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# DCYF 2024 Governor's Investments

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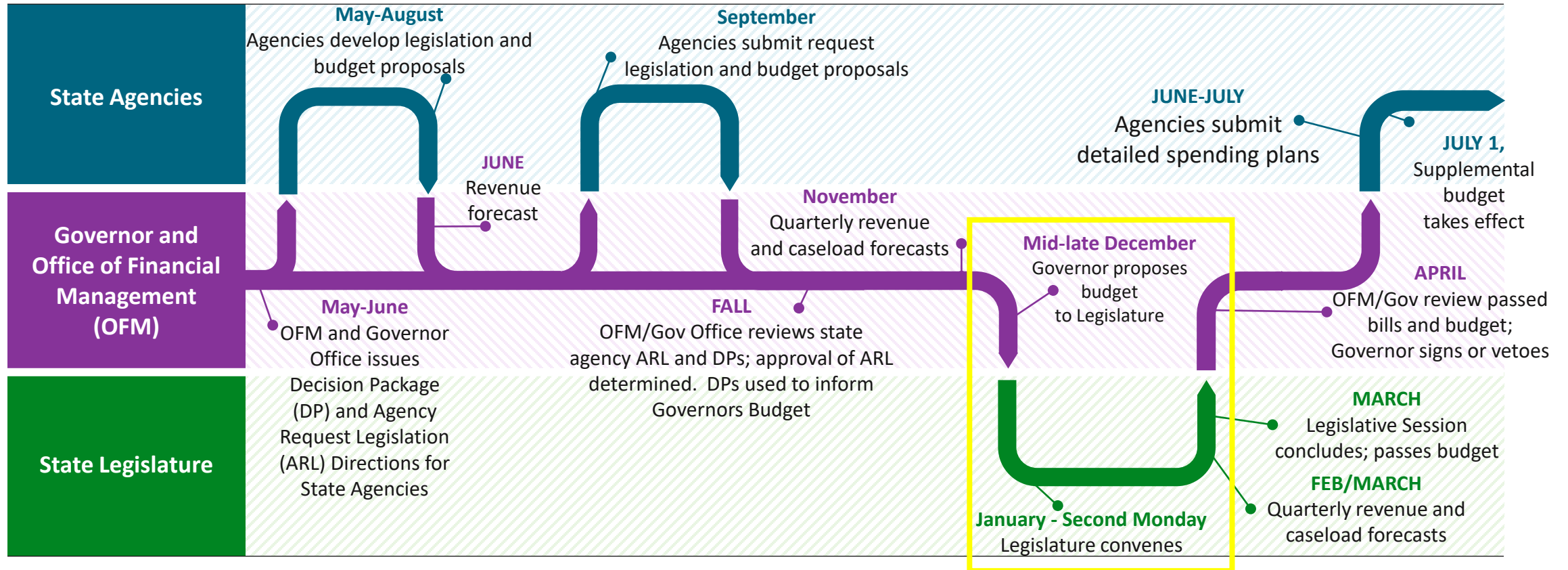


Washington State Department of  
**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**



# Preparing for Session

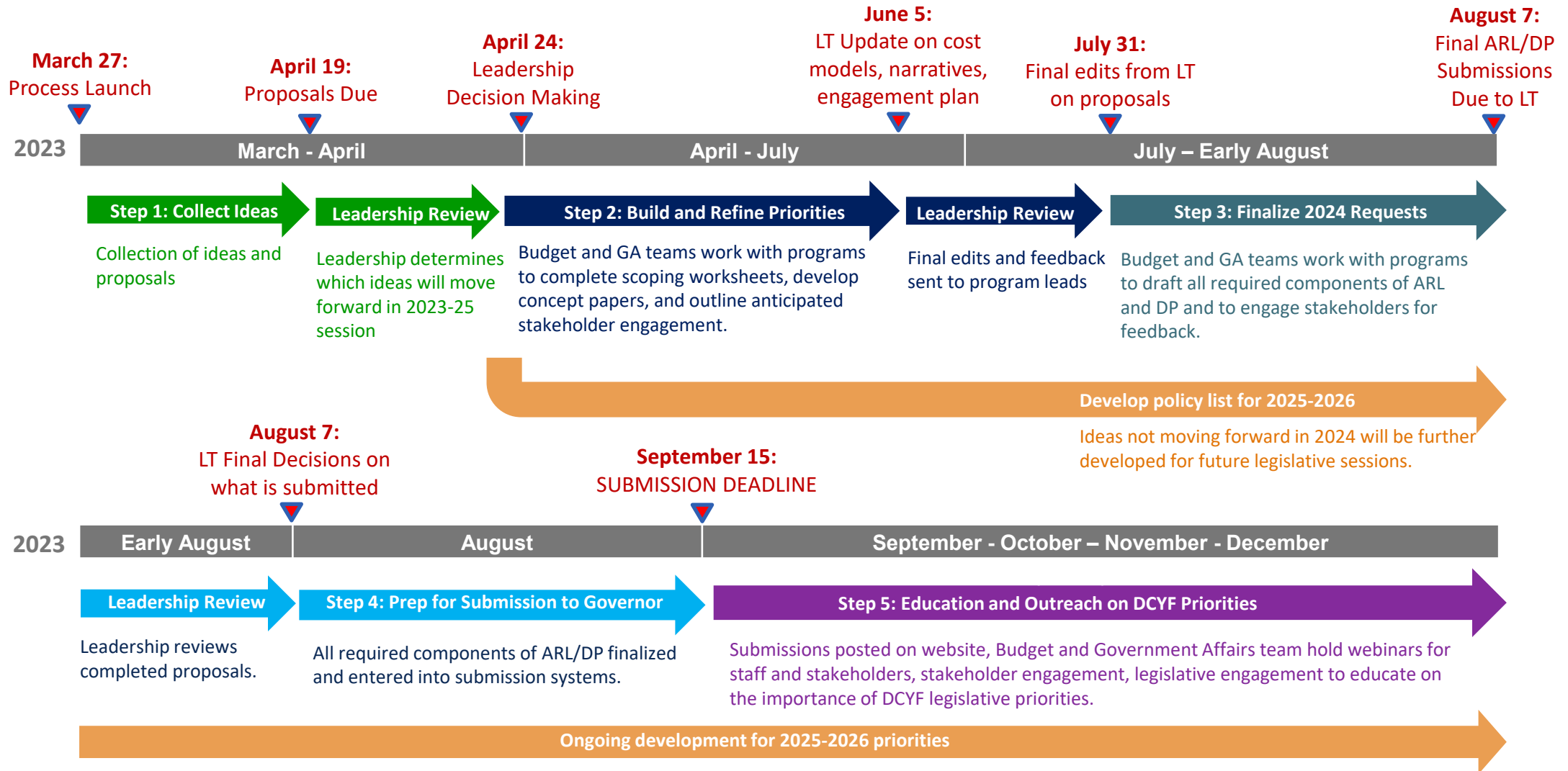
## Supplemental Budget Year Timeline



# 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)



# Stipends for Lived Experience

*Decision Package*

*\$2,042,000*

*No funding received*

## 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~~

# Making Child Care Work for Families

*Decision Package*

*\$12,599,000*

*No funding received*

## 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*

*No funding received*

## 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*

*\$10,182,000*

## **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

✓ **Partially Funded**

## 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 6 ~~19~~% increase in School Day ECEAP slot rates and a 10 ~~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*

*\$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

✓ Fully Funded

## 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

**\$4,401,000**

## DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Create a high-quality B-8 system

✓ Fully Funded + ARL Approved

## 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".



# Other DCYF Investments

- **Expanding TANF Hardship - \$466,000**
  - 2025 funding provided to partially cover the cost related to increased TANF/WCCC caseload from implementing the extension/diversion TANF time limit for families experiencing financial hardship.

# Relevant Other Agency Investments

## State Board of Community and Technical Colleges

- **Workforce Education Investment Fund - \$2.4M**
  - Funding for community college staff to recruit, advise, and support Early Achievers scholars completing their early childhood qualifications.

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# THANK YOU

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Washington State Department of  
**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

Thank you