
DCYF 2024 DP & ARL

Allison Krutsinger
Director of Public Affairs

Rene Newkirk
Chief Financial Officer

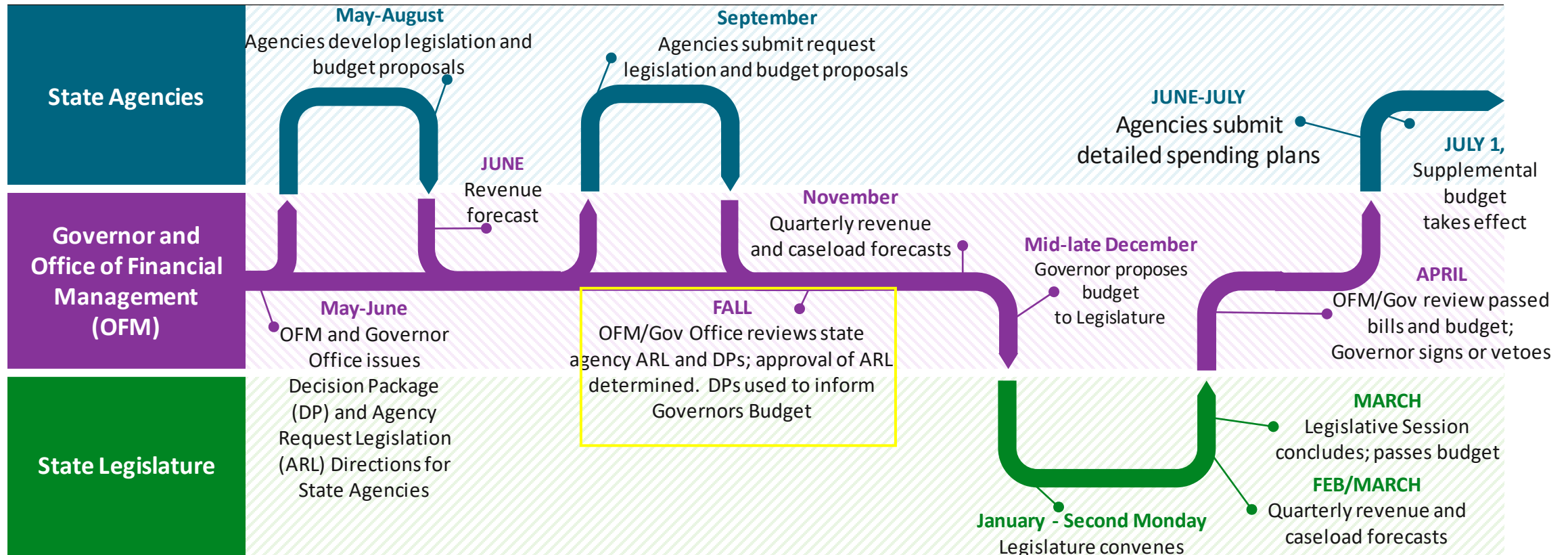
September 21, 2023



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES



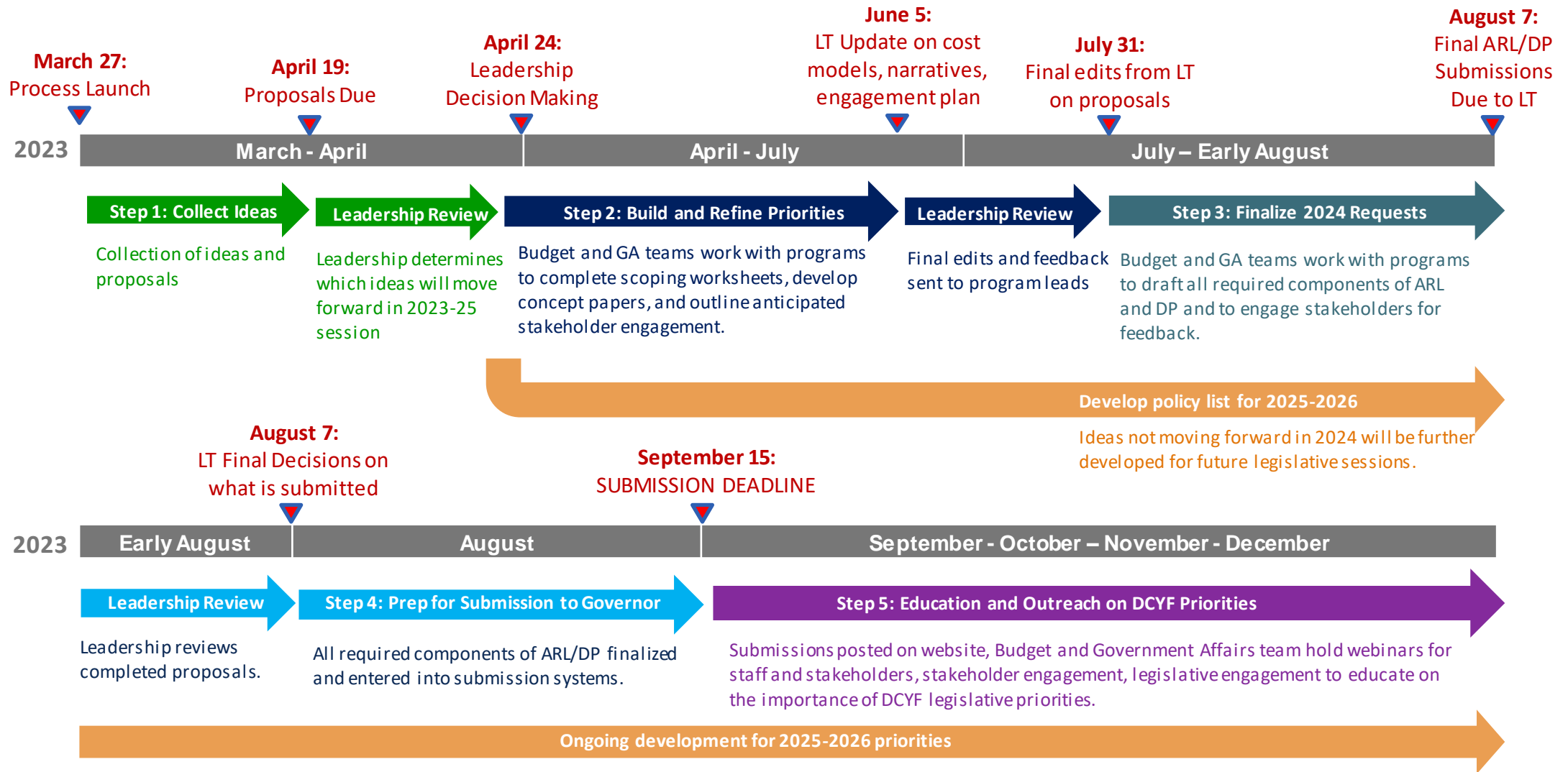
Preparing for Session Supplemental Budget Year Timeline



Guiding Principles for Development

- Prioritize programs and services that reduce racial and ethnic disparities in outcomes and access to services across all DCYF systems of care.
- Prioritize resources that focus on core responsibilities outlined in DCYF's vision and strategic plan.
- Prioritize prevention services and intervention solutions to keep children, youth and families safe in their community and not going deeper into the DCYF system.
- Prioritize funding for programs and policies that have demonstrated their effectiveness in improving outcomes through evidence-based and promising practices.

DP/ARL Process and Timeline – 2024 Supplemental



Realities

Supplemental budget year

+

DCYF implementing significant
investments and policy changes

+

Budget/Economic realities

=

Limited scope for requests next session



Decision Packages and Agency Request Legislation

Supporting Staff

- Staff Safety and Supports

Necessary to implement 23-25 law

- DS Implementation
- EPS Rate Enhancements
- TTK Coordinated Recruitment and Enrollment

Supporting core agency needs

- Class Action Settlement – Columbia Legal Services
- Echo Glen Security
- New Information and Data Systems (CCWIS, SSPS)

Maintain Forward Progress Toward Agency Goals

- Stipends for Lived Experience
- Family Reconciliation Services Community Based Pilot
- Independent Living Investments
- Making Child Care Work for Families
- Supporting Providers for Child Care Access
- Basic FC Maintenance Payment Increase
- EFC Housing Supplement
- ECEAP Entitlement
- **(ARL)** Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT)



Staff Safety and Supports

Decision Package

\$3,166,000

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Improve quality and intention of our practice
- Eliminate racial disproportionality and advance racial equity

What?

Essential resources to address emergency management and safety needs to support employees through resilience and prevention training, crisis response, mental health support, and establish necessary agency infrastructure.

Why?

- DCYF has a responsibility to provide a safe and healthy workplace
- DCYF staff experience prolonged exposure to trauma, violent incidents, and high caseloads of people with acute needs.
- DCYF needs the capacity to prepare, manage, and intervene in critical incidents to reduce the likelihood of future incidents.

Components Include:

- Contracted mental health professionals to provide crisis debriefing and response services to staff after incidents
- Stipends for volunteer staff who deploy into trauma situations to assist
- Six Program Specialists, one per region, to train and support crisis response volunteers, facilitate and provide immediate on-site intervention and supports to DCYF staff involved in acute traumatic incidents
- One Safety Officer and five Safety Program Specialists to support the safety needs of over 75 facilities and offices
- One Emergency Management Coordinator & Emergency Management Specialist

Stipends for Lived Experience

Decision Package
\$2,042,000

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- This request supports all six of DCYF strategic priorities

What?

Engaging and supporting lived experts who are members of existing and planned advisory groups, per SB 5793 (2022).

Why?

- To ensure the participation of lived experts in an advisory capacity and to allow DCYF to acknowledge their contributions and expertise.
- Dedicated, sufficient resources for effective engagement, consistent compensation, and the reduction of barriers to meeting participation.

Components Include:

- Resources for compensation of lived experts who participate in agency workgroups and advisory boards
- One FTE to facilitate a quality payment experience for members including timeliness, responsiveness, and reporting to the Office of Equity
- One FTE to fulfill all fiscal needs associated with tracking and processing payments

D.S. Implementation

Decision Package
\$5,100,000

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Reducing the number of children in out-of-home care by half
- Improving quality and intention of practice

What?

DCYF received funding in the 2023-25 budget to implement seven of the eight System Improvements outlined in the D.S. Settlement on behalf of children and youth experiencing placement instability. DCYF needs additional funds to fully implement the settlement agreement and fund the eighth strategy around Shared Planning Meetings.

Why?

- In June 2022, DCYF reached a settlement agreement which requires DCYF to make system improvements and offer services and supports to class members.
- DCYF has worked with plaintiffs to develop an implementation plan for all system improvements in the settlement, which has been informed by the stakeholder process.

Components Include:

- Resources associated with meeting the requirement to improve and revise policies for Family Group Planning meetings;
- Resources to establish rates and make payments for placement settings for youth;
- Funding for plaintiff legal fees and to continue the stakeholder process required under the agreement

Emergent Placement Services Rates

Decision Package
\$11,747,000

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Reducing the number of children in out-of-home care by half

What?

To address the DCYF's need for temporary placement when no other placement is available for children and youth with intensive support needs.

Why?

- Children and youth often are placed in foster care under emergent circumstances
- There are times when there is not a placement available and DCYF needs to place a child in some form of "receiving care" while the caseworker seeks an appropriate, ongoing placement.
- There are times when children or youth with high levels of mental or behavioral health needs "disrupt" from a placement because it can no longer meet their needs.

Components Include:

- Emergent Placement Services (EPS) rate increase
- Funds for DCYF to establish additional emergent, short and medium-term licensed placements across the state to meet this need.

Family Reconciliation Services Community Based Pilot

Decision Package
\$7,084,000

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Safely reduce the number of youth in out-of-home care
- Improve quality and intention of practice

What?

Implementation of a community-based Family Reconciliation Services (FRS) model.

Why?

- FRS is currently provided by DCYF caseworkers but many families struggle to access services relevant to their needs.
- Over the last year DCYF has worked collaboratively with youth and families with lived experience, tribes, community providers, and other stakeholders, utilizing co-design principles and approaches, to create a new community-based FRS model.

Components Include:

- Three early implementation sites in King, Pierce, and Yakima counties, with community-based (contracted) FRS providers.
- Funding for the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) to evaluate the early implementation sites.

Basic FC Maintenance Payment Increase

Decision Package

\$8,290,000

Total FC Payment

Decision Package

\$11,645,000

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Eliminate racial disproportionalities and advance racial equity
- Safely reduce the number/rate of children in out-of-home care
- Create successful transitions to adulthood for youth and young adults in our care

What?

To ensure licensed caregivers and Extended Foster Care young people are fully reimbursed for the cost of care, DCYF is requesting a rate increase to the foster care maintenance payment Basic Rate.

Why?

- The 2023-25 Biennial Budget included a \$50 increase to the basic rate to address inflation. However, the increase was not based on an analysis of actual costs of caring for children in Washington.
- This requested Basic Rate Increase increase would align reimbursement with recommendations based on a cost analysis to capture a true cost in providing care.
- Extended foster care rates are built off the basic rate for foster care and the resources to young people have not been sufficient.

Components Include:

- Funding to increase the Basic Rate for Foster Care Maintenance Payments to licensed caregivers and EFC youth

Basic FC Maintenance Payment Increase EFC – Housing Supplement

Decision Package

\$3,355,000

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Eliminate racial disproportionalities and advance racial equity
- Safely reduce the number/rate of children in out-of-home care
- Create successful transitions to adulthood for youth and young adults in our care

What?

Implement a housing supplement in counties with high housing costs for youth in Extended Foster Care (EFC) residing in a Supervised Living Arrangement (SIL).

Why?

- Youth in EFC face high rates of homelessness and housing instability.
- EFC-SIL rates are set at the Basic Rate, so this will increase to \$1,034 a month in all counties
- This is still insufficient to cover housing in high-cost counties

Components Include:

- Funding to apply a housing supplement for youth in Extended Foster Care residing in Supervised Independent Living arrangements in counties with high housing costs.

County	Housing Supplement	Total SIL Payment
Clark	\$ 378	\$ 1,412
King	\$ 686	\$ 1,720
Kitsap	\$ 394	\$ 1,428
Pierce	\$ 280	\$ 1,314
Skamania	\$ 378	\$ 1,412
Snohomish	\$ 686	\$ 1,720
Thurston	\$ 186	\$ 1,220

Independent Living Investments

Decision Package
\$3,747,000

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Create successful transitions to adulthood for youth and young adults in our care

What?

Funds to strengthen the administration and competency of the Independent Living (IL) program and to continue the implementation of a new approach to transition planning for youth exiting child welfare and juvenile rehabilitation systems developed through co-design with lived experts.

Why?

- Washington's federal IL grant award has declined in recent years and is no longer sufficient to administer the program and provide services.
- The current payment structure for IL providers is not sufficient to cover costs associated with delivering services.
- DCYF seeks to sustain adolescent transition program managers for youth exiting systems of care.

Components Include:

- Funding to stabilize the IL program and account for declining federal funding
- Funding to implement a rate increase designed to cover IL providers' cost
- Ongoing funding to sustain regional adolescent transition program managers

SSPS

Replacement

*Decision Package
Placeholder*

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Improve quality and intention of our practice

What?

Investment to replace the Social Service Payment System (SSPS)

Why?

- The current SSPS is a mission critical, complex legacy system which runs on a Unisys mainframe, which has reached its 'end of life'
- The system must be streamlined and modernized to continue to support payment processing and system development technology in the future
- Mission-critical infrastructure

Components:

- A feasibility study will be completed in the fall of 2023, which will provide DCYF with the considerations necessary to implement a successful SSPS Replacement project as well as an estimate for the corresponding funding needs.

CCWIS

Decision Package Placeholder

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Improve quality and intention of our practice

What?

Investment to implement the Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS), a case management information system in support of the child welfare program.

Why?

- FamLink does not meet the business needs of CW programs and complexity causes problems that make it hard for staff to serve families
- These efforts require a significant time investment to avoid unexpected impacts to other data sets in the system, and cause a significant amount of work for CW workers
- Under the new federal rules, all states are required to provide a Declaration or submit a Notice of Intent to comply with the new rules in order to maintain any future FFP funding for maintenance and new development.

Components:

- A feasibility study will be completed in the fall of 2023, which will provide DCYF with the considerations necessary to implement a successful SSPS Replacement project as well as an estimate for the corresponding funding needs.

Making Child Care Work for Families

Decision Package
\$12,597,000

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Eliminate racial disproportionalities and advance racial equity
- Create a high-quality integrated B-8 system
- Improve quality and intention of our practice
- Improve quality and availability of provider services

What?

A multi-pronged approach to simplify and standardize child care subsidy and Early Learning programs.

Why?

- Ensure that our most vulnerable children have access to high quality care.
- Simplify provider and family experience with the subsidy system.
- This proposal aligns eligibility rules across ECEAP and WCCC while also further supporting WCCC eligibility when families are participating in ECEAP, Early ECEAP, Head Start, and Early Head Start.

Components:

- Allows participation in ECEAP, Early ECEAP, Head Start, and Early Head Start as an approved activity for WCCC (*Supports ~166 Families*)
- Provides households with a child who was receiving protective services one full WCCC eligibility period following permanency by adoption or guardianship (*Supports ~1,000 families*)
- Excludes child support, Social Security, and Supplemental Security Income payments for ECEAP and WCCC. (*Supports ~1542 Children*)
- Funds and 4.75 FTE to further support families with access to high quality early learning programs

Supporting Providers for Child Care Access

Decision Package
\$23,758,000

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Improve quality and availability of provider services
- Improve quality and intention of our practice
- Eliminate racial disproportionalities and advance racial equity
- Create a high-quality integrated B-8 system

What?

DCYF is proposing to simplify some administrative processes to reduce the burden for providers who participate in subsidy and to provide targeted supports to make it feasible for providers to serve specific populations of children.

Why?

Access to high-quality childcare for families can be limited by structural constraints on providers. This is especially true for providers serving children on WCCC and those serving infants and toddlers.

Components:

- Expand infant access through providing contracted slots for infants receiving protective services
- Increasing the infant rate enhancement to \$500
- Increasing the nonstandard hours rate bonus to \$500
- Aligning overpayment collection with federal requirements
- Shared services and technical assistance to access funding and resources

ECEAP Entitlement

Decision Package

\$37,039,000

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Eliminate racial disproportionalities and advance racial equity
- Create a high-quality integrated B-8 system
- Improve quality and intention of our practice
- Improve quality and availability of provider services

What?

DCYF requires increased investments to continue building a flexible, responsive, and robust system that better supports ECEAP and other early learning providers to meet entitlement.

Why?

- ECEAP is proven to get kids furthest from opportunity ready for kindergarten.
- Enables the next phase of ECEAP expansion toward meeting entitlement in the 2026-27 school year as required by FSKA.

Components:

- **Sustainable ECEAP Slot Rate:** A 19% increase in School Day ECEAP slot rates and a 28% increase in Working Day ECEAP slot rates to reach the full rate increase recommended in the ECEAP Cost Study
- **Expansion of Slots:** 200 School Day and 50 Working Day slots in addition to the 500 School Day slots already allocated in the 2023-25 Biennial Budget
- **Quality Supports Funding:** Funding to cover quality requirements related to expanding slots

Transition to Kindergarten Coordinated Recruitment and Enrollment

Decision Package
\$1,357,000

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Eliminate racial disproportionalities and advance racial equity
- Create a high-quality integrated B-8 system
- Improve quality and intention of our practice

What?

This package will create a collaborative system of supports that includes integrated resources at the state, regional, and local partnership levels to coordinate the enrollment of early learning options in local communities.

Why?

- Currently families struggle to consistently find available services that best meet their needs because there is not a coordinated system in place to capture up-to-date options that list all programming availability.
- To meet the requirements in Coordinated Recruitment and Enrollment (CRE) with OSPI as required in 2HSB 1550 (2023) Transition to Kindergarten
- To support families in increasing access to inclusive Pre-K programming that meets identified needs and ensures consistent and informed parent choices.

Components:

- DCYF and OSPI will co-convene a statewide steering committee with representation from key state partners to determine the details of the structured approach to serving children and families in the programming they qualify for.
- Funding will be added to an existing contract with a key state partner to staff this work at the state and regional offices.

Early Support for Infants and Toddlers

*Agency Request Legislation
\$4,185,000*

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Create a high-quality B-8 system

What?

To support the use of the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) State Special Education 0-3 funding for the full months of service provided to eligible infants and toddlers.

Why?

- Current law limits DCYF and local ESIT provider agencies from counting eligible children for the full number of months they receive services.
- If this proposal is funded, ESIT providers will receive payment for the true amount of services they provide to eligible children and families.

Components Include:

- A request to revise RCW 43.216.580 to define children to be receiving early intervention services “...if the child has received services within the same month as the monthly count day, which is the last business day of the month”.

Echo Glen Security

Decision Package
\$7,039,000

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Create successful transitions to adulthood for youth and young adults in our care.

What?

Hiring contracted security personnel to support campus safety at Echo Glen Children's Center while a perimeter fence is constructed.

Why?

- The most recent escape and assault on a staff member at Echo Glen highlights the need to ensure staff safety, community safety, and the safety of the youth and young adults at that facility.
- Safer environments reduce rates of aggression, drug introduction, and the need to transfer to higher security settings.
- Safer environments prevent youth from further penetrating the justice system.

Components Include:

- Contracting will include:
 - Perimeter checks and internal roving campus security support
 - Posting in units where there is a vacancy on graveyard shifts
 - Other security-related duties as needed.

Class Action Settlement – Administrative Hearings

Decision Package
\$3,596,000

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Eliminate racial disproportionalities and advance racial equity
- Create successful transitions to adulthood for youth and young adults in our care

What?

Organizing a hearings unit for DCYF to better serve young people in JR who may transfer between DCYF and DOC facilities. This results from a class action lawsuit against DCYF on behalf of individuals under the age of 25 who were transferred from DCYF's Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) division to the Department of Corrections (DOC) without a prior hearing, as required by RCW 13.40.280 ("Ta'afulisia Lawsuit").

Why?

- This treats a young person with dignity and respect and a clear understanding of how decisions are made.
- DCYF lacks the infrastructure to effectively meet statutory obligations regarding provision of notice and a hearing before executing certain actions impacting individuals in our care and custody.
- This request is the result of extensive conversation and negotiations with Columbia Legal Services.

Components Include:

- Creation of a hearings unit at DCYF to serve these young people
- Contracting for legal representation for young people participating in hearings
- Hiring of additional staff capacity

One Pager Overviews of 2024 DP/ARL

- One-page summaries of all DCYF's 2024 legislative requests will be linked from the DCYF Government Affairs webpage.
- All DPs are currently posted on the site
- These will be added as they are completed – please check back or reach out if you would like more details on any proposal.



THANK YOU

Allison Krutsinger

Allison.krutsinger@dcyf.wa.gov

Rene Newkirk

Rene.Newkirk@dcyf.wa.gov



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

A photograph of a white card with the words "Thank you" written in blue cursive. The card is placed on top of a brown envelope. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

Thank you