

Minor Renovations Grant Debrief Webinar Q&A from Chat

English – 11/10/2022 – 11:00 AM

1. Q: Will the scoring or vote records be shared with applicants?
 - a. We will not be sharing scores or votes with the applicants due to confidentiality and to protect the scoring process.

2. Q: When will we get our own debriefing because I have questions?
 - a. We are unable to hold individual debriefings due to the large number of applications that were unable to be funded.

3. Q: The criteria shared before was not clearly mentioned anywhere before filling out the application.
 - a. Criteria was listed in the Program Guidelines and Notice of Funding Opportunity, and we will make every attempt to reiterate in multiple places in the future.

4. Q: How do we know what was wrong with the application?
 - a. Slide 11 outlines how the points were awarded. It is not that anything was wrong with the application. Some scored higher than others, and there was not enough funding to meet the demand.

5. Q: I would like to have seen amounts reduced for applications so more people could be approved.
 - a. This topic has been discussed and will be considered for the next funding round.

6. Q: How many facilities awarded work with special needs?
 - a. This was not specifically tracked, but those providing care for special needs received extra points.

7. Q: How many facilities awarded are 24/7 operations?
 - a. This was not specifically tracked, but those providing care for extra hours received extra points.

8. Q: Will the presentation be available in different languages?
 - a. The Somali webinar will be at 5:00 PM today
 - b. The Spanish webinar will be at 6:00 PM today

9. Q: What is the range of dollars awarded?
 - a. From approximately \$3,000 - \$850,000 – maximum was \$1,000,000

10. Q: What was the average award?
 - a. \$108,000

11. Q: Why is there not a priority for home daycare renters?
 - a. Family homes had 40% of the total reserved, whether owned or rented. Renters need permission from the owners for renovations.

12. Q: There is concern that only those funded were from childcare deserts. Is that the case?
- a. No. They only received extra points. The highest need is in the child care deserts.
13. Q: I meet all the criteria. Can you please reconsider and review my application one more time?
- a. This was highly competitive, with many applications meeting the criteria that did not score high enough to get funded.
14. Q: Is there a list of low income zip codes?
- a. Commerce does not have it on our website. DCYF does have a map on their website.
 - b. [Child Care Stabilization Zip Code Factors | Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families](#)
15. Q: I am struggling since I have rental property and can't expand or add capacity.
- a. Expanding was not a piece of this program, but renovations were eligible with permission of the owner..
16. Q: Putting a scoring rubric and sharing would have been helpful in submitting the application
- a. We agree and we can consider providing a rubric for the next funding round.
17. Q: Did you use the same guidelines as the stabilization grant to determine desert areas and low income?
- a. This subject needs follow up. We do not know the criteria for the other grant. We will add this information to this document as it becomes available.
18. Q: Can you please post a link to the child care desert location list?
- a. Links were posted in the chat and are available on the DCYF website
 - i. [Child Care Stabilization Zip Code Factors | Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families](#)
 - ii. [Child Care Need and Supply Data | Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families](#)
19. Q: Would you talk a little bit about what you mean by the number of locations from one organization?
- a. Larger organizations with multiple sites received less points to be equitable to some of the smaller organizations.
20. Q: Will the list of approved proposals be posted on the website?
- a. A list of the counties with awards will be posted on the website.
21. Q: There should be technical assistance provided to check the application before submitting.
- a. We agree and with DCYF, coordinated with Imagine Institute to provide assistance to applicants. Information on how to request assistance was posted on our website throughout

the application period and removed when the application closed.

22. Q: Did projects need to meet building codes to get points?
- a. No.
23. Q: It is misleading to have a high cap, causing us to invest funding to hire an architect.
- a. Structural changes were not permitted for this funding round. With the high cap, maybe there was a perceived indication to provide more work. Commerce will provide more clarity next time. We hope to have more funds next year and for expansion grants.
24. Q: Will there be any direct support for grant writing for providers?
- a. We may be partnering with Imagine Institute for technical assistance. Please watch our website for additional information as it becomes available.
25. Q: Is there anything you can think of to help expedite the review next time?
- a. Time is needed to provide an equitable review of all the applications. No one anticipated the large number of applications, and even if there were more reviewers, the same amount of time would be needed to fairly score all of the applications.
26. Q: Providers in Island County who applied, were they able to proceed if they did not qualify with a low income zip code.
- a. Low income only resulted in additional points awarded. All 946 applications proceeded for a full review.
27. Q: Why would we take this kind of time and energy to even apply for future grants?
- a. We understand the frustration and there simply was not enough funding to go around.
28. Q: Why were providers allowed to proceed if they were not in a low income zip code?
- a. Low income zip codes only were awarded extra points. All 946 application received a full review. Only the top 253 were funded.
29. Q: The email received said if awarded I would receive a separate email if awarded.
- a. If no email was received on November 8th, then no award. We understand that some organizations submitted multiple projects. Award letters were sent as attachments to individual emails on November 8th.
30. Q: Were there any faith based centers awarded
- a. We did not sort by that criteria, nor was there any question in the application that identified an organization as such. Each application was scored based upon a project's merit.
31. Q: How many were rejected that were fully qualified?
- a. 693 were not funded out of the 946 application. This was highly competitive.

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Somali – 11/10/2022 – 5:00 PM

1. Q. I work with a lot of providers and scenario floating around that if they own house, 10 year lien will be put on the home.
 - a. A. There won't be a securitization process associated with this grant. Other funding rounds we administer have a property securitization requirement, but that is not required with this funding source.

2. Q. Question about WELL Fund, what does it stand for and what do they do?
 - a. A. Washington Early Learning Loan Fund – they have a small amount of funding available for grants for providers across the state, and have some funds for providers in King County as well.

Minor Renovations Grant Debrief Webinar Q&A from Chat
Spanish – 11/10/2022 – 6:00 PM

1. Q: Would like clarification on the date range for when the project starts and when it needs to be completed.
 - a. Projects can start the date of the award letter and need to be completed by 8/31/2024

2. Q: If she applied and was selected, would she need to get a loan before she starts the project, or what would that look like?
 - a. If the project requires more funding than the grant, then they would need to provide documentation of that funding prior to entering into a contract.

3. Q: How do I get the funding if awarded?
 - a. This is a reimbursement grant. The grantee pays the vendor then submits a package for reimbursement, along with proof of payment. A contract needs to be executed, first. On a case by case basis, we can reimburse with an invoice and then the grantee has 30 days to provide proof of payment to Commerce.

4. Q: When were awardees notified?
 - a. They were sent award letters by email on Tuesday.

5. Q: What if I am not notified?
 - a. Check to make sure that the email address from the application is still valid, as that is the email address that is being used to notify applicants.