

ATTACHMENT A

Equity Priority Approach and Scoring *Childcare Expansion Grant Program*

Background

On February 28, 2023, the Board of Supervisors approved \$20 million in funding for childcare initiatives. Of this, \$15 million was allocated for childcare infrastructure grants. Valley Health Foundation is the administrator of the grant program.

The Childcare Expansion Grant Program aims to support childcare center- and family-based provider businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic to address childcare disruptions and enrollment gaps by reopening or increasing the total number of quality infant and toddler childcare spaces available to families.

Eligible use of grant funding includes construction and operating costs. Grant funds are expected to result in added classroom spaces, full enrollment of difficult to fill vacant child slots, enhanced facilities, and successful hiring of childcare staff to reach local childcare expansion efforts across the county. Specifically, childcare providers must demonstrate in their application that funding will result in the *addition of childcare slots* (e.g., transforming a preschool classroom to serve infants/toddlers, adding a new classroom, starting a family childcare home business) or *increased enrollment* for infants, toddlers, and other children (e.g., providers may have lost enrollment due to the aftermath of the pandemic, difficulty in reaching full enrollment due to needed facility and operational improvements).

Equity Criteria for Grant Award Selection

Grant awards will be disbursed using an equity grounded two-phase approach:

Round 1. Early Rolling Basis Awards: Awards may be granted to providers that meet general application requirements and Priority Equity Criteria (see Table 1) during the open application period. This enables Valley Health Foundation to begin making awards as quickly as possible to maximize the amount of time grantees have to complete the grant requirements. To be awarded, a provider must meet equity criteria Lines 1 AND 2, AND at least one equity criterion from Lines 3-8.

Round 2. Equity Score Awards after Application Period Closes: After the application period closes, remaining grant funds will be awarded to providers that meet general application requirements, but do not meet priority equity criteria Lines 1 AND 2. Applicants will be ranked by their Total Equity Score using the point scheme in Table 1. Due to funding availability, not all eligible applicants will be awarded.

Table 1. Priority Equity Criteria for Award Selection

Item	Equity criterion	Equity Points
1.	Provider is located in a federal Qualified Census Tract (QCT) for either 2022 or 2023. ¹ (QCTs are defined as low-income, underserved communities, where pre-existing disparities were amplified by the pandemic and faced more severe health and economic outcomes, such as higher rates of COVID-19 mortality and unemployment.)	5
2.	Provider demonstrates plans to increase in capacity or enrollment of infant and toddler slots (i.e., children under 3 years).	5
3.	Provider serves at least 13% of children enrolled with childcare vouchers/subsidies.	5
4.	Provider is specialized and serves children with disabilities.	5
5.	Provider receives referrals to serve children who are Categorically Eligible (i.e., government agencies that provide housing, child welfare, migrant families, or other services).	5
6.	Provider offers non-traditional work hours for childcare (e.g., early mornings, late evenings, and weekends).	3
7.	Family childcare provider is located in a census tract area where there is no center-based childcare.	3
8.	Provider demonstrates plans to build or expand childcare at school site, including community colleges/universities.	3
9.	Provider serves children and families with Limited English Proficiency in their home language.	3
10.	Provider offers cultural programming that celebrates the county's diversity.	3
	Total Equity Score	40

¹ https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sadda/sadda_qct.html