

MEMORANDUM

TO: Snohomish County Council

FROM: Kara Main-Hester, Chief Recovery & Resilience Officer

DATE: July 5, 2023

RE: 2023 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Child Care Facilities Awardees

Background

Increasing child care countywide was identified as a [top community pandemic recovery priority](#) during the Office of Recovery & Resilience's (ORR) ARPA outreach. In the 2023 adopted budget, \$12 million in ARPA funding was appropriated to increase child care accessibility and availability, with a focus on increasing child care slots for programs serving low-income families and programs located in extreme child care deserts. The majority of this funding will be distributed through the [Child Care Facilities Notice of Funding Availability](#) (NOFA), which was a competitive process that solicited projects from organizations that can expand child care capacity.

Snohomish County faces a critical lack of child care. Over 80 percent of residents live in an extreme child care desert. There are 62 slots of child care for every 100 infants, toddlers, or preschoolers whose parents work, far below the state average of 79 slots per 100 children. To bring the county to the state average, Snohomish County would need to add 3,500 slots of child care. An estimated 13,000 slots would need to come online to have licensed care for every child.

These awarded projects will bring 360 new child care slots online, and they will remain available for at least 20 years. All funded organizations will primarily serve families with incomes at or below 65 percent of the Area Median Income, and five of the six sites recommended for funding are located in extreme child care deserts.

Total recommended ARPA funding is \$7,604,193 to support awarded organizations through the Child Care Facilities NOFA.

This memo is meant to satisfy the ARPA Spending Plan required by the 2023 Adopted Budget Note No. 8.

Eligibility & Scoring

Eligible applicants for the Child Care Facilities NOFA must have and maintain licensure and certification for the proposed facility and child care services provided at the facility through all applicable licensing

bodies. Applicants must also have previous experience in delivering the proposed service or similar service. The County was seeking projects that align with the following priorities:

- Are located in Qualified Census Tracts;
- Are located in communities that have been identified as extreme child care deserts; and
- Programs that primarily serve low- and moderate-income families.

A full list of eligibility criteria is available [in the NOFA](#).

Snohomish County received 17 projects for the Child Care Facilities NOFA. The Office of Housing & Community Development (OCHD) in the Human Services Department provided the initial technical review, and then the Office of Recovery & Resilience conducted scoring alongside representatives from Human Services and the Executive's Office.

Awardees

Based on the scoring committee's results the following projects will be awarded.

Volunteers of America Western Washington (VOAWW) – Lynnwood Neighborhood Center

- \$2,000,000
- As part of the larger Lynnwood Neighborhood Center project, VOAWW will build new classroom space to serve 62 children every day. Classrooms include preschool, toddler, and infant classrooms. Additional services available onsite include family support, behavioral health integration, on-site medical services and community-based intensive services for children, youth, and adults.

Rise Up Academy – Academy Expansion Project

- \$2,000,000
- This project will construct a new child care and early learning facility that will increase Rise Up Academy's child care capacity from 70 to 130 slots. The larger project will also include long-term affordable housing units.

Housing Hope – Tomorrow's Hope Child Development Center

- \$1,000,000
- Housing Hope will construct a new facility for Tomorrow's Hope Child Development Center, doubling this program's capacity to provide full-day, trauma-informed child care for children who have experienced homelessness, poverty, or early traumas. The project will create 136 to 142 new child care slots. This facility will also provide job training in the early childhood education field and on-site behavioral health services for children and parents.

Camp Fire Snohomish County – Camp Killoqua Child Care Center

- \$1,000,000
- Camp Killoqua plans to renovate the first floor of an existing 2,108 square foot structure built in 2019 and expand it by 317 square feet. The project transforms an existing large open conference room into child care classrooms and creates a fenced play area. This project will create 32 additional child care slots.

Latino Educational Training Institute – Incubators for Families' Success

- \$656,193

- LETI plans to develop a 1,232 square foot modular building and outdoor playground for a child development center beside their current office. This project will provide approximately 20 child care slots for the Latino and immigrant community members LETI works with.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Snohomish County – Edmonds Club Child Care

- \$1,000,000
- This project constructs a new one-story 12,000 square foot building to expand child care offerings from 70 slots currently to up to 120 slots.

Timeline

Agreements with awardees are planned to be finalized and implemented in 2023.