

# Trauma-Informed Care Financial Awards Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Through the [Fair Start for Kids Act \(FSKA\)](#) (Senate Bill 5237), the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) distributes Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) Financial Awards to eligible providers for completing DCYF-recognized trauma-informed education and training.

## Q. What education is eligible for a Trauma-Informed Care Financial Award?

A. The following education is eligible:

- Bachelor's degree or higher in infant and early childhood mental health (\$1,200) (Infant and early childhood mental health consultants are not eligible for this award.)
- Washington Association of Infant Mental Health Infant Family Associate (IFA) (\$800)
- Washington Association of Infant Mental Health Infant Family Specialist (IFS) (\$1,200)
- Washington Association of Infant Mental Health Infant Family Reflective Supervisor (IFRS) (\$1,200)
- Washington Association of Infant Mental Health Infant Mental Health Specialist (IMHS) (\$1,200)

## Q. What training is eligible for a Trauma-Informed Care Financial Award?

A. The following training is eligible:

### Emerging Training Category (\$800)

- Filming Interactions to Nurture Development (FIND)
- DCYF-approved Helping Children Develop Social Emotional Skills (available in Spanish and Somali)
- Mindful Me
- Mobility Mentoring Foundation Course Online (only eligible for ECEAP and Early ECEAP providers)
- PREPARE for Care training (must complete minimum of two 6-hour sessions)
- WAPM Implementing Inclusive + Equitable Pyramid Model Practices UPDATE (Modules 1 and 2)

### Advanced Training Category (\$1,200)

- DCYF-approved Trauma Informed Care Modules – Advanced Series (must complete all four sessions)
- PREPARE for Care training (must complete minimum of four 6-hour sessions)
- DCYF-approved Prenatal and Infant Mental Health (available in Somali and Spanish)
- Pyramid Model Prevent Teach Reinforce for Young Children (must complete prerequisite Pyramid Model module 1 and 2)



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**Q. Where can I find training that is eligible for an award?**

A. Use the [Find Training](#) tool in MERIT to search for eligible training (see above for a list of eligible trainings).

**Q. When will I receive payment for my award?**

A. For providers, if all eligibility requirements are met, payment processing may take up to one month. For coaches, if all eligibility requirements are met, payment processing may take up to three months.

**Q. Do I have to pay taxes on my award?**

A. Due to various tax implications, DCYF is unable to provide advice. We encourage you to contact a professional accountant if further assistance is needed.

**Q. What if I need help updating my information in MERIT?**

A. If you need help:

- Visit the [MERIT Workforce Registry webpage](#) for step-by-step instructions for most activities in MERIT.
- If your employment status in MERIT is recorded as “self-entered,” please contact your employer.
- For additional assistance, please contact us at [MERIT@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:MERIT@dcyf.wa.gov).

**Q. What if I did part of a training but never finished? Can I go back and finish, or should I start a different training?**

A. To qualify for an award, you must have fully completed training recorded in your MERIT record. You may decide whether to resume a training you have already started or start a new training.

**Q. Can I complete multiple trainings and receive an award for both?**

A. Yes, you may receive a Trauma-Informed Care Financial Award for each eligible training completed up to the maximum lifetime amount of \$1,200. Please note that the lifetime maximum for Trauma-Informed Care Financial Awards includes both training and education.

**Q. How did DCYF determine which trainings to be recognized with financial awards?**

A. DCYF, a provider design team, and the FSKA Trauma-Informed Care Advisory Group (comprised of subject matter experts) identified training opportunities to be recognized with financial awards. These training opportunities were selected due to their ability to further essential trauma-informed concepts and principles.

**Q. How will I know if a training is eligible for a Trauma-Informed Care Financial Award?**

A. All training eligible for Trauma-Informed Care Financial Award must be delivered by a DCYF-contracted training organization and DCYF state-approved trainer. Use the [Find Training](#) tool in MERIT to search for eligible training (see above for a list of eligible trainings). Training titles in MERIT should include a note if they are eligible for an award.

**Q. Can I receive awards for past training?**

A. Individuals must claim their Trauma-Informed Care Financial Award within one year of completing the eligible training. Awards for training completed prior to Jan. 1, 2023 must have been claimed by June 30, 2024. These previous payments were manually issued by DCYF and Child Care Aware of Washington.

**Q. I work for a child care program that is open to children receiving subsidy (they've been enrolled in the past) but aren't currently serving a child on subsidy. Am I eligible to receive an award?**

A. You may be eligible for an award if your program claimed a subsidy payment within the past 12 months prior to claiming an award. For more information on how to claim a subsidy payment, please see: <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/ssps>.

**Q. How much funding is available for the Trauma-Informed Care Financial Awards?**

A. The state has provided \$3.2 million for Trauma-Informed Care Financial Awards this biennium (2024-2025). There is \$1.8 million for this fiscal year 2025 (July 1 – June 30).

**Q. What should I do if I completed a trauma-informed care training but I did not receive my Trauma-Informed Care Financial Award?**

A. Contact [MERIT@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:MERIT@dcyf.wa.gov) to inquire about Trauma-Informed Care Financial Awards. For more information, visit [DCYF's Trauma-Informed Care](#) web page.