

# 2022-23 ECEAP Expansion

Addendum #1 Request for Application (RFA) Questions and Answers

Nov. 15, 2021

## QAll Applicants

### 1. I am interested in being a subcontractor for ECEAP as a licensed child care serving children age 3-12. We have room for two more classrooms. What do I need to do to start this process?

DCYF is happy to connect organizations with ECEAP Contractors in their area that subcontract. Organizations can then reach out directly to those contacts and inquire about subcontracting with them.

### 2. Where do I find the direct link for the RFA materials?

On the DCYF website under **Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program Expansion of Services**. The direct link is titled **ECEAP Application, Exhibits and Guide**. All materials necessary to apply are found there.

### 3. I am a licensed child care provider that currently subcontracts for ECEAP with a local ECEAP Contractor. We have space and would like to expand our ECEAP services. Can we have a contract with the state as well as a subcontract with our contractor?

An organization cannot be an ECEAP Contractor and a Subcontractor at the same time. Two options are open for organizations who currently subcontract for ECEAP services:

1) Reach out to your current contractor's leadership and talk about your desire to expand ECEAP. If they are on board too, they would be the ones to complete and submit the ECEAP Application for you as a subcontractor.

2) If organizations are thinking of expanding ECEAP to the minimum amount of slots, which is 75 comprehensive preschool slots (, then you could fill out an application and submit it yourself as an organization to become your own ECEAP Contractor. You will also need to notify your current contractor that you are applying to be your own ECEAP Contractor.

### 4. I am looking into becoming a new ECEAP provider and would like to start conversations with other ECEAP programs in my area. Is there a good way to find a complete list of these programs?

Yes, please email [dcyf.eceap@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:dcyf.eceap@dcyf.wa.gov) with your program location and we can send you contacts in your area, or you can view the statewide [ECEAP Directors Roster](#) to locate Contractor Director contact information.



**5. We are a private early childhood center for ages 0-6 years old interested in ECEAP. How much is tuition for age 3 & 4?**

ECEAP is a free preschool program for families that qualify, there is no tuition.

**6. We are a private early childhood center for ages 0-6 years old interested in ECEAP. How do we pay our teachers and are there any pay or benefit restrictions?**

ECEAP contracts use pre-set monthly payment amounts and contractors determine how to allocate funding internally in order to fully implement ECEAP (***ECEAP Performance Standards***). ECEAP does not have caps for staff salaries or benefits. Contractors must maintain a written cost allocation plan that describes how ECEAP and other funds are used and how costs are shared. This ensures that ECEAP funding is only used to provide ECEAP services. ECEAP contracts are paid on a per slot basis. Contract amounts are dependent on the number and type of slots in the contract. Slot rates are determined by the state Legislature and may vary based on region.

For reference, the following are rates for Part Day slots and statewide **average slot rates for School Day** and **Working Day** slots for the 2021-22 school year:

- \$9,193 per slot for Part Day
- \$12,375 per slot for School Day
- \$18,950 per slot for Working Day

The payment of teachers' salaries and benefits are allowable with ECEAP contract funding.

**7. We are a private early childhood center for ages 0-6 years old interested in ECEAP. Is DCYF paying for facilities (such as rent, maintenance, utilities, repairs)?**

Facilities expenses like rent, utilities and repairs are allowable with a cost allocation plan for shared space and services. This comes out of a contractor's per slot rate.

Additional funding is not provided for startup costs. DCYF cannot allow contractors to delay the start of ECEAP services and use the saved funds for equipment and materials.

Funding is not available through this RFA for large capital expenditures. For more information on funding for this purpose, please see the **Early Learning Facilities (ELF)** program.

**8. We are a private early childhood center for ages 0-6 years old interested in ECEAP. What can ECEAP funds be used for?**

Per the **2021-2022 ECEAP Client Services Contract**:

Contractors may use ECEAP funds for the following costs:

1. ECEAP administration including planning and coordination; accounting and auditing; purchasing, personnel and payroll functions; and equipment, training, travel and facility

costs related to these purposes. Administrative costs must not exceed 15 percent of the amount of this Contract, including Subcontractors' administrative costs, if any.

2. ECEAP services including preschool education, health services coordination, nutrition, family supports and parent involvement. *This includes salaries and benefits for direct service personnel, goods and services, equipment, facilities, child transportation, training, travel and other costs related to direct ECEAP services.*
3. Medical, dental, nutrition and mental health services for ECEAP children and families, as dollars of last resort if alternate sources of assistance are not available.

Contractor may not use ECEAP funds for the following costs:

1. Costs not directly related to ECEAP.
2. Costs that exceed the Contract amount.
3. Finance charges or late fees on purchases.
4. Work charged to or paid by any other contract or funding source.
5. Any sectarian purpose or activity, including sectarian worship or instruction.

Please refer to the **Sample ECEAP Contract** for more information.

## 9. Can a family child care program apply to be an ECEAP site?

DCYF encourages Family Child Care Home (FCCH) Providers to explore becoming an ECEAP site.

Organizations, including FCCH, interested in providing less than 75 preschool slots should coordinate with a current or prospective ECEAP contractor in their vicinity to discuss the possibility of becoming an ECEAP subcontractor working under that ECEAP contractor. Another option for FCCH providers could be to apply for slots together with other FCCH providers. Please email [dcyf.eceap@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:dcyf.eceap@dcyf.wa.gov) for further questions and support.

## 10. What is it like to be an ECEAP provider (the difference between contracting and subcontracting)?

- A contractor is the organization that signs and carries out the contract for ECEAP services with the Department of Children, Youth, and Families. Contractors are responsible for all ECEAP requirements, including the requirements in the **ECEAP Contract** and the **ECEAP Performance Standards**.
- A subcontractor (an ECEAP provider) is an organization that has a subcontract with a contractor to provide ECEAP services. Subcontractors may:
  1. Provide direct education, family support, parent education, and health services
  2. Oversee day-to-day operations at the site
  3. Recruit income-eligible and hard to reach families
  4. Integrate culturally responsive and inclusive systems into classrooms and socialization spaces
  5. Perform developmental assessments, compile and submit required data and reports

## **11. Will in-home preschools with the right qualifications be able to be part of the universal Pre-K plan once it is implemented?**

If President Biden's Build Back Better (BBB) plan were to be passed, states will have access to funds to build and administer preschool programs for all 3 and 4-year-old children.

- The legislation requires states to support a mixed-delivery system. This includes equitable distribution of preschool seats among settings including Head Start, existing state pre-k programs (ECEAP), schools, and licensed child care providers (including family child care home providers, center-based providers, and community or neighborhood networks of family child care providers); or a consortium of such entities.

## **Current ECEAP Contractors**

### **12. Sites where ECEAP children attend preschool must obtain a child care license unless the site is operated directly by an ECEAP Contractor or subcontract that is a governmental organization; Do sites that operate under 4 hours need to be licensed?**

No, they do not:

- Part Day – does not need to be licensed unless the class session is 4 hours or more in length.
- School Day – all sites must be licensed unless they fall into the *site is operated directly by an ECEAP Contractor or subcontract that is a governmental organization*.
- Working Day – all sites must be licensed.