



Pend Oreille County Public Utility District

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Pend Oreille PUD Completes Early Learning Center Feasibility Study

Newport, WA – Public Utility District No. 1 of Pend Oreille County (PUD) received a \$100,000 grant last year from the Washington State Department of Commerce and the Seattle Foundation to develop a business plan for an Early Learning & Child Care Center (the “Center”) here in Newport. The grant was issued through a state-wide effort to foster collaborative partnerships that expand child care capacity in Washington communities.

Over the past six months, the PUD and its community partners (Newport Hospital & Health Services, Pend Oreille County, the Kalispel Tribe of Indians, and the Newport School District (“Community Partners”)) worked together with ALSC Architects who developed a comprehensive feasibility report that evaluates, plans and conceptually designs the Center. The report includes feasibility analysis and a business plan for increasing the capacity of early childhood programs to serve the needs of the City of Newport and the greater Pend Oreille County community.

The draft report is available for review and is posted to the PUD’s website here: [Newport ELC Feasibility Study](#). The next steps include analyzing the options presented in the report with the Community Partners, procuring funding to build the facility, and making a community-based stakeholder decision on how to move forward. The PUD is currently seeking congressionally-directed appropriation funding and has shared the draft report with both Senator Cantwell and Senator Murray.

“Providing affordable and quality early learning and child care options to our community is something this community needs and the study and feasibility report compiled by ALSC Architects is a great step in the right direction.” said Sarah Holderman, the PUD’s Director of Treasury, Broadband and Strategic Planning. “The next steps are contingent on funding and community stakeholder input.”

About Pend Oreille County Public Utility District

Pend Oreille PUD was established in 1936 and began operations in 1948. The PUD is governed by three locally elected Commissioners. A General Manager and staff operate the utility within policies set by the Board of Commissioners. The PUD has four operating systems: The electric system distributes electricity to the county, the production system produces power from the Box Canyon Hydroelectric Project, the water system consists of nine individual water distribution subdivisions, and the community network system provides wholesale broadband communication services. For more information visit: <http://popud.org>.

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