

Subject: CPHD: Consultant Support for Child Care Initiative

**FY 2023 Proposed Budget
Budget Work Session Follow-up**

4/7/2022

The following information is provided in response to a request made by Ms. Garvey at the work session on 03/08/2022, regarding the following question:

Would consultant support be beneficial in order to move the final phase of the Childcare Initiative along?

Yes, consultant support will advance the timeline for this work. Based on the Community Planning, Housing, and Development (CPHD) Planning Division Work Program presented to the County Board in February 2022, there is very limited staff capacity at this time to accelerate the timeline for the next phase of Child Care Initiative (CCI) zoning studies (currently identified as a Third Tier zoning study) without adversely impacting other earlier planned studies. Absent any pre-scoping work to date, staff estimates that up to \$75,000 in consultant support could provide appropriate resources for this work. Alternatively, this study could start sooner if an earlier planned study is rescheduled to a later time on the work plan.

With consultant support, staff could revisit land use/zoning work anticipated for the next implementation phase of CCI sooner, potentially in conjunction with other zoning studies. That said, even if consultants were involved, County staff time would be needed to develop a scope of work, conduct a procurement process, and manage the project. It is estimated that hiring a consultant for this work could result in its completion at least 12 to 18 months earlier than anticipated (based on current work program priorities). Assuming a timely procurement process, the goal would be for the consultant to begin this work by the end of the 2nd Quarter in FY 2023. The project timeline would also be impacted by the needed coordination between CPHD, Department of Human Services (DHS), Department of Environmental Services (DES), and possibly other departments to confirm a study scope and level of community engagement.

At this time, the additional potential zoning changes to support the next phase of the Child Care Initiative (CCI) could include:

- Consideration of how incentives for child care within residential/commercial/ mixed-use buildings could be incorporated through targeted Zoning Ordinance Amendments, including provisions for bonus density, for site plan buildings including affordable housing/AHIF projects.
- Consideration of making all family day care homes up to 12 children permissible via zoning by right (instead of via use permit).