

## Child Care Grants for Four-Year Public Universities

**BACKGROUND:** The Institutional Child Care Grant was established in 1999 for the purpose of addressing the need for high quality, accessible, and affordable on-site child care for students at Washington's public baccalaureate institutions. The legislature has appropriated \$150,000 (\$75,000 per year) per biennium since the program's inception.

**ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:** Any Washington public baccalaureate institution is eligible to submit an application for a Child Care Grant. Only one application may be submitted by each institution per grant cycle.

**AWARD PERIOD:** Child Care Grants are awarded for up to two years. Subject to future appropriations, institutions may reapply to receive subsequent grant awards or a continuation of the grant awarded the previous biennium. The fund designated for Child Care Grants does allow carry-forward.

**AWARD MAXIMUM:** An institution may not apply for more than \$37,500 per year, or \$75,000 per biennium. No institution may be awarded more than half of the total appropriation. There is no specified minimum amount.

**MATCHING REQUIREMENT:** Child Care Grant funds must be matched dollar-for-dollar by the university or college administration and/or the student government association (or its equivalent). The match may be in cash or in kind. Matching funds may be from the institution or student government association budgets or from sources secured by the institution from other outside sources for this purpose.

**USE OF FUNDS:** Grants may not be used for the construction or remodeling of facilities. Regardless of the source, matching funds must compliment and augment access to child care for students, and may not supplant existing services or resources.

**SELECTION PROCESS:** Grant selection is a competitive biennial process. The HECB releases a Request for Proposals, in which the institutions are generally given a few weeks to respond. During the response period, the HECB organizes a selection committee comprised of HECB staff and child care professionals, including members of the Washington Association for the Education of Young Children (WAEYC) and the Washington State Child Care Resource and Referral Network. Committee members are given copies of the RFP, institution proposals, and a scoring guide. After reviewing the proposals, the committee gathers to select grant activities and funding levels.

**REPORTING OBLIGATIONS:** Grant recipients file annual reports that detail the expenses and activities funded. HECB uses the final report of the biennium to compile a summary of activity for the board.

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## Report on 2005-2007 Institutional Childcare Grants

The purpose of this report is to update the board on the Institutional Childcare Grant activity for the 2005-2007 biennium, and to provide a preview of the 2007-2009 allocations. This report, provided to the board at the end of each grant cycle, contains program information and expenditure details extracted from the participating four-year public institutions' final reports.

The legislature provided \$75,000 for each fiscal year of the 2005-2007 biennium. No institution can receive more than half the appropriated funds.

A separate appropriation of \$50,000 for each year of the biennium was provided to the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges to administer childcare grants for the state community and technical college sector. This report does not include information about the usage of child care grants administered by the State Board.

The Institutional Childcare Grant was established in 1999 for the purpose of addressing the need for high quality, accessible, and affordable child care for students at Washington's public baccalaureate institutions. The program as administered by the board is a competitive process in which institutions respond to a Request for Proposals released by the HECB. A selection committee reviews the schools' proposals and selects grant activities and funding levels. Schools are required to submit yearly reports detailing the utilization of the grant funds.

For the 2005-2007 grant cycle, four institutions submitted proposals, received allocations, and submitted a final program evaluation at the end of the biennium. Below are summaries of the institutions' allocations, program evaluations, and expenditures for the biennium.

### **Washington State University: \$33,000 Year 1    \$33,000 Year 2**

**Statement of Work:** Washington State University received funding for the hiring of additional staff to improve the quality of the evening program, to expand the evening program to serve more families, and to increase the efficiency of operations and coordination between the evening and day programs.

**Results:** Washington State University's Children's Center expanded their evening program by hiring an Early Childhood Specialist 3 and eight student staff. The addition of staff increased the center's capacity to serve more children in the evening program, while staying within student/teacher ratio guidelines.

In addition to increasing capacity, the addition of staff enhanced the quality of the evening program. Improved communications eased the transition between the day and evening programs,

which freed up more time for planning activities, maintaining bulletin boards, and sending out regular newsletters to parents.

Washington State University had a small amount of \$694.12 that went unspent.

**Central Washington University:     \$ 2,968 Year 1     \$ 20,668 Year 2**

**Statement of Work:** Central Washington University received funding for the sole purpose of maintaining infant-toddler care at Child Care Central.

**Results:** Child Care Central received partial funding for an Early Childhood Specialist 3. This allowed the center to maintain the same quality of services, despite increasing the hours of service and experiencing decreasing support from Student and Activity fees. The increase of services included university breaks and summers.

**Western Washington University:     \$35,000 Year 1     \$0 Year 2**

**Statement of Work:** Western Washington University received funding to assist in covering childcare tuition costs for low-income students, to reduce an annual increase in overall childcare tuition rates, to construct an outcome-based learning model, and to improve communication to the center's constituents.

**Results:** The Associated Students Child Development Center (CDC) of Western Washington University offered fee waiver scholarships to 18 student parents, subsidizing 20 children's child care tuition. A total of \$19,000 was awarded to low-income student families during the winter and spring quarters of 2006. The CDC also provided all parents with a reduction in child care fees for the fall and winter quarters.

In addition to lowering the cost of care, the CDC created an outcome-based learning and development project focused on the potential outcomes and meaningful experiences of both student employees and parents who work with the CDC, and creating specific learning and development outcomes for each population. Two sets of learning and development outcomes emerged, which guided new programming elements and assessment tools.

The CDC sent out two mailings of the newly created newsletter to approximately 1,200 past and current CDC constituents. The newsletter brought positive feedback and served as an effective communication tool.

Western Washington University did not spend \$2,717.25, due to significant staffing changes towards the end of the grant cycle.

**The Evergreen State College: \$4,032 Year 1                     \$21,332 Year 2**

**Statement of Work:** The Evergreen State College received funding to maintain a sliding fee structure for low and middle income families, to hire and train more work study employees, and

to help provide an affordable and culturally appropriate curriculum to children of students enrolled in the Native American reservation-based weekend program.

**Results:** The center maintained the sliding fee schedule, benefiting 28 low and medium income families. The funding for the sliding scale also helped to keep the center from having to raise tuition.

The Native American reservation-based weekend program served an average of twelve children per quarter. The children learned traditional songs and dances, traditional stories, and made costumes that were later utilized in program graduation performances.

Due to significant staff turnover during the grant cycle, the center did not maintain a work study hiring and training program, and therefore did not spend \$11,586.77 of the grant funds.

### **Next Steps with the 2007-2009 Institutional Child Care Grants**

The 2007 legislature provided \$150,000 in funding for the 2007-2009 biennium. In addition, \$14,715 was carried forward from the 2005-2007 grant cycle for a total allotment of \$164,715. Following procedures similar to the previous biennia, grants have been awarded to the following schools:

**Washington State University:      \$ 29,918 Year 1      \$31,115 Year 2**

The grant will go toward improving infant-toddler childcare services by supporting a portion of the costs associated with the employment of an Early Childhood Education Specialist 3.

**Western Washington University:    \$ 33,397 Year 1      \$35,397 Year 2**

The funds will be used to provide affordable child care for low-income families through fee-waiver scholarships, to hire a half-time Early Childhood Specialist 2, and to participate in a collaboration project with the Woodring College of Education Early Childhood Program. The project focuses on two elements; creating a model for professional development and documenting children's learning through the use of technology.

**The Evergreen State College:      \$11,547 Year 1      \$11,547 Year 2**

The funds will support training and consultation related to working with disabled children, support the further development of the reservation-based weekend program, and assist in maintaining the sliding fee structure for parents in financial need.

**University of Washington:          \$5,897 Year 1      \$5,897 Year 2**

The funds will be used to provide assistance to additional qualified student parents who are on a wait-list to receive assistance with on-site childcare tuition.