

FSKA Recommendation Report

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Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Purpose

“Sec 104 sub 2b- (b) Provide recommendations annually to the governor and the legislature, beginning August 31, 2022, regarding the phased implementation of strategies and priorities identified in section 102 of this act;”

- The purpose of this report is to provide recommendations regarding the phased implementation of the 27 strategies and priorities identified in section 102 of the Fair Start for Kids Act



2023 Categories

1. Expanding, Supporting and Strengthening Child Care
2. Provider Recruitment, Retention and Professional Development
3. Language Access
4. Funding and Grant Opportunities
5. Communications and Engagement



2023 Report Review

Expanding, Supporting and Strengthening Child Care

- Fund expanded access and services for children with serious behavioral issues.
- Increase support for providers to serve children transitioning from Early Intervention.
- Support steps that will result in DCYF transitioning away from a market rate model of reimbursement to a cost-of-quality model of reimbursement
- Align eligibility between ECEAP and Working Connections Child Care.
- Increase funding for mental health telehealth services.
- The Legislature should fund DCYF to work with OSPI to create aide positions that will work on-on-one with a child and the after-school program they are enrolled in.
- Shift income from Federal Poverty Level to State Medium Income.
- When new requirements and mandates are implemented, the Legislature should provide funding and support to providers to prevent the cost from being passed to families and providers.
- Negotiated Rule Making (NRM) needs to happen before provisions of the Washington Administrative Codes (WACs) that impact early learning communities are changed.
- Consider the impact of benefits programs and provide parents with a descending slope instead of a cliff. Different subsidy streams should be braided, so they are working together to support the parent and provider.



2023 Report Review

Provider Recruitment, Retention, and Professional Development

- Provide resources for education and health care to bring people into the field.
- DCYF and the Legislature should work with providers, parents, and communities to ensure that the workforce receives a living wage.
- Ensure there are pathways and opportunities for providers to earn degrees and credentials in early childhood education or child development.
- Make it easy easier for child care providers to understand what is being done to address wage inequity within the early learning sector.
- Continue to provide financial supports to attract and retain members of the care and education workforce through state funding for compensation.

2023 Report Review

Language Access

- Work with providers to identify spaces that already exist.
- Create opportunities for providers to build relationships via expanded language access and provide resources or hire bilingual staff for customer service, frontline staff, licensors, and coaches.
- Include cultural competency training for translators and interpreters that are not a part of the communities they are serving. • When feasible, pay providers to translate and interpret for their community.
- Create a glossary and clearinghouse for language access resources.
- Create partnerships with schools and their language access resources and supports.
- Work towards cultural relevancy for translation and interpretation services. Existing translation and interpretation services without the proper context and cultural relevancy are not enough to ensure equitable access.
- The Legislature should fund DCYF to engage providers as experts in creating a tool, in place of the current checklist, that can be translated and used as a trial run with incoming providers and providers who would like more clarity on what is expected during monitoring visits.
- The Legislature should provide funding for hard copies of regulatory documents in the preferred language of the provider. This could include copies 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.



2023 Report Review

Funding and Grant Opportunities

- Before grant applications go live, DCYF should connect with the community to address any equity and access concerns.
- Use Pre-COVID enrollment levels to measure stabilization for grant funding.
- Providers who have ECEAP and non-ECEAP slots should have access to apply for all grants and funding opportunities.
- 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.



2023 Report Review

Communications and Engagement

- The Legislature should provide funding to support a communication campaign with options and resources from local communities to help families understand what early learning is and how the process can differ for alternative, unlicensed care.
- The Legislature should provide funding to create more outreach strategies that allow for more community gatherings.
- DCYF could coordinate with state coalitions who are already doing this work. DCYF leadership should continue site visits and going into providers' environments and seeing what it's like to deliver programs.
- The Legislature should fund DCYF to develop one consistent and easy to use platform to collect feedback.
- There should be an FSKA dashboard that shows progress, timelines, and what will and will not be implemented and include information on past investments.
- Ensure reports and data that is shared with the community include both qualitative and quantitative data.



Timeline

- **March 5:** Introduction/Planning Meeting
- **April 9:** ELAC Meeting Executive Session (60 min)
- **May 7:** Report Development Session (3 hours)
- **June 4:** ELAC Meeting Executive Session (60 min)
- **July 9:** Report Development Session (3 hours)
- **August 6:** ELAC Meeting Executive Session (60 min)
- **August 13:** Final Report Review (2 hours)
- **August 30:** Report Due

