

Early Childhood Equity Grant 2022 Summary

Fast Facts for Round 1

- The Early Childhood Equity Grant application opened on June 28, 2022 and closed September 16, 2022.
- The grant application was created in partnership with design teams made up of providers using Liberatory Design.
- DCYF's budget for round 1 was \$1.7 million. 2,370 applications were received requesting over \$100 million.
- DCYF provided the application and materials in 6 languages: Arabic, Chinese-Mandarin, English, Russian, Somali, and Spanish.
- 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.
- A community review panel reviewed the 65 highest priority projects. DCYF used their scores to select the applications to fund.
- Round 1 total grant awards will fund 34 applications, totaling \$1.7 million: 22 from Family Child Care Homes, 5 from Child Care Centers, 2 from ECEAP-Only Sites, 3 from Play and Learn Groups, and 2 from Family, Friend, and Neighbor caregivers.

Background

DCYF's purpose statement for the Early Childhood Equity Grant is as follows: To direct funding to the early care and education community and parent support programs, with a priority placed on BIPOC providers and providers serving BIPOC children, to advance and inspire practices that promote inclusive and culturally responsive learning, environments, and enhanced language access.



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

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DCYF opened the Early Childhood Equity Grant application on June 28, 2022. The application asked providers about the children, families, and staff involved in their programs. It also asked providers to describe how they would use the grant to incorporate inclusive practices, culturally and linguistically supportive and relevant practices, or both into their early learning program design, delivery, education, training, and/or evaluation.

The application was originally scheduled to close August 16, 2022. After receiving feedback from providers, DCYF changed the eligibility requirements so that ECEAP sites could apply individually. To allow more time for any interested sites to apply, the closing date was extended to September 16, 2022.

Over the application period, DCYF received 2,370 applications requesting over \$107 million, much more than the \$1.7 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 specific characteristics of the licensee/owner, staff, program, and of the children and families served by the facility applying.

Before the grant opened, DCYF worked with providers to create the following list of priority populations for the grant:

- Facilities serving a large percentage of BIPOC children.
- Facilities serving a large percentage of children receiving state 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.
- Facilities with a BIPOC licensee or license-exempt program owner.
- Facilities with BIPOC staff.

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- Facilities that use a language other than English in the care environment.
- Facilities that provide care during non-standard hours, or 24-hour care.

The 65 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. DCYF then convened a community review panel to rank the finalist applications. The review panel consisted of:

- Providers
- Advocates from Cultivate Learning
- Advocates from Child Care Aware of Washington
- DCYF Language Access staff
- DCYF ECEAP staff

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

Funding Decisions

Funding was awarded from highest score to lowest, until all available funding was allocated. In total, 34 projects were funded. These included: Licensed or certified providers (22 licensed family homes, 5 child care centers), 2 projects from Family, Friend, and Neighbor caregivers, 2 projects from ECEAP-Only Sites, and 3 projects from Play and Learn Groups.

Next Steps

As part of DCYF's commitment to a Liberatory Design process, DCYF will hold feedback sessions with stakeholders and providers in January, 2023. We hope to incorporate feedback into the next round of Early Childhood Equity Grants, which will be available for application in late winter, 2023.