DCYF 2023 and 2024 Legislative Sessions

Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Agenda

- 2023 Biennial Budget Update: 10 minutes
- 2024 Session Look Ahead: 25 minutes
- Discussion questions: 20 minutes

By the end of this discussion, the group will

- Walk away with a better understanding of where child care/early learning stands in the proposed 2023 biennial budgets
- Have a shared understanding how DCYF's legislative work is supporting the child care/early learning field over the next biennium
- Provide initial guidance on ideas for the 2024 supplemental session

2023 Legislative Session Update

Budget Setting Session

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DCYF implementing significant investments and policy changes

+

COVID impacts for clients and providers

+

Mixed budget/economic realities

=

Strong position for the Legislative Session

2023 Decision Packages

Making Child Care Work for Families

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 Requested:

- 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

2023 Decision Packages

Supporting Providers for Child Care Access

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 Requested:

- 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

2023 Decision Packages

Preparing for ECEAP Entitlement

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 Requested:

- 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

2023 – Proposed Budgets

Category	Senate	House	Governor	DCYF DP
Preparing for ECEAP Entitlement	$100.97M	$78.39M	$201.69M	$264.8M
Supporting Providers to Increase Child Care Access	$25.4M	$17.57M	$34.06M	$236.81M
Make Child Care Work for Families	$908K	$908K	$908K	$299M
WCCC Rates and Income Eligibility	$219.24M*	$219.24M*	$270.83M**	$270.83M**
WCCC Hold Harmless over 85th Percentile	$2.26M	$2.26M	$2.26M	$2.26M
SEIU 925 Family Home Collective Bargaining Agreement	$256.29M^	$256.29M^	$231.165M	$231.165M

*Additional $113.7M funded in CBA
**Additional $121.65M funded in CBA

^$113.7 is rate increases, $740 is for two years background checks

2023 – Proposed Budgets

Category	Senate	House	Governor	DCYF DP
Background Checks & Licensing Fees & Schedules	$4.49M*	$897K	$897K	$5.76M
Organizational License Pilot	$324K	$324K	$368K	$324K
Culturally Relevant Language Access Program	$2.25M	$2.71M	$3.13M	$3.13M
Home Visiting Funding Increase	$9.3M	$8.56M	$9.3M	$12.2M
Home Visiting Slot Expansion	---	$1M	$1.5M	$3M
Imagination Library	---	$4M	$5.279M	$5M^
Early Learning Facilities Fund – Capital Budget^^	$32.55M	$59.5M	$45M	$50M

*Funding for 5316 - permanent background check and licensing fees
**Funding for one year background check fees for CC centers
^In OSPI's DP
^^Not included are numerous member Capital budget projects for CC/EL facilities

2023 – Proposed Budgets, Non-DCYF Requests

Category	Senate	House	Governor	DCYF DP
Tribal Early Learning Grants	$10.28M	$5.24M	$10.729M	---
Nonstandard Hours Bonus	---	$9.41M	---	---
Child Care Special Needs Rate Study	---	$273K	---	---
Child Care Access and Living Wage Plan	$533K	$1.03M	---	---
Early ECEAP Rate Increase	$4.79M	$3.4M	---	---
Early Learning Dashboards	$300K	$300K	---	---
Washington Communities for Children Early Learning Services	---	$3M	---	---
Early Learning Workforce Programs	---	$500K	---	---

2023 Early Learning - Bills

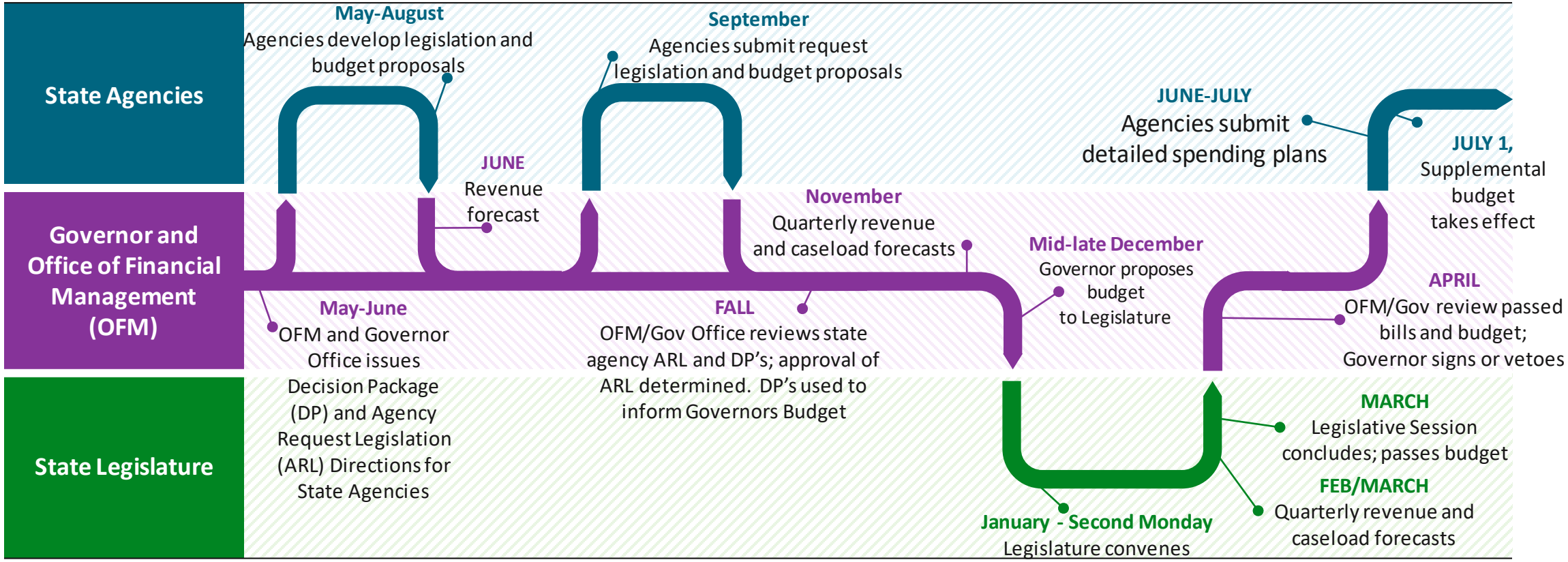
Bill #	Bill Title	Senate	House
5225	Increasing access to the working connections child care program.	$13.329M	---
5316	Concerning background check and licensing fees for programs administered by the department of children, youth, and families.	$4.493M	---
1550	Assisting eligible children in need of additional preparation to be successful in kindergarten by establishing the transition to kindergarten program.	---	$11M
1525	Concerning eligibility for working connections child care benefits for persons participating in state registered apprenticeships.	---	$4.561M

2023 – Est. Total Proposed EL Spending

Category	Senate	House	Governor	DCYF DP
Operating	$650.66	$630.86	$772.12	1,334.28
Capital – Early Learning Facilities Fund**	$32.55M	$59.5M	$45M	$50M
Combined	**$683.21**	**$690.36**	**$817.12**	**$1,384.28**

**Not included are numerous member Capital Budget projects for CC/EL facilities

Legislative Session – Supplemental Budget Timeline



Realities for 2024

Supplemental budget year

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DCYF implementing significant investments and policy changes

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Declining revenues and slowing economic outlook

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Limited Scope for Requests Next Session

DCYF Major Focuses for Next Biennium

Overarching framework:

- Support access, affordability, and quality

Major Projects – implement existing mandates

- FSKA elements coming online
- 85th percentile rate increase
- ECEAP entitlement
- Cost of Quality Care rate model setting

2024 Supplemental Ideas

Making Child Care Work for Families

- Infant-Toddler Access
- Extending eligibility for ECEAP, Head Start, and Adoptive Families
- Exclude child support, Social Security, and Supplemental Security payments as countable income for Working Connections Child Care and ECEAP

2024 Supplemental Ideas

Supporting Providers for Child Care Access

- Increase infant rate enhancement for child care subsidy from $90/month to $500/month
- Align Overpayment Collection with Federal Requirements
- Shared Services and Technical Assistance to Access Funding and Resources

2024 Supplemental Ideas

Preparing for ECEAP Entitlement

- **Rate Increases**
- **Capacity infrastructure -** *Curriculum, school district pathways, staffing, TS Gold*
- **Data capacity and reporting for entitlement**

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Looking Ahead to the Next Biennial Budget

DCYF is always working looking out 2 sessions in the future.

2025 asks are likely to include:

- Cost of quality care rate model funding
- ECEAP entitlement
- Expanding subsidy eligibility to higher income brackets
- Eligibility alignment

Discussion and Feedback

Purpose: Provide initial feedback on 2024 funding ideas.

Activity #1:

Vote in the poll

- **Of the items we requested for the 2023 biennial budget which didn't make it into any budgets, which 2 would you like to see us put forward again in 2024?**

Link:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2PYX9R7

Discussion and Feedback

Purpose: Provide initial feedback on 2024 funding ideas.

Activity #2:

In groups of 5-7 people, discuss and share:

- **What ideas from our initial ideas list for 2024 are you excited for us to move forward with?**
- **Are there any ideas on our initial concept list for 2024 that you think we should not move forward with?**
- **Are there ideas that you haven't heard today that you would like to be considered for 2024?**

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Link: https://jamboard.google.com/d/1aRoTdgZWugbD4d6Xo7_ypmQp4cCxrzD7yETNlQdhrrk/edit?usp=sharing

Next Steps – DCYF will…

Gather feedback from multiple sources across the child care and early learning field: eg. ELAC, IPEL, PAG, ECEAP Directors, Parent Ambassadors, CCA Design Team, Washington Communities for Children

Pull together more concrete proposals with fiscal estimates.

Revisit Provider Supports – we will join the next two meetings to iterate on ideas, will track what ideas move forward and why/why not like we did last year