

# Are You Ready to Apply for the Early Childhood Equity Grant?

## What is a Competitive Grant?

The Early Childhood Equity Grant is a competitive grant. That means that not everyone who applies will receive funding, even if they complete the application correctly and meet eligibility requirements. Applications will be selected based on prioritization and how well the proposed project meets the chosen goal.

During the first round, DCYF received 2,370 applications requesting over \$100 million. We were able to fund 34 applications using \$1.7 million. Round 2 will have more funding available - \$3.4 million – but it is likely that there will still be a large number of applications that DCYF is unable to fund.

## What Should I Consider Before Applying?

Please evaluate your ability to plan and execute a project before deciding whether or not to apply. You should answer the following questions to determine whether you are a good fit for this grant:

1. **Do you have an idea for a project that you want to carry out at your facility?** That is, do you have a specific, connected set of activities, with a beginning and an end, clear goals, and an estimated cost? You should be able to describe:
  - a. What your project will do
  - b. How your project will meet your goal
  - c. How you will know whether your project has met your goal. How will you evaluate your results?
2. **Does your project address one of the following outcomes, or are you able to describe an alternative outcome that meets the purpose of the grant:**
  - a. Preventing suspension and expulsion
  - b. Increasing the use of research-informed social-emotional teaching practices
  - c. Increasing the use of culturally and linguistically responsive practices and decreasing bias in the classroom
  - d. Offering ongoing child assessment and developmental screening
  - e. Connecting families to services and supports that meet health, mental health, financial, or other needs
  - f. Or another project to incorporate inclusive practices, culturally and linguistically supportive and relevant practices, or both into early learning program design, delivery,



Washington State Department of  
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Original Date: April 11, 2023

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

education, training, and/or evaluation. You must describe the intended outcome of your project.

3. **Do you know how your project will integrate with your current programming? Do you have the resources you need to carry it out? What will you need funding to do? Is this grant an appropriate way to get that funding?**
4. **Is your facility able to save receipts and fill out follow-up reporting?** You should have:
  - a. A way to track expenses associated with the grant
  - b. A way to track what kinds of successes or challenges you have carrying out your project

*Grant funds are considered income. DCYF will send out a 1099 in January for tax purposes. The 1099 includes all DCYF funds provided in the tax year period.*