

# Community Funded ECEAP

## What is Community Funded ECEAP?

The unmet need for high-quality early learning opportunities led to the creation of Community Funded ECEAP (CFE). RCW 43.216.080 ([app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=43.216.080](http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=43.216.080)) establishes CFE and creates additional early learning opportunities by allowing local governments, school districts, institutions of higher education ([app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=28B.10.016](http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=28B.10.016)) and nonprofit organizations to contribute funds to the Department of Children, Youth & Families (DCYF) to expand access to ECEAP (Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program).

## How Does CFE Work?

CFE replicates ECEAP's whole child model which is aligned with nationally researched programs that show exceptional returns on investment in early learning.

## How is CFE Funded?

Instead of state funding, local governments, school districts, institutions of higher education and nonprofit organizations use their own funds to pay for CFE.

## How Does DCYF Manage CFE Funds?

Legislation established the Early Start account, a separate account where all CFE funds are deposited. Three percent of these funds are used by DCYF ECEAP to support training, technical assistance and quality assurance. The remaining funding is returned to programs monthly, based on the CFE contract.

## How is CFE Quality Supported?

To maintain the quality of early learning services, all ECEAP performance standards, policies, procedures, monitoring and administration apply to CFE.

## How Much Does CFE Cost Per School Year?

| MODEL       | HOURS     | COST/YEAR       |
|-------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Part Day    | 3         | \$8,237         |
| School Day  | 5.5 - 6.5 | \$11,309 (avg.) |
| Working Day | 10        | \$17,656 (avg.) |

## How Does CFE Contracting Work?

The contracting structure for CFE is the same as state-funded ECEAP. CFE contractors operate CFE-funded slots or sites directly or these may be operated through subcontracts with partners.

## What is the Process to Begin CFE?

To get started, providers will learn how CFE works, gather the required information and documentation and seek funding sources. To learn more and for resources and forms for prospective service providers and funders, visit [www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/early-learning-providers/eceap/community-funded-eceap](http://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/early-learning-providers/eceap/community-funded-eceap).

## Why CFE?

CFE addresses the increasing need for high-quality early learning by creating opportunities for more children in Washington's communities – particularly 4-year-olds not currently served.

- Each year, a large number of children are not served by state-funded ECEAP or Head Start
- There are still early learning gaps that exist for many preschool children in communities across Washington State
- Hardworking families are unable to make ends meet and need accessible high-quality preschool programming for their children

*If you would like copies of this document in an alternative format or language, please contact DCYF Constituent Relations (1-800-723-4831 | 360-902-8060, [ConstRelations@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:ConstRelations@dcyf.wa.gov)).*

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