

# Provider Supports Subcommittee Virtual Meeting

February 14, 2024

Welcome to today's webinar.



Please remember to mute your phone and computer upon entry.



We will begin shortly. Thank You!

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# Virtual Meeting Protocols


## Audio and Video Connection

- Throughout the webinar, please mute yourself unless you are speaking or responding to a question.
- We have Q&A portions dedicated throughout the meeting, but feel free to use the chat box to post questions or comments at any time.
- If for any reason you place the call on hold and music begins to play, your call will be disconnected. You are more than welcome to rejoin the meeting once you are available again.
- Individuals using a webcam or video option will be displayed throughout the meeting.

*If you have any questions or technical difficulties, please contact us via the chat box or at [dcyf.communityengagement@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:dcyf.communityengagement@dcyf.wa.gov).*





PURPOSE	ESSENTIAL RACIAL EQUITY QUESTIONS 
<p>The purpose of the group is to discuss and advise on all services around child care; including but not limited to; licensing policy, WAC changes, rules publishing calendar, agency request legislation, administrative concerns, subsidy rules/rates, whole family health, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is this policy, decision or practice good for kids, families and early learning educators of color?</li> <li>• Do some kids, families and early learning educators benefit more or less than others?</li> <li>• Do kids, families and early learning educators of color have access, and if not, why?</li> <li>• What data and information is missing?</li> <li>• Are there any unintended consequences?</li> </ul>

COMMUNITY AGREEMENTS

Provider Supports Subcommittee of ELAC is dedicated to ensuring a safe environment where quality deliberations take place by allowing every individual the opportunity to be heard without censorship or judgement. All input and questions are encouraged and welcomed. Provider Supports Subcommittee of ELAC is committed to listening to the voices of those gathered to work together to provide whole child outcomes for the families of Washington State. We are responsible for each other’s learning. In order to support this process, all participants must agree to be:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present</li> <li>• Brave</li> <li>• Respectful</li> <li>• Forward Thinking</li> <li>• Committed to the WHY? the WHAT? And the HOW?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Truthful</li> <li>• An Active Listener</li> <li>• Open</li> <li>• A Communication Conduit to Various Communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engaged</li> <li>• Comfortable with Messy Conversations</li> <li>• An Advocate for and Agent of Change</li> <li>• Solution Focused</li> </ul>
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# Introductions

Please share in the chat:

- Your name,
- Where you are located,
- Your role





# Review of Meeting Materials

[www.dcyf.wa.gov](http://www.dcyf.wa.gov)



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# DCYF Temporary Licensing Subcommittee (TLS) Recommendation Response

DCYF Senior Childcare Administrator Travis Hansen, Director of Early Care and Education Hunter Txaba and Assistant Secretary of Licensing Ruben Reeves

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# DCYF Agency Response to ELAC Provider Supports Recommendations

Throughout 2023, DCYF continued partnering on a consistent quarterly basis with ELAC and Provider Supports regarding the Recommendations.

Today we will:

- Celebrate where improvements have been made in response to the TLS Recommendations.
- Inform ELAC and Provider Supports of the longer-term improvements that DCYF is committed to implementing, based on and related to the Recommendations, and
- Clarify which recommendations are not able to move forward, and why.

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# Accomplishments

## Recommendations

- *There should be a process where providers who don't speak any of those specified languages (English, Spanish, and Somali) can request translated information and documents in their preferred language.*
- *Schedule quarterly meetings between the Licensing Division, including leadership, and Washington State providers. These meetings should be an opportunity for providers to inform DCYF on what they are facing in the child care sector and include a question and answer session with concrete follow-through on unanswered questions.*

## Responses

- As of September 2023, DCYF agrees that language access is an area for improvement and partnership. Licensing is also hiring multilingual licensors, and facilitating cross-unit support when there is a need. Licensing Division specifically has recently drafted a cover letter with instructions in 8 languages to be sent with legal letters and is exploring additional ways to make these instructions available at multiple points in the licensing and monitoring processes.
- Assistant Secretary of Licensing, Ruben Reeves, and Assistant Secretary of Early Learning, Nicole Rose have been collecting feedback from ELAC and PS to help inform stronger engagement with Licensing and the Early Learning Division and will be consistently engaging with ELAC and the PS subcommittee. Licensing hired an additional area administrator for King Co., which creates a better regional representation and regional conversations. Regional conversations will also take place at timing appropriate for regional partners. We are also exploring outreach and support sessions across all regions.





# Accomplishments

## Recommendations

- Providers should get a report of what feedback influenced policy decisions, funding requests, and programmatic decisions so that they can see how their hard work is affecting DCYF policy.
- Look at all of the Early Achievers requirements with an equity lens.

## Responses

- Licensing is working with the DCYF community engagement office and across units within program teams to provide feedback loops often, such as this one. The Early Learning Division has adopted a human-centered design for policy changes which includes consistent feedback with contributing stakeholders, ally organizations and advisory groups. Examples include equity grants and the Early Educator Design Team providing recommendations on the Department's Cost of Care Quality Model. We are committed to providing more information to our advisory groups on feedback that we are able to act upon, or the reason why we haven't yet or can't act upon other guidance or suggestions, on topics as requested.
- The Early Achievers revision process brought the latest in-depth review of Early Achievers with an equity lens and redesigned the way providers interact with the Early Achievers quality rating cycle. This includes a provider-led approach to sharing about their early care and education environment, as well as opportunities to build quality over time. DCYF has incorporated the use of the Racial Equity and Social Justice framework over the years and used that in the revisions process as well. This work is ongoing.





# Commitments

## Recommendations

- Offer a survey so that providers can review the licensor after the licensing visit.
- Create a stipend program for mentor organizations to assist new providers. Basic health and safety needs should be in place upon opening a new center (First Aid/CPR, Food Handler Card, background checks).
- DCYF also needs to make funding more equitable between regions, as identified in the Cost of Quality Care study commissioned by the Legislature through the Child Care Collaborative Task Force.

## Responses

- Licensing agrees but will need time to devote staff capacity to developing the survey, as well as the processes for analyzing and utilizing the information when gathered. This is being actively explored and initially developed, with diligence about what info is gathered and how to respond consistently across LD.
- Giving funding limitations, DCYF's current mentorship supports are limited to family home providers only, based on funding stream. DCYF has a unique opportunity through our PDG grant to explore some of these possibilities, watch for more to come on informing this approach.
- DCYF is currently in the process of examining the rate regions with the Early Educator Design team as part of the recommendations to move to a Cost of Quality Care Rate Model as required under RCW 43.216.749. DCYF plans to include the recommendations in a Decision Package for the January 2025 legislation session.





# Clarifications

## Recommendations

- Providers should be able to request a hard copy of the Child Care and Early Learning Licensing Guidebook in English, Spanish, Somali, Arabic, Chinese (simplified), and Russian, free of charge for each classroom in the program and administration.
- Use Quality Improvement funds to support the Early Achievers Review Process and develop a different avenue to demonstrate quality child care to receive subsidy, not Early Achievers as the only option.
- To incentivize all providers to accept WCCC subsidies, DCYF should increase subsidy payments to 100% now and identify a goal for family participation.

## Responses

- The Guidebook is regularly updated online to be current with any updates to WAC or additional resources. Licensing does have concerns that because the Guidebook is updated routinely, the cost and need to send updated version would be ongoing and/or we may end up with outdated versions being used by Providers. Printing every year to accommodate updates is not within the budget.
- Providers receive Quality Improvement Awards once they have completed the ratings process. Needs Based Grants and the 2% tiered reimbursement prior to rating are meant as resources to support providers in readying for rating. RCW 43.216.135 Early Start Act put forward requirements around Early Achievers participation and rating in order for a provider to receive subsidy payments. Early Achievers revisions were informed by provider feedback, using a racial equity lens. The revised process measures the same quality standards and allows participants more ways to demonstrate and **highlight quality** in their program and get **strengths-based reflective feedback**.
- Child care provider base rates are currently paid at the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile of the 2021 market rate survey. Additional funding and authorization is needed to pay providers a higher rate. DCYF is currently in the process of examining rates with the Early Educator Design team as part of the recommendations to move to a Cost of Quality Care Rate Model as required under RCW 43.216.749. We are planning to include our recommendations to the Decision Packages for the January 2025 legislation session.









# Do you have any additional questions or feedback to share with DCYF regarding this update?

Buenos Días! Soy Mentor de un grupo de Asesoramiento de Proveedores y me han estado preguntando acerca de los cambios y requisitos para poder solicitar el incremento de Cuidando Infantil para 16 niños

No.



# LD/CPS Investigation FAQ Feedback

DCYF QA/CQI Program Manager Taylor Nussbaum

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# Do you have any additional questions or feedback to share with DCYF regarding this update?

This topic needs to return with more time to go through each line of the FAQ

There should be a more specific interpretation of the RCWs and rules so there would not be so many different ideas of what the rule says. Some are too general and open to many different viewpoints.

We need answers on how we can support and inform our staff, and protect staff during an investigation (assuming innocence until proven otherwise)

Investigators definitely NEED some training on how to handle these investigations WITHOUT making providers feel like it's a criminal matter. Obviously, we KNOW this is a process that must remain (inta

Rather than just site the RCW. the RCW should be hyperlinked and a summary of the what the RCW is about. That would be helpful.



# Background Checks

DCYF Federal Initiatives and Collaboration Administrator Matt Judge, Provider Support Administrator Meryl Stride and a Representative from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF)

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# DCYF Early Learning Background Checks

February 2024

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## Senate Bill 5774

- Proposed bill that requires DCYF to expand fingerprinting services in at least ten DCYF offices and add staff to conduct services.
- Increased capacity should reduce fingerprint turnaround times by preventing delays caused by appointment unavailability

## System Enhancements:

- DCYF is updating questions on the MERIT and PBC applications that could create delays in fingerprinting or finalizing a background check.
- Upgrades to system reports that display turnaround times at each point of the process. This will allow us to pinpoint delays, troubleshoot as needed, and explore improvements.





# Background Check Developments continued

In 2022-23, DCYF chaired a work group with other agencies to recommend a Centralized Background Check Office (CBCO) solution. This requires legislation and budget appropriation to implement. Here are some of the identified goals:

- Centralized technology: a system that allows participating WA state agencies to view an individual's background check result, but still allow each to issue their own decision based on their character, suitability, and competence requirements.
- Turnaround time: Individuals with no record: 1 business day. Individuals with a record: 3-7 business days.
- Federal Rap Back Services: system would receive an alert if an individual in system has new criminal history. This would eliminate need to renew fingerprints.

For more detailed information, here is the 68-page full [report](#).





Is it possible to separate the federal portion of the background check from the state portion?

- This would require a change in DSHS and, potentially WSP, systems
- This would reduce turnaround time only by minutes to hours. In 2022, DCYF contacted DSHS to explore separating the FBI and WSP fingerprint results. Five months of data indicate 98.6% (nearly 27,000) of fingerprint checks averaged 110 minutes between receipt of the FBI and WSP results. DCYF revisited this with DSHS in December 2023, and it is still not an option in the system.
- DCYF confirmed from current turnaround time reports that average turnaround times for both WSP and FBI to process fingerprints is three calendar days.





Can you please clarify the requirements for new staff?

- Any licensing application received by DCYF for child care and early learning applicants must have an approved background check.
- Any new child care staff, applicants, or volunteers may be on the premises if not in licensed child care space and not counted in ratio, not interacting with or unsupervised with children. This includes interviews, training, and hiring new staff. This would also include individuals engaging in classroom observation as a component of the interview process, and the individual being interviewed is not considered employed or hired.







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# Comprehensive Background Check Requirements

CCDBG Act Background Check Requirements

Revised: January 2024



# Background Check Requirement Highlights

## Applicability of Rules

- State, Territorial, and Tribal Lead Agencies
- Licensed, regulated, and registered providers\*
- CCDF providers\*
- Current and prospective staff members\*
  - Including those employed before 11/19/2014 (date of enactment)

\*Except those related to all children in care.

## Individuals Subject to Background Checks

- Those employed by a provider for compensation
- Contracted employees and self-employed
- Those who care for, supervise, or have unsupervised access to children in care
- Adults living in a family child care home

## Required National and State-based Background Checks

### FBI Check + Current State of Residence

National FBI  
Fingerprint  
Criminal History  
Check

In-State  
Criminal History  
Check

NCIC National  
Sex Offender  
Registry Check

In-State Sex  
Offender  
Registry Check

In-State Child  
Abuse and  
Neglect Registry  
Check



#### Fingerprint Required:

- FBI Check
- In-State Criminal

#### Fingerprint Optional:

- In-State SOR
- Out-of-State SOR
- Out-of-State Criminal

#### Name Based:

- NCIC NSOR
- All CAN Checks

### Previous State(s) of Residence for Last 5 Years

State Criminal  
History Check

State Sex  
Offender  
Registry Check

State Child  
Abuse and  
Neglect Registry  
Check

The FBI fingerprint check is national. Why doesn't it cover the out-of-state background check requirements?

Only offenses/records with a valid fingerprint make it into the national FBI database.

Checking the individual state records helps mitigate gaps between the state and FBI records.

Background checks are required prior to employment and at least every five years.  
Background checks should meet a standard 45-day or less turnaround time.  
Individuals may start work once the FBI or state fingerprint check is returned as satisfactory, but must be continually supervised until a determination is made on all checks.



# Background Check Requirements

The background check requirements are broken into three primary categories:

- **National**

  - This refers to national checks that must be conducted in addition to the state-based checks
  - There are **TWO** required national checks
- **In-state**

  - This refers to the current state of residence (employment) of the individual or prospective individual
  - There are **THREE** required in-state checks
- **Interstate (or out-of-state)**

  - This refers to any and all states where the individual or prospective individual has resided within the previous five years
  - There are **THREE** required interstate checks

National background checks:	In-state background checks:	Interstate background checks:
1. National FBI criminal history check, with fingerprint	3. In-state criminal history check, with fingerprint	6. Interstate criminal history check
2. NCIC national sex offender registry (NSOR) check	4. In-state sex offender registry check	7. Interstate sex offender registry check
	5. In-state child abuse and neglect registry check	8. Interstate child abuse and neglect registry check

↑

↑

All five of these checks must be performed for all designated individuals

↑

All three of these checks must also be performed for each additional state where the individual has resided within five years

*All checks must meet a 45-day or less turnaround time*



# Background Check Requirements

## Three primary categories

National	In-state	Interstate
1. National FBI criminal history check, with fingerprint	3. In-state criminal history check, with fingerprint	6. Interstate criminal history check
2. NCIC national sex offender registry (NSOR) check	4. In-state sex offender registry check	7. Interstate sex offender registry check
	5. In-state child abuse and neglect registry check	8. Interstate child abuse and neglect registry check
<p>↑</p> <p>All five of these checks must be performed for all designated individuals</p> <p>↑</p>		<p>↑</p> <p>All three of these checks must <b>also</b> be performed for each additional state where the individual has resided within five years</p>
<p>All checks must meet a 45-day or less turnaround time</p>		

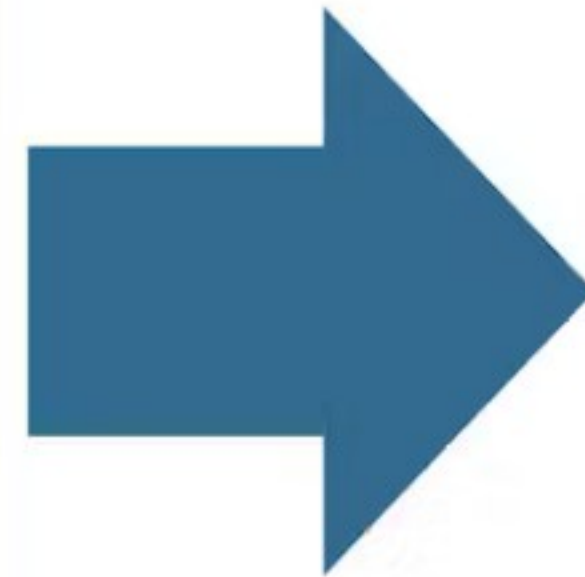


# Background Check Requirements (cont'd)

## Tribal Lead Agencies

All Tribes are subject to the CCDF background check requirements

The Final Rule allows Tribes the flexibility to propose an alternative background check approach in their CCDF plans



If an alternative approach is proposed, it is subject to ACF approval





# Disqualifying Crimes

## When is a staff member ineligible for employment by a child care provider?



Refuses to consent to the criminal background check

Knowingly makes a materially false statement in connection with a criminal background check

Is registered, or is required to be registered, on a state sex offender registry or repository or the National Sex Offender Registry

Has been convicted of a felony listed at §98.43(c)(1)(iv)

Has been convicted of a violent misdemeanor committed as an adult against a child listed at §98.43(c)(1)(v)

States, territories, or Tribes have flexibility to disqualify staff members based on a conviction of a crime not listed above.

[45 CFR 98.43(c)(1)]



# Disqualifying Crimes

## What are the disqualifying felonies?



Murder

Child abuse  
or neglect

Crime against  
children, including  
pornography

Spousal  
abuse

Arson

Kidnapping

Crime involving  
rape or sexual  
assault

Physical  
assault or  
battery

Drug-related offense  
(committed during the  
preceding five years)



# Disqualifying Crimes

What are the disqualifying violent misdemeanors committed as an adult against a child?

Child abuse

Child endangerment

Sexual assault

Misdemeanor involving child pornography



[48 CFR 98.43(c)(1)(v)]



# Submitting Background Checks

**When is a child care provider not required to submit a background check for a staff member?**

The staff member received a background check that included all of the required parts within the past five years while employed by, or seeking employment by, another child care provider in the state;



The state gave a qualifying result to the first provider for the staff member; and



The staff member is employed by a child care provider within the state or has been separated from employment from a child care provider for less than 180 days.

[45 CFR 98.43(d)(3)]



# Provisional Employment

## When can a staff member begin working?

Prospective staff members may not begin work until one of the following results have been returned as satisfactory:

- FBI fingerprint check
- State criminal repository using fingerprints in the state where the staff member resides

Until a determination is made on all checks, prospective staff must be supervised at all times by someone who has already received a qualifying result on a background check within the past five years.

States may pose additional requirements beyond this minimum.

[45 CFR 98.43(d)(4)]



# Eligibility Determination

## Who can make a determination that a prospective staff member is eligible to work?

The Lead Agency is required to make determinations regarding a child care staff member's eligibility for employment.

The Lead Agency must provide a response for the background check to the child care provider in a statement that indicates **only** whether the prospective staff member is **eligible** or **ineligible**, without revealing specific, disqualifying information or other information regarding the individual.

If the staff member is ineligible, the Lead Agency must provide information about each specific disqualifying crime to the prospective staff member, as well as information on how to appeal the results of the background check to challenge the accuracy and completeness.

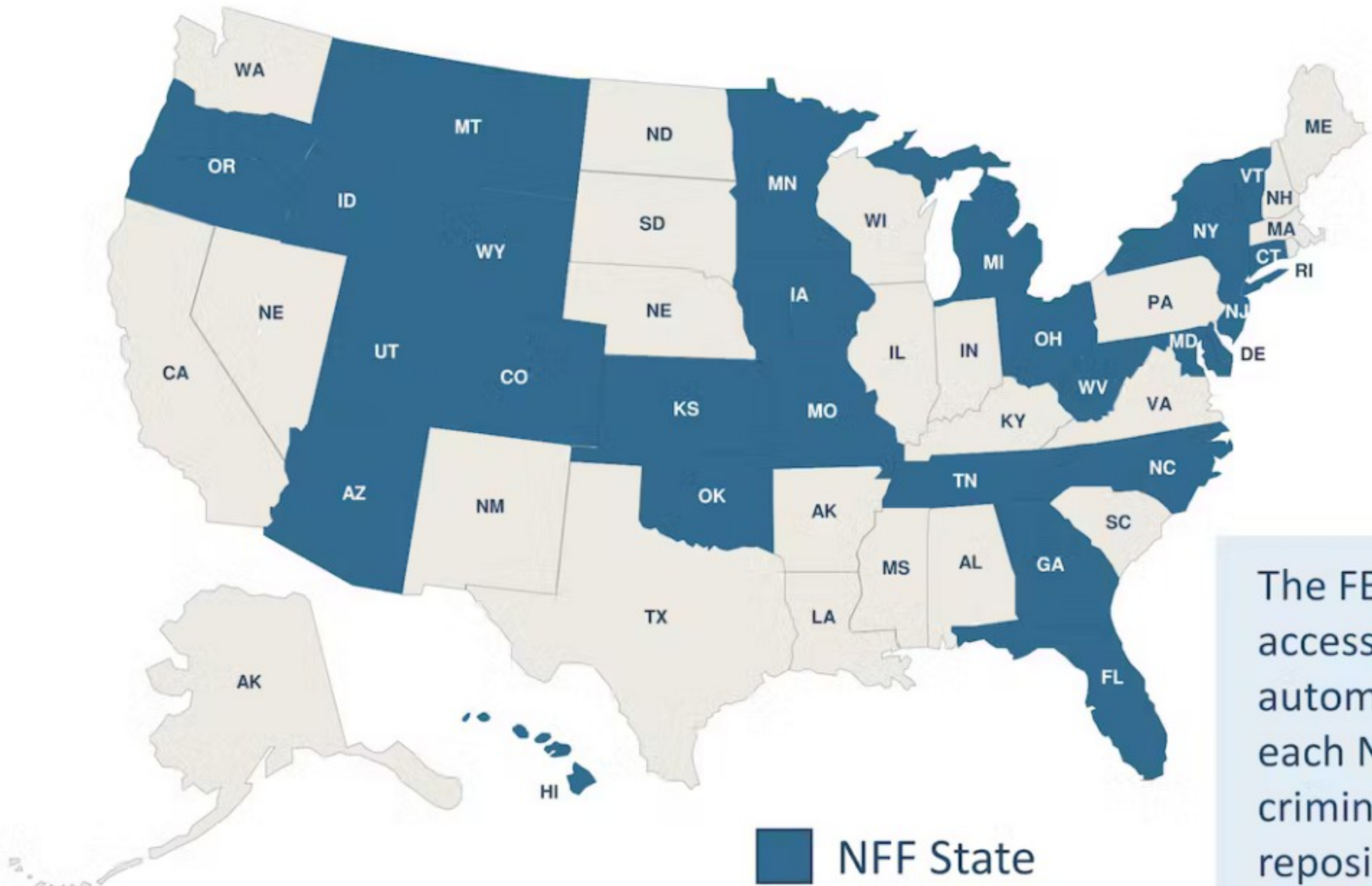
[45 CFR 98.43(e)(2)]





# National Fingerprint File States

States participating in NFF	
Arizona	Missouri
Colorado	Montana
Connecticut	New Jersey
Delaware	New York
Florida	North Carolina
Georgia	Ohio
Hawaii	Oklahoma
Idaho	Oregon
Iowa	Tennessee
Kansas	Utah
Maryland	Vermont
Michigan	West Virginia
Minnesota	Wyoming



The FBI has direct access and automatically checks each NFF state’s criminal history repositories as part of its search, in addition to the FBI database.



# Technical Assistance Offered to Lead Agencies

## National Center on Subsidy Innovation and Accountability (NCSIA)

NCSIA can provide technical assistance in the implementation of the comprehensive background checks (CBC) through:

- Process mapping of CBC requirements
- Reviewing laws, rules and policies
- Research

- Training staff on requirements
- Developing a work plan for system building
- Reviewing Procedures





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Email: [ncsia@ecetta.info](mailto:ncsia@ecetta.info)  
Phone: 301-881-2590 x273

# Thank you!





# Break

The meeting will resume at Noon





# Legislative Update

DCYF Senior Policy Advisor Melissa Cheesman

[www.dcyf.wa.gov](http://www.dcyf.wa.gov)



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# DCYF 2024 Early Learning Legislative Tracking

Melissa Cheesman

*Government Affairs, Office of Public Affairs*

*February 14, 2024*



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# Agenda



- 2024 Legislative Session Updates
- Bill Status – Items DCYF is tracking
- How to Get Involved
- Reminder: DCYF Asks in Governor's Budget





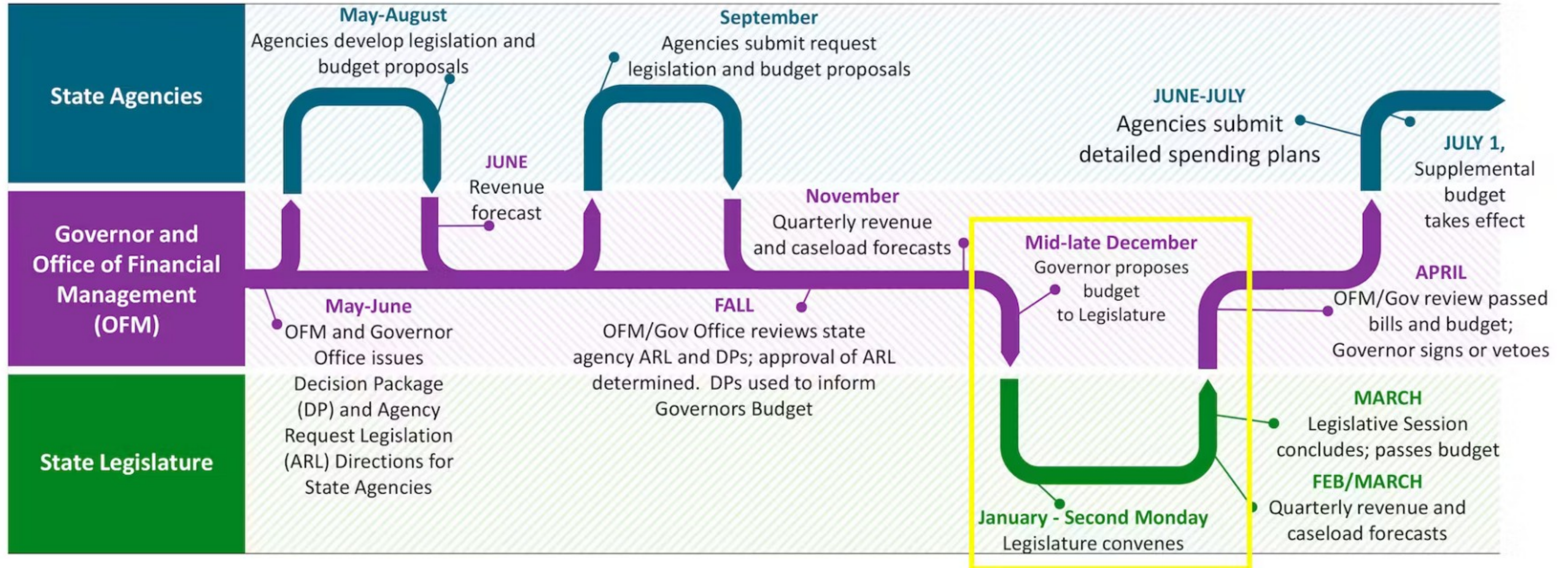
# Realities

Supplemental budget year  
+  
DCYF implementing significant  
investments and policy changes  
+  
Budget/Economic realities  
=  
Limited scope for requests next session





# Supplemental Budget Year Timeline





# 2024 Legislative Session

- House of Origin Cutoff – February 13, 2024

## Pending Milestones

- Operating Budgets – expected release between Feb 18-21
- Capital Budgets – expected release between Feb 15-22
- DCYF Mid-Legislative Update Webinar – Monday Feb 26<sup>th</sup> at 2pm
- Opposite House Cutoff – March 1
- Session Ends – March 7





# Early Learning Bills DCYF is Tracking

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# Early Learning – Bills Still Moving

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Description
<b><u>SSB 6038</u></b>	<b>Child care tax preference</b>	Reducing the costs associated with providing child care by providing a tax exemption and waives DCYF initial and annual licensing fees.
<b><u>SSB 5774</u></b>	<b>Fingerprint Background Check</b>	Increasing the capacity to conduct timely fingerprint-based background checks for prospective child care employees and other programs.
<b><u>SHB 1945</u></b>	<b>Food assistance access</b>	Adds federal or state food assistance as income eligible for WCCC, ECEAP, and Early ECEAP.
<b><u>2SHB 2124</u></b>	<b>Child care program eligibility</b>	Supporting and expanding access to child care and early learning programs by expanding WCCC approved activities for Early ECEAP and Early Head Start, WCCC eligibility for providers, and requires dual language inflationary adjustment.
<b><u>SHB 1916</u> <b>(ARL)</b></b>	<b>Funding for the early support for infants and toddlers program</b>	Adjusts funding eligibility criteria to reflect a child is 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.





# Early Learning – Bills Still Moving

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Description
<b><u>SHB 2195</u></b>	<b>Early learning facilities (ELF)</b>	Early Learning Facilities program: Removes grant and loan award limits, includes translation services as an allowable cost, priorities projects that are ready for construction, adds school districts preschool or before-and-after school care programs as eligible, and transfer Common School Construction Funds to the Ruth LeCocq Kagi early learning facilities development account.
<b><u>HB 2111</u></b>	<b>Reorg subsidized child care</b>	This bill reorganizes several RCW pertaining to Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) Eligibility. These changes do not change the eligibility or requirements impacting WCCC.
<b><u>SSB 6109</u></b>	<b>Supporting children and families</b>	As it relates to child care, establishing a pilot program for contracted child care slots for infants in child protective services and includes targeted contracted home visiting slots for families experiencing high-potency synthetic opioid-related substance disorders.





# How to get involved

[www.dcyf.wa.gov](http://www.dcyf.wa.gov)



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# Getting Involved

- How to comment on a Bill: [ESSB 5796](#)
- Sign up to Testify
  - <https://app.leg.wa.gov/csi/House?selectedCommittee=31633&selectedMeeting=31909>
  - <https://app.leg.wa.gov/csi/Senate?selectedCommittee=12228&selectedMeeting=31906>
- Legislative Information Center:  
<https://leg.wa.gov/lic/Pages/default.aspx>
- Learn more about the process:  
<https://leg.wa.gov/legislature/Pages/Overview.aspx>





# Reminder:

## DCYF EL/CC Funding Requests Included in Governor's Budget

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# 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".





# 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

## 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

## 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.

✓ Fully Funded 



# Relevant Other Agency Investments in Governor's Budget

## 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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**Melissa Cheesman**

[Melissa.cheesman@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:Melissa.cheesman@dcyf.wa.gov)



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

Thank you



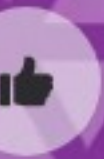
# Access and Living Wage Proviso

DCYF Assistant Secretary of Early Learning Nicole Rose and  
Early Care and Education Access Project Manager Diana Stokes

[www.dcyf.wa.gov](http://www.dcyf.wa.gov)



Washington State Department of  
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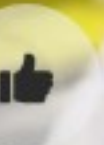
# Early Care and Education Access and Living Wage Proviso Overview

## Provider Supports

February 14, 2024



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





# Our Vision for Early Learning

An integrated, mixed-delivery system of affordable, high-quality early care and education for ALL of Washington's children, to support child outcomes, school readiness, and family well-being, regardless of race or income.





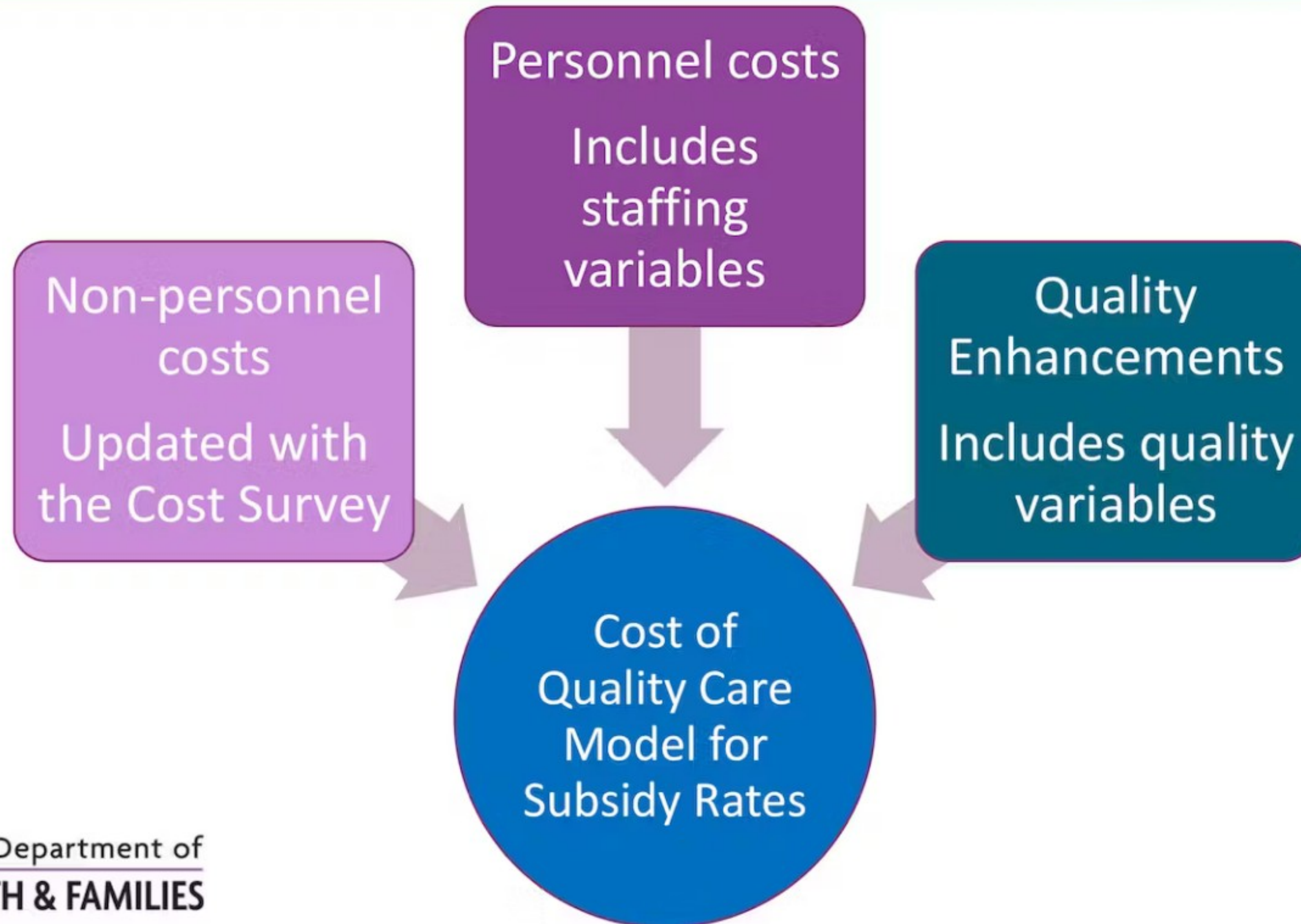
# Our Strategic Outcomes:

- 80 percent of Washington children to be ready for Kindergarten
- High-quality early learning available and affordable to all in Washington

Eliminate racial disproportionality and advancing racial equity in early education

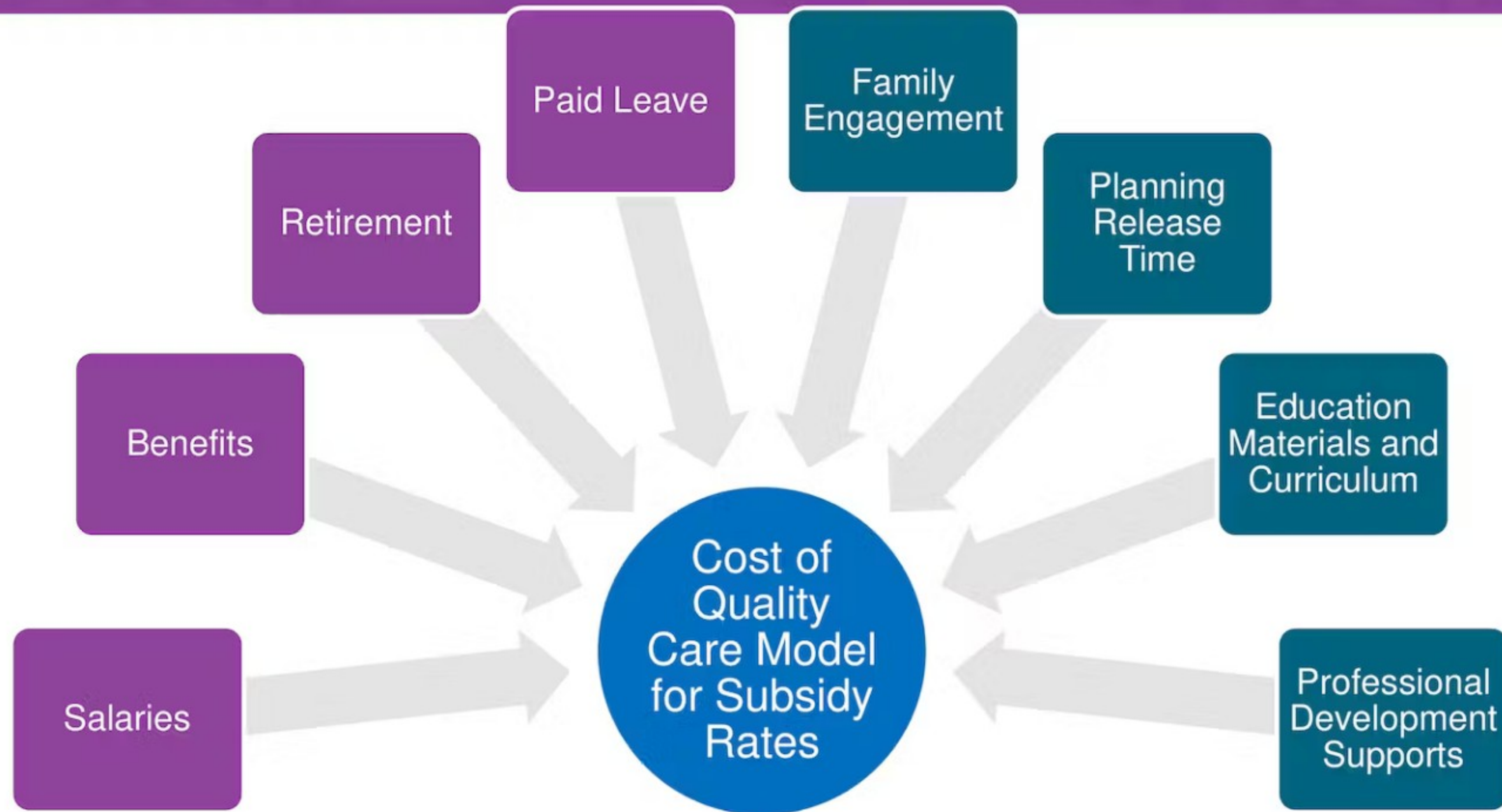


# Cost of Quality Care Model





# The Eight Primary Variables that Drive The Cost of Quality





# Fair Start for Kids Act (FSKA) - RCW 43.216.749 and 43.216.1368

## Child care subsidy rates—Use of cost model.

(1) It is the intent of the legislature to systemically increase child care subsidy rates over time until rates are equal to the full cost of providing high quality child care.

(2) Beginning July 1, 2021, child care subsidy base rates must achieve the 85th percentile of market for licensed or certified child care providers. The state and the exclusive representative for family child care providers must enter into bargaining over the implementation of the subsidy rate increase under this subsection.

**(3)(a) The department shall build upon the work of the child care collaborative task force to develop and implement a child care cost estimate model and use the completed child care cost model to recommend subsidy rates at levels that are sufficient to compensate licensed or certified child care providers for the full costs of providing high quality child care. The department shall consider:**

**(i) Adjusting rates to reflect cost of living such as area median income, cost of living by zip code, and grouping by categories such as rural, suburban, or urban; and**

**(ii) Incorporating the rate model for nonstandard child care hours developed under section 306, chapter 199, Laws of 2021.**

(b) The department shall build upon the work of the child care collaborative task force to evaluate options to support access to affordable health care insurance coverage for licensed or certified child care providers.

(4) This section does not interfere with, impede, or in any way diminish the right of family child care providers to bargain collectively with the state through the exclusive bargaining representatives as provided for under RCW 41.56.028.

## Child care subsidy eligibility — expanded eligibility

(1) It is the intent of the legislature to increase working families' access to affordable, high quality child care and to support the expansion of the workforce to support businesses and the statewide economy.

(2) Beginning October 1, 2021, a family is eligible for working connections child care when the household's annual income is at or below 60 percent of the state median income adjusted for family size and:

(a) The child receiving care is: (i) Less than 13 years of age; or (ii) less than 19 years of age and has a verified special need according to department rule or is under court supervision; and

(b) The household meets all other program eligibility requirements.

**(3) Beginning July 1, 2025, a family is eligible for working connections child care when the household's annual income is above 60 percent and at or below 75 percent of the state median income adjusted for family size and:**

**(a) The child receiving care is: (i) Less than 13 years of age; or (ii) less than 19 years of age and has a verified special need according to department rule or is under court supervision; and**

**(b) The household meets all other program eligibility requirements.**

(4) Beginning July 1, 2027, and subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, a family is eligible for working connections child care when the household's annual income is above 75 percent of the state median income and is at or below 85 percent of the state median income adjusted for family size and:

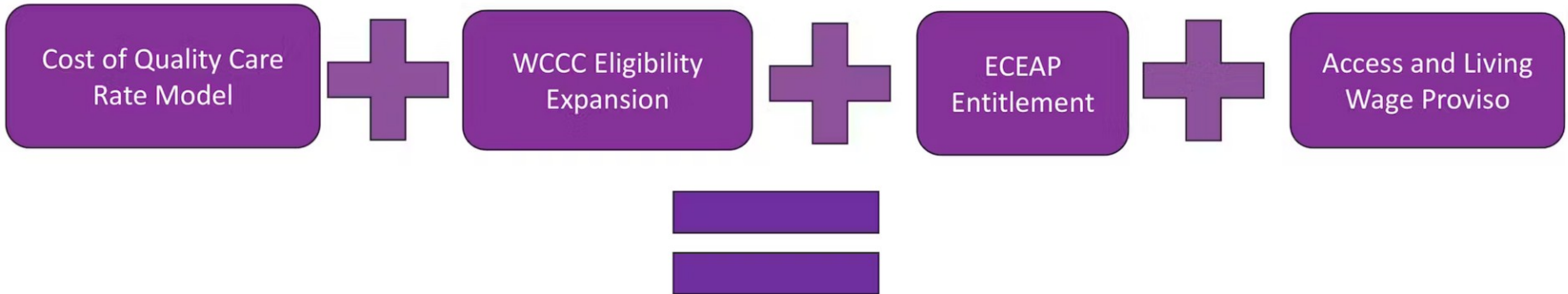
(a) The child receiving care is: (i) Less than 13 years of age; or (ii) less than 19 years of age and has a verified special need according to department rule or is under court supervision; and

(b) The household meets all other program eligibility requirements.





# Adding it All Up for 2025-27 and beyond



*An integrated, mixed-delivery system of affordable, high-quality early care and education for ALL of Washington's children, birth to twelve years old.*



## Early Care and Education Access and Living Wage Proviso

The department must submit an implementation plan to expand access to Washington's mixed delivery child care system. The plan must assume that any financial contribution by families is capped at no more than seven percent of household income and that the child care workforce are provided living wages and benefits. The plan must be submitted to the appropriate committees of the legislature by June 30, 2025, and should:

- (a) Follow the intent of chapter 199, Laws of 2021 (FSKA);
- (b) Be aligned with the cost of quality care rate model;
- (c) Include timelines, costs, and statutory changes necessary for timely and effective implementation; and
- (d) Be developed through partnership with the statewide child care resource and referral organization and the largest union representing child care providers, with consultation from families.



# Universal Access and Living Wage:

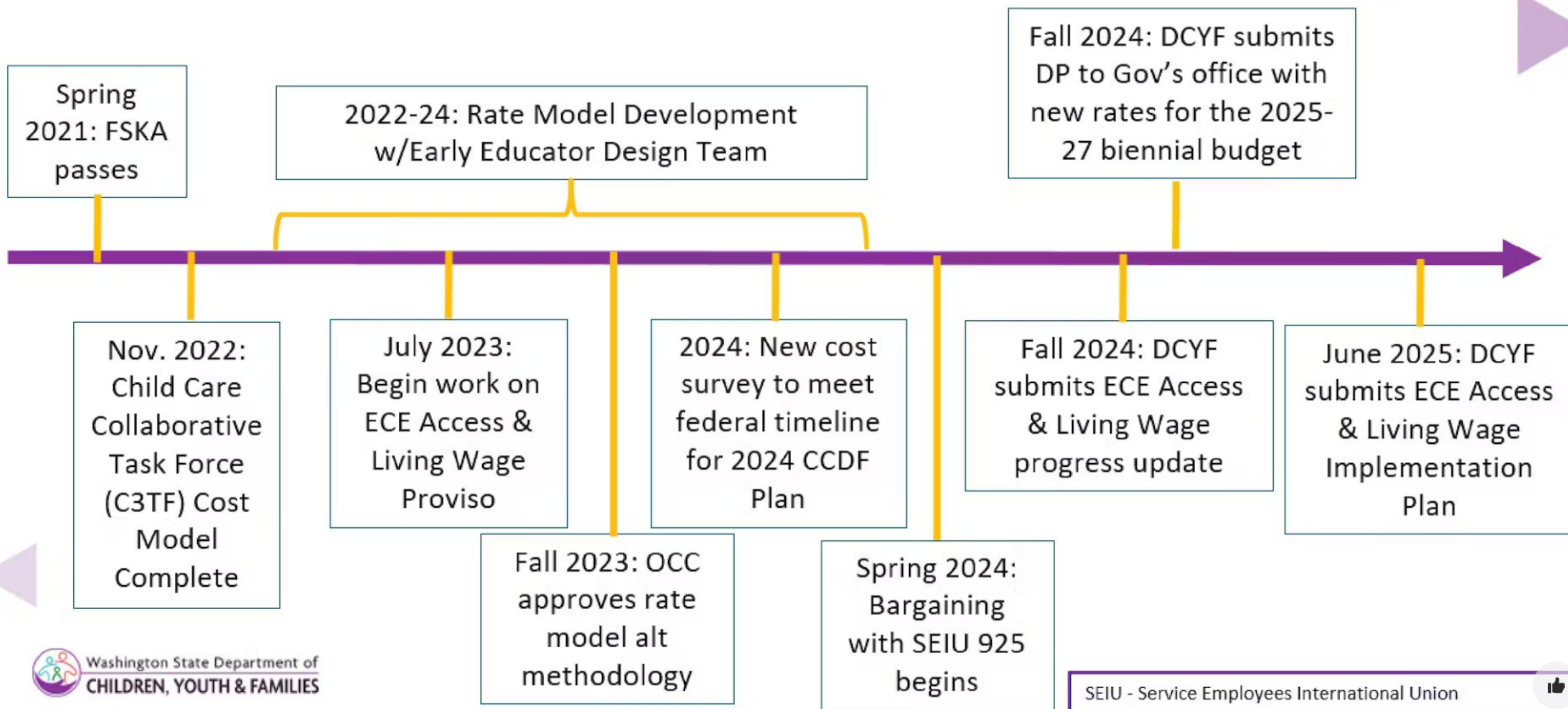
An integrated, mixed-delivery system of affordable (no more than 7% of their income), high-quality early care and education for ALL of Washington's children and providers are provided a living wage and benefits.

- We are building on the existing foundation to strengthen an integrated, mixed-delivery system of affordable, high-quality early care and education for ALL of Washington's children.
- We have a focus on child outcomes, school readiness, family and provider well-being and self-sufficiency.





# Timeline





# Informing the Work

Access & Living Wage Implementation Plan

Mentimeter

CCA's  
Advocacy  
Campaign

CCA of WA

SEIU 925

Early  
Educator  
Design  
Team

DCYF Staff

IPEL

WCFC

ELAC

Provider  
Supports

PAG

Partner  
Roundtable  
Group



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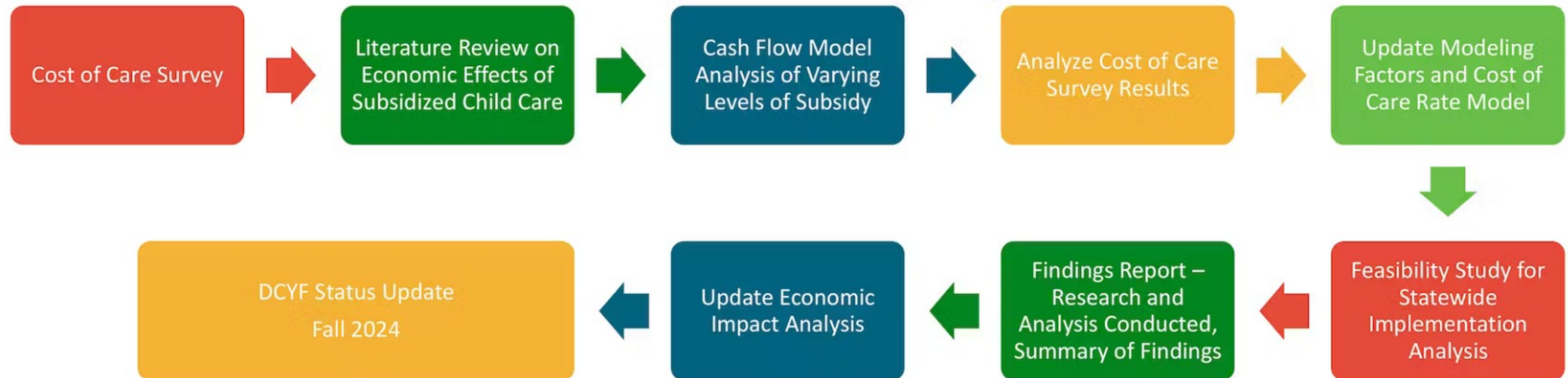


# Washington Communities for Children Led Engagement

	Listening Sessions	Surveys
Audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providers</li> <li>Family Members</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providers</li> <li>Family Members</li> </ul>
Group Size	5-10 people per session for each region	
Questions	4-5 focused questions	All questions
Engagement Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three provider listening sessions per region, with five participants per listening session – 150 child care providers</li> <li>Three family listening sessions per region, with five participants per listening session – 150 parents/families</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>250 family survey respondents</li> <li>250 provider survey respondents</li> </ul>



# Developing an Access and Living Wage Model





# Early Learning Draft Theory of Change

**IF** we expand community access to affordable high-quality early care and education and continue to improve quality in these settings for children.



**THEN** all children will arrive in Kindergarten ready to learn and have the quality care they need as they transition to K-12 learning, and providers will have the resources to provide quality early care and education that meets the needs of children and families.





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# QUESTIONS

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# Break-Out Group Questions

Question 1: Is there a family income bracket which pays no or reduced copays?

- If so, what should that income threshold for that be?
- Would certain over-income populations be included in this bracket, and if so, which ones?
  - E.g. Tribal, houseless, foster families, families with children with special needs, etc.

Question 2 : We assume that all programs will participate in Early Achievers. What support will be needed for this and what resources will DCYF need to provide this support?



# Meeting Follow Up & Closing Remarks

Thank you for your participation today!

Next Meeting:  
April 17, 2024

