



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

OLYMPIC PENINSULA YMCA EARLY LEARNING FACILITY

OLYMPIC PENINSULA YMCA

The Olympic Peninsula YMCA, founded in 1948, is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charitable organization. We are an inclusive organization of individuals with a shared commitment to nurture the potential of youth, promote healthy living, and foster social responsibility.

OUR MISSION

To build community through programs and services that build healthy spirit, mind, and body.

We live our mission daily, one person and relationship at a time.

OUR COMMITMENT

The Olympic Peninsula YMCA fosters a welcoming environment based on mutual respect and acceptance so that all people feel seen, heard, safe, and valued - regardless of their background or circumstances.



OUR CAUSE & COMMUNITY PRESENCE

- ▶ The Olympic Peninsula YMCA has three branches located in Sequim, Port Angeles, and Jefferson County.
- ▶ The Y offers a variety of programs including childcare for working families, swimming and fitness for all ages, various youth and adult enrichment classes, school-based mentoring, summer camps, family camps, afterschool clubs, and chronic disease prevention and management programs.
- ▶ In 2024, the Olympic Peninsula YMCA served more than 13,000 different individuals. The Y provides a safe place where all sections of the community gather. No one is denied the opportunity to participate due to an inability to pay.

VISION FOR CHILD CARE

- ▶ The Olympic Peninsula YMCA's vision for childcare is to establish a robust network of allies and partners across diverse sectors of the community that work to ensure that all families have an abundance of safe, quality, affordable childcare options. Childcare is vital to a community's thriving ecosystem and is integral to the healthy development of children and families.

OLYMPIC PENINSULA YMCA – PORT ANGELES EARLY LEARNING CENTER

BACKGROUND

Even before the pandemic, the lack of available childcare was at a crisis level in Clallam County. According to ChildCare Aware of Washington 24% of licensed childcare sites have closed since 2020. As of January, 2025 the Washington State Department of Children, Youth & Families (DCYF) estimated that of the 3,396 children eligible* in Clallam County, only 715 were enrolled in licensed early learning childcare¹.

Based on this significant need, the Olympic Peninsula YMCA Board of Directors adopted a childcare growth strategy with an emphasis on early childhood.

THE CASE FOR EARLY LEARNING CENTERS

- ▶ **For Children:** 90% of brain development happens in the first five years; early childhood education increases kindergarten preparedness so children start school ready to learn; and participation in a quality early learning program lowers risk factors and improves health outcomes in adulthood. Every dollar spent on early childhood development can yield up to a \$16 return.
- ▶ **For The Workforce:** Parents rely on childcare to help them enter, re-enter, or remain in the workforce. Current licensed availability meets the need of less than 20% of children under six whose parents are in the workforce and need care.



Based on estimates provided by Washington State Department of Commerce:

- Employers in our region incur almost \$94 million per year in compensation and turnover costs for workers arriving late or leaving early as a result of childcare issues and for workers who leave employment because of a lack of childcare
- 2,900 employees with children under six years of age quit a job due to challenges related to childcare
- 1,400 employees with children under the age of six were fired from work due to challenges related to childcare

THE OPPORTUNITY

The Y’s goal is to ensure that children enter kindergarten ready to learn, grow, and thrive. In order to accomplish this, we are building an early learning center on property we own adjacent to the Port Angeles YMCA. The property is centrally located and within 5 minutes of the largest employers in Port Angeles and Clallam County. The site will accommodate an 8,000+ square foot facility, serving up to 76 children.

PROJECT OUTCOMES AND BENEFITS

- ▶ **Serve more families:** An estimated 50 families and up to 76 children ages 0 to 5 will be served at the Y’s Early Learning Facility.
- ▶ **Improve workforce recruitment and retention:** Employees will be able to work knowing that they have access to safe, quality, affordable childcare.
- ▶ **Create jobs:** The Y will employ an additional 15 early learning and childcare professionals.

CONTACT

For more information about the Olympic Peninsula YMCA’s Early Learning Facility project, please contact Wendy Bart, Chief Executive Officer, at wendy@olympicpeninsulaymca.org or by phone at 360-504-0526.

EARLY LEARNING CENTER –PROJECT COST: \$9,000,000

FUNDING SOURCES

State of Washington – Dept of Commerce	\$3,450,000
Clallam County	\$500,000
City of Port Angeles	\$250,000
Foundations	\$705,000
Board & Donor Gifts.....	\$370,780
YMCA Designated Funds	\$284,970
TOTAL RAISED TO-DATE	\$5,560,750

* All caregivers in the workforce

¹ <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/practice/oiaa/reports/early-learning-dashboards/child-care-need-supply-data>

