

APPENDIX C

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# Grants

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# Introduction

## Role of grants

This is Appendix C to the “Making affordable, high-quality early learning and care accessible to all children in the Walla Walla Valley” executive summary. This appendix expands on grant funding opportunities that are available to school districts and community organizations and nonprofits that support early learning and care.

Grants already play a significant role in supporting the Walla Walla Valley early learning and care system. For example, school districts, the Walla Walla Valley Early Learning Coalition, City of Walla Walla, child care providers, and others throughout the system have been applying for and using grant funding to establish and expand programs, build and update infrastructure, and create system supports.

Grants are most suitable for one-time needs such as building a new child care facility or supporting the first funding needs of a new system support staff role (e.g., three years of salary for a child care system navigator). Many local, regional, state, and national grant opportunities fund early learning and care needs, and with dedicated effort, these funds can be tapped into at a greater level to enable local projects.

Relying solely on grant funding, however, is not sustainable due to the limited resources of funds and individual program capacity for applying to and managing grant awards. As discussed in the 2021 “Creating an Accessible, Valley-Wide Child Care System Feasibility Study,” grants are best used as part of a larger braided funding stream.<sup>1</sup>

## Challenges of grants

Many grant funding streams that could support early childhood programs are already fully appropriated for other priorities. Much of the grant funding in Washington State is spread thinly across the state or concentrated in westside urban areas, and even if local entities are successful, funds will be for a one-time project and will be minor compared to the scale of need.

Unfortunately, no large untapped state or federal funding source exists, although use of this type of funding can be optimized.

From interviews throughout the project area, staff capacity has been highlighted as one of the largest barriers for many organizations, programs, and school districts when planning to apply for grants. Many are already spread thin and do not have the time or resources to write successful proposals. One idea raised by key informant interviewees is for groups to collaborate on proposals when possible rather than compete for the same funding.

## Grants for school district

School districts have access to unique funding streams through state-administered and distributed block grants. These funds can be used for pre-K programming and infrastructure if the school district has identified early learning as one of their funding priorities. Table 31 lists currently available grant opportunities that school districts or individual schools are eligible for in Washington.

Time and staff capacity were highlighted in interactions with superintendents in several districts as major barriers to accessing some

program funding. Smaller districts and rural communities do not apply to many opportunities that they would be competitive for because they do not have the time or staff or adequate assistance to do so. In many rural schools, the superintendents, principals, or similarly busy people are responsible for organizing and writing grants, and their capacity is limited: they can only manage so many major projects. School districts, rural ones especially, need additional capacity and support to create a new strategy to increase their funding from state and federal grants for child care in their communities.

## Grants for community organizations and nonprofits

Community organizations and nonprofits throughout the region are faced with different financial barriers than school districts, and they are eligible for different funding opportunities. Many community and nonprofit organizations have funding development built into their core operational strategy.

Table 32 lists early learning and care-related grant funding opportunities for community organizations and nonprofits.

## ECEAP and Head Start

There are big opportunities to significantly close the gap through new ECEAP and Head Start classrooms throughout the Valley. Many new slots are becoming available over the

next few years. These pay well enough that they provide a basis for making a child care center work financially.

The route for increasing funding from ECEAP is to coordinate with Matt Bona at Educational Service District (ESD) 123. ESD 123 is leading an application for an ECEAP expansion grant that will include both early ECEAP and ECEAP, which is due in March 2023. The limitation for several of the programs in the Walla Walla Valley for expansion is not need but rather having the facilities available to support new classrooms.

There are also periodic opportunities to expand Head Start.

**TABLE 31 | Washington school district funding opportunities**

| Funder   | Program                                  | Due Date | Amount                                      | Summary   | Service Area |
|--|--|----------|---|---|--------------|
| <b>Washington Department of Commerce</b>                                   | Energy Grants Program                    | 2023 TBA | Up to \$500K                                | Funds projects for improvements to existing public-owned facilities and related projects that result in energy and operational cost savings.  | Washington   |
| <b>Washington Department of Commerce</b>                                   | Early Learning Facilities Program        | 2023 TBA | Up to \$1M                                  | Supports expanding, remodeling, purchasing, or constructing early learning facilities and programs that host ECEAP slots. The latest was due in the Summer of 2022. It is expected to be the same in 2023.  | Washington   |
| <b>Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (WA OSPI)</b> | State Special Education Allocation       | 2023 TBA | Funding based by school district population | Funds for special education staff, parent involvement, and professional development for teachers, early learning providers and parents.   | Washington   |
| <b>WA OSPI</b>   | Urgent Repair Grant                      | 2023 TBA | Up to \$200K                                | Addresses non-reoccurring urgent small repair projects at public schools, that could impact health and safety of students and staff if not completed. Funds K-12 only and is announced in iGrants each Biennium.  | Washington   |
| <b>WA OSPI</b>   | Summer Food Service Program              | 5/1/2023 | No limit                                    | Summer sponsors receive payments for serving healthy meals and snacks to children 18 years of age and younger. Meal sites must be located in lower-income areas and must be approved to operate by the state agency. Funds K-12 only.   | Washington   |
| <b>WA OSPI</b>   | Small Rural District Modernization Grant | 2024 TBA | No limit                                    | Funds for small districts under 1K students where the facility does not need to be replaced or require an extensive modernization but does have significant building system deficiencies. Provides up to \$50K for planning. Funds K-12 only and is announced in iGrants each Biennium. | Washington   |

| Funder  | Program                                  | Due Date | Amount                           | Summary  | Service Area |
|---------|--|----------|----------------------------------|--|--------------|
| WA OSPI | School Construction Assistance Program   | 2023 TBA | No Limit                         | Funding assistance to school districts for major new construction or modernization projects. Covers 68% (for CP) of eligible costs of construction with a match of local funding. Meet with OSPI regional facilities coordinator. Funds K-12 only and is funded quarterly.             | Washington   |
| WA OSPI | Healthy Kids-Healthy Schools Grants      | 2023 TBA | Up to \$200K per school district | Supports physical education/physical activity and nutrition. Funds to procure equipment, repair, and renovate existing equipment or facilities, design and construction of new space and infrastructure. Funds K-12 only.  | Washington   |
| WA OSPI | Health and Safety ADA Equal Access Grant | 2023 TBA | Up to \$100K, \$10K min.         | No matching funds required. Facility repairs and alterations at K-12 schools and is announced in iGrants each Biennium.  | Washington   |
| WA OSPI | Emergency Repair Pool                    | Ongoing  | No limit                         | Funds to address imminent health risks. This includes repair of structural systems, electrical, HVAC, etc., and updating fire and life safety code, including fire suppression systems. Requires an emergency declaration by the school board. Funds K-12 only.                        | Washington   |
| WA OSPI | Lead in Water Remediation Grant          | Ongoing  | No limit                         | Helps schools replace drinking water fixtures or pipes that test positive for lead contamination of above five parts per billion. Schools can use grant funds for fixture replacement, pipe replacement, filtering systems, or for fixtures that are cold water only. Funds K-12 only. | Washington   |
| WA OSPI | Child and Adult Care Food Program        | 2023 TBA | No limit                         | Provides reimbursements for nutritious meals and snacks for children participating in child-care centers and afterschool programs. Funds K-12 only.  | Washington   |

| Funder                    | Program                                     | Due Date | Amount        | Summary  | Service Area |
|---------------------------|---|----------|---------------|--|--------------|
| <b>WA OSPI</b>            | Career Preparation and Launch Grant Program | 2023 TBA | Up to \$150K  | Funds to purchase and install career and technical education equipment that expands career connected learning and work-integrated learning opportunities. Funds K-12 only.   | Washington   |
| <b>WA OSPI</b>            | Rural Low-Income Schools Program (RLIS)     | Ongoing  | Up to \$270K  | Funds for rural LEAs with 20% of the student population below the poverty line. Funds used under expanded opportunities in Title 1, Part A, and Title 2,3,4 parts A. Need to check codes for eligibility. Funds K-12 only and is submitted in iGrants. | Washington   |
| <b>WA State Treasurer</b> | LOCAL Program                               | 2023 TBA | Project based | Low-cost financing for real estate projects. School districts are eligible. Funds K-12 only. Opens in February, June and October yearly.   | Washington   |

**Table 32 | Nonprofit and community organization funding opportunities**

| Funder                                       | Program                           | Due Date  | Amount              | Summary  | Service Area  |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|--|---|
| <b>Autzen Foundation</b>                     | General Grants                    | 2023 TBA  | Up to \$40K         | Funds for smaller non-profit organizations; most often to groups with social service, arts and culture, educational, environmental and/or youth-centered missions.   | Oregon  |
| <b>Baker Boyer Bank</b>                      | Yancey P. Winans Community Grant  | 3/1/2023  | Up to \$5K          | Funds primarily for summer programs for Walla Walla Valley children and young people.  | Walla Walla County                                  |
| <b>Baker Boyer Bank</b>                      | George T Welch Community Grant    | 5/1/2023  | Up to \$4K          | Grants made for the enrichment of Walla Walla County.  | Walla Walla County                                  |
| <b>Blue Mt Community Foundation</b>          | GCACH Healthy Community Fund 2021 | 2023 TBA  | Between \$5K-20K    | Funding available for programs addressing specific social determinants of health (SDOH) affecting residents. Early learning was priority in 2021. Last year due dates were in May.                             | Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield & Asotin counties   |
| <b>Blue Mt Community Foundation</b>          | Discretionary Grants              | 10/1/2023 | Up to \$20K         | Funds general operating support for local or regional organizations, charities, private operating foundations, religious organizations, and municipalities.  | Umatilla, Walla Walla, Garfield & Columbia counties |
| <b>Blue Mt Community Foundation</b>          | Warren Community Action Fund      | 3/31/2023 | Between \$500-\$15K | Funds programs related to health, education, basic human needs, children and youth, agricultural education and training, historic preservation, scientific programs, arts and recreation, and the environment. | Walla Walla & Columbia counties                     |
| <b>Bonnie and Clifford Braden Foundation</b> | General Grants                    | Ongoing   | Up to \$15K         | Private Foundation giving primarily for arts and culture, education, and human services.   | Walla Walla   |



| Funder                          | Program  | Due Date | Amount             | Summary   | Service Area |
|---------------------------------|--|----------|--------------------|---|--------------|
| <b>Cape Flattery Foundation</b> | General Grants   | Ongoing  | Up to \$200K       | Funds support education, religion, and health care organizations. Additionally, it supports community funds. Based in Wichita, KS but funds often in Walla Walla and generally throughout Washington.   | Washington   |
| <b>Clark Foundation</b>         | General Grants   | Ongoing  | Up to \$100K       | Most of the funds are awarded in the areas of social services, education and health and human services with a smaller percentage available for cultural and religious organizations.                    | Oregon       |
| <b>Collins Foundation</b>       | Initiative for Small & Culturally Specific Organizations | 2023 TBA | \$200K             | Funds for operating support and technical assistance to organizations rooted in communities of color. Grant focuses shift occasionally. Grants awarded quarterly.                                       | Oregon       |
| <b>Discuren Foundation</b>      | General Grants   | Ongoing  | Up to \$78K        | Funds for organizations that address the needs of literacy, basic education, drop-out prevention, and provide teaching and learning environments for children.  | Washington   |
| <b>Dutch Bros Coffee</b>        | Dutch Bros Foundation                                    | Ongoing  | No Limit           | Funds nonprofit organizations on a case-by-case basis. Must be invited to apply. Grants in the educational field range from \$10K - \$25K in Oregon.  | USA          |
| <b>Gray Family Foundation</b>   | Environmental Education                                  | 2023 TBA | Between \$5K - 25K | Funds programs that promote environmental education in K-12 environments and increase outdoor experiences that connect youth with built and natural environments. 2023 RFA will be released in January. | Oregon       |
| <b>Gray Family Foundation</b>   | Camp Maintenance Grant Program                           | 2023 TBA | No limit           | Funds for facilities' maintenance and improvement needs. Priority is given to applicants that host outdoor school programs and promote diversity. 2-to-1 match required. Grants are awarded quarterly.  | Oregon       |

| Funder                                      | Program                         | Due Date | Amount                 | Summary  | Service Area   |
|---|---------------------------------|----------|------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Harold and Helen Shepherd Foundation</b> | General Grants                  | Ongoing  | Up to \$59K            | Awards are for civic and charitable organizations.   | Garfield, Asotin, Columbia, and Walla Walla counties |
| <b>Innovia Foundation</b>                   | This Book Rural Grant Program   | 2023 TBA | Up to \$2.5K           | Funding for rural libraries, municipalities, or non-profit organizations focused on childhood reading success.   | Adams, Columbia, Garfield, Asotin counties           |
| <b>Innovia Foundation</b>                   | Community Grant Program         | 2023 TBA | Up to \$20K            | Funds education and youth development by ensuring access to remote learning, safe social spaces and quality childcare. Opens January 2023.   | Adams, Columbia, Garfield, Asotin counties           |
| <b>Innovia Foundation</b>                   | Columbia County Children's Fund | 2023 TBA | Up to \$4K             | Funds for guidance, counseling and therapy to children and their families. Medical and dental services and/or supplies (glasses, hearing aids, braces) for disadvantaged children. | Adams, Columbia, Garfield, Asotin counties           |
| <b>Marguerite Casey Foundation</b>          | General Grants                  | Ongoing  | Between \$1K - \$1M    | Funds for programs that focus on shifting the balance of power in society. Focuses on BIPOC led organizations and movements.   | USA  |
| <b>Meyer Memorial Trust</b>                 | Historical Program              | Ongoing  | Between \$40K - \$1.8M | Funds programs that accelerate racial, social and economic justice for the collective well-being of Oregon's lands and peoples.  | Washington & Oregon                                  |
| <b>Meyer Memorial Trust</b>                 | Healthy Environment             | Ongoing  | Between \$40K - \$1.8M | Funding for projects, capacity building and operating support. Must support environmental works. If it is connected to education, this grant could fit.                            | Washington & Oregon                                  |
| <b>Meyer Memorial Trust</b>                 | Equitable Education             | Ongoing  | Between \$40K - \$1.8M | Funding for operating support, capacity building and projects. Priorities in ELL, students of color, students with disabilities, Indigenous students, low income, LGBTQIA+.        | Washington & Oregon                                  |

| Funder                                  | Program                                 | Due Date | Amount                 | Summary  | Service Area        |
|---|---|----------|------------------------|--|---------------------|
| <b>Meyer Memorial Trust</b>             | Building Community                      | Ongoing  | Between \$40K - \$1.8M | Funding for projects and operating support for organizations that do this work. Addresses social, political, economic and other injustices. Funded 'Our Children Oregon' in 2021.      | Washington & Oregon |
| <b>Milton-Freewater Area Foundation</b> | Community Grant                         | Ongoing  | Up to \$28K            | For charitable and educational uses in Milton-Freewater.   | Milton-Freewater    |
| <b>Oregon Community Foundation</b>      | Out-of-School Time Initiative           | 2024 TBA | Up to \$60K            | Awarded to out-of-school programs that currently serve middle school-aged youth and are focused on promoting academic success for low-income youth, youth of color and/or rural youth. | Oregon              |
| <b>Oregon Community Foundation</b>      | Latino Partnership Program Small Grants | Ongoing  | Up to \$5K             | Funds to Latino-led and Latino-serving organizations that support education, leadership development, wealth building and community bridge building.                                    | Oregon              |
| <b>Oregon Community Foundation</b>      | Community Grants Program                | 2023 TBA | Up to \$40K            | Spring 2023 funds general operating support and Fall 2023 funds organizational enhancement. Prioritizes organizations that serve underserved communities.                              | Oregon              |
| <b>Oregon Community Foundation</b>      | Black Student Access Grants             | TBD 2024 | Up to \$20K            | Funds for African/Black communities in Oregon with a focus on early learning programs, and early learning pathways.  | Oregon              |
| <b>Patterson Charitable Foundation</b>  | General Grants                          | Ongoing  | \$9.5K                 | Funds general operations to preselected organizations.   | Washington & Oregon |
| <b>Sherwood Trust</b>                   | Impact Grants                           | 2023 TBA | Between \$5K-20K       | General operating and capacity building grants. The next cycle will be announced in winter.  | Walla Walla Valley  |

| Funder                                | Program                       | Due Date               | Amount               | Summary   | Service Area                          |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Sherwood Trust</b>                 | Core Grants                   | 2023 TBA               | Above \$20K          | General operating and capacity building grants. The next cycle will be announced in winter.   | Walla Walla Valley                    |
| <b>The Ford Family Foundation</b>     | Technical Assistance          | Ongoing                | Up to \$5K           | Funds internal capacity building. They can be used to develop additional leadership expertise, engage in strategic planning, or to hire an outside consultant with specialized expertise. | Oregon                                |
| <b>The Ford Family Foundation</b>     | Small Good Neighbor           | Ongoing                | Between \$5K - \$25K | Flexible funding source, including unforeseen emergencies that interrupt programming or services. Will not fund 100% of the project, but no set match is required.                        | Oregon                                |
| <b>The Ford Family Foundation</b>     | Large Good Neighbor           | Ongoing                | Above \$25K          | Education grants fund children. Child care centers are eligible. 50% match required   | Oregon                                |
| <b>The Pendleton Foundation Trust</b> | General Grants                | 4/1/2023 and 10/1/2023 | Up to \$50K          | Supports local organizations and businesses in Pendleton. Open to ideas as long as they support the community.  | Pendleton                             |
| <b>WA Department of Commerce</b>      | Building Communities Fund     | Spring 2024            | No limit             | Funds 25% of eligible capital costs to acquire, construct or rehabilitate community centers. Reimburses expenses.   | Washington                            |
| <b>Washington Federal Bank</b>        | Washington Federal Foundation | Ongoing                | Up to \$500K         | Funds for organizations that support seniors, youth and families with low incomes.  | Walla Walla, Asotin, Milton-Freewater |
| <b>Wendt Family Foundation</b>        | General Grants                | Ongoing                | No limit             | Funds community development and education. Does not accept unsolicited applications - perhaps we have a connection?   | Oregon                                |

| Funder                       | Program               | Due Date                                      | Amount      | Summary  | Service Area  |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|---|-------------|--|---|
| <b>Wildhorse Foundation</b>  | Rapid Response Grant  | Ongoing                                       | \$1K        | Funds for small needs that surface throughout the year. Only one Rapid Response grant is customarily awarded in a 12-month period. | OR counties: Morrow, Umatilla, Union, & Wallowa<br>WA counties: Benton, Columbia, & Walla Walla |
| <b>Wildhorse Foundation</b>  | Community Development | 1/1/2023<br>4/1/2023<br>7/1/2023<br>10/1/2023 | Up to \$20K | Goal is to benefit communities and includes work within education. Awarded quarterly.  | OR counties: Morrow, Umatilla, Union, & Wallowa<br>WA counties: Benton, Columbia, & Walla Walla |
| <b>WK Kellogg Foundation</b> | Thriving Children     | Ongoing                                       | Up to \$1M  | Funds support early education, and health equity. Focuses on communities of color.   | Washington & Oregon   |

# Endnotes

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<sup>1</sup> Walla Walla Valley Early Learning Coalition.  
<https://earlylearningwallawalla.org/research/reports>