

## **Whatcom County Child Development Services: Provider Qualifications**

Whatcom County has an open qualified provider process for Child Development Services (CDS). Certification as a qualified provider is required to be eligible for public CDS funds through Whatcom County. Qualified providers must be able to meet the requirements of the Whatcom County Quality Assurance and Evaluation Tool, and submit to an onsite monitoring visit to demonstrate compliance. The provider must successfully complete a monitoring every 2 years to maintain qualification. All corrective action on the monitoring report must be completed prior to contracting for another year.

### **Background**

Early Intervention Services (EIS) are provided to infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities and delays ages birth to three and their families. Services are designed to improve developmental outcomes for young children and assist families' to support their child's development. Such services must be planned, administered, and delivered in accordance with Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Washington State's Federal Plan for Early Intervention Services

<http://www.del.wa.gov/publications/esit/#reports> Early Intervention Services funded through the County contract are referred to as "*Child Development Services*".

### **Funding**

Through its contract with Department of Social and Health Services, Developmental Disabilities Administration (DSHS/DDA), the County is one of several public funding partners for Early Intervention Services including School districts, Medicaid and private insurance. It is the expectation of the County that Qualified Providers access all early intervention services funding available. Children eligible to receive County funds must be enrolled and authorized for services through the DSHS /DDA.

Services are paid on a monthly fee for service basis per child once a minimum service level, established by the County, is met.

### **Qualification Requirements**

Qualified providers must be able to meet the requirements of the [DSHS/DDA Policy 6.13](#) "Provider Qualifications for Employment and Day Program Services" including the [County Guidelines](#).

Providers must submit to an initial onsite monitoring to verify qualifications and will receive follow-up monitoring within the first year to ensure compliance with the County Program Agreement for the current biennium and the [DSHS/DDA Criteria for Evaluation](#). All new providers will receive a one year provisional contract, with renewal dependent on the outcome of monitoring.

*Interested parties may request a meeting with Jessica Lee, Developmental Disabilities Program Specialist, to review the Provider Agreement, discuss qualification requirements and present proposed service structure. [jlee@whatcomcounty.us](mailto:jlee@whatcomcounty.us) 360-778-6047.*