

2024 Fall HVSA StartUp Funding Opportunity

Frequently Asked Questions

November 13, 2024

Application Problems.....	1
Funding Opportunity and General Information:.....	1
StartUp or Expansion?.....	2
Applicant Eligibility.....	2
Scope: Populations, Service Areas.....	3
Budget and Financial.....	4
Installation and Implementation.....	5

Application Problems

****NEW Q: We found a formatting issue in the Startup application – there is an extra blank page (pg. 6 of 11) in the document and a mis-numbered question. (submitted 11/5)**

A: Apologies for this formatting issue. We discovered the [StartUp application \(11-033\)](#) had an additional blank page and a misnumbering of questions in Section V. We revised the StartUp application and uploaded a new version to the [DCYF Home Visiting Funding Opportunities webpage](#). Please download the revised version and use this to complete your application.

Funding Opportunity and General Information:

Q: Where can I access 2024 HVSA StartUp materials?

Q: Where can the Oct. 17, 2024 Bidders’ Webinar PowerPoint slides be accessed?

A: Funding opportunity materials and webinar slides are available on the [DCYF Home Visiting Funding Opportunities webpage](#): <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/child-dev-support-providers/home-visiting/funding-opportunities>.

Q: Where can I send questions after the webinar?

A: Email all questions about this funding opportunity to the DCYF Home Visiting inbox at: home.visiting@dcyf.wa.gov with the subject line, “2024 HVSA StartUp Question”. To receive answers ahead of the application deadline, all questions must be submitted by 5 pm PT on November 8, 2024.

Q: When is the application and budget due back to DCYF?

A: The Letter of Intent – which must be submitted ahead of all applications – is due Oct. 25, 2024 by 12 pm PT. The Application Form, Budget & Required documents are due November 18th by 12 pm PT.

Q: I understand that the DCYF team here is not reviewing the applications, but can you explain whether the review teams are part of Start Early, DOH, or any of your other partners?

A: Reviewers are not part of the HVSA trio who work directly with Home Visiting with LIAs, with the exception that brand new staff sometimes serve on review panels as a learning opportunity. Reviewers are recruited from staff at other DCYF programs, DOH, DSHS, Health Care Authority, statewide private partners, and parents or community members associated with similar programs.

StartUp or Expansion?

Q: Would expansion of a program into an entirely new area (different county) be a startup or a general expansion?

A: An organization desiring to expand its current programming into a new geographic area is considered an expansion. Please note, the SB6109 Funding Opportunity is not intended to fund new startup programs; eligible applicants must be currently funded HVSA programs intending to expand their current home visiting model.

Q: Are you using "existing programs" synonymously with "existing models"? Or "existing programs" = existing caseloads?

A: Existing programs are those 45 LIAs currently funded through a DCYF/HVSA home visiting contract; existing models are only the 8 allowable models. It is expected that programs will be increasing the number of families served through this expansion.

Q: Does a "new startup program" have to be one that HVSA already supports (i.e. NFP, PAT, etc.)?

A: Yes – to receive HVSA funding, an organization must implement one of the 8 allowable models currently funded.

Applicant Eligibility

Q: I wondered if the Home Visiting applied to tribes that do not have a Home Visiting Program established yet.

A: This StartUp Funding opportunity is available to any eligible organization, including tribes in Washington State, who do not currently implement 1 of the 8 allowable home visiting models and wish to start one.

Q: Are fiscally sponsored organizations eligible to apply for this funding?

A: Yes, applicants using a fiscal sponsor are eligible to apply so long as the fiscally sponsoring agency is eligible to apply.

Q: It looks like the application is limited to certain program models. Is there an opportunity for new programs that are “home grown” or locally identified to apply for funding?

A: No, currently the HVSA only funds the 8 allowable program models: Early Head Start Home-Based Program (EHS), Early Steps to School Success (ESSS), Family Spirit, Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP), Outreach Doula, ParentChild+ (formerly Parent-Child Home Program), Parents as Teachers (PAT), and Steps Toward Effective, Enjoyable Parenting (STEEP).

****NEW Q: Is DCYF’s HVSA StartUp Application listing Head Start/Early Head Start in error? If it is not in error, can you please confirm whether you are able to waive the Model Fidelity Letter requirements, given that neither Head Start nor Start Early WA are able to confer such a letter for a new program?**

We apologize for the oversight of including Early Head Start-Home Based model in the eligible models for the 2024 HVSA StartUp Funding Opportunity. Based on the complexity of state to federal funding for Early Head Start and the requirement from the Office of Head Start that a program must already be providing Early Head Start services to obtain a “Program Affiliate Letter”, a program would have already had to apply for and been awarded a grant when there was new Early Head Start slots available. As a result, DCYF is unable to offer StartUp funding to Early Head Start-Home Based programs; we would only able to offer funding through expansion of programs with existing EHS-HB slots. Early Head Start-Home Based is not an eligible model for the 2024 StartUp Funding Opportunity, and the Application Guidance available on the [Home Visiting Funding Opportunities web page](#) will be revised to note this change.

Q: I see based on the application guidance that Home-Based Early Head Start is eligible. However, I notice that the DCYF Head Start Collaboration office seems to be focused on center-based care. Would an application for Home-Based Early Head Start be competitive? Or is expanding home-based care not the priority as compared with center-based care?

A: This funding opportunity is offered through DCYF Strengthening Families Washington and is not part of the Head Start Collaboration Office; an Early Head Start-Home Based program is one of the 8 allowable program models eligible for funding.

Scope: Populations, Service Areas

Q: Is this new funding only for King County? Or more counties?

A: The 2024 HVSA StartUp funding opportunity is open to applicants intending to serve families from all counties in Washington State, so long as they possess at least 2 of the characteristics of the HVSA required populations and eligible age groups listed on pages 9-10 of the StartUp Guidance document (and listed below on p.3).

Q: I've reviewed DCYF's 2022-2023 Head Start & ECEAP Saturation Study, which I understand DCYF uses to determine appropriate locations for new slots. We serve kids in Priority 2 and 3 school districts, but not Priority 1. Would an application about serving kids in Priority 2 districts be competitive?

A: This funding opportunity is not through Head Start Collaboration Office or ECEAP. To receive funding, proposed startups must intend serve families of children, ages birth to 5 years, in Washington State who meet at least 2 of the priority population characteristics identified in below:

- Poverty/Low income/Economic Insecurity
- Homeless/Unstable Housing
- Parent Mental Health/Behavioral Health Illness
- Racial and ethnic groups experiencing disproportionality
- Enrolled in WorkFirst/TANF
- Prior Involvement in Child Welfare System
- Intimate Partner Violence
- Non-English Speaking or Recent Immigrant Families
- Current and Previously Incarcerated Parents
- Teen Parents
- History or current experience with Substance Use, including Tobacco
- Parents with Low Educational Attainment
- Parents and/or Children with Disabilities
- Currently or formerly in the Military

Budget and Financial

Q: Do we have to keep budgets separate?

A: The HVSA requires that all funding be braided rather than blended; therefore, organizations must be able to track funding sources separately – fiscally and data collection on families.

Q: Should we expect to prorate \$250K in first 5 months?

A: In the application, you should propose a 12-month budget. If your application is successful, we will work with you to develop an appropriate 5-month budget for the initial contract term.

Q: Will the money be annual and ongoing, and annual renewal will be based on available funding?

A: While initial funding will begin February 1st and run through June 30, 2025, contracts may anticipate annual renewal, contingent on available funding and program performance. The annual budgets will be renegotiated using the submitted 12-month budget as a basis.

Installation and Implementation

Q: For the referral question in the application (Section III B #2), can we include partners within our agency that support outreach?

A: In the application, you should present the most relevant referral partners (both into and out of your program); this may be other programs within your agency.

Q: What is the expectation regarding timeline of starting direct services?

A: It is expected that organizations will implement an adequate installation and startup phase that is realistic to their program model, community and organization capacity. There are many factors that will influence services to families, and you should consider these when anticipating your installation/startup timeline.

Q: Is there a list of required screening/assessments? are they different for different models?

A: HVSA expected screenings and assessments are, for the most part, depicted in the application Section VI Question 2 and the Home Visiting Outcomes listed on p. 7 of the Guidance document:

- Breastfeeding
- Caregiver Mental Health and Depression Screening
- Well Child Visit
- Child Maltreatment
- Child Developmental Screening
- Family economic circumstances and stability, including housing stability
- Parent-Child Interaction
- Relationships and Intimate Partner Violence Screening
- Developmental Screening
- Early Language and Literacy Activities
- Medical and Dental Health Access
- Substance use disorder, prevention and treatment

Q: Is there TA available for outreach doula program?

A: Start Early WA primarily provides general home visiting technical assistance to all home visiting programs funded through the HVSA; they deliver model specific technical assistance for Parents as Teachers, Nurse Family Partnership, and ParentChild+. If programs need model specific TA for community-based outreach doula, they should seek assistance from the national model, Health Connect One.

Q: Would these data requirements mean that families MUST report demographic information (and if they don't, they will be denied services)?

A: As programs serve families, they may elect to not share demographic or other information with the home visiting program and still participate in the home visiting program; DCYF home visiting contracts include requirements for programs to collect and share service utilization and other non-identifiable information in their data reporting.