

2024-2025 Early Learning Expansion

Addendum #2 Request for Application (RFA) Questions and Answers

December 29, 2023

All Applicants

1. This year's RFA looks a lot different than in years past. Is that correct?

Yes, there are fewer questions and exhibits to make the process of the RFA less complicated and more equitable for all applicants. Instead of completing a survey and multiple exhibits, applicants will complete the Smart Sheet survey and an interview (required of new applicants only). The primary survey is for requesting new PreK slots. The Complex Needs Funds request (for existing contractors only) will come up after you submit the primary survey. There is also a section for B-3 and ECLIPSE requests; however, DCYF does not anticipate funding will be available for those funding streams. DCYF will report all of the requests to the legislature.

2. Is ECEAP still moving towards School Day (SD) and Working Day (WD)?

Yes, the trend is towards converting Part Day (PD) to SD or WD. If you would like to convert Part Day slots to either Working Day or School Day slots, you can make a request for conversion in the RFA application.

3. As a potential new contractor, do all 75 slots requested have to be located at the same site?

Proposed slot locations can be at different sites as long as they are all supported by the proposed contractor.

4. Where on the application do we designate interest in B-3 slots?

Just after answering the question, "Are you a new or existing ECEAP Contractor," a box will pop up asking about what you are applying for. It is there that you select B-3 ECEAP. This is how it will look:

The screenshot shows a form with the following sections:

- Are you a new or existing ECEAP Contractor? ***
 New Existing
- Existing Contractor Applying for ***
Expansion: B-3 ECEAP x
- Number of Expansion B-3 Slots Requesting ***
Due to lack of additional funds from the legislature there are no new B-3 slots available
However, please include the number of B-3 slots you would request should additional funding become available.



DCYF is only collecting information about B-3 requests, as we do not anticipate additional funding for B-3 at this time.

5. What type of infrastructure is required to support becoming a new contractor (different than what is required of a subcontractor)?

As a contractor you are responsible for the planning and execution of providing high-quality ECEAP services that are in alignment with the DCYF [ECEAP Statement of Work \(SOW\)](#), including:

- [2023-2024 ECEAP Performance Standards](#)
- [B-3 ECEAP Performance Standards](#)
- [Minimum ECLIPSE Service Delivery Requirements](#)

6. Since there is no Exhibit C: Coordination with Neighboring Organizations this year, are we still required to collaborate with other ECEAP, Head Start and Tribal organizations?

Yes, DCYF strongly encourages contractors to reach out to neighboring early learning providers to ensure that new ECEAP slots will not negatively impact the ability for existing ECEAP, Head Start or Tribal organizations to enroll to capacity. DCYF will inform all service-area partners of slots applied for by Jan. 18.

7. When will the new saturation study come out?

The anticipated release is sometime in January. DCYF will share through its communication channels once it is released. Meanwhile, please use the existing **2022 Saturation Study**, also found in the RFA Guide.

8. I have a small in-home family child care. Is the RFA the right way for me to request ECEAP slots, even though I do not have capacity for 75 slots?

DCYF encourages Family Child Care Center providers to explore becoming an ECEAP site. Organizations, including FCCs interested in providing less than 75 preschool slots, should coordinate with a current or prospective ECEAP contractor in their vicinity to discuss the possibility of becoming an ECEAP subcontractor working under that ECEAP contractor. Another option for FCC providers could be to apply for slots together with other FCC providers. Please email dcyf.eceap@dcyf.wa.gov for further questions and support.

Current ECEAP Contractors only

9. Do we need to reapply for existing ECLIPSE funding?

Current ECLIPSE providers do not need to reapply.

10. Is ECLIPSE funding in addition to ECEAP funding?

Yes, the ECLIPSE rate is layered on top of the ECEAP rate.

11. Do we need to reapply for existing ECEAP slots?

No, you only need to apply for **new** expansion slots.

12. It appears the ECEAP expansion request and Complex Needs Funding applications are combined in the Smart Sheet. Is there anything else that needs to be completed for either?

Through Smartsheet we are collecting information about all avenues of expansion, including Complex Needs Funding (CNF). CNF does require an additional application to be **completed by February 1**. The CNF application is referenced at the end of the RFA survey. After you submit the survey, the CNF links will appear. Follow the prompts to read the **CNF guidance document** and complete the additional application.

Reminder, only current contractors only may apply for Complex Needs Funds.

13. Can a current ECEAP Contractor apply for ECEAP Complex Needs Funds (CNF) for newly proposed ECEAP slots?

ECEAP CNF are not allocated to specific slots or sites, but are allocated at the Contractor level to meet the larger needs of the Contractor and its sites and classrooms. DCYF encourages ECEAP Contractors to ask for the Complex Needs Funding they need to support children in classrooms across their services. The CNF Application asks ECEAP Contractors to list current ECEAP sites which the proposed complex needs funding will support. If new ECEAP slots are awarded at new sites to a current ECEAP Contractor, that ECEAP Contractor applicant will have the opportunity to name that new site as a CNF service site after they receive award letters for ECEAP Slots and ECEAP Complex Needs, as applicable.

14. Is this RFA process applicable and necessary for subcontractors considering contracting?

For current subcontractors interested in becoming a contractor, this RFA application process is a necessary step towards becoming a stand-alone ECEAP Contractor. Plan to fill out the **Smartsheet Survey** with a follow up interview to be scheduled in January.

Please note on page 10 of the **Comprehensive Early Learning RFA Guide**,

If an applicant is a current ECEAP Subcontractor, the applicant must:

- Notify their ECEAP Contractor of their intent to apply.*
- Attach a copy of this notification with this application.

*An organization may not be both an ECEAP contractor and an ECEAP subcontractor simultaneously. Former subcontractors may be required to return or pay for equipment purchased through a contractor.