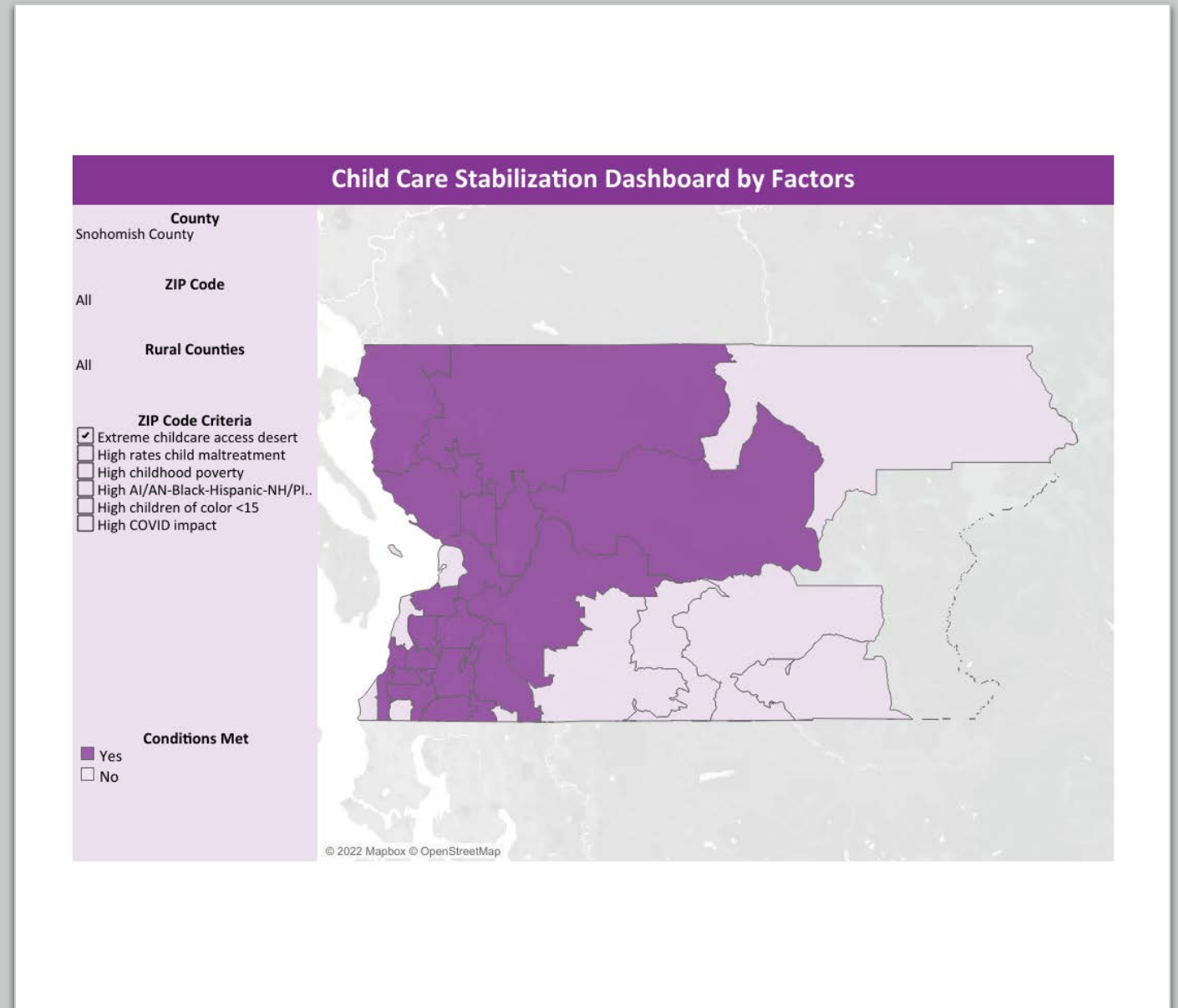


Child Care Spending Plan

December 14, 2022

Critical Lack of Child Care

- Over **80% residents** live in an extreme child care desert.
- There are **62 child care slots for every 100 infants, toddlers, or preschoolers whose parents work**, far below the state average of 79 slots per 100 children.
- Would need to add 3,500 slots of child care to bring the county to the state average.
 - Approx. 13,000 slots would need to come online to have licensed care for every child.
- **18.3% of WA parents surveyed turned down a job offer or promotion due to child care issues.**
 - **47% of unemployed parents found child care issues a barrier to seeking employment.**



Existing Projects Funding Plans

- **School-Age Care and Behavioral Health Supports:** Program is providing social-emotional supports for older children. Proposed to fund through the “Youth” bucket.
- **Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) Stabilization:** Propose funding to be continued into 2023 and 2024.
- **Child Care for Job Seekers:** Program is currently funded through 2023. No additional funding is recommended at this time.



ARPA Child Care Spending Plan

- In the 2023 adopted budget, the **Executive and Council appropriated \$12 million in ARPA funding** to expand access to child care.
- ORR recommends focusing most of this funding in two key priority areas:
 - **Increasing available slots through capital projects**
 - **Stabilizing and expanding the child care workforce.**
- **Funding Proposal:**
 - \$5 million – Start-Up & Expansion Grants
 - \$3.8 million – Workforce Development & Retention
 - \$200,000 – Community-Led Recruitment & Mentorship
 - \$3 million – Continued ECEAP Stabilization

Start-Up & Expansion Grants - \$5 million

- Focused on addressing the critical lack of child care slots in Snohomish County.
- Funding would be dispersed through two, separate competitive processes:
 - Child Care Facilities Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA): Grants between \$500,000 - \$2,000,000 to support the creation of new child care slots by building or expanding child care facilities. **More responsive to large-scale projects.** [NOFA accepting applications](#) until 4 p.m. on Jan. 13, 2023.
 - Second funding opportunity will offer **smaller grants and will be more responsive to smaller, community-based providers, including Family Home Centers.** Funding is focused on capital projects and ensuring business stability. Program designed for greater simplicity and will have greater technical assistance.

Workforce Development & Retention

- This \$3.8 million focuses on the need to stabilize and grow the child care workforce, which was identified as the top need in conversations with providers.
- This funding would support individuals in obtaining the **necessary certificates and training to enter the child care workforce**. Elements will likely include:
 - Partnerships with certifying organizations across the county
 - Marketing campaign to promote child care as a career pathway
 - Paid work experience in early learning
 - Supports to help individuals complete a certificate program (*e.g.*, child care for their own kids, transportation, interpretation)
 - Participants would complete the required 30 hours of STARS training, receive the Early Childhood Education Initial Certificate, and be matched to a child care organization, if desired.

Community-Led Recruitment & ECEAP Stabilization

- This \$200,000 focuses on the need for **community-centric recruitment pathways** which are crucial as employers are finding little success through traditional recruitment and hiring methods.
- This program would include a partnership with community-based organization(s) to **reach potential providers who face systemic barriers to access**, including language and transportation.
- This \$3 million focuses on the need to continue **stabilizing the County's ECEAP providers**, which serve highly vulnerable families.
- Costs of providing ECEAP services increased due to COVID-19, all while social-emotional challenges have also increased.
- Sixteen County ECEAP providers across 26 locations use these grants to **sustain and expand services without disruption**.

Potential ECEAP Funding Cliff

- ECEAP is a State-funded program.
- The State's Fair Start for Kids Act expanded ECEAP, but reimbursement rates may not be adequately adjusted for rising costs.
- The County should continue to advocate that the State update reimbursement rates to reflect rising costs, in order to make ECEAP viable in the long-term.



Next Steps & Timeline

- Implementation details are currently being co-designed with community members, providers, subject matter experts, and County departments.
- Child Care Facilities NOFA is already in process.
- Expect to work through remaining competitive funding programs in Q1-Q2 2023.
- Notifications of funding at www.snohomishcountywa.gov/recovery or send an email to SnohomishCounty.Recovers@snoco.org.

[Home](#) › [Doing Business](#) › [Office of Recovery and Resilience](#) › [Youth, Family & Seniors](#)

Youth, Family & Seniors

Snohomish County has allocated **approximately \$40.4 million of its ARPA allocation to initiatives that support youth, families, and seniors**. The goal of this funding is to stabilize and improve accessibility and affordability of high quality child care and early childhood education, support youth who have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and virtual school, and boost crucial programs like senior supports, basic needs supports, and food access.