

Child Care Complex Needs Fund Spring 2022 Summary

Fast Facts for Round 1

- Round 1 application opened on May 11, 2022, and closed June 21, 2022.
- DCYF's original budget was \$4.6 million dollars to be awarded over several rounds. DCYF's budget for Round 1 was \$1.53 million.
- DCYF received 1,400 applications requesting more than \$87 million dollars in funding.
- DCYF scored eligible applications using the scoring rubric as described below.
- DCYF created a review panel of subject matter experts to make funding determinations.
- The final funding determinations prioritized applications
 - That requested facility improvements to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility and/or behavioral needs.
 - From providers located in child care deserts and providers serving/located in marginalized, low-income communities.
- DCYF received approval to use additional Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) funding to increase the Complex Needs Fund Round 1 awards to \$7.38 million.
- Round 1 total grant awards will fund 131 applications (80 centers and 51 licensed family homes) for a total of \$7.38 million.

Background

The purpose of the Child Care Complex Needs Fund is to promote inclusive and least-restrictive environments by supporting providers serving children with developmental delays, disabilities, behavioral needs, or other unique needs.

DCYF opened the Complex Needs Fund application on May 11, 2022. The application asked providers to explain any unique needs or behaviors of children in their care and describe their plan to support children with complex needs. Providers requested funding in the spend category that best suited their plan for children's needs.

Over a six-week application period, DCYF received an overwhelming response. Providers across the state submitted 1,400 applications requesting more than \$87 million dollars. The need for support for children with complex needs is clear.

Processing Applications

DCYF used a multi-step process to review application: Screening for eligibility, scoring based on a rubric, and then prioritization and review by a panel.



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Original Date: August 30, 2022

Early Learning Division | Approved for distribution by Amy Russell, Early Learning Division Deputy

Screening Applications

DCYF screened all applications submitted for eligibility. A contractor translated applications submitted in a language other than English.

Providers had to meet the following criteria to move to the next step:

- Have an open license or certification
- Served children receiving state subsidy at least one month between Sept. 1, 2021, and Feb. 28, 2022, and claimed payment by March 31, 2022.
- Served children with behavioral needs, developmental delays, disabilities, or other unique needs.

Ineligible applications that did not move forward included:

- Application was incomplete (missing information).
- Application total requested less than the minimum required amount of \$5,000.
- Application was from an ECEAP provider (ECEAP has access to a separate Complex Needs Fund).
- Application did not meet the subsidy requirement listed in the eligibility criteria.
- Application stated the provider did not have any children with complex needs currently enrolled in their care.
- Application for a provider whose license was closed at the time of application review.

The remaining eligible applications moved on to the next step of scoring.

Scoring Applications

A team of eight DCYF staff scored applications based solely on content and criteria in the [scoring rubric](#). DCYF published the scoring rubric with the application so providers knew exactly how their application would be scored.

Applications had to receive nine points or higher to move on to the prioritization phase.

Applications that received nine points or higher **and** had the following applicable criteria were given five bonus points for each of the following:

- Provider located in an [Extreme Child Care Access Desert](#).
- Providers [serving or located in a marginalized, low-income community](#).

Panel Review

DCYF created a review panel of internal and external subject matter experts to make funding decisions.

The panel included persons from the following:

- DCYF Child Care Licensing
- Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP)
- Bilingual Language Access Specialists
- Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Tribal Early Learning
- Child Care Subsidy Program

The panel reviewed the application data, discussed options for funding, and developed meaningful ways to apply the available funding. The panel based funding decisions on the purpose of the Complex Needs Fund and mindfully applying available funding to support children with complex needs.

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Funding Decisions

The panel concluded the best use of available funds was to fully fund all eligible applications requesting facility improvements to comply with the ADA and/or support behavioral needs. Applications requesting facility improvements were fully funded, minus teacher training, starting with applications that received the highest number of points down until the funds are depleted.

DCYF did not approve requests in the teacher training category. DCYF is exploring options to offer state-wide complex needs training for all providers.

The panel fully funded facility improvements in order to strengthen support providers to create spaces that allow children with complex needs to continue to attend child care.

Applications also showed providers need funding for staff to support children with complex needs. In addition to funding for facility improvements, DCYF awarded \$4.97 million for staffing.

If a provider requested something unallowable as part of their plan, DCYF could not fully fund their application within these guidelines.

DCYF received \$87 million in funding requests, so the vast need was clear. DCYF decided to prioritize applications requesting less than \$100,000.

DCYF will open a second round of the Complex Needs Fund in fall 2022.

Award Budget

The Complex Needs Fund budget was originally \$4.6 million to be awarded over multiple application rounds. Due to the overwhelming amount of funding requests from providers, DCYF received approval to use additional Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) funding to increase the Complex Needs Fund Round 1 awards to \$7.38 million to fund 131 Round 1 applications (80 center and 51 licensed family home) from providers serving children with complex needs.