



February 28, 2023

**ADDENDUM 6**

RFP #22-52

Funding for Childcare/Early Learning Facilities – Capital Program

**ATTENTION:**

This Addendum 6 consists of 4 pages, including this page.

All documented holders are hereby notified that the RFP documents for the subject RFP have been amended as hereinafter set forth. The following changes, additions, and/or deletions are hereby made a part of the RFP documents.

- The following pages contain clarification of information and responses to questions received before, during and after the informational webinar, held at 2:00 PM, Friday, February 24, 2023.
- The deadline for responses remains 2:30 PM, Tuesday, March 7, 2023.

**NOTE:** This is an informational addendum only. Acknowledgment of the receipt of this addendum is not required in order for the response to be considered complete.

**ATTENDEES:**

1. Kelda Adair – Gardenview Montessori
2. Ann Beck, Community Health & Human Services Manager – Whatcom County Health & Community Services
3. Linda Beckman – Western Washington University
4. Irene Boyer – Bellingham Childcare & Learning Center
5. Marilyn Chu – Bellingham Childcare & Learning Center
6. Dave Foreman – Opportunity Council
7. Jake – did not introduce themselves
8. Chelsea Johnson, Program Specialist – Whatcom County Health & Community Services
9. Elizabeth Maynard – Bellingham Childcare & Learning Center
10. Tim Metz – Lynden School District
11. Gabriel Miles – Gabriel’s Art Kids
12. Valerie – did not introduce themselves
13. Toni Petch – AHA Childcare
14. Kayla Schott-Bresler, Strategic Initiatives Manager – Whatcom County Executive’s Office
15. Jessie Thomson, Contract Coordinator – Whatcom County Health & Community Services

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Kayla Schott-Bresler shared additional information and information about upcoming public meetings that are happening around children and childcare funding:

1. The [Healthy Children's Fund Implementation Plan](#) was just introduced to the County Council on February 21, 2023. A public hearing on the Plan will be held at the County Council meeting on the evening of March 7, 2023. County Council will vote on the plan at the County Council meeting on the evening of March 21, 2023.

Part of this Plan includes an audit of the County's internal processes surrounding bid solicitations and funding administration which will include asking contractors for feedback about their experience working with the County, ease of contracting, and suggested improvements for making processes easier for providers, while staying within the bounds of local, state, and federal regulations.

2. Tentatively, on March 21, 2023, Council will discuss additional ARPA funding for childcare. Public comments can be submitted to [council@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:council@co.whatcom.wa.us).
3. Following federal and state requirements can be complicated. Applicants are eligible and encouraged to identify Development Consultants as a built-in project cost.

**Questions:**

The County encourages brief answers to the questions, as indicated in the RFP. Questions and Answers before, during and after the February 24, 2023 informational webinar are as follow. Please note corrections/clarifications to answers provided during the webinar.

1. **Q:** Regarding Section 1.3 in the RFP – Is it considered an additional public benefit to offer employer-based childcare within Bellingham City Limits to low-income staff who reside outside of Bellingham City Limits.  
**A:** All areas of Whatcom County are eligible however there is a preference for buildings located outside of Bellingham City Limits. It is helpful to include a description of proposed projects and any supportive data in order to provide further context for the Application Evaluation Committee.
2. **Q:** Is the dedication of 20% of dedicated slots to low-income children, an average? Do those slots need to be within the expanded capacity location(s) or can they be distributed between an existing building (with current slots) and the new building (with new slots)?  
**A:** The requirement is 20% of new slots. Slots can be filled between both new and existing buildings, however, the overall increase in affordable slots shall be commensurate with the requirement. Additional discussions would be necessary between the contractor and County to ensure the County can appropriately secure the public investment through a restrictive covenant.
3. **Q:** During renovation, are carrying and payroll costs eligible reimbursable expenses?  
**A:** No; funding from other sources should be accessed for these types of costs. Any costs that would be capitalized under the project would be an allowable cost.
4. **Q:** In Addendum #1, question 14 indicates that projects exceeding \$250,000 include sealed bid requirements and bids would need to be solicited from multiple organizations or contractors and include documented justification of why they were selected.  
**A:** [2 CFR 200.320](#) identifies methods of procurement to be followed. Agencies must follow the identified methods and maintain records that detail the rationale for the method of procurement.
5. **Q:** Define wrap-around services.  
**A:** Wrap-around services are services that are not typically seen in the early learning setting (e.g. Occupational Therapy, Speech Language Pathology, Physical Therapy, social services to families, etc.). These services are not eligible to receive funding under this RFP, but may be eligible under subsequent funding opportunities through the Healthy Children's Fund.

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- 6. Q:** In Section 1.3 of the RFP, bullet number 2 under ‘Eligible projects include’, what does it mean when it says providers can contract with the County?
- A:** Everyone who applies under this RFP will be required to dedicate 20% of childcare slots to low-income children through contract.
- 7. Q:** Can modular buildings be purchased with these funds?
- A:** Federal regulations around procurement of modular buildings should be reviewed. Site control also needs to be considered depending on how long modular units are intended to be used. Proposals should assure the County that the additional slots hosted within modular buildings will exist for at least ten years.
- 8. Q:** Can funding be used to increase current available slots up to licensed capacity?
- A:** No. Expansion beyond licensed capacity is required.
- 9. Q:** Is this the only opportunity for ARPA funding for large capital projects?
- A:** County Council will decide if additional money is budgeted. The number of projects that come in under this solicitation may influence that decision.
- 10. Q:** What qualifies as “site control”?
- A:** Any of the following are sufficient:
- Executed Purchase Agreement
  - Executed Purchase Option Agreement
  - Executed Lease Agreement
  - Executed Lease Agreement with a purchase option
  - Letter of Intent and draft Lease. The County will require that the Lease is executed as a condition for any awards.
  - Any Lease Agreement or draft Lease Agreement must allow for proposed site improvements and use as childcare/early learning for the agreed upon length of time.
- 11. Q:** What is the UEI number?
- A:** On April 4, 2022, the unique entity identifier used across the federal government changed from the DUNS Number to the Unique Entity ID (generated by [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov)). The UEI is an identifying number that is assigned to all recipients who receive federal funding.
- 12. Q:** What are examples of critical milestones, as referenced on Attachment A: Application?
- A:** Critical milestones are significant events that increase their likelihood of a project moving forward. Examples of critical milestones include when site control will be gained under a purchase option, the estimated date to close on the purchase of a property, estimated dates of securing permits, when an award announcement is expected for other public funding being applied for, etc.
- 13. Q:** What are examples of mechanisms used to determine project costs, as referenced on Attachment A: Application?
- A:** Examples of mechanisms used to determine project costs include professional estimates or estimates gathered by pricing products. The answer to this question relays to the County how certain a Contractor is about project costs and feasibility by how comprehensively the question can be answered.
- 14. Q:** How do I know if I need an environmental survey, as referenced on Attachment A: Application?
- A:** Including any environmental testing done to date will be helpful to the Application Evaluation Committee, however projects are not required to perform a survey as part of the application process but may be asked to do so if awarded, depending on permitting requirements.

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- 15. Q:** Are pre-application meetings with relevant City/County permitting departments required to be held prior to submitting a proposal under this RFP?
- A:** Pre-application meetings are not required, however, they are an indicator of the readiness for projects to move forward and the likelihood of success, if funded. Documentation submitted with proposals of informal conversations with permitting offices or information that could convince the County that a project can successfully achieve permits, will be helpful. If permits are not required, documentation of such is helpful for the Application Evaluation Committee.
- 16. Q:** Where can I find the link to 2 CFR Appendix II to Part 200(E), as referenced in Addendum 1 – Question 8? Will Contractors know what prevailing wage to charge?
- A:** <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200/appendix-Appendix%20II%20to%20Part%20200>. Not all contractors work on prevailing wage projects. Prevailing wage is used when government money is being used on a project. Federal and State have different prevailing wage rates and contractors should read the response to Addendum 1, Question 8 very closely.
- 17. Q:** If a respondent to this RFP is providing no cost access to outside providers to early learning space and the respondent has minimal costs for utilities, maintenance, etc., what should be submitted in the proposal for anticipated costs?
- A:** The respondent should include anticipated costs in a format similar to the Attachment D: Operations Budget template and include a narrative explanation of their plan for another organization to occupy the space as well as any operational/financial plans involved in that arrangement. The operational expenses and revenue of that organization are TBD.

**End of Addendum 6 to Whatcom County RFP #22-52**