



Agency Recommendation Summary

The Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) requests a funding alignment and fund swap in the 2025-2027 Biennial Budget to align funding authority with grant awards and correct the 2023-25 Carryforward Level (CFL) budget by swapping Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) ARPA to Education Legacy Trust Account (ELTA) and Workforce Education Investment Account (WEIA) funding in FY26 and beyond.

Program Recommendation Summary

030 - Early Learning

The Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) requests a funding alignment and fund swap in the 2025-2027 Biennial Budget to align funding authority with grant awards and correct the 2023-25 Carryforward Level (CFL) budget by swapping Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) ARPA to Education Legacy Trust Account (ELTA) and Workforce Education Investment Account (WEIA) funding in FY26 and beyond.

Fiscal Summary

Fiscal Summary <i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Fiscal Years		Biennial	Fiscal Years		Biennial
	2026	2027	2025-27	2028	2029	2027-29
Operating Expenditures						
Fund 001 - 2	\$18,948	\$18,948	\$37,896	\$14,948	\$10,948	\$25,896
Fund 001 - 7	\$475	\$0	\$475	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fund 001 - H	(\$45,007)	(\$45,462)	(\$90,469)	(\$45,462)	(\$45,462)	(\$90,924)
Fund 08A - 1	\$42,768	\$42,768	\$85,536	\$42,768	\$42,768	\$85,536
Fund 24J - 1	\$2,694	\$2,694	\$5,388	\$2,694	\$2,694	\$5,388
Total Expenditures	\$19,878	\$18,948	\$38,826	\$14,948	\$10,948	\$25,896
Revenue						
001 - 0393	\$18,948	\$18,948	\$37,896	\$14,948	\$10,948	\$25,896
001 - 0597	\$475	\$0	\$475	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue	\$19,423	\$18,948	\$38,371	\$14,948	\$10,948	\$25,896

Decision Package Description

DCYF requests \$38,826,000 in the 2025-27 Biennial Budget to match the anticipated total spend of grant awards and correct the 2023-25 Carryforward Level (CFL) budget by swapping Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) ARPA to Education Legacy Trust Account (ELTA) and Workforce Education Investment Account (WEIA) funding in FY26 and beyond.

Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Discretionary Grant Increase:

DCYF receives an annual grant award for the Child Care and Development Block Grant Discretionary Funds. The Federal Fiscal Year 2024 award increased by \$10,174,000 from previous federal fiscal year awards. DCYF requests additional expenditure authority to spend the increased funding. This will allow DCYF to meet required set aside percentages and maintain grant funding, while providing critical childcare support and services to families and providers.

Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA):

DCYF receives an annual grant award for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part C. The Federal Fiscal Year 2024 award increased by \$744,000 from previous federal fiscal year awards. This will allow DCYF to provide maintenance and implementation activities for the Lead Agency and Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC), direct services, and expansion of the infant parent mental health.

Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) ARPA:

In May of 2021, DCYF was awarded \$5,546,972 for the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Grants American Rescue Plan Act. The budget period for this grant is 10/1/2020 through 09/30/2025. DCYF only received expenditure authority for this grant funding through Fiscal Year 2024, while the grant period extends into Fiscal year 2026. DCYF requests expenditures authority to spend down the remaining funds. This will allow DCYF to expand its community-based child abuse and neglect prevention activities, provide concrete goods and supports to families, and strengthen the network of statewide supports for families.

Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5):

DCYF requests \$16,000,000 in federal funds to implement the PDB B-5 Planning Grant. This will allow DCYF to integrated birth-to-five mixed delivery system to support kindergarten readiness for all children in the wake of the pandemic by investing in the early childhood education and care (ECCE) workforce; identifying opportunities to expand access to high-quality ECCE programs; and supporting a comprehensive and mixed delivery system.

Ballmer Group Grant

DCYF received grant award from the private local Ballmer Group to support a universal early learning facilities implementation plan. DCYF was awarded \$475,000 to spend in FY26. This will allow DCYF to leverage the child care access and living wages work and create a complementary facilities plan that will help DCYF, partners, and others understand statewide the local facilities needs to support Washington States’s mixed delivery early care and education programs, including child care, state-funded preschool, Head Start, Transition to Kindergarten (TTK), and others.

ARPA Fund Swap

DCYF received funding in the 2021-23 budget to support a variety of program activities established through the Fair Start for Kids Act. This funding was maintained in the 2023-25 budget with ARPA funding in FY24 and swapping to Education Legacy Trust Account (ELTA) and Workforce Education Investment Account (WEIA) funding in FY25 and beyond. However, the 2023-25 Carryforward Level (CFL) budget did not include the fund swap and there is no longer federal funding for the CCDF ARPA award to support these activities.

Assumptions and Calculations

Expansion, Reduction, Elimination or Alteration of a current program or service:

DCYF requests \$38,826,000 in the Biennial 2025-2027 Budget to match the anticipated total of federal grant awards.

	Federal Authority Adjustment					
	FY26	FY27	25-27 BI	FY28	FY29	28-29BI
CCDF	10,174,000.00	10,174,000.00	20,348,000.00	10,174,000.00	10,174,000.00	20,348,000.00
IDEA	774,000.00	774,000.00	1,548,000.00	774,000.00	774,000.00	1,548,000.00
CBCAP ARPA	455,000.00	-	455,000.00	-	-	-
New PDG Award	8,000,000.00	8,000,000.00	16,000,000.00	4,000,000.00	-	4,000,000.00
Ballmer Private Local	475,000.00	-	475,000.00	-	-	-
ARPA Fund Swap	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	19,878,000.00	18,948,000.00	38,826,000.00	14,948,000.00	10,948,000.00	25,896,000.00

Detailed Assumptions and Calculations:

Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Discretionary Grant Increase:

DCYF request \$10,174,000 CCDF General Fund Federal Authority for FY26.

DCYF anticipates FY26 expenditures of \$10,173,957.

DCYF is required to earmark grant funds for specified activities, as cited in 45 CFR Part 98 Subpart F:

3% of grant funding on Quality Infant/Toddler Activities.

9% of grant funding on Quality Non-Infant/Toddler Activities.

77% of grant funding on Direct Services.

6% of grant funding on Non-Direct costs.

No more than 5% of grant funding on administrative costs.

Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA):

DCYF request \$744,000 IDEA General Fund Federal Authority in FY26.

DCYF anticipates FY26 expenditures of \$744,000.

Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) ARPA:

DCYF requests \$455,000 CBCAP ARPA General Fund Federal Authority in FY26.

DCYF anticipates FY26 expenditures of \$455,000.

Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5):

DCYF request \$8,000,000 PDG B-5 General Fund Federal Authority in FY26.

DCYF anticipates FY26 expenditures of \$8,000,000.

DCYF request \$8,000,000 PDG B-5 General Fund Federal Authority in FY27.

DCYF anticipates FY27 expenditures of \$8,000,000.

Ballmer Group Grant

DCYF request \$475,000 Ballmer Group General Fund Private/Local Authority in FY26.

DCYF anticipates FY26 expenditures of \$475,000.

ARPA Fund Swap

DCYF request to swap \$45,462,000 from ARPA funds to \$42,678,000 ELTA and \$2,694,000 to WEIA funds.

Workforce Assumptions:

Not Applicable

Historical Funding:

Not Applicable

Strategic and Performance Outcomes

Strategic Framework:

The CBCAP Rescue Plan funding allows Washington to expand its community-based child abuse and neglect prevention activities, provide concrete goods and support to families, and strengthen the network of statewide supports for families.

The IDEA funding provides for maintenance and implementation activities for the Lead Agency and Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC), direct services, and expansion of the infant parent mental health.

PDG funding provides resources to invest in the early childhood education and care workforce and supports a comprehensive mixed delivery system.

CCDF funding provides direct services for eligible families to enroll in Working Connections Child Care, quality initiatives for toddlers and infants, and quality initiatives for non-toddlers and infants.

Ballmer Group funding will allow DCYF to expand supports that align with DCYF's early learning priorities.

Performance Outcomes:

CBCAP ARPA:

More families will have access to support to ensure a healthy start for their children.

IDEA:

This funding should result in more public awareness, personal recruitment, data system enhancements, pandemic related training for Lead Agencies and the ICC. It should also result in comprehensive early intervention services including workforce diversity and stabilization, technology, family support and stabilization, public awareness and Child Find enhancement, infant parental mental health consultation, and expansion of infant parental mental health services.

This funding should result in more families receiving access to quality home visiting and basic needs as well as increased resiliency and retention of the Home Visiting workforce.

PDG:

This funding will allow DCYF, and partners will work toward the outcome of strengthening Washington State’s integrated birth to five mixed delivery system to support kindergarten readiness for all children in the wake of the pandemic by investing in the early childhood education and care (ECCE) workforce, identifying opportunities to expand access to high quality ECCE programs, and supporting a comprehensive and mixed delivery system.

CCDF:

This funding will allow DCYF to expand access to quality childcare and increase provider participation in subsidies.

Ballmer:

This funding will allow DCYF to support a universal early learning facilities implementation plan. DCYF will leverage the child care access and living wages work and create a complementary facilities plan that will help DCYF, partners, and others understand statewide and local facilities needs to support Washington State’s mixed-delivery early care and education programs, including child care, state-funded preschool, Head Start, Transition to Kindergarten (TTK) and others.

Equity Impacts

Community Outreach and Engagement:

Not applicable

Disproportional Impact Considerations:

Providers are disproportionately women and women of color. Supporting these businesses with increased economic and administrative support further advances these businesses.

Target Communities and Populations:

Not applicable

Community Inputs and Incorporation:

This proposal supports childcare providers and families in need of comprehensive early intervention services.

Other Collateral Connections

HEAL Act Agencies Supplemental Questions

Not applicable

Puget Sound Recovery:

Not applicable

State Workforce Impacts:

Not applicable

Intergovernmental:

Not applicable

Stakeholder Impacts:

Not applicable

State Facilities Impacts:

Not applicable

Changes from Current Law:

Not applicable

Legal or Administrative Mandates:

Not applicable

Governor's Salmon Strategy:

Not applicable

IT Addendum

Does this Decision Package include funding for any IT-related costs, including hardware, software, (including cloud-based services), contracts or IT staff?

No

Objects of Expenditure

Objects of Expenditure <i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Fiscal Years		Biennial	Fiscal Years		Biennial
	2026	2027	2025-27	2028	2029	2027-29
Obj. N	\$19,878	\$18,948	\$38,826	\$14,948	\$10,948	\$25,896

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