

2024-25 Comprehensive Early Learning Application Guide

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

PROJECT TITLE:

2024-2025 Comprehensive Early Learning Services Request for Application (RFA) Expansion

APPLICATION DUE DATE:

Jan. 12, 2024, by 5 p.m. through [Smart Sheets](#)

COMPLEX NEEDS FUNDING (CNF) APPLICATION FOR CURRENT ECEAP CONTRACTORS ONLY, DUE DATE:

Feb. 1, 2024 by 5 p.m.

EXPECTED TIME PERIOD FOR CONTRACT*:

July 1, 2024 – July 10, 2025

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY:

This Request for Application is open to those applicants that satisfy the minimum qualifications stated herein.

*Contract start date is subject to change.



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

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1. Introduction

1.1. Definitions

Applicant: An organization submitting an application in order to attain a contract with DCYF.

Application: A formal offer submitted in response to this solicitation.

Birth-3 ECEAP: Washington’s comprehensive birth to three program for low-income children, and children with specific risk factors.

Complex Needs Funds (CNF): Specific funding designated by the Washington State Legislature to provide additional support in ECEAP classrooms to promote inclusive, least restrictive environments and support providers serving children with developmental delays, disabilities, behavioral needs, or other unique needs. Existing ECEAP and Birth-3 ECEAP Contractors may apply for this funding annually.

Contractor: An organization whose application is approved by DCYF and is awarded a fully executed, written contract for ECEAP services.

Child Welfare Early Learning Navigator (CWELN): DCYF staff delegated to collaborate with Child Protective Services (CPS) caseworkers to support and connect families with young children to high quality early learning and family support experiences.

Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF): The agency of the state of Washington issuing this Request for Applications (RFA).

Early Achievers: Washington’s tiered quality rating and improvement system which helps early learning settings offer high-quality care.

Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP): Washington’s state-funded comprehensive pre-kindergarten program for low-income children, and children with specific risk factors.

Early Learning Facilities (ELF) program: Funding opportunity through Washington State Department of Commerce to help ECEAP contractors and WCCC providers expand, remodel, purchase or construct early learning facilities and classrooms necessary to support early learning opportunities for children from low-income households.

Early Learning Management System (ELMS): The database into which Contractors enter Birth-3 ECEAP program and child data and information.

ECEAP Comprehensive Services: Individual, child and family centered services including education, health coordination, and family engagement services.

ECLIPSE: An acronym that means *Early Childhood Intervention Prevention Services*. ECLIPSE intervention and prevention services are trauma-informed, healing-centered, and early learning center-based for

families with children birth to five. ECLIPSE services include therapeutic child, family, and classroom supports for eligible children enrolled in Birth-3 ECEAP and ECEAP.

Existing Contractor: An ECEAP contractor that has a current contract with DCYF as of July 1, 2023 or earlier.

Family Support Services: Relationship-based family partnerships. A contractor must integrate parent and family engagement strategies into all systems and program services to support family well-being. Using Mobility Mentoring®, ECEAP staff collaborate with families to build partnerships that engage families in many levels of program activities and support the development of each enrolled child's whole family.

Head Start: Federal comprehensive birth-to-three and pre-kindergarten programs for low-income children and children with specific risk factors. This definition also includes Early Head Start, American-Indian/Alaska Native Head Start and Migrant/Seasonal Head Start.

Managed Education and Registry Information Tool (MERIT): Washington's professional development registry for early learning.

Mid-Year ECEAP Slots: Funding for slots to begin in the current school year.

Mobility Mentoring®: ECEAP's family engagement approach that uses coaching methods rooted in the latest brain science. Mobility Mentoring® aims to overcome the extreme stresses of poverty by improving focus, planning, and decision-making. It is designed to help people set and achieve future-oriented goals, despite the immediate challenges and weight of poverty.

Request for Application (RFA): A formal document in which DCYF defines services and a specific method of application to provide those services.

Service Area Agreement (SAA): A required written agreement between neighboring Head Start grantees, ECEAP contractors and Tribal Early Learning Programs. SAAs serve to:

- Establish clear service area boundaries for recruitment and enrollment of eligible children and families in neighboring areas.
- Support policies and procedures for working collaboratively.
- Reduce duplication of services.
- Leverage funding through efficient use of state and federal resources and;
- Ensure responsiveness to family need.
- *Service Area Agreements are required by the ECEAP Contract*

Teaching Strategies GOLD® (TSG): An ongoing observational system for assessing children from birth through kindergarten. TSG helps teachers to observe children in the context of everyday experiences, which is an effective way to learn what they know and can do.

Tribal Early Learning Program: Comprehensive early learning program slots (birth to age five) administered and funded by tribal sovereign nations in Washington State.

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1.2. Purpose and Background

ECEAP

Since 1985, ECEAP has focused on the well-being of the whole child by providing comprehensive nutrition, health, education and family support services to Washington's most vulnerable young children. Research demonstrates ECEAP positively impacts kindergarten readiness with benefits that persist through elementary school. Washington State's ECEAP Expansion law, including changes from the 2021 [Fair Start For Kids Act](#) states that "Funding shall continue to be phased in each year until full statewide implementation of the early learning program is achieved in the 2026-27 school year, at which time any eligible child shall be entitled to be enrolled in the program."

ECEAP Expansion: For 2024-25, the State Legislature has allocated a total of 500 new slots:

- **500 School Day**

ECEAP Conversion: For 2024-25, the State Legislature has allocated a total of 1,000 conversion slots:

- **1,000 Part Day slots to School Day slots**

Additional Part Day slots may also be awarded if current ECEAP Contractors return existing Part Day slots in exchange for School Day or Working Day slots.

ECEAP Mid-Year Expansion: **Only current ECEAP contractors** are eligible to apply for Mid-Year Expansion slots. For 2023-24, DCYF will award additional School Day slots to applicants who request to begin slots as soon as possible during the 2023-24 school year. DCYF anticipates the following slots for mid-year expansion:

- **250 School Day slots**

Complex Needs Funds (CNF)

Only current ECEAP contractors are eligible to apply for CNF. Additional information can be found in the CNF Guide found here: [Complex Needs Fund Grant Application Guidance](#)

Birth-3 ECEAP

Birth-3 ECEAP is Washington State's center based, Birth-3 program that supports children and families who are furthest from opportunity. Birth-3 ECEAP provides high-quality comprehensive services that focus on the whole child. Children receive relationship-based, individualized, child-centered services including education, health coordination, and family support services. Birth-3 ECEAP is modeled after the Early Head Start program, while weaving together Early Head Start and ECEAP standards.

Birth-3 ECEAP Expansion: The final state budget signed by the Governor will determine the actual number of new slots, **if any**. DCYF does not anticipate any *new* Birth-3 slots beginning July 1, 2024.

ECLIPSE

Only current ECEAP contractors are eligible to apply for ECLIPSE.

ECLIPSE services are integrated within Birth-3 ECEAP and PreK ECEAP programming to include Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMHC) at the promotion and prevention levels of care. A

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licensed mental health professional with Infant Mental Health (IMH) knowledge and experience will work closely with IECMHC to provide age-appropriate mental health training to staff and implement age- and stage-appropriate interventions with individual children and families.

ECLIPSE Expansion:

The final state budget signed by the Governor will determine new ECLIPSE funding levels, **if any**. DCYF does not anticipate any *new* ECLIPSE funding beginning July 1, 2024.

ECEAP, Birth-3 ECEAP, and ECLIPSE expansion is guided by the following principles:

- **Racial Equity:** Washington State is committed to closing opportunity gaps and eliminating race as a predictor of success.
- **Kindergarten Readiness:** Washington State is committed to ensuring that 80% of children are ready for kindergarten, with neither race nor income as predictors of success. For more information, please visit the [Agency Performance: Kindergarten Readiness](#) section of the DCYF website.
- **Statewide ECEAP Access:** As determined by the Washington State Legislature, by the 2026-2027 school year, all children who are eligible for ECEAP and whose families choose to participate will be entitled to enroll in ECEAP. By this date, there must be sufficient sites and coordination among ECEAP contractors to assure family access to ECEAP, with options that meet a variety of family choices, needs and circumstances.
- **Creating a High-Quality Integrated Birth to Eight System:** DCYF has a Strategic Priority of creating a high-quality integrated birth to eight system, including expanding access to infant and toddler supports and services, expanding access to affordable high-quality child care, support recovery of the child care business sector, create a responsive and inclusive integrated pre-k system, and ensuring the stability of the early learning workforce. Read more about DCYF Strategic Priorities [here](#).

1.3. Objectives and Scope of Work

Objectives

Through this RFA process, DCYF will award multiple contracts to allocate 2024-25 ECEAP expansion and conversion slots, Birth-3 ECEAP expansion slots (if available), ECLIPSE expansion (if available) and Complex Needs Funding to organizations:

- Able to provide the full infrastructure for high-quality ECEAP services and high-quality ECLIPSE services;
- That are in alignment with the DCYF [ECEAP Statement of Work \(SOW\)](#), including:
 - [2023-2024 ECEAP Performance Standards](#)
 - [Birth-3 ECEAP Performance Standards](#)
 - [Minimum ECLIPSE Service Delivery Requirements](#)
 - [Complex Needs Fund Grant Application Guidance](#)

Contracts awarded through this process are contingent upon the continued availability of funding. These contracts are client service contracts.

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Contract Information: Applicants should be aware that contracts executed through this RFA may have a different look and some new requirements. The [Sample ECEAP Statement of Work](#) embedded in this Application is the contract in place for 2024-25.

Please note: Organizations, including licensed child care centers and family child care homes, interested in providing **less than 75 preschool slots or only part of ECEAP services**, such as a preschool classroom experience, may 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.

Current ECEAP Contractors, tribal organizations, school districts, and other early learning programs may submit applications for consideration that are for fewer than 75 slots. Applications for less than 75 slots must demonstrate infrastructure and capacity to meet requirements.

If becoming a subcontractor is the best fit for your organization, please either:

- Email dcyf.eceap@dcyf.wa.gov for contact information of existing ECEAP contractors in your community or;
- View the [ECEAP Director's Roster](#)

Organizations seeking a subcontractor relationship with an ECEAP contractor should not complete this Application.

DCYF intends to increase ECEAP slots within the boundaries of high-priority school districts as defined in the [2021-22 ECEAP and Head Start Saturation Study](#), **which is anticipated to be revised by late December 2023**. Applicants may use the Saturation Study as a tool to support expansion planning around topics such as how many slots the community could potentially sustain. For the latest version of the Saturation Study, check the website here:

<https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/reports/ECEAP-HeadStartSaturationStudy2022.pdf>

In support of a mixed delivery system, DCYF encourages applications from public and private organizations that can directly provide or subcontract for ECEAP services in schools, community-based settings or licensed child care settings. DCYF also encourages applications from organizations that can provide services to rural, remote, and tribal communities and to children impacted by the child welfare system.

Scope of Work

Organizations that are funded as Contractors through this RFA must demonstrate capacity to provide program planning, management, and oversight to lead all components of ECEAP services. DCYF highly recommends having a **combined minimum** of approximately 75 ECEAP, Birth-3 ECEAP, Head Start and/or tribally funded preschool slots for children to provide enough infrastructure for ECEAP service implementation.

Successful ECEAP and Birth-3 ECEAP contractors must demonstrate that they can develop and maintain culturally competent systems for:

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- ECEAP and Birth-3 ECEAP program planning and service system design for classroom services; health and mental health service coordination; family engagement, leadership development and support; and nutrition services in alignment with all ECEAP contractual requirements, including the ECEAP and Birth-3 ECEAP Performance Standards.
- Human resource policies and plans to recruit, select, train and support staff who meet ECEAP qualifications, and to maintain the qualifications of all ECEAP staff in MERIT (Washington’s professional development registry).
- Ongoing monitoring and continuous improvement of ECEAP services, including supporting sites to attain Early Achievers ratings of Level 4 or 5.
- Implementation of Creative Curriculum 6th Edition, High Scope or approved alternative curricula to fidelity.
- Health screening, health coordination, developmental screening, and quarterly child development assessment.
- Family engagement and early learning classroom activities that reflect family beliefs, culture, language, and child-rearing practices.
- Implementation of the Mobility Mentoring[®] approach to family support.
- Marketing, recruitment, and enrollment of potential ECEAP families.
- Regular entry of information and use of the Early Learning Management System (ELMS) and other databases.
- Secure and confidential recordkeeping and reporting to DCYF.
- Fiscal management of ECEAP funds according to contractual requirements.
- Community assessment of needs for ECEAP services.
- Facility development/management.
- Adequate funding passed through to subcontractors, if applicable.
- Demonstrate openness to receiving and providing technical assistance, training, and coaching.
- Transportation (optional) to enhance access for vulnerable children.

Sites where ECEAP children attend preschool must obtain a child care license unless the site is operated directly by an ECEAP Contractor or subcontractor that is a governmental organization. For this purpose, school districts, educational service districts, tribes, and city and county governments are government organizations.

Slot Models and Expectations: DCYF intends to award slots as available for children for comprehensive ECEAP health, nutrition, family support, and education services for these ECEAP models:

- **School Day ECEAP** with a minimum of 1,000 classroom hours per year, an average of 5.5 to 6.5 hours per class session, over at least 30 calendar weeks. Classes may be held four or five days per week throughout the school year.
- **Working Day ECEAP** with a minimum of 2,370 classroom hours per year, at least 10 hours per day, five days per week, year-round.
- **Part Day ECEAP** with a minimum of 360 classroom hours per year, three hours per class session over at least 30 calendar weeks.
- **Birth-3 ECEAP** with a minimum of 2,370 classroom hours per year, at least 10 hours per day, five days a week, year-round.
- **Layered ECLIPSE Funding**, which must be layered with existing ECEAP School Day, Working Day, or Birth-3 slots

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Complex Needs Funding, see CNF Guide: [Complex Needs Fund Grant Application Guidance](#)

Applicants should indicate the types of slots that best meet their capacity and their community needs. Applicants are not required to offer all three models. To be allocated slots through this RFA, applicants must be able to do all of the following:

- Plan services,
- Hire staff,
- Attend trainings,
- Recruit children,
- Be licensed; OR attend an orientation and take initial steps to *become* a licensed child care site (if not a government organization). This must occur between the time the applicant submits a viable ECEAP application and July 1, 2024; or when funding is allocated by the legislature. Please note that the government organization exemption does not apply to ECEAP Working Day or Birth-3 ECEAP slots. Additional technical assistance will be provided if the application meets minimum thresholds.

Conversion: Current ECEAP Contractors should use this application if they want to convert Part Day slots to School Day or Working Day slots.

Starting Dates: Preference will be given to applicants that can start Birth-3 and Working Day classes by July 1, 2024, and Part Day and School Day classes by Sept. 30, 2024.

The annual total per slot may be reduced for any Working Day slots that do not start by July 1 and any Part Day or School Day slots that do not start by Sept. 30.

Funded Slot Rates: Slot rates will be determined by the state Legislature and may vary based on region and Early Achievers rating. Contractors receive monthly payments upon invoice, based on completion of payment points. For reference, the state-wide **average 2023-2024 school year rates** were:

- \$9,192 per slot for Part Day.
- \$14,602 per slot for School Day.
- \$20,656 per slot for Working Day.
- \$24,000 per slot for Birth-3.
- \$14,020 per **layered** slot for ELCIPSE.

There are no additional payments for startup costs. DCYF will not allow contractors to schedule a late start and use the saved funds for equipment and materials.

There are no funds available through this RFA for capital expenditures such as facilities. For more information on the Community Capital Facilities—Early Learning Program, please visit: <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/building-infrastructure/capital-facilities/early-learning-program/>.

1.4. Minimum Qualifications and Requirements

Applicants must meet the following minimum requirements for consideration:

- Be licensed to do business in the state of Washington.

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- Plan to serve a **minimum of 75 slots**, including existing ECEAP slots, Birth-3 ECEAP slots, Head Start slots, tribal-funded preschool slots, and slots requested through this application.
Exception: Current ECEAP contractors are exempt from this requirement.
Exception: Applications from tribal sovereign nations, school districts, and other early learning providers may also be considered for slot totals under 75 slots.
- **Be a current ECEAP or Birth-3 ECEAP Contractor if applying for CNF.**
- Submit a completed application in accordance with the RFA.

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.

1.5. Period of Performance

Any contract or amendment to an existing ECEAP contract resulting from this RFA is expected to begin on July 1, 2024. Contracted services resulting from this RFA shall be at the sole discretion of DCYF. The term of this Contract may be extended by annual extensions, PROVIDED: The extension shall be at the option of DCYF and shall be affected by DCYF giving written notice of its intent to extend the Contract to the Contractor and the Contractor accepting such extensions.

2. Application Information

2.1. RFA Coordinators

RFA Coordinators are the sole point of contact in DCYF for this RFA. All communication between an applicant and DCYF shall be in writing with the RFA Coordinators listed below. Communications outside of the RFA coordinating structure may disqualify the application.

- RFA Coordinators: Jennifer Anderson, Beth Schilling
- Email Address: dcyf.eceap@dcyf.wa.gov

DCYF considers all oral communications unofficial and non-binding. Applicants should rely only on written statements issued by the RFA Coordinator.

2.2. Estimated Schedule of RFA Activities

RFA Released	December 4, 2023
Q&A will take place during open office hours or through email.	Office Hours for all Applicants (click on day to attend): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dec. 11, 2023, 10-11 a.m. (Tribal Nations) • Dec. 13, 2023, 1-2 p.m. • Jan. 4, 2024, 2-3 p.m. • Jan. 9, 2024, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Submit Questions Regarding RFA Process (Optional)	No later than Jan. 10, 2024 by 5 p.m.
Questions and Answers (Q&A) Published on ECEAP Website	Q&As for the RFA will be published on the following days: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dec. 15, 2023 • Dec. 29, 2023 • Jan. 8, 2024 • Jan. 11, 2024
Comprehensive Early Learning Services Survey Due (Required)	January 12, 2024 by 5 p.m.
Application (Survey) Review Period	January 15-18, 2024
Applicant Interview Period (Required for new Applicants only)	January 18– February 1, 2024
Decisions and Notifications Period (Mid-Year ECEAP Slots to begin in 2023-24)	January 17, 2024
Decisions and Notifications Period (2024-25 Expansion and CNF)	February 2 – February 23, 2024
Announce Successful Applicants and Final Award Notification	February 28, 2024
Contract Effective Date	July 1, 2024

2.3. Questions about the RFA Process

DCYF will take questions through the ECEAP Inbox (dcyf.eceap@dcyf.wa.gov) and during scheduled Expansion office hours through 5 p.m. Jan. 10, 2024. Questions and answers (Q&A) will be published according to the Estimated Schedule of RFA Activities.

DCYF will email the written responses to each question to the party who submitted a question and will post all questions and answers on the ECEAP website <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/early-learning-providers/eceap/expansion-of-services>.

2.4. Submission of Applications and Requirements

- 2.4.1. Initial applications must be submitted through the Smart Sheet survey link here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/9faa1eae6306468fb52a009b93e2cfd3> **no later than 5 p.m., Jan. 12, 2024.**
- 2.4.2. Please allow sufficient time to ensure timely receipt of the application by DCYF. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.
- 2.4.3. Do not submit materials other than those requested in this RFA. Additional materials will not be reviewed.
- 2.4.4. Applicant Interview and Conversations (required of new contractors only) will be schedule by RFA Coordinators and will be held between Jan. 18 and Feb. 1, 2024.

- 2.4.5. Engage in conversations with neighboring early learning organizations about proposed expansion.
- DCYF will alert all service area partners (via email) to slots applied for by Jan. 8, 2024.

2.5. Proprietary Information/Public Disclosure

Materials submitted in response to this RFA shall become the property of DCYF. All applications received shall remain confidential until DCYF announces apparent successful applicants; thereafter, the applications shall be deemed public record as defined in [RCW 42.17.250](#) to .340, "Public Records."

Any information in the application that the applicant desires to claim as proprietary and exempt from disclosure under the provisions of [RCW 42.17.250](#) to .340 must be clearly designated. The page and the particular exception from disclosure upon which the applicant is making the claim must be identified. Each page claimed to be exempt from disclosure must be clearly identified by the word "Confidential" printed on the lower right-hand corner of the page.

DCYF will consider an applicant's request for exemption from disclosure; however, DCYF will make a decision predicated upon [Chapter 42.17 RCW](#) and [Chapter 143-06 WAC](#). Marking the entire proposal exempt from disclosure will not be honored. The applicant must identify specific information in their application to be designated confidential. If any information is marked as proprietary in the proposal, such information will not be disclosed until the affected proposer has been given an opportunity to seek a court injunction against the requested disclosure.

A charge will be made for copying and shipping of documents requested through public disclosure, as outlined in [RCW 42.56.070](#). No fee shall be charged for inspection of contract files, but 24 hours' notice to the RFA Coordinator is required. All requests for information should be directed to the RFA Coordinator.

2.6. Revisions to the RFA

DCYF reserves the right to modify this RFA at any time. In the event it becomes necessary to revise any part of this RFA, an amendment will be provided through all channels which the RFA was initially released. For this purpose, the published applicant questions, DCYF answers and any other pertinent information shall be considered an addendum to the RFA. DCYF reserves the right to cancel or to reissue the RFA in whole or in part, prior to the execution of a contract.

2.7. Diverse Participation

DCYF strongly encourages the participation of minority- and women-owned businesses, veteran-owned businesses and Washington small businesses as prime contractors or subcontractors. No preference will be included in the evaluation of proposals; no minimum level of participation by these businesses shall be required as a condition of receiving an award and proposals will not be rejected or considered non-responsive on that basis.

2.8. Responsiveness

All applications will be reviewed to determine compliance with administrative requirements and instructions specified in this RFA. The applicant is specifically notified that failure to comply with any

part of the RFA may result in rejection of the application as non-responsive. DCYF reserves the right at its sole discretion to waive minor administrative irregularities.

2.9. Evaluation of Applications

ECEAP Slots

ECEAP slots are awarded through a competitive grant process. Applying does not guarantee an applicant will receive a contract for ECEAP services.

Applications will be reviewed by a panel consisting of DCYF staff with knowledge and experience in the area under review. DCYF reserves the right to award the contract to the applicants whose applications are deemed to be in the best interest of DCYF and the state of Washington. DCYF may choose to fund all or a portion of slots requested in applications.

Below are the potential points a Successful Applicant may receive to be considered for expansion funding.

Interview/ Internal Review	Possible Points
Comprehensive Services	4
ECEAP Entitlement	4
Early Achievers	4
Staffing and Roles	4
Fiscal and HR Supports	4
Total Points Available	20

Awarding of ECEAP Slots

DCYF will award slots based on:

- High priority areas in the [ECEAP and Head Start Saturation Study](#)
- Sites that can start along the required timelines in ECEAP Standards:
 - July 1, 2024 for Working Day Slots
 - Sept. 30, 2024 for Part Day and School Day Slots
- Demonstrated ability to implement ECEAP, whether a current contractor or through interview information collected from new applicants
- Adding ECEAP in a community that does not currently have ECEAP
- Priority partnerships, such as:
 - School districts integrating with TK and Developmental PreK
 - Loss of Head Start slots or other early learning programs in a community
 - Subcontractors or sites that have developed relationships with applicants/contractors
- Any other information pertinent to DCYF

Awarding of Birth-3 Slots and Layered ECLIPSE Funding: DCYF does not anticipate additional funding for Birth-3 ECEAP or ECLIPSE services this year.

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ECEAP Complex Needs Funding

The ECEAP Complex Needs Fund is awarded through a competitive grant process. Applying does not guarantee an eligible Birth-3 ECEAP and/or ECEAP contractor will receive a grant award. No funding will be awarded for an incomplete application. DCYF reserves the right to award applicants whose applications are deemed to be in the best interest of DCYF and the state of Washington. DCYF may choose to fund all, or a portion, of funding requested in applications.

Applications will be reviewed by a panel consisting of DCYF staff with knowledge and experience in the area under review. Applications may be funded in whole or in part depending on:

- How the proposed project meets the purpose of the ECEAP Complex Needs Fund.
- Children disproportionately impacted by racial and economic disparity and contractor size.
- Needs identified in the application.
- The availability of State funds.
- The geographic diversity of grant recipients.
- The number of applications received.
- Historical priority trends in programming.

A successful applicant must score a minimum of 10 points to be considered for ECEAP Complex Needs Funds. Please see below for the possible points.

Interview/ Internal Review	Possible Points
Scope of the Project	4
Equity, inclusion, and culturally relevant program	4
Feasibility/Timeline	4
Alignment between DCYF, Legislation, & Contractor's goals	4
Budget/Cost-Effective	4
Equitable disbursement of funds: Priority areas include Rural, childcare desert, racially diversified SD	4
Total Points Available	24

Awarding of ECEAP Complex Needs Funds

The general eligibility guidance provides a threshold for applications. Competitive proposals will have the following:

- Detailed scope of work and expenditures that closely align with the criteria listed.
- Proposed project costs and requested period of support that are fully justified, reasonable, and sufficient to complete all proposed activities and objectives.

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- Detailed budget with the itemized expenses for the project that is clearly outlined.

Successful applicants may be funded at an amount lower than that requested. DCYF may contact the applicant to answer additional questions if clarification regarding the project is needed.

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