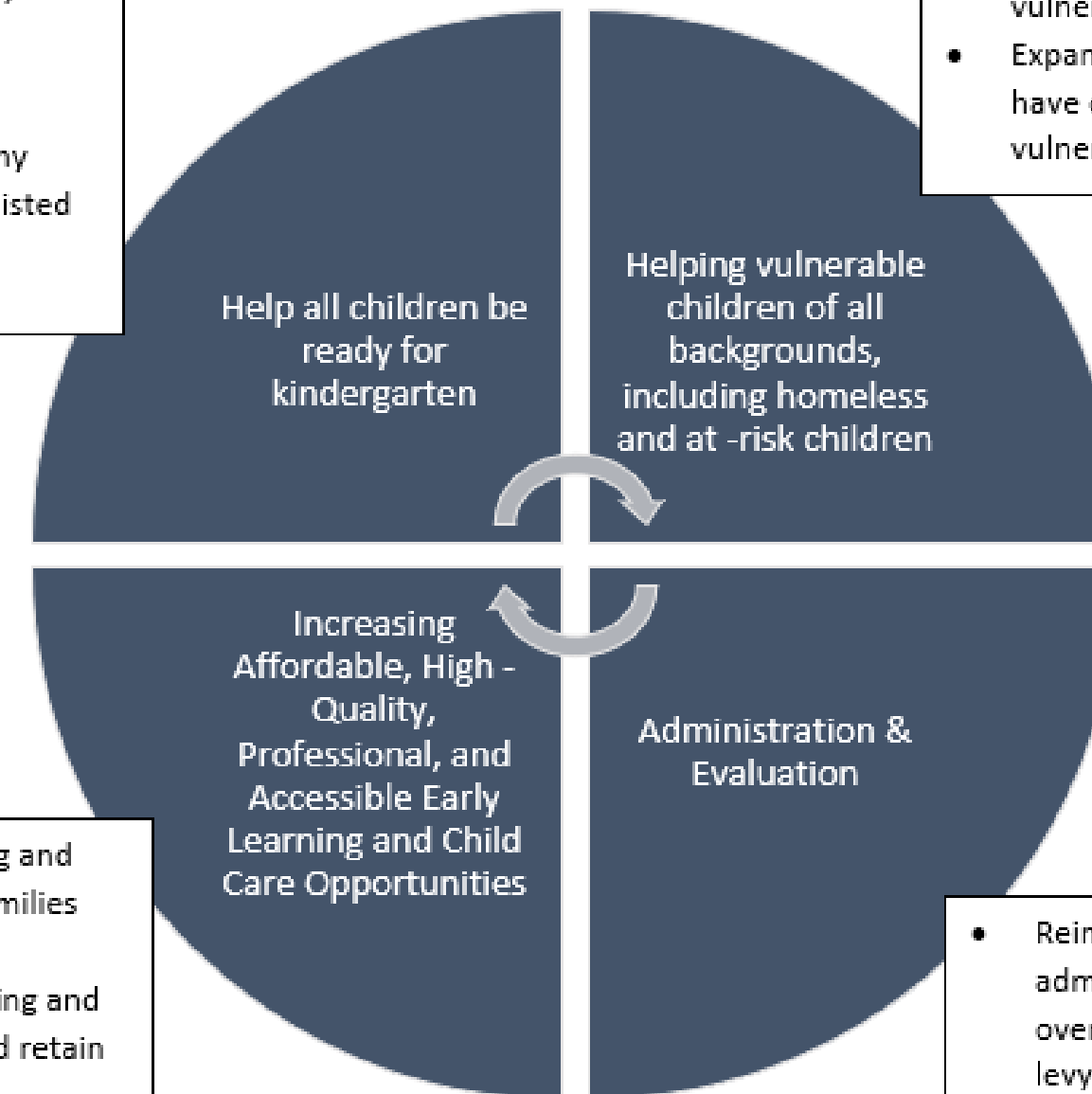
Ordinance does not specifically define actions to fulfill this goal, or specifically allocate funding.

OSPI/WaKIDS Whole-child Assessment measures: Social-emotional, Physical, Cognitive, Language, Literacy, Mathematics.

Whatcom County interpretation is any services that improve a child's skills listed above, within the early learning and childcare experience.

55-68% of funds

- Decrease the cost of early learning and child care experiences for both families and providers.
- Increase the quality of early learning and child care experiences. Attract and retain quality early childhood educators.
- Expand early learning and child care services that meet the varied needs of families and children. Geographic locations, ages of children, special needs, and a broad range of child care scheduling needs (including emergency child care opportunities) will all be considered in the development.



20-36% of funds

- Expand mental health services for vulnerable children and their families.
- Supporting interim housing services and trauma - focused system reform directed at vulnerable children and their families.
- Expand supports and services for families who have or are expecting children deemed to be vulnerable.

9% of funds, of which up to 3% for evaluation

- Reimbursements to the County for administrative costs, evaluation, and overhead shall be limited to nine percent of levy proceeds, with up to three percent used for auditing and evaluation.
- Every other year, a qualified independent auditor shall conduct a performance audit of the Healthy Children's Fund.

Comment Period

Open Comment Period: October 1st-17th 2025

The Draft Implementation Plan and community survey will be available to the public on the Whatcom County Health and Community Services website

Groups sent invitations to comment:

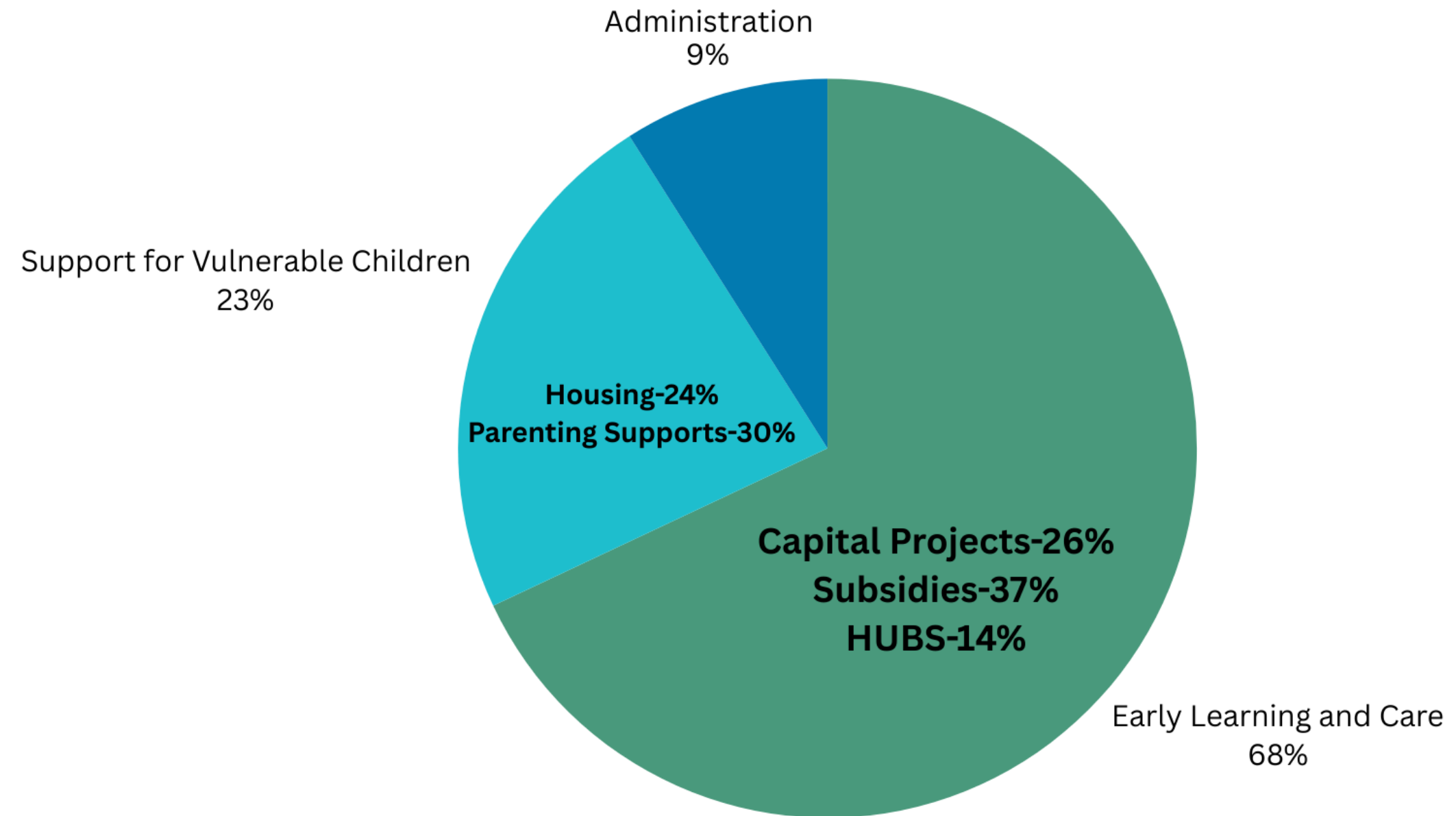
- *Healthy Whatcom*
- *Whatcom Child Care Coalition*
- *Whatcom Public Health Advisory Board*
- *Racial Equity Commission*
- *Commission on Sexual & Domestic Violence*
- *Business & Commerce Committee*
- *Whatcom Small City Mayors*
- *Local Chambers of Commerce*
- *Current Healthy Children's Fund Contractors*

DRAFT Implementation Plan Feedback Themes

- Strong Community Investment
- Measuring Success
- Inclusion
- Funding Eligibility and Expansion
- Mental Health and Family Stability
- Technical Assistance

Draft 25/26 Implementation Plan

This pie chart depicts how funding allocations correspond to County Council's stated priorities in the Draft Implementation Plan.



Looking Ahead

- **Councils Interest:**
 - Clearly defining “vulnerable children” in alignment with funding allocations
 - Refining and focusing strategies to drive measurable, system-level change
- **Plan for 2026:**
 - Begin co-design plan with Council and Subject Matter Experts
 - Adopt next Implementation Plan in time for 2027-2028 budget cycle
 - Involve Director Thomaskutty