

Early Childhood Equity Grant 2023 Summary

Fast Facts for Round 2

- The Early Childhood Equity Grant application opened on May 10, 2023 and closed June 30, 2023. The application and materials were available in six languages.
- The grant application was created in partnership with design teams made up of providers using Liberatory Design. The application was further refined for the second round, using feedback from providers, ally organizations, government to government tribal representatives, and other stakeholders.
- DCYF's budget for Round 2 was \$3.4 million. 943 applications were received requesting over \$47 million.
- DCYF did quality assurance checks on all applications. DCYF removed applications for the following reasons: not eligible, funds requested for disallowed purposes, incomplete applications, and applications requesting funding outside the allowable range.
- DCYF then prioritized applications according to prioritization factors developed in partnership with providers and further refined based on the feedback collected after Round 1
- A community review panel reviewed the 90 highest priority projects. DCYF used their scores to select the applications to fund.
- Round 2 total grant awards will fund 65 applications, totaling \$3.4 million: 12 from Licensed Family Homes, 49 from Child Care Centers, 2 from ECEAP Contractors, 1 from a Play and Learn Group, and 1 from a Family, Friend, and Neighbor caregiver.

Background

The Early Childhood Equity Grant helps support culturally responsive programming so that children have access to diverse care that meets their needs. Grant funds must be used to incorporate inclusive practices, culturally and linguistically supportive and relevant practices, or both into early learning program design, delivery, education, training, and/or evaluation.

DCYF opened the Early Childhood Equity Grant application on May 10, 2023. The application asked providers about the children served by their programs. As part of the refinement process, DCYF received many requests to give providers more guidance about the types of projects that were a good use of



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grant funding. As a result, DCYF asked providers to choose one of the following goals for their project: preventing suspension and expulsion; increasing the use of research-informed social-emotional teaching practices; increasing the use of culturally and linguistically responsive practices and decreasing bias in the classroom; offering ongoing child assessment and developmental screening; or connecting families to service and supports that meet health, mental health, financial, or other needs. Providers were also able to generate their own goal. After choosing a goal, providers described a project that would help their facility meet that goal. They then provided information about the funding they would need to complete that project.

Over the application period, DCYF received 943 applications requesting over \$47 million, much more than the \$3.4 million available.

Processing Applications

Early Childhood Equity Grant applications went through multiple review steps. First, applications were screened for eligibility and completeness, then they were prioritized based on the factors described below, and the finalists were presented to a review panel to score.

Screening Applications

DCYF removed applications that were incomplete. Applications from providers who did not meet eligibility requirements, or that requested funds for disallowed purposes, were also removed.

Prioritization

After screening applications for eligibility and completeness, DCYF prioritized applications according to DCYF worked with providers and other stakeholders to generate the following list of priority populations for the grant:

- Facilities serving children who are Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC)
- Facilities serving children enrolled or eligible for membership in one of Washington’s federally recognized tribes
- Facilities serving children receiving state, tribal, or military subsidies
- Facilities serving children experiencing houselessness or homelessness
- Facilities serving children in out-of-home care due to child welfare involvement
- Facilities serving children who speak languages other than English at home

The 90 applications with the highest priority scores for their facility type were considered finalists.

Panel Review

DCYF collected reviewer suggestions from an advisory committee of external stakeholders, as well as soliciting volunteers from DCYF advisory groups and other stakeholder groups. DCYF then convened a

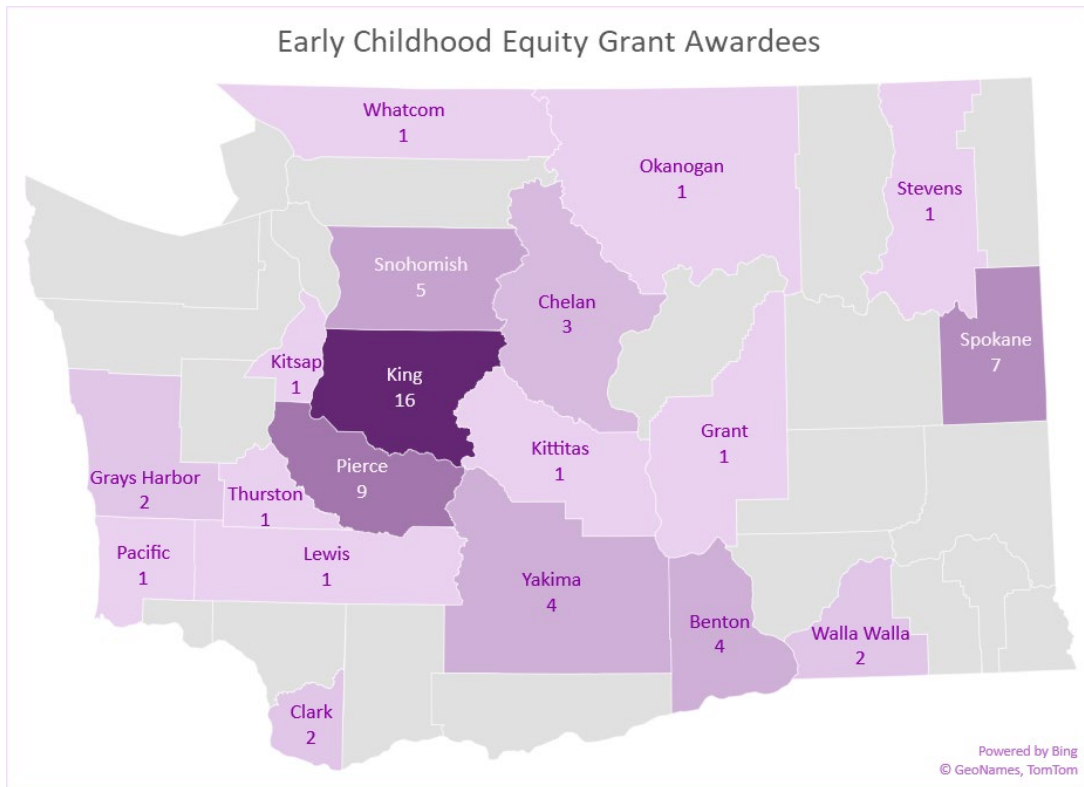
review panel consisting of advocates, experts, and community members to rank the finalist applications. The review panel included representatives from different groups, including providers, parents, and tribes.

Panelists read the finalist applications, with all identifying information removed, and ranked each from 1-5. DCYF added the panelist scores to make a final ranking.

Funding Decisions

Funding was awarded to the highest scoring facilities from each type of eligible provider, using the funding available. In total, 65 projects were funded. These included: 61 projects from licensed, certified, or certified for payment only providers (12 licensed family homes, 49 child care centers); 1 project from a Family, Friend, and Neighbor caregiver; 2 projects from ECEAP contractors; and 1 project from a Play and Learn Group.

This map shows the locations of the awardees:



Next Steps

DCYF plans to collect feedback from providers before opening the next round of the Early Childhood Equity Grant. We expect that the next round will open later in 2024.

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