

GRANT PROGRAM INFORMATION FOR EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD
CARE PROVIDERS

Early Learning Facility (ELF) Grant

Authorizing Statutes & Funding Availability:

Authorized by RCWs [43.31.565](#) through [43.31.583](#), the Early Learning Facilities (ELF) grant program funds capital projects at in-home and child care center facilities that will expand access to subsidized childcare in Washington by creating new [Early Childhood Education Assistance Program \(ECEAP\)](#) and [Working Connections Child Care \(WCCC\)](#) capacity.

In the late summer or early fall of odd years, the Washington Department of Commerce begins a new Eligible Organizations ELF funding cycle. Eligible projects include acquisition, renovation, planning for, and/or new construction of early learning facilities. To be eligible, projects must create new ECEAP and/or WCCC child care slots. The Department of Commerce team and an expert panel of reviewers score and rank applications. Successful applicants are awarded funding the in the spring of even years.

2023 Maximum Funding: \$2,500,000 (temporary increased maximum from \$1,000,000 for 2023-2025)

Matching Fund Goal: 25% of Total Project Cost

[Full Program Guidelines](#)

[ELF Grant Program Website + Sign Up for Email Updates](#)

Questions?

Email us at earlylearningfacilities@commerce.wa.gov



Early Learning Facility Project Planning Timeline



Winter and Spring of Even Years:

- Evaluate your community's needs for early learning services.
- Review the most recent [WA ECEAP and Head Start Saturation Study](#)
- Review the [Early Learning Facilities Grant Program Guidelines](#).

Summer and Fall of Even Years:

- Build early learning facility project plan to meet community's needs.
- Get initial bids for project.

Winter and Spring of Odd Years:

- Finalize project plan and initiate permitting, if needed.
- Secure funding to meet the 25% project match goal.

Summer and Fall of Odd Years

- Get finalized bids for project.
- Apply for ELF grant funding.



Washington State
Department of
Commerce

We strengthen communities