

## Alleviate the Child Care Crisis: Invest \$35M in Early Learning Facilities

- **\$30 million for eligible organizations that will serve more families through child care and/or preschool**

Make the most of the current ELF eligible organizations grant – with award announcements expected in late winter – by funding as many ready projects as possible. The Department of Commerce estimates a funding gap of \$55 million.

- **\$5 million for minor renovations that are essential to preserve capacity**

Early care and education programs struggle to address minor capital projects (such as roof repair, awnings to protect children from sun, HVAC improvements, etc.) that could jeopardize their ability to care for children. As part of the minor renovation grant, applicants can use technical assistance from the Imagine Institute to ensure language access.



*Busy Bee's Child Development Center in Toppenish was awarded nearly \$400,000 through the ELF program to renovate and serve 48 additional children.*



*Happy Feet Academy in Ellensburg was awarded \$1 million through the ELF to assist with construction of a new site that will serve 112 additional children – expanding child care access in Kittitas County by 40 percent.*

The Early Learning Facilities (ELF) Fund raises private matching dollars and alleviates the child care crisis for communities most in need, including:

- Rural counties
- Small towns and cities
- Child care deserts (where need far outweighs supply)
- Families with low-incomes