

Early Learning Facilities Program (ELF)

ELF DCYF School District Presentation

Webinar Transcript June 24, 2020

- Hi everyone! Thank you for tuning in for a high level overview of the Early Learning Facilities, K-12 School District Grant. My name is Lindsey Erickson and with me in the room is Kristin Ramos, Tony Hansen, and Matt Mazur-Hart. This presentation is being recorded, so we are asking if you have any questions, to please put them in the chat box. After the presentation is over, we will answer any questions you may have. At about 1:25, Dept. of Children, Youth, and Families will present a program overview. And, at 2:30 we will be hosting the second part of this webinar providing a more in depth view of the program guidelines. As a reminder- the application process opened June 1st and will close Monday, August 3rd at 5pm. There will be no exceptions to the August 3rd, 5pm deadline and Technical Assistance calls can be scheduled with ELF staff any time after June 16.
- A little about the early learning facilities grant program... In total, ELF has awarded approximately \$44M in grant funds since the program started in 2017. Our grant program supports Washington's commitment of developing additional high quality early learning opportunities for children from low-income households.
- ELF has four different funding pathways. The current application is for a competitive process and is specific to the K-12 school districts. For the open funding round, applicants must be, or intend to be:
 - A K-12 School District; and

- An active participant in good standing with the Early Achievers program
- An Early Childhood Education Assistance Provider AND/OR
- A Working Connections Child Care provider

For more information on the other 3 funding pathways, please visit our webpage located at the Department of Commerce website shown on the slide.

- The previous K-12 school district funding round, awarded over \$4M to increase capacity in early learning facilities across the state. That resulted in over 900 spaces for pre-kindergarten education and care for low-income children across Washington.
- Applicants can apply for either: new construction, major renovation of an existing facility, or purchase a building. Land can be included in the building purchase, but grant funds cannot be used solely for the purchase of land. \$855,823 is the maximum award amount per application. However, Commerce reserves the right to modify grant request amounts. The final grant awards and award amounts will be finalized by the 2021 Legislature for the 2021-2023 Biennium. Stay tuned for Kristin's webinar at 2:30 because she will be going over the required match, and eligible and ineligible costs.
- Here is a snapshot of the K-12 School Program grant cycle.
- Here is our grant cycle with the associated dates to give you a timeline of the process. Award letters and executing contracts will take place around July-August of 2021. And since Washington operates under a 2 year budget, Grantees have until June 30, 2023 to expend these funds.
- How do you apply? ZoomGrants is the online application management system that Commerce uses to receive grant applications. The online application may be accessed on our Early Learning Facilities webpage, where a direct link to the ZoomGrants is provided. If you do not currently have a ZoomGrants account, you will need to create one online. All applications must be submitted electronically through ZoomGrants. Hard-copies of applications will not be accepted by Commerce staff. Because this is a competitive grant, Commerce staff cannot help you fill out the online application or review your answers. But, if you need clarification on a certain question(s), our team can provide technical



assistance to help provide better understanding. Also, starting the week of June 16, you can schedule a private 30-minute technical assistance phone call with our team during the application window. If you have questions or are interested in a Technical Assistance call, please email us directly at the email address located on the screen.

- Thank you so much for tuning in to our first webinar. In a few minutes DCYF will provide a program over view and be sure to come back at 2:30 to hear Kristin dive into the Early Learning Facility K-12 School Program guidelines. Any questions? Thank you.