



Capital Investment for Early Learning

The Need for Child Care Facilities

- Many families face daunting waiting lists for child care and are unable to work due to the lack of accessible, affordable child care.
- Lack of financing for facilities and capital improvements restricts the ability of child care and pre-school programs to expand.
- As Washington works to ensure all eligible children in ECEAP are served by 2022-23 we have to ensure physical space is available.
- Child care needs are growing, but child care supply is shrinking, resulting in a child care crisis across the state.



Washington has set
a goal of 90%
kindergarten readiness
with race and income
eliminated as a
predictor of success.

About the Facilities Fund Grant and Loan Program

The Washington Early Learning Facilities Fund (ELFF) was **created in 2017** and the legislature appropriated an inaugural round of funding in 2018. Administered by the Department of Commerce in partnership with the Department of Children, Youth, and Families, the Fund aims to enable high-quality early learning providers to **expand, remodel, purchase, or construct early learning facilities and classrooms** necessary to support state-funded early learning opportunities for low-income children.

115 applications requesting \$30.17 million received
in Competitive Grant Program 2018
16 grants were funded totaling \$5.6 million

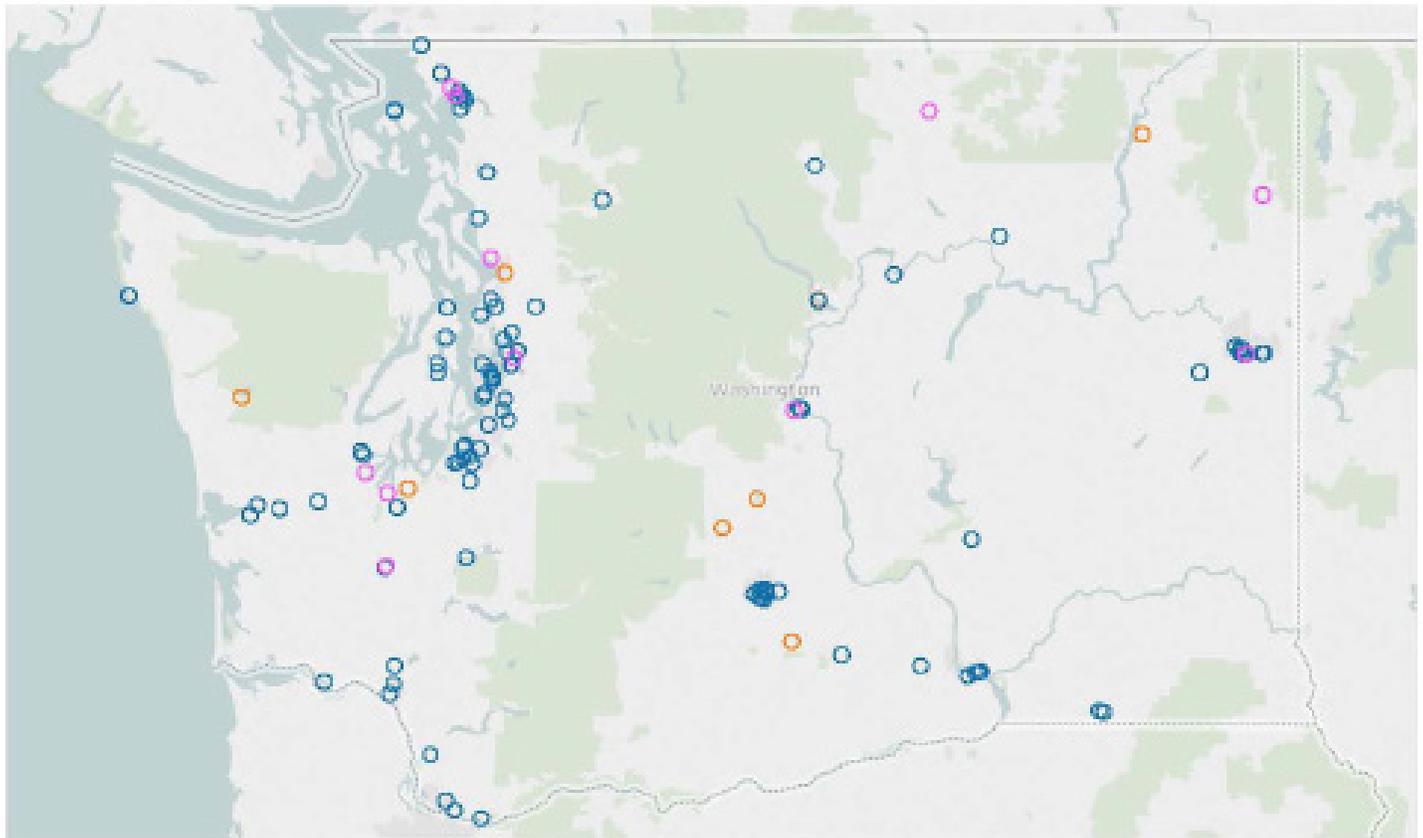
In the first year of the program, **approximately \$11 million was included in the fund** for competitive grants and loans components of the program. School districts may also submit requests for early learning capital projects, which are then ranked and subject to capital budget appropriations.

To learn more about the program, please visit the following website: <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/building-infrastructure/capital-facilities/early-learning-program/>.



Geography of Facility Proposals

ELF Eligible Organizations



Color shows details about awards and districts.
Two Organizations were excluded for lack of location data.

- Awarded
- Not Awarded
- School District

For additional information, please contact Allison Krutsinger, Early Learning Policy Director, at 253.426.0410 or email allison.krutsinger@childrensalliance.org.

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