

Making Child Care Work for Families

2024 Decision Package



The proposal takes a multi-tiered approach to simplify and standardize child care subsidy and early learning programs as intended with the establishment of the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF). The proposed solutions streamline eligibility for families accessing child care subsidy and the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), ensures that our most vulnerable children have access to high-quality care, and reduces administrative burden for early learning providers.

THE DECISION PACKAGE:

Allows participation in ECEAP, Early ECEAP, Head Start, and Early Head Start as an approved activity for Working Connections Child Care (WCCC).

- ✓ Allowing families with children participating in ECEAP, Early ECEAP, Head Start, Tribal Head Start, and Migrant Season Head Start the ability to also receive WCCC when otherwise eligible.
- ✓ Supports families with full access to care and lessens financial burden for providers who offer school-day models with wrap-around services.

Provides one full WCCC eligibility period following permanency by adoption or guardianship for households with a child who was receiving protective services.

- ✓ This further aligns WCCC eligibility with ECEAP eligibility, allowing children who have received protective services at least one WCCC eligibility period.

Excludes child support, Social Security, and Supplemental Security Income payments for ECEAP and WCCC.

- ✓ Approving child care for children in families who are financially eligible with at least one parent in an approved activity will support children with access to high-quality care.

Increases staffing (4.75 full-time equivalents) to further support families with access to high-quality early learning programs.

IMPACTS:



Supports access for approximately
166 families



Supports access for approximately
1,000 families



Expands eligibility for approximately
1,542 children



4.75 FTEs staffed to
Support Early Learning for Families

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Eliminate racial disproportionalities and advance racial equity.
- Developing a high-quality integrated Birth-to-Eight early learning system.
- Improve quality and intention of DCYF practice.
- Improve quality and availability of provider services.

TOTAL COST:

\$12,597,000

Contact:

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Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

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