
DCYF 2023-25 ARL & DP Overview

Allison Krutsinger
Director of Public Affairs

Rene Newkirk
Chief Financial Officer

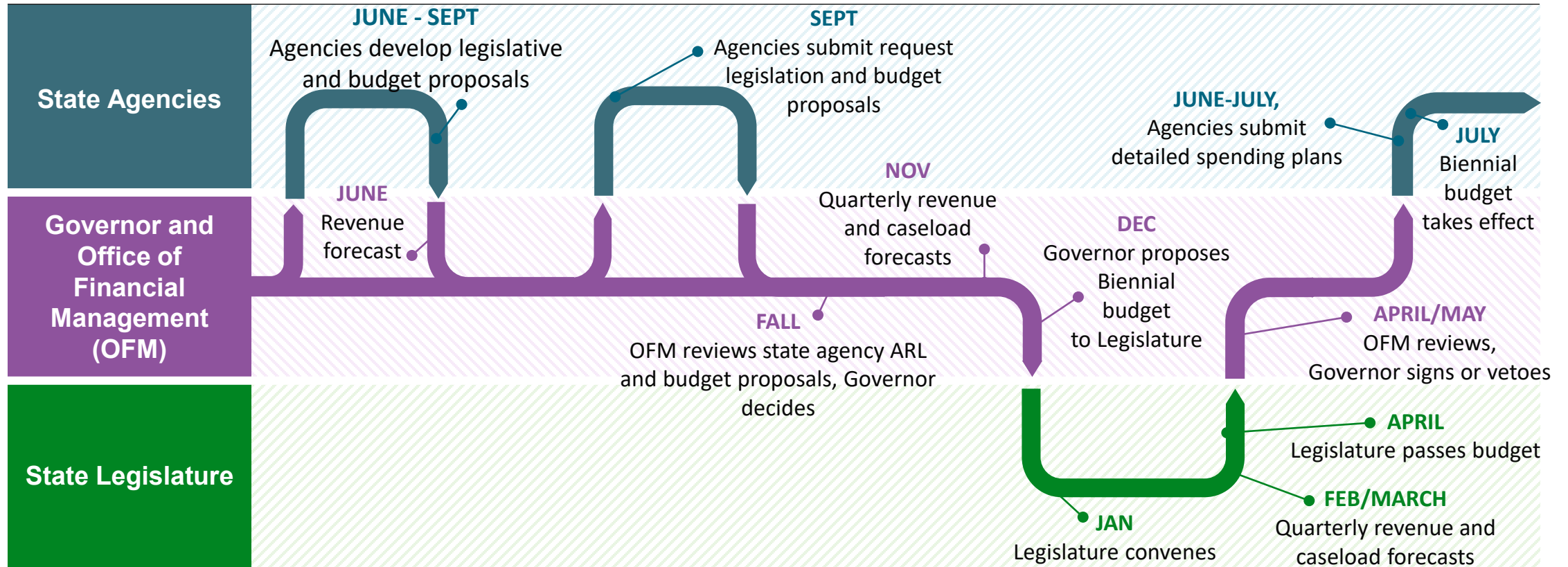
September 23, 2022



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES



Preparing for Legislative Session



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.
- Think big, bold, and with innovation in mind.

DCYF Strategic Priorities

EQUITY

Eliminate racial disproportionalities and advance racial equity

INTENTION

Safely reduce the number/rate of children in out-of-home care by half

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

Create high quality, integrated B-8 system

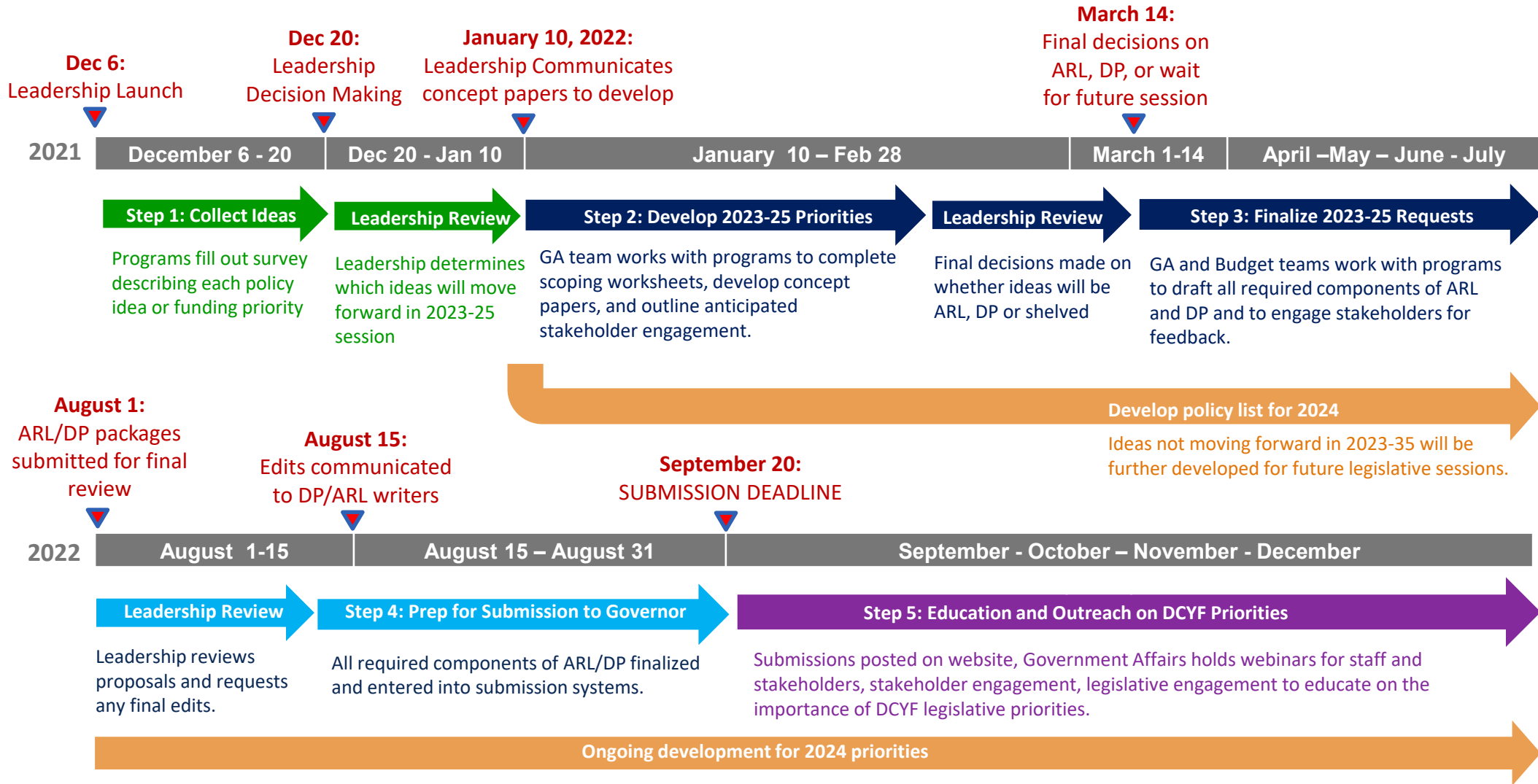
CAPACITY

Improve quality and intention of our practice

Improve quality and availability of provider services



ARL/DP Process and Timeline – 2023/25 Biennium



Realities

Budget Setting Session

+

DCYF implementing significant
investments and policy changes

+

COVID impacts for clients and providers

+

Budget/Economic realities

=

???



Agency Request Legislation and Decision Packages

- **Prevention**
- **Rising Strong West Capital**
- **Combined In Home & Transitional Services**
- **Caregiver Placement Supports**
- **Family Time**
- **D.S. Compliance**
- **Licensed Kinship Placements**
- **CCWIS**
- **SSPS Replacement**
- **CCDF Audit Resolution**
- **JR Community Capacity Expansion**
- **JR Improve Educational Outcomes**
- **Housing Access and Supports**
- **Making Child Care work for Families**
- **Supporting Providers for Child Care Access**
- **WCCC Rate Increases**
- **Preparing for ECEAP Entitlement**
- **EL Facilities Fund Capital**
- **Culturally Relevant Language Access Program**
- **Background Checks and Licensing Fees and Schedules**
- **R-GAP**



Prevention

\$24.626M

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Safely reduce the number of children and youth in out-of-home care by half

What?

Investment in prevention services and interventions to reduce the number of families entering into child welfare and to promote child and family well-being.

Why?

- DCYF is charged with preventing harm to children and youth and implementing services and supports upstream
- Changing the trajectory of rates of child maltreatment and promoting well-being for children and families requires universal, targeted, and individualized approaches

Components:

- Services and supports for substance use disorder treatment
 - Network of substance use disorder professionals across the state
 - Expanding Plan of Safe Care Statewide
 - Expanding Pregnant and Parenting Intake Pilot
 - Support for HCA DPs: treatment beds for families and PCAP expansion
- Continuation and expansion of Strengthening Families Locally, a community-based prevention initiative
- Home visiting expansion, workforce investments, and infrastructure investments such as professional development and data system improvements
- Re-design of DCYF's Family Reconciliation Services

Rising Strong West

Capital Budget DP
\$13M

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Safely reduce the number of children and youth in out-of-home care by half

What?

Capital funding for the construction of a site for the Rising Strong model on the west side of the state. Rising Strong is a holistic, family-centered drug treatment and housing program supporting families in staying together while they begin to recover from addiction and heal from trauma.

Why?

- Substance use disorder is a top contributing factor for the placement of children into out-of-home care, especially young children
- Western Washington currently does not have any program where families can stay together while recovering from Substance Use Disorder

Components:

- Funding for capital costs to build a new residential treatment program on the west side of the state

Combined In Home & Transition Services

\$15.376M

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Eliminate racial disproportionality and advance racial equity
- Safely reduce the number of children and youth in out of home care
- Improve quality and availability of provider services
- Create successful transitions to adulthood for youth and young adults in our care

What?

Investments in combined in-home and transition services allowing for increased access to services for DCYF clients across divisions.

Why?

- DCYF is seeking to lay the foundation for a robust continuum of services and move toward service integration
- Recent legislation and court cases continue to create demand for additional services to be provided to DCYF clients

Components:

- In-Home Services Expansion and Quality Improvement
 - Combined in-home service expansion, including culturally responsive services
 - Capacity building grants to bring on new providers and provide quality improvement supports to providers
- Transition Services
 - Independent Living expansion to additional young people exiting foster care and young people in the Juvenile Rehabilitation system
 - LifeSet expansion statewide and maintenance of current programming

Caregiver Placement Supports

\$53.94M

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Advance racial equity and reduce racial disproportionality
- Reduce the number of children in out of home care by half

What?

Support for kinship caregivers and family foster homes to meet the needs of children/youth in foster care. This will result in more equitable redistribution of financial assistance and support services to kinship caregivers.

Why?

- The current foster care rate system directs more resources to non-relative, mostly white family foster homes
- This has been a multi-year project to address placement instability
- A root cause of placement instability in the foster care placement continuum is inadequate supports for caregivers
- This is particularly true when children have high levels of behavioral and mental health support needs

Components:

- New foster care maintenance payment
- New placement supports to all caregivers
- Expand access to educational support
- Increase rates to Child Placing Agencies for certifying foster parents
- 1 FTE to implement this work

Family Time

\$21.918M

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Safely reduce the number/rate of children in out-of-home care by half
- Improve quality and availability of provider services

What?

Resources to support frequent and regular family visitation when children are placed out of home. In addition, DCYF will expand the Network Administrator model statewide for Family Time contracts.

Why?

- Frequent and regular family visits result in stronger attachment, lower levels of depression and higher a likelihood that a child will be reunified with parents
- Without additional funding to cover certain costs, families will experience disruptions in their visit plans and DCYF may face potential non-compliance with court-ordered visitation

Components:

- Covering separate billable items
- Expanding the Network Administrator model statewide

D.S. Compliance

\$35.052M

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

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

What?

Investment to meet the agency's obligations under the settlement agreement in the D.S. lawsuit on behalf of youth experiencing placement instability through night-to-night placements and hotel and overnight stays in DCYF offices.

Why?

- In June 2022, DCYF reached a settlement agreement which DCYF to make system improvements and offer services and supports to class members

Components Include:

- Emerging adulthood housing program/Adolescent transitional living pilot expansion
- Professional therapeutic foster care
- Statewide hub home model program
- Revision of licensing standards
- Family group planning
- Referrals and transitions
- Qualified residential treatment program
- Monitoring and implementation

Licensed Kinship Placements

\$10.952M

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Improve the quality and intention of practice
- Improve the quality and availability of provider services

What?

Resources to support increased licensed kinship placements. Placements with licensed kin are increasing and will continue to increase with the implementation of the Keeping Families Together Act (HB 1227) and various court cases. This package seeks to lay out the first phase of a strategy to accomplish these goals.

Why?

- Relative placement promotes stability, decreases likelihood of re-abuse and institutional abuse, and leads to better behavioral and mental health outcomes. Relatives/kin need supports to care for unexpected household members
- The D.S. settlement and vocal advocacy from stakeholders are pushing DCYF to reframe its approach to placing children with kin and supporting those kin families through the life of the placement

Components:

- Kinship Caregiver Engagement Unit
- Maintain licensing staff ratios as more kin placements become licensed

CCWIS

\$3.769M

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:

- 14 Full Time Equivalents (following feasibility study)
- A user-oriented developed solution built by a vendor who has agile development and child welfare experience

SSPS

Replacement

\$4.792M

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:

- 1.6 Full Time Equivalent
- A contract with a provider to get to the detailed reporting necessary during the interim period until SSPS is replaced

CCDF Audit Resolution

\$2.583M

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Improve quality and intention of our practice

What?

Funding to support the work necessary to provide the detailed information for the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) grant management as identified in the CCDF FY21SWSA Audit Report.

Why?

- DCYF lacks the resources necessary to provide the level of detail requested by SAO
- This request is in response to the \$271M CCDF Audit finding from SAO for the FFY21 award

Components:

- 2 Full Time Equivalents (FTE) in the 2023-25 Biennial Budget biennium
- Contracted provider for interim consultation and reporting to meet the SAO detail level

JR Community Capacity Expansion

Capital Budget DP
\$20M

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Eliminate racial disproportionalities and advance racial equity
- Create successful transitions to adulthood for youth and young adults in our care
- Improve quality and intention of our practice

What?

Expansion of JR's community capacity and support of a trauma-informed, culturally relevant, racial equity-based, developmentally appropriate, community-based approach with therapeutic supports to support the successful reentry of youth and young adults into community.

Why?

- Reduce bottleneck of youth/young adults in DCYF's JR institutions, and enhance community-based, less restrictive options
- Address gap in JR continuum
- Increase community capacity for independent living transitions for improved reentry outcomes for individuals up to 25
- Serve increasing number of youth with acute behavioral health needs

Components:

- Capital Funding for minimum security Transitional Living Centers (TLCs) at Echo Glen and Green Hill
- Pre-design funding for the construction of two new 16 bed CFs in Clark and Snohomish Counties

JR Improve Educational Outcomes

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Create successful transitions to adulthood for youth and young adults in our care
- Improve quality and intention of our practice

What?

A placeholder request for support of DCYF's implementation of the recommendations set forth in the HB 1295 report. The formal ask will be submitted once the 1295 report is complete.

The report is due Nov. 1, 2022.

Why?

- Challenges in institutional education marginalize and negatively impact BIPOC, children and youth with CW involvement, children and youth experiencing homelessness or housing instability, and LGBTQIAA+ youth
- The recommendations of HB 1295 will outline a bold and innovative pathway that will lead to a more just, trauma-informed, research-based, and developmentally appropriate system of education for students learning in JR facilities across the state

Housing Access and Supports

\$17.3M

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- 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?

Supportive housing services for youth exiting child welfare and juvenile rehabilitation, as well as statewide support for families to obtain housing when there is an imminent risk of an out-of-home placement or to aid in reunification.

Why?

- Young people exiting foster care and juvenile rehabilitation continue to enter homelessness within 12 months after exit, even after the passage of HB 6560
- Stable housing can support a speedier reunification and prevent entry to child welfare where housing instability is a factor in removal

Components:

- Contracted provision of housing support services to young people exiting foster care and juvenile rehabilitation
 - Housing support services include housing navigation, housing location assistance, individual case management, etc.
- SB 5718: Child Welfare Housing Pilot Expansion
 - 5718 also provides housing support services to families
- Regional Housing Capacity – regional staff to engage in housing initiatives and efforts

Making Child Care Work for Families

\$298.95M

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 EL programs. These will provide 8,775 additional families with access to WCCC and increase ECEAP access to an additional 168 families.

Why?

- Ensure that our most vulnerable children have access to high quality care
- Simplify provider and family experience with the subsidy system

Components:

- Authorizing full-time care for all children
- Adding more student parents to eligibility
- Requiring only one parent to participate in an approved activity
- Allowing participation in ECEAP and Head Start as an approved activity for WCCC
- Allowing family participation in medical activities as an approved activity
- Allowing job search as an approved activity at application and reapplication
- Removing 12-month restriction on Homeless Grace Period
- Exclude child support, Social Security, and Supplemental Security payments as countable income for Working Connections Child Care and ECEAP
- Increase Family Access to Child Welfare Early Learning Navigators
- Transition Child Welfare Child Care to Working Connections
- Outreach and Communication Contracted Services

Supporting Providers for Child Care Access

\$236.81M

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 child care for families can be limited by structural constraints on providers. This is especially true for providers serving children on WCCC and those serving infants/toddlers.

Components:

- Sustainable and Predictable Subsidy Payment
- Non-Standard Hours Bonus Increase
- Child Care Complex Needs Fund Expansion
- Early Childhood Equity Grants Expansion
- Expand Early ECEAP in areas of most need
- Contracted slots to secure access for children involved in protective services
- Increase infant rate enhancement for child care subsidy from \$90/month to \$500/month
- Align Overpayment Collection with Federal Requirements

WCCC Rate Increases

\$270.83M

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

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

What?

Funds to increase child care provider subsidy rates, modify the co-pay schedule for some families, and increase subsidy income eligibility in the out biennium.

Why?

- Meet the mandates of the Fair Start for Kids Act of 2021 (SB 5237)
- Align rates with the 2021 market rate study
- Keep family copays less than 7% of gross family income

Components:

- Increase subsidy rates to the 85th percentile
- Copay increase for families to \$165 (impact ~2,000 families)
- Increase income eligibility to 75% SMI beginning July 2025 (impact ~4,000 families)

Preparing for ECEAP Entitlement

\$264.7M

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?

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:

- Rate increase for school day and working day slots
- Slot increases to meet entitlement – 6,000 new slots (85% SD, 15% WD)
- Slot conversion to meet child and family needs – 5,000 PD to SD
- ECEAP Complex Needs Fund expansion
- Scholarships for workforce development
- Entitlement infrastructure – readiness TA, quality supports, DCYF program supports

Early Learning Facilities (ELF) Fund Expansion

Capital Budget DP
\$50M

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

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

What?

Additional resources for the ELF program, to help ECEAP contractors and WCCC providers expand, remodel, purchase, or construct early learning facilities and classrooms necessary to support early learning opportunities for children from low-income households. DCYF is submitting this DP on behalf of Commerce, who runs the program.

Why?

- To increase access in child care “deserts,” low-income neighborhoods, and rural communities
- Modeling indicates a need for 1,883 facilities across the state to serve ~35,283 children eligible for WCCC but not able to access care
- To support 12,482 ECEAP slots to come online in time for the deadline for program entitlement

Components:

- Early Learning Facilities Grant
- Non-Expansion Minor Renovations Grant

Culturally Relevant Language Access Program

\$3.13M

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Eliminate racial disproportionalities and advance racial equity
- Improve quality and intention of our practice
- Improve quality and availability of provider services

What?

Funding to begin implementing an enterprise-level language access plan (LAP) and to improve how federal requirements are met. Items in this package represent the first phase of work needed.

Why?

DCYF needs agency infrastructure to implement needed improvements to how DCYF supports the language access needs of all providers and clients.

Components:

- Website Translation
- Language Coordinators (6FTE agency wide)
- Language Access Program Manager
- Community Engagement and Communications
- Language-Specific Early Learning Specialists
- Data Analysis and Reporting
- DCYF Staff Training

Background Checks and Licensing Fees and Schedules

\$14.73M

Agency Request Legislation

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Create high quality integrated B-8 system
- Improve quality and availability of provider services

What?

Eliminating fees for mandatory background checks and licensing activities, lengthening the frequency for child care provider background check renewals and lengthening the amount of time foster care providers are eligible for an initial license.

Why?

- Completing and maintaining a license (child care or foster care) requires applicants to pass through steps that require time and resources.
- Proposed changes and funding will support providers and kin move successfully through our licensing process.

Components:

- Permanently eliminate background check fees for child care and group care staff
- Change child care background check renewal schedule (every 5 years instead of 3)
- Permanently eliminate child care licensing fees
- Increases time limit for kin initial license (90 days to 6 months, renewal up to 2 years)

RGAP

1.262M

Agency Request Legislation

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Safely reduce the number of children and youth foster care by half

What?

Expanding eligibility for the Relative Guardianship Assistance Program (R-GAP) to support guardianship with relatives as a permanency option when children and youth in foster care cannot be safely reunified with their parents.

Why?

- Children placed with relatives have better outcomes compared to those in non-relative foster care
- Kinship caregivers are twice as likely to live in poverty than non-relative caregivers
- Guardianships established by tribal governments and many relative caregivers are not currently eligible for R-GAP
- Fewer than 2 in 5 children/youth in out-of-home placement are Title IV-E eligible

Components:

- Create a state-funded R-GAP subsidy
- Expand eligibility to non-IV-E cases
- Expand eligibility to suitable persons as described in RCW 13.34.130
- Expand eligibility to guardianships established by the tribal court of a federally recognized tribe located in Washington as defined in RCW 13.38.040

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