



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES**

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families contemplates awarding a sole source contract to provide will provide project management services in response to the numerous DCYF mandated requirements under the recently passed Fair Start for Kids Act, SB 5237. This bill takes a multi-pronged approach at improving the current early learning system by:

- Supporting working parents by reducing parent copays and expanding eligibility for the Working Connections Child Care (WCCC).
- Expanding eligibility and increase rates for the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP).
- Expanding eligibility for enrollment in ECEAP and Early ECEAP.
- Strengthening child care programs by allowing access to support services, mental health consultations, dual language supports, complex needs grants and other grants and funding.
- Growing recruitment and retention for child care businesses by increasing child care subsidy rates, expanding access to health insurance for providers, and providing resources for professional development and scholarships

Implementing this work requires coordination across the entire early learning system in Washington, including licensed Child Care, Child Care Subsidy, Home Visiting, and the Early Childhood Education Assistance Program (ECEAP). The purpose of the contract is to help ensure DCYF successfully implements the legislation in its entirety.

Copper Strategic has a unique blend of professionals with skilled process-drivers who have experience in project management, coalition building, meeting facilitation, the legislative process, project implementation, and risk mitigation. They prioritize work inclusively to building the most diverse work teams possible which lines up with DCYF's strategic plan and goals.

Additionally, Cooper Strategic is familiar with early learning and child care intersections with other state and community systems, such as: The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (K-12), the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Social and Human Services (DSHS) and social service work is critical to the success and initial pace the contractor will need to move at. Copper Strategic has experience with all of our systems and experience engaging with stakeholders in a way that supports DCYF to properly interact with these organizations and stakeholders as required by the legislation.

The contract will be issued on or about October 12, 2021. The dollar value is estimated at \$1,747,200 for work required during the period ending June 30, 2023. The term of this contract may be extended by five (5) additional one (1) year term, at the sole option of DCYF.

Offerors contemplating the above requirements are required to submit capability statements detailing their ability to meet the state's requirements by October 6, 2021. The following information should be included in the capability statements:

- Any experience working with the Office of Public Instruction (OSPI)
- Any experience working with the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)
- Any experience working with Child Care Providers
- Any experience or knowledge with the current child care systems
- Any experience working with/around social service work

In the absence of other qualified sources, it is the state's intent to make a sole source award of the Contract.

To submit capability statements or for questions, contact:

Contact Name: Kris Gorgas  
E-mail: [dcyf.contracts@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:dcyf.contracts@dcyf.wa.gov)