

# 2022-23 ECEAP Expansion

Addendum #3 Request for Application (RFA) Questions and Answers

Dec. 10, 2021

## All Applicants

### 1. Do current contractors need to submit a budget sheet (Exhibit D)?

No, current ECEAP contractors do not need to submit Exhibit D and will be awarded points based on their previous submissions of the Staff Compensation Summary and ECEAP Budget deliverables. If a current ECEAP Contractor applicant prefers to be rated on a submitted Exhibit D, please complete and submit an Exhibit D.

### 2. Does Creative Curriculum® come with every classroom, even if you're subcontracting?

A subcontractor will work with their contractor to ensure the curriculum they need is available for classrooms.

### 3. Can I use and alternative curriculum?

From the ECEAP Performance Standards:

- **IC-3 Curriculum**
  - Contractors must implement Creative Curriculum®, HighScope®, or an alternative DCYF- approved comprehensive research-based curriculum. Contractors must obtain written approval from DCYF's ECEAP office before implementing an alternative curriculum.

### 4. Can I do my own recruiting as a subcontractor?

A subcontractor will work with their contractor around recruitment. They may have materials you can use, but you know your community best and how to reach the families that may qualify for ECEAP services.

### 5. Can I move my site location during my contract?

Yes. However, DCYF expects ECEAP Contractors to communicate with DCYF ECEAP about this.

From the ECEAP Performance Standards:

- **PAO-1 New Facilities**
  - Contractors must request and obtain prior approval in ELMS from DCYF ECEAP before opening a new site or classroom or relocating an existing classroom.



## 6. Does the saturation study include the child care desert study?

The saturation study does not include information on child care deserts and is not based on the child care desert study. What it does do is identify, at the school district level, the geographic locations of where Early Childhood Education and Assistance program slots are needed to meet the entitlement specified in RCW 43.216.556. This methodology is linked to the caseload forecast produced by the Caseload Forecast Council and includes estimates of the number of slots needed at each school district and the corresponding facility needs required to meet the entitlement in accordance with RCW 43.216.556.

Read more about the Head Start and ECEAP Saturation Study here:

<https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/eceap/2020-21ECEAP-HS-SaturationStudy.pdf>

You can find information on extreme child care deserts at

<https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/practice/oiaa/reports/early-learning-dashboards/child-care-stabilization> under the *Dashboard Map – Zip Code Factors*.

## 7. On the RFA Guide, page 13, under "Program Administration", it states that 20 points are possible for Exhibit B, but a current contractor does not have to complete Exhibit B; how will current contractor's points be calculated?

These points will be calculated based on what DCYF already knows about the Applicant's community partnerships and collaborations, based on information submitted or collected during DCYF's monitoring and ongoing partnership conversations and meetings, such as contractor calls. A current ECEAP Contractor applicant may choose to submit letters of support, but they are not required.

## 8. Exhibit A has the word count feature locked so we can't count how close we are to the 250-word limit in form fields. Would you consider sending a revised document with word count made available to applicants?

Unfortunately, the DCYF Forms Manager shared that the word document only counts characters in form fields, not words. To confirm your 250 word count we suggest:

- Write the answer in a separate word document, gathering the word count there, and then copying and pasting that into the form; or
- Once you type into that field, if you highlight only your added text, in Word in the bottom left corner it will say how many words out of the total that you have highlighted. In that way, you can see the amount of words you've entered into the field.

## 9. If we are a current subcontractor, can we apply to the RFA directly and administer those slots ourselves?

This current RFA is open to any organization that wishes to apply for ECEAP, whether they are a new or current provider. A current ECEAP subcontractor may submit an application for their own ECEAP slots.

However, please note:

- The current subcontracted ECEAP slots would go back to the ECEAP Contractor, if the applicant was awarded new ECEAP slots.
- DCYF requires current ECEAP subcontractors to notify their ECEAP Contractor that they are applying to become their own ECEAP Contractor. That way, the two organizations can connect and communicate about the best road forward in both scenarios if you were, or were not awarded your own ECEAP slots.
- Organizations must apply to have a **minimum of 75 comprehensive early learning slots**.

**10. Out of the 750 available slots, do you have an idea how many will be applied for this cycle?**

DCYF is unable to fully predict for each application period how many slots will be applied for. However, the trend over the last couple of application periods has been that more slots are applied for than are available to award. If that is the case with this RFA period, DCYF will prioritize applications according to the scoring and selection criteria listed in the **RFA Guidance document**.

**11. If we are looking to “swap slots” from one type to another does that detract from the 750 available slots? Or is it just an exchange?**

DCYF does use the RFA to offer exchanges between types of ECEAP slots, but only for existing ECEAP contractors.

**12. Will this opportunity also be available next year (2023 cycle)?**

DCYF anticipates the next RFA cycle will open around the same time in Fall/Winter 2022, for slots available to start the 2023-24 school year. However, the number of slots available will be determined by the legislature during legislative session in 2023. The 2023 legislative session is a full, biennial budget-determining session in which the budget is not typically decided on until close to the end of the session. In this case, DCYF will give notice of preliminary awards and then confirm awards once the number of ECEAP slots are allocated.