

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)

COMMUNITY CHILDCARE PROVIDER SERVICES

Republic, Washington

RFQ Number: FORL-CCP-2026-01

Issue Date: July 22, 2026

Qualifications Due: August 31, 2026 @ 1:00 PM

Issued By: City of Republic, WA

Non-mandatory Question and Answer meeting: July 30th, 2026 at 10:00

Microsoft Teams meeting Join:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/297196679965482?p=8bRz0oiqUjwp9m4qNl>

COMMUNITY VISION

The Republic community seeks to build a collaboration of childcare partners that will provide safe, affordable, inclusive, and high-quality childcare services; support working families; strengthen early childhood development outcomes; and contribute to the long-term economic vitality of Ferry County and the surrounding region.

1. INVITATION TO SUBMIT QUALIFICATIONS

The City of Republic is soliciting Statements of Qualifications (SOQs) from qualified childcare providers interested in operating a licensed childcare program, either as a single entity or in collaboration with multiple partners, serving the Republic, Washington area as part of the FORL Child Development Center Project starting in late 2028.

The intent of this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is to identify experienced providers capable of delivering safe, affordable, accessible, and high-quality childcare services that meet the needs of local families, employers, and the community while complying with all applicable Washington State licensing and regulatory requirements.

This RFQ is a qualifications-based procurement and does not constitute an award of contract. The Issuing Agency reserves the right to negotiate with one or more qualified respondents and may subsequently issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to shortlisted providers.

The Issuing Agency recognizes that qualified childcare providers may specialize in specific age groups, program types, operational services, or stages of organizational development. **Accordingly, respondents are encouraged to submit a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) for all or any portion of the services described in this RFQ. Providers are not required to demonstrate the capability to provide every service**

identified herein. Statements of Qualifications addressing only selected childcare services, age groups, operational functions, or program components will be accepted and evaluated based upon the respondent's demonstrated qualifications, experience, and ability to successfully provide the proposed services. Submission of a partial SOQ shall not, by itself, be considered a disadvantage or cause for disqualification.

Likewise, respondents are not required to have satisfied every Provider Requirement identified in this RFQ at the time of SOQ submission. A respondent that has not yet obtained a required license, certification, staffing level, partnership, or other required qualification may nevertheless submit an SOQ, provided the respondent clearly identifies each unmet requirement and includes a detailed implementation plan describing the actions to be taken, the anticipated timeline for completion, and the date by which each requirement will be fully satisfied. The Issuing Agency may evaluate both the respondent's current qualifications and the feasibility and completeness of the proposed implementation plan when determining the respondent's overall qualifications.

The Issuing Agency reserves the right to select one or more providers whose combined qualifications, proposed services, and demonstrated implementation plans best meet the current and future childcare needs of the community. Nothing in this RFQ shall be construed as waiving any statutory, regulatory, licensing, or contractual requirement that must be satisfied before a provider commences operations or delivers childcare services.

2. COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

Republic, Washington is a rural community located in Ferry County. Local employers, educational institutions, healthcare providers, government agencies, and families have identified a critical need for additional childcare capacity (e.g., 40–75 children), particularly for:

- Infants (0–12 months) **OPTIONAL**
- Toddlers (1–3 years)
- Preschool-aged children (3–5 years)
- School-age children
- Before-school care
- After-school care
- Summer childcare programs

The lack of childcare services has become a significant barrier to workforce participation, economic development, family stability, and early childhood education.

The Issuing Agency seeks to identify a childcare provider capable of becoming a long-term community partner.

3. PROJECT GOALS

The Issuing Agency seeks a provider that will:

Access and Capacity

- Increase available childcare slots.
- Provide infant and toddler care.
- Serve working families with flexible scheduling options.
- Accept state childcare subsidies.

Quality

- Deliver high-quality early learning experiences.
- Participate in Washington's Early Achievers program.
- Promote kindergarten readiness.

Community Partnership

- Collaborating with the City of Republic
- Collaborate with local schools.
- Collaborate with healthcare providers.
- Partners with employers and community organizations.
- Support economic development initiatives.

Sustainability

- Operate a financially sustainable childcare program.
 - Recruit and retain qualified childcare staff.
 - Maintain long-term service continuity.
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4. OPERATIONAL MODEL ASSUMPTIONS

The anticipated general operating model for the facility is outlined below. While these assumptions are subject to final negotiation, they should be used to guide the development of your RFQ response:

- **Facility Ownership & Maintenance:** The City of Republic will retain ownership of the facility and will be responsible for utilities, general building maintenance, and property insurance. The City will also be responsible for coordination of common use spaces.
- **Lease Structure:** The childcare provider will rent or lease the space. The final rate will be determined based on the total square footage finalized during the building design phase and negotiated prior to contract execution.
- **Furnishings & Equipment:** Essential furnishings are included in approved grant funding and will be provided with the completed facility.
- **Provider Responsibilities:** The selected childcare operator must maintain independent business liability insurance and cover all day-to-day janitorial and operational cleaning services.
- **Fiscal Independence:** The childcare operation will function as an entirely independent business entity separate from City operations, and the provider will bear sole responsibility for its financial solvency.
- **Governance & Operations Management:** As this is the first facility of its kind for the community, the City of Republic is seeking a partner (or partners) to actively collaborate on establishing protocols for facility scheduling, building security, and day-to-day management. The formal governance structure will be finalized during contract negotiations once the preferred provider(s) is selected. This framework may include the formation of a community-led board of trustees to provide long-term oversight and support for regional childcare provision.
- **Collaborative Design Input:** The City of Republic is utilizing a **Progressive Design-Build** delivery method for construction. This collaborative process allows all key partners to provide direct input on the final design. The chosen childcare provider will actively participate in the design phase to ensure the final floor plan and layout are optimized for their operational needs.

Note: Please refer to "**Attachment A**" for the most recent preliminary design concept, which remains subject to change based on stakeholder input.

5. REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

Respondents must demonstrate their ability to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local requirements, including but not limited to:

Washington State Requirements

- RCW 43.216
- Chapter 110-300 WAC (Child Care Centers)
- Chapter 110-301 WAC (Family Home Child Care)
- Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) regulations
- Washington State Department of Health regulations
- The City encourages the participation of certified Minority, Women, and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (M/WBE)

Federal Requirements

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
 - Civil Rights Act
 - Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), if applicable
 - Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), if applicable
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6. DESIRED AND REQUIRED SERVICES

To fulfill WA Department of Commerce Early Learning Facilities Grant requirements, providers must offer a minimum of 40 childcare slots, 20 of which will be subsidized slots and 20 which will be open to all community members. Slots are required to be offered, but not necessarily filled.

Note: Please refer to <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/capital-facilities/elf/> for the full Department of Commerce Early Learning Facility Grant program requirements, which has been awarded to the City of Republic to help construct this new building.

The Issuing Agency seeks providers capable of offering some or all of the following:

Core Childcare Services

Infant Care

Birth through 12 months (***OPTIONAL***)

Toddler Care

1 through 3 years

Preschool Programs

3 through 5 years

School-Age Programs

- Before-school care
 - After-school care
 - Summer programs
 - School break programs
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7. PROVIDER QUALIFICATIONS

Respondents shall demonstrate:

Organizational Experience

- Minimum three (3) years' operating licensed childcare programs preferred.
- Experience operating in Washington State preferred.
- Experience serving rural communities is preferred.

Licensing

Providers must:

- Hold a current Washington State childcare license; or
- Demonstrate ability to obtain licensure before opening.

Financial Stability

Provide evidence demonstrating:

- Organizational solvency.
- Operational sustainability – Provide a five-year business plan.
- Startup and operating capital.
- Ability to maintain required insurance coverage.

8. STAFFING REQUIREMENTS

Respondents shall describe staffing plans that comply with all DCYF requirements.

Workforce Development

Describe:

- Recruitment strategies.
- Retention strategies.
- Wage and benefit programs.
- Professional development opportunities.

Background Checks

All staff, volunteers, and contractors shall:

- Pass DCYF background checks.
- Meet fingerprinting requirements.
- Comply with ongoing suitability standards.

Required Training

Staff shall meet all state-required training requirements including:

- Child Care Basics
- CPR/First Aid
- DCYF Safe Sleep
- Food Safety
- Bloodborne Pathogens
- Mandated Reporter Training
- Annual continuing education

9. PROGRAM QUALITY REQUIREMENTS

Respondents shall describe their approach to:

Curriculum

The curriculum should support:

- Social-emotional development
- Literacy development
- Language acquisition
- Mathematics readiness
- Science exploration
- Creative expression
- Physical development

School Readiness

Describe how children will be prepared for a successful transition to kindergarten.

Family Engagement

Describe:

- Parent communication systems
- Family involvement opportunities

Inclusion

The provider shall describe accommodation for:

- Children with disabilities
- Developmental delays
- Behavioral support needs
- Dual-language learners

10. EARLY ACHIEVERS PARTICIPATION

Preference will be given to providers that:

- Currently participate in Early Achievers; or
- Commit to participation upon program startup.

Respondents shall describe:

- Current rating level

- Continuous quality improvement practices
 - Staff credential development plans
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11. HEALTH, SAFETY, AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Respondents shall provide policies addressing:

Child Supervision

- Active supervision practices
- Attendance tracking
- Child release procedures

Emergency Preparedness

- Fire evacuation
- Lockdown procedures
- Severe weather / Earthquake response
- Family reunification

Health Practices

- Medication administration
- Illness exclusion
- Communicable disease management
- Immunization compliance

Nutrition

Describe participation in:

- CACFP
 - Nutrition education programs
 - Healthy meals and snack services
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12. BUSINESS PLAN, TUITION SCHEDULES AND FEE STRUCTURES

Detailed business plans, including tuition schedules and fee structures, are not required at this stage. These materials will be requested at a later date exclusively from candidates selected for further negotiation.

13. RURAL CHILDCARE OPERATIONS PLAN

Because Republic is a rural community, respondents shall describe:

Proposed Hours and Days of Operation

Workforce Recruitment

Plans to recruit qualified childcare professionals.

Workforce Retention

Plans to reduce turnover.

Transportation Considerations

Any transportation services or partnerships.

Community Partnerships

Potential partnerships with:

- Schools
- Healthcare providers
- Libraries
- Employers
- Community organizations

Specific reporting requirements, enrollment expectations, operating hours, quality measures and other performance standards may be included in future negotiations for selected providers.

14. SUBSIDIZED CHILDCARE SERVICES

To fulfill WA Department of Commerce Early Learning Facilities Grant requirements, providers must accept:

Working Connections Child Care (WCCC)

Providers should describe:

- Current participation status
 - Experience administering subsidy programs
 - Capacity allocated for subsidy recipients
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15. STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS FORMAT

Responses shall include:

Section 1 – Cover Letter

Section 2 – Organizational Information

Section 3 – Relevant Experience

Section 4 – Program Philosophy

Section 5 – Staffing Plan

Section 6 – Financial Capacity

Section 7 – References

Section 8 – Attachments

16. SUGGESTED ATTACHMENTS

Include the following:

Attachment A

Current childcare license (if applicable)

Attachment B

Licensing compliance history

Attachment C

Insurance certificates

Attachment D

Organizational chart

Attachment E

Staff qualification matrix

Attachment F

Emergency Operations Plan

Attachment G

Sample curriculum materials

Attachment H

Early Achievers documentation

17. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Evaluation Factor	Points
Licensing and Regulatory Compliance	20
Organizational & Financial Experience	20
Program Quality and Curriculum	15
Health & Safety Program	15
Staffing Plan	10
Early Achievers Participation	10
Community Partnerships	5
References	5

Total Possible Points: 100

18. INTERVIEWS

The Issuing Agency may invite one or more respondents to participate in interviews and presentations.

Interviews may evaluate:

- Organizational fit
- Operational readiness
- Community engagement approach
- Long-term sustainability

19. ANTICIPATED PROCUREMENT SCHEDULE

Milestone	Date
RFQ Release	July 21, 2026
Question and Answer Virtual Session	July 30, 2026 @10:00 AM
Qualifications Due	August 31, 2026 @ 1:00 PM
Evaluation Period	September 1-4, 2026
Interviews	September 20-30, 2026
Selection Announcement	October 2, 2026
Contract Negotiations	October-December 2026
Building Completion	Mid-2028 (tentative)
Program Startup Target	3 rd Quarter 2028 (tentative)

20. RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

The Issuing Agency reserves the right to:

- Preference for nonprofit, tribal, OMWBE (Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises), public-private partnership, or employer-sponsored childcare models.
 - Reject any or all submissions.
 - Waive informalities.
 - Request clarification.
 - Conduct reference checks.
 - Negotiate with one or more respondents.
 - Cancel this procurement at any time.
 - Issue a subsequent RFP or partnership solicitation.
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21. SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Submit one electronic PDF containing all required materials to:

Contact Person: Nicolas Olsen

Organization: City of Republic

Email: cityclerk@republicwa.org

Phone: 509-775-3216

Subject Line: **RFQ – Community Childcare Provider – Republic, Washington**

Submission must be received no later than: **August 31, 2026 @1:00 PM**

Late submissions may not be considered.