Q: May an applicant apply for more than $2,000,000 in this funding round?
A: No, $2,000,000 is the maximum amount.

Q: Will there be another funding round for child care capital projects?
A: Yes. We will likely be releasing a funding opportunity designed to support smaller child care facilities including home day cares. This second funding opportunity will include additional technical assistance and opportunities for long-term business planning support.

Q: If a second round of funding is offered, could an entity that applied for $2,000,000 in the first round be able to apply for additional funding in the second round.
A: Yes.

Q: Can you share more about choice limiting funding and how current construction may impact eligibility for funding?
A: It is not our intent to delay or stop any construction that is underway or planned in the short term. If you have already begun construction prior to an award notification you may continue work. The Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD) will review environmental compliance documents to determine eligibility. If the project is found ineligible or not in compliance with environmental requirements it will not be funded.

Q: How does the 20-year grant requirement impact applicants that may be holding a lease on a facility?
A: A long-term lease demonstrating that you will maintain site control for 20 years is sufficient in demonstrating you can meet site control requirements.

Q: If awarded, when is the soonest we will be notified and when is the soonest we can break ground?
A: We are anticipating that notifications will go out by the end of Q1 2023 (March 31, 2023). There are several approval phases for this project, and ultimately, they will need to be approved by Snohomish County Council. As we have additional information regarding time it will be shared with applicants.

Q: What if an organization has more than one project that they'd like to pursue? Would you recommend two separate applications?
A: Yes, you may submit multiple applications. You should submit one application per project.

Q: Do infants and toddlers need to be included in the additional child care spaces?
A: No, we do not expect additional spaces to be inclusive birth to five. It is any portion of increase in spots for children five and under.

Q: Will the site control requirement be met if the facility is not currently owned by the applicant, but the applicant has an accepted offer contingent on the award of grant funds?
A: As long as you are purchasing the space, you will have site control once the loan closes, and you have an agreement in place, that is acceptable.
Q: Does the County or funding mechanism have any goals regarding average cost per added licensed child care spot? Is there a target to help size my budget to help reach the goals of the program?
A: We will be taking all applications together holistically. No target cost per slot has been identified.

Q: Must all environmental reviews be completed by the funding agency, or can we pay for this on our own and get it done right away?
A: Environmental reviews may be completed on your own separately. Feel free to move forward with those. However, environmental reviews are provided free by the County whereas they may be costly elsewhere.

Q: Our plan is to break ground in March. Are we able to still proceed with construction?
A: Yes, you can proceed with construction.

Q: What is the total amount available for all awards?
A: We have not set the total amount. We have set the minimum and maximum per project, but we are keeping the total flexible to respond to needs across the County.

Q: If the minimum award amount is $500K, where do home care providers fit who are looking to increase slots.
A: We intentionally set the minimum higher to focus on the larger child care centers with this particular funding opportunity. We anticipate there will be additional funding in 2023 that will be available to smaller providers.

Q: Is supporting expansion of home based child care to a larger child care center an eligible use of funding? Can we get the land and other items after we get funding, or does it need to be before?
A: That project would be appropriate for this funding. However, you would want to have all the pieces in place in order to be “shovel-ready” if awarded funding.

Q: Do we need other funding sources for this project? What percent are you willing to fund?
A: Having multiple fund sources is not a requirement, but it may be an area where projects with multiple funders are awarded additional points. There is not currently a target percentage or goal regarding the funding ratio.

Q: Can you share more about “shovel-ready” and how soft-costs are involved?
A: We are looking for projects that are able to fully expend their award by the end of the deadline and result in an additional increase in number of slots. If you are in a space where you are scoping a project, that work would be eligible under this NOFA however you would need a concrete plan how that would result in an increase in number of slots.

Q: Regarding the seal bid process, if we are beginning construction based on our pre-planning do we need to go back to a seal bid process? Or do we risk out on funding by moving ahead with the planned construction?
A: It depends on the type of funding you have for the project. Once we decide the award, we would need to take a look at anything moving forward and consider what part of the project ARPA funding is supporting. For the portion of the project funded by ARPA-CLFR, all compliance criteria must be met, which could potentially exclude some costs.
Q: Is the evaluation criteria available?
A: Yes, the evaluation criteria is available in the application.

Q: On the application for total project cost, would we include of the total project that would serve multiple purposes, or only the part that will provide child care.
A: Please include the cost of the entire project.

Q: Does DCYF have any impact on who determines the awardees?
A: Final determination will be made by the Office of Recovery and Resilience Review Committee and approved by the County Council.

Q: We have a building under lease but are scheduled to purchase in 2025. Does the total purchase price plus closing costs need to be under $2 million?
A: The maximum amount for any single project will be $2 million. All parts of the project should be fully accounted for, including with other fund sources.

Q: We have a project that could potentially encompass child care, behavioral health, and job training. It is sounding like there will be more NOFAs becoming available in the future. Are there any updates on the timing of those announcements? Anything we should consider if we intent on applying to multiple NOFAs?
A: Future funding opportunities in different policy spaces will be released in Q1 and Q2 of 2023. People interested in receiving those notices may receive notification when open. Applicants would need to specify which costs are specific to expanding child care facilities for this NOFA.

Q: For “E: Provide a list of the policies and procedures for each of the following: Personnel Management, Financial Management” Would you simply like us to provide you with the titles of the policies we have in place or provide attachments for all of them?
A: Please provide either the manuals or attachments.

Q: Regarding Section 3.M.iii: Project Soundness, “Compare your proposed capital project against at least two alternative capital expenditures:” Is this intended to be a comparison against actual or potential alternative capital expenditures? Further, should the comparison be against the Applicant’s alternatives, or anticipated projects proposed by other organizations?
A: The U.S. Department of Treasury requires that we provide a written justification for any capital expenses over $1 million. In this case, we are asking you to demonstrate that you have conducted due diligence that suggests that your proposal is more cost effective than alternative options to add child care slots in your area. For example, an alternative project could be converting an existing building into child care space or identifying an alternative piece of land to build a new facility. We want to make sure that applicants have explored all available options and believe that their project is the best, most cost efficient method of adding licensed child care slots in their community.

Alternative projects can include comparisons against either actual or potential projects. If comparing to potential projects, comparisons should cite all industry-standard and area-adjusted data that was used in the analysis. The Applicant is not required to compare to other Applicants’ proposed projects, though that comparison will be taken into account in the scoring.
Q: With the potential future opportunity to open a new location, I recently purchased a piece of commercial zoned land within Snohomish County limits. I used a combination of my own funds + bank finance to complete the purchase. This makes my project shovel-ready contingent on receiving the grant. As part of the application process, I intend to submit the application with the need to repay the financed portion (loan) on the property as acquisition cost and part of my funds used while purchasing the property as my contribution towards the project. Can you validate if this can be a valid acquisition cost that I can list as part of the application.

A: The grant will only cover expenses directly related to provision and expansion of child care in Snohomish County. Any portion of property that is not related to the provision child care is an ineligible expense.

Q: I do not collect parents’ gross monthly income, ethnicity for my current enrolled kids and do not intend to collect this information in future.

A: This funding requires that reporting, and they would need to collect that information in order to stay in compliance with reporting.

Q: How can I determine whether currently enrolled kids or future admissions fall within 65% of the AMI?

A: If you have families that are funded through Working Connections or other State or Federal programs that have income requirements, you may include those families as "Under 65% AMI." If you cannot collect or verify this information for families that are not enrolled in State or Federal programs, you will need to enter “unknown” for this application question. This will not make the application ineligible; it will only mean that you will not receive any preference points for this one question. However, collecting income data and race/ethnicity data through at least 2026 is a mandatory requirement of this funding, per the U.S. Treasury. If you are awarded funding and cannot or do not wish to collect this information, you will have to repay the award amount.

Q: Is there a prerequisite to be enrolled in any government funded child care programs such as head start etc.?

A: No.

Q: What is the authoritative scale used by the county to determine whether the additional capacity expanded through this program is serving the committed AMI distribution families?

A: Award recipients will need to collect this information from families. The cutoff is determined by the scale used by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This scale is included in the application.

Q: Can you share additional insight into the nature of the legally binding public interest, its entitlements on the school. Does it extend any additional liability to school beyond the DCYF requirements?

A: This includes ongoing use restrictions, a Deed of Trust, and covenants.

Q: Does securing the grant restrict or put any additional constraints on future development/additions on the property, in case if City allows us to do this as part of a multi-phase development?

A: The grant requires ongoing use restrictions for the grant, future use of the property would need to be reviewed to determine if there would be restrictions.
Q: Per DCYF guidelines, each kid requires 35 SQ FT of Interior space and 75 SQ FT of playground. Is this the same metric required to determine the additional child care capacity secured with the project? Can you confirm the classroom & playground space requirements per kid and the policy on playground rotation, if it’s different from DCYF guidelines?
A: The space requirements for this grant are aligned with DCYF.

Q: I own the school as a small business and classify it as a women business enterprise. Is there any additional favorability I will be given during the funding review process?
A: For this grant application, there are no additional points awarded for WMBE businesses.

Q: The organization is a single member LLC, so the organization’s federal tax return is included on Schedule C of the LLC member’s personal return filed jointly with their spouse. Will it be sufficient to include only the Schedule C with the application? Or do you require the entire tax return of the LLC member and their spouse, that the Schedule C is included within?
A: The Schedule C is sufficient.

Q: Are there any LEED requirements for this grant?
A: There are no LEED requirements.

Q: Do we need to have a signed lease for the new space in order to apply for the grant?
A: Site control is a requirement to be eligible for this NOFA. That means you either need to have a signed long-term lease at the time or application, OR you need to have a buy/sell agreement in place if you’re looking to purchase the facility.

Q: Would a Letter of Intent (LOI) to lease be sufficient evidence of site control for the application? The LOI would include the intent to sign a 20-year lease on the property.
A: An LOI is acceptable for documentation of site control. The LOI must state the current property owner’s intent to sell or long-term lease the property to the organization at specific terms. It usually includes a timeframe to close, but in this case, it can state when the funding is secured.