

Early Learning Advisory Council

Virtual Meeting

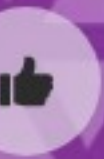
April 9, 2024



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.

Introductions

Please share in the chat:

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



Review of Meeting Minutes

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Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES



Early Learning Legislative Update

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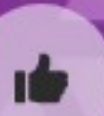


State Agency/Partner and Regional Coalition Updates

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Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)

DCYF Federal Initiatives and Collaboration Administrator Matt Judge

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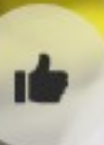
EARLY LEARNING ADVISORY COUNCIL

Matt Judge
Federal Initiatives and
Collaboration Administrator

April 9, 2024



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES



Today

- Background and Purpose
- CCDF Plan Process and Timeline
- CCDF Plan Overview
- Feedback
- Next Steps



CCDF is...

- Federal funding for child care subsidies and quality improvement
- Overseen by Administration for Children and Families Office of Child Care (OCC)
- Work support with increasing emphasis on family outcomes
- The major fund source for DCYF early care and education initiatives
 - Child Care Subsidy Programs
 - Licensing
 - Early Achievers
 - Professional Development



CCDF Plan Purpose

- Washington's application for CCDF funds
- A compliance document
- Description of statewide early care and education (ECE) systems
- If approved by OCC, CCDF funds are awarded for the next year
- Covers October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2027

CCDF Plan Process

DCYF Must:

- Complete Plan on October 1, 2024
- Submit a draft plan by July 1, 2024 for OCC review
- Hold a formal public hearing on draft Plan at least 20 days before submitted
- Engagement with stakeholders and Tribal Nations in developing the Plan



Plan engagement is...

- Consultation with stakeholders – ELAC, PS, SEIU 925
- Collaboration with Tribal Nations – IPEL
- Access & Living Wage Proviso listening sessions, survey, focus groups, etc.
- Plan Public Meeting
- Plan Formal Hearing

Proposed Process and Timeline



CCDF Plan Overview - Sections

- CCDF Program Administration
- Child and Family Eligibility and Enrollment and Continuity of Care
- Child Care Affordability
- Parental Choice, Equal Access, Payment Rates, and Payment Practices
- Health and Safety of Child Care Settings
- Support for a Skilled, Qualified, and Compensated Child Care Workforce
- Quality Improvement Activities
- Lead Agency Coordination and Partnerships to Support Service Delivery
- Family Outreach and Consumer Education
- Program Integrity and Accountability

CCDF Plan Overview – What's New

- Plan questions addressing recent new rules
- Appendix on compliance plans
- Reorganization of Plan Sections
- Replacing some narrative questions with checkboxes or charts



New CCDF Rules

- Effective 4/30/24. States may request waivers to extend 2 years
- Requirements new to DCYF
 - Enrollment based pay, and prospective provider subsidy payment
 - ECE services through grants and contracts for underserved geographic areas, infants and toddlers, and children with disabilities
 - 12-month eligibility – children added during eligibility period

New CCDF Rules (cont'd)

New Rules we already comply with

- Capping copays at 7% income
- Paying providers subsidy rates in excess of their private pay rate
- Simplifying subsidy eligibility by allowing enrollment in other programs as verification
- Eligibility process that minimizes disruption to parent employment, education, etc.

New flexibility

- Allows states to consider a child presumptively eligible for subsidy prior to full verification
- Allows states to waive copays for families up to 150% FPL (current limit is 100% FPL)
- CCDF for minor renovations – allowable uses expanded

CCDF Plan/New Rules Questions

Enrollment based and prospective provider payment:

- Some states require a provider to disenroll a child who doesn't attend for a period of time. How do you advise DCYF to approach this issue? Who (family or provider) should be responsible for reporting a provider change?
- Sometimes children are authorized at two providers. How should DCYF handle enrollment-based payment in this situation?

CCDF Plan/New Rules Questions (cont'd)

Grants and contracts:

- Do you have suggestions on whether to use grants or contracts for each of the three groups (underserved geographic areas, infants and toddlers, children with disabilities)?
- How do you advise DCYF to approach the issue of paying for vacant slots under a contracts approach? What is a reasonable time limit for vacancy payments?

12- month eligibility for children newly added to a household:

- DCYF's expected approach is to extend the entire household authorization another 12 months.
Do you see any issues with this approach?

DISCUSSION



Next Steps

- Matt will provide ELAC the draft plan for your review
- Submit feedback/suggestions for content by June 10
- Matt will schedule public meeting and formal public hearing
- Matt can update ELAC at the next meeting or via written update at your option

Do you have any additional comments, questions or feedback on the Child Care and Development Fund?

Matt always needs more time - so much good information!
Would like to have the link shared out broadly via DCYF communications department and CE.

Many of the questions in this presentation should be directed at the expertise of child care providers.

I appreciate all of the information. I do think providers need to inform the changes, as many of the questions directly impact their work.

People raised great questions around timelines and particularly the unintended consequences of delays

Will the slide deck go out with the smart question tool? That would be helpful for community context.

Child Care Access and Living Wage Proviso

DCYF Early Care and Education Access Project Manager Diana Stokes

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Early Care and Education Access and Living Wage Proviso Overview


ELAC Meeting

April 9, 2024



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES



 Mentimeter



Early Learning in Washington State

Our Vision

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.

Strategic Outcomes

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

Eliminate racial disproportionality and advancing racial equity in early education

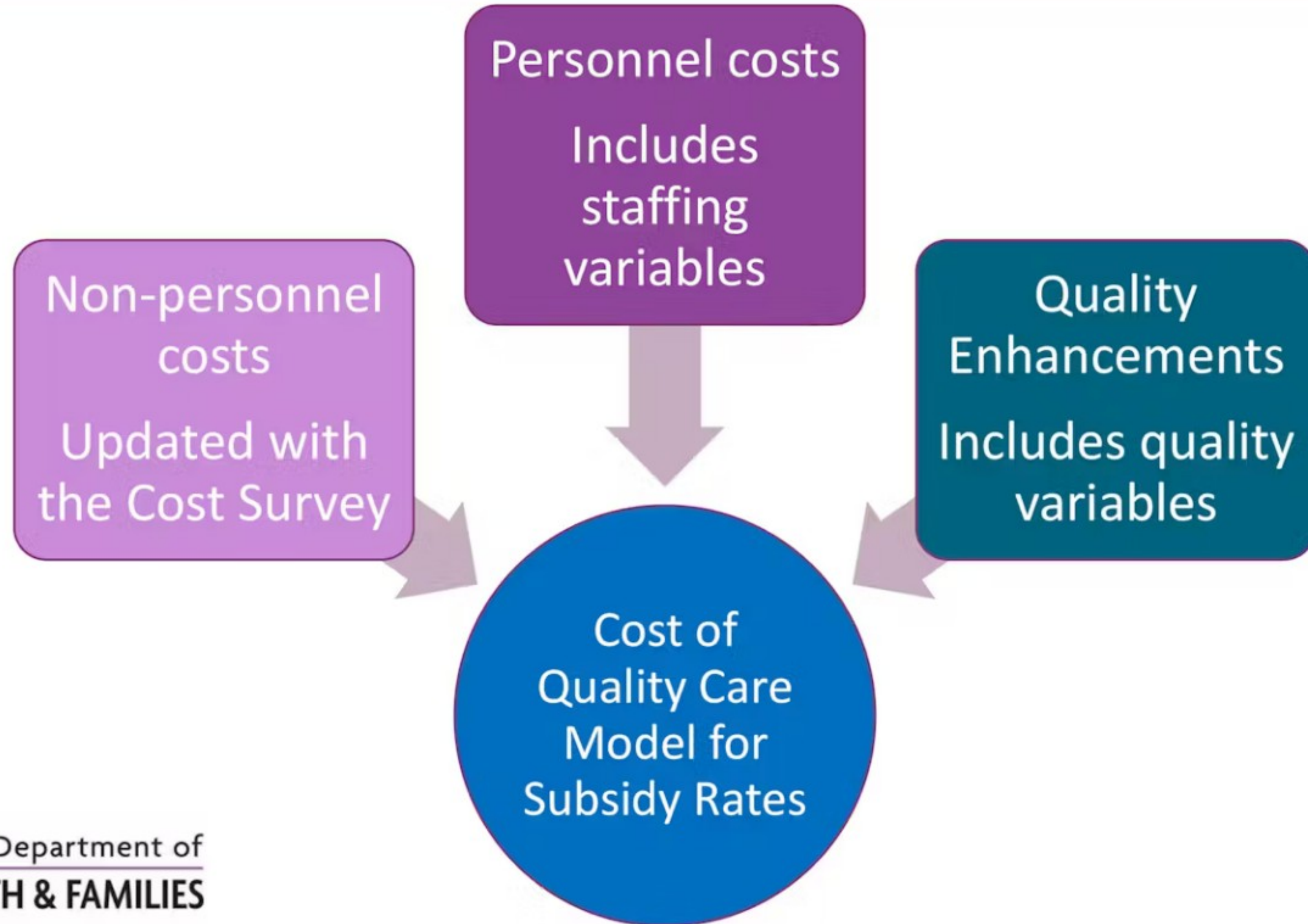
Universal Access and Living Wage:

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.

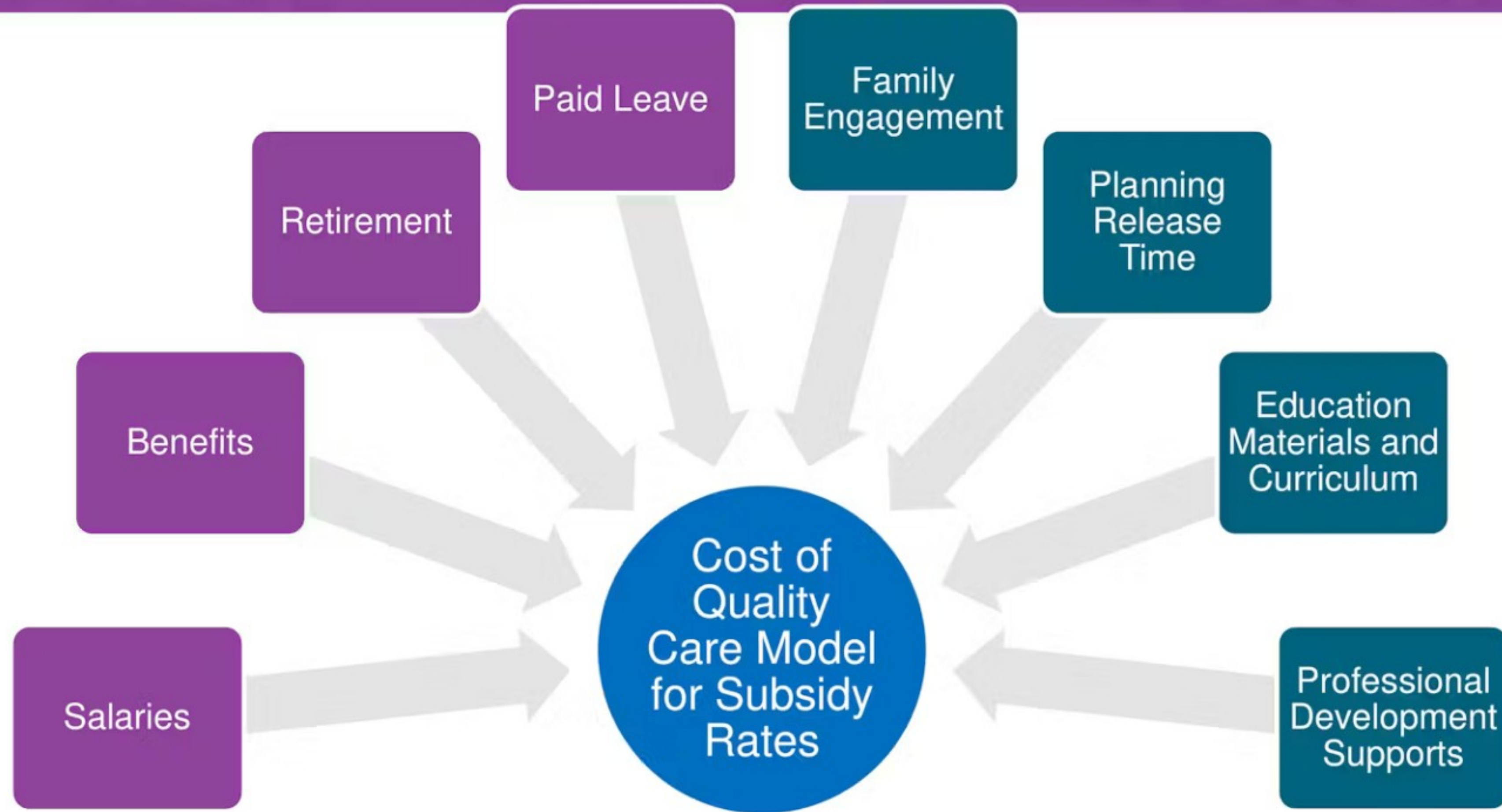
- We are building on the existing foundation to strengthen an integrated, mixed-delivery system of affordable, high-quality early care and education for ALL of Washington's children.
- We have a focus on child outcomes, school readiness, family and provider well-being and self-sufficiency.



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:

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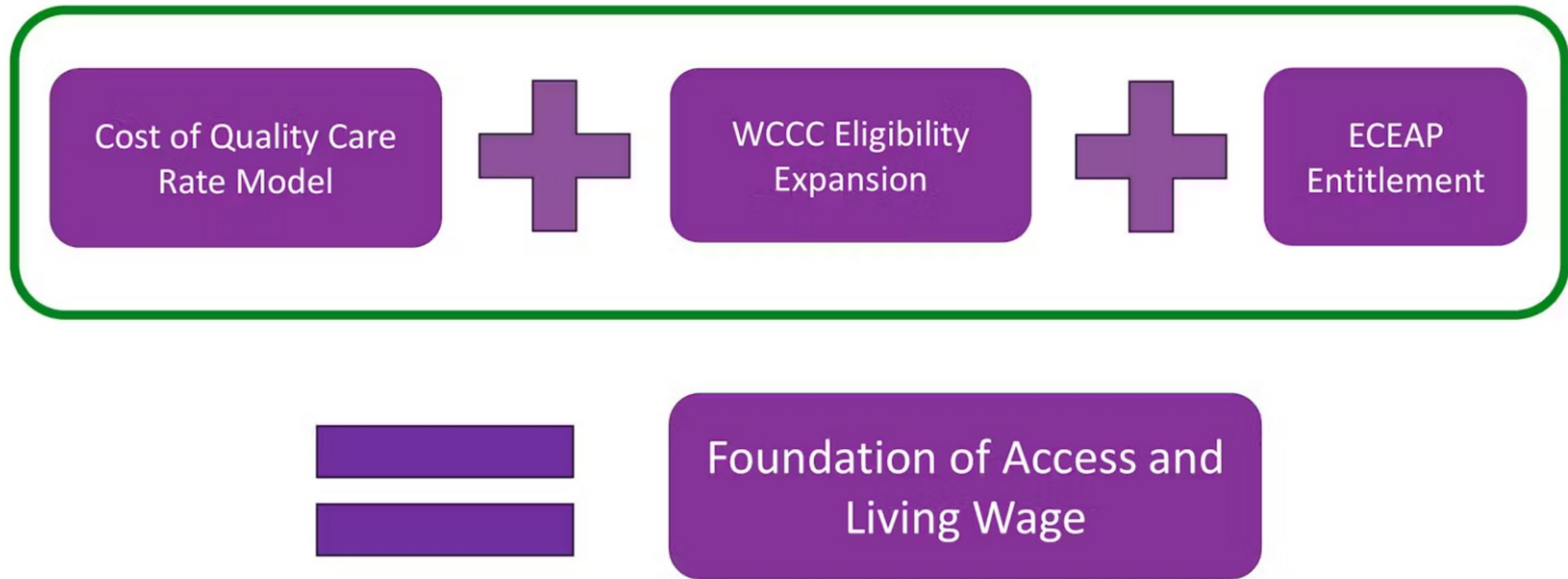
(b) The household meets all other program eligibility requirements.



Assumptions

- We are **building on previous system development and planning efforts** and extensive community input.
- The **Cost of Quality Care Rate Model is the framework for achieving living wages and benefits**, with the intent that increased rates go towards paying workers.
- We will build upon the existing subsidy system as the mechanism for expanding access to care. **We will not create a parallel program for child care.**
- **Changes to child care licensing standards and Early Achievers standards are outside of the scope of this project.**

Adding it All Up for 2025-27 and beyond

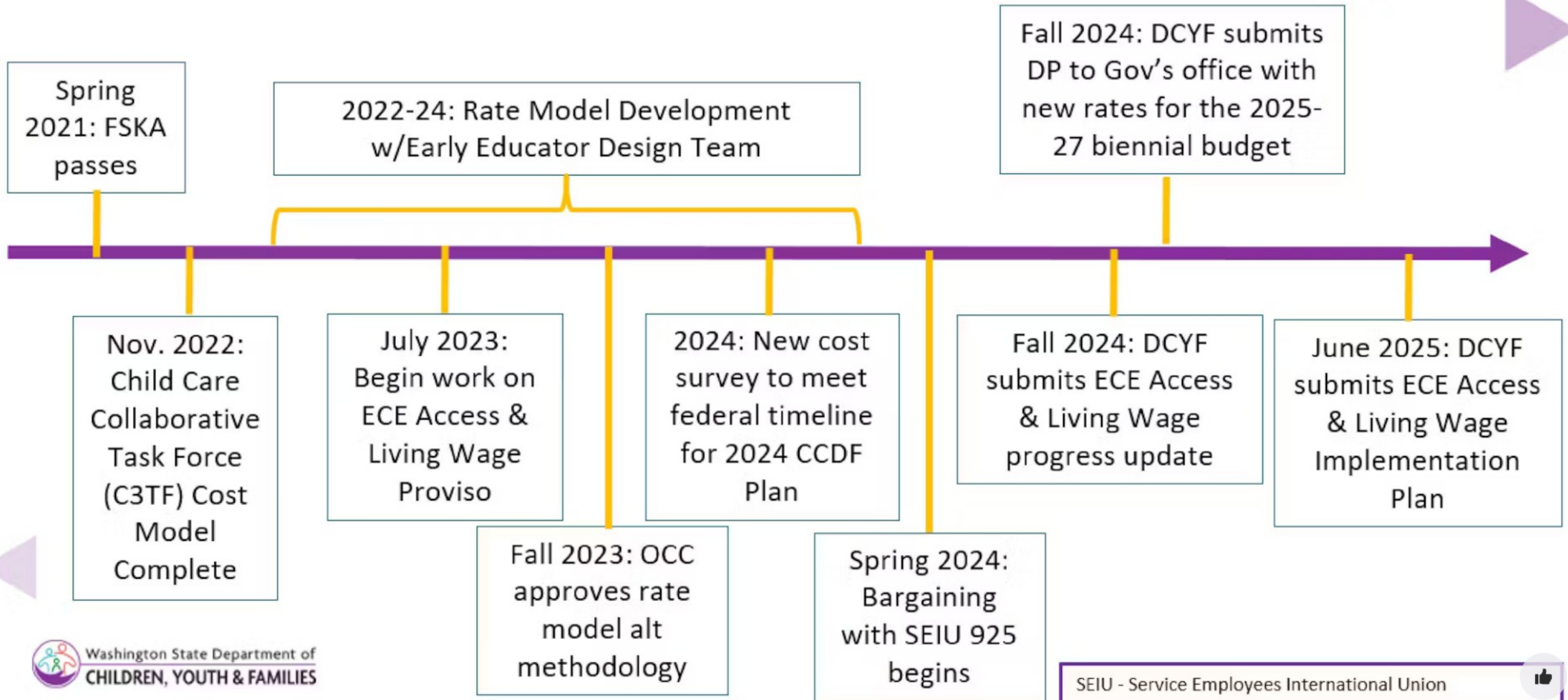


Early Care and Education Access and Living Wage Proviso

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.

Timeline



Informing the Work

Access & Living Wage Implementation Plan

Mentimeter

CCA's
Advocacy
Campaign

CCA of WA

Licensed Child Care
Centers

SEIU 925 &
Licensed Family
Homes

Early
Educator
Design
Team

DCYF Staff

IPEL

WCFC

ELAC

Provider
Supports

PAG

Partner
Roundtable
Group



Washington Communities for Children Led Engagement

	Listening Sessions	Surveys
Audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providers • Family Members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providers • Family Members
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"> • Three provider listening sessions per region, with five participants per listening session – 150 child care providers • Three family listening sessions per region, with five participants per listening session – 150 parents/families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 250 family survey respondents • 250 provider survey respondents



Developing an Access and Living Wage Plan

	2023	Jan - March 2024	April - June 2024	July - Sept 2024	Oct – Dec 2024
Early Educator Design Team Recommendations	—————				
Cost of Quality Care Study		—————			
Cash Flow Study – Provider’s sustainability at varying subsidy levels			—————		
Updating Cost of Quality Care Calculator			—————		
Update Subsidy Rate Models			—————		
Update Subsidy Rate Charts			—————		
Uptake Rates			—————		
Feasibility Study – Identifying needs and costs for statewide implementation				—————	



Deliverables

Status Update – Fall 2024

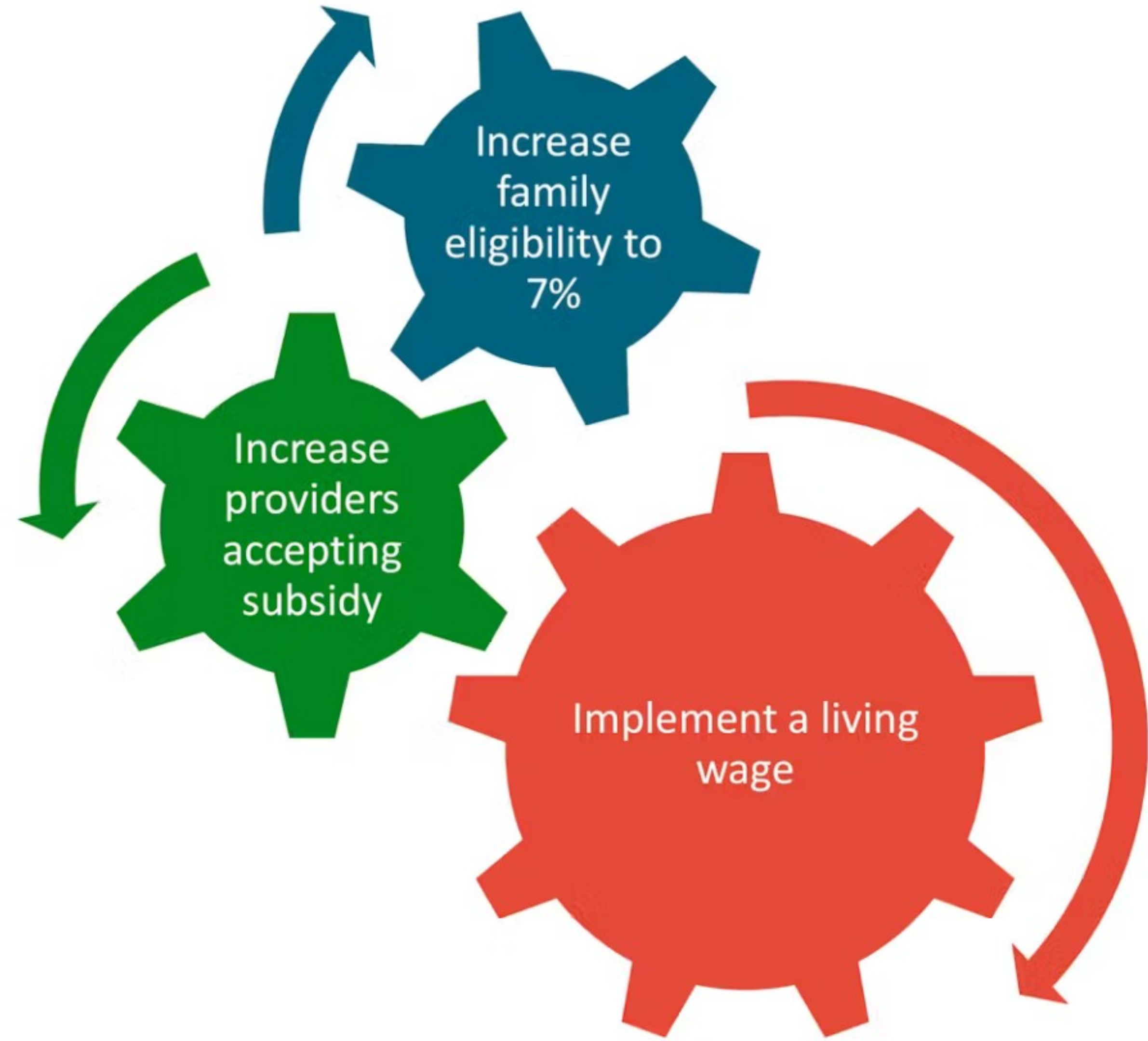
- Decision Packages
- Cost of Quality Care Survey/Market Rate Survey report
- Identify Dependencies and Associated Timelines

Implementation Plan – June 2025

- Investments made in 25-27 Budget Session
- Options for distribution of living wage and benefits
- Operational needs
- Modeling
- Recommendations

In both: Cost of Quality Care Recommendations from Early Educator Design Team

Phasing Implementation



Ongoing: Recruit and retain qualified Early Care and Education workforce



QUESTIONS



Break-Out Group Questions

Question 1: Assuming providers are paid a living wage with benefits, what other staff retention strategies, including incentives, will support fully staffed programs?

Question 2 : What non-standard options would be helpful for families being served?

Question 3: What would a better coordinated system for connecting children to early care and education program tailored to meet their specific needs look like to you?

Do you have any additional comments, questions or feedback on the Child Care Access and Living Wage Proviso?

So many moving pieces in this work!

Thank you for this work. I am newer to the community but our region has prioritized this work. Can you provide a succinct platform that shares all the different groups working on this, work completed.

Diana's slide deck and presentation were very informative, well-organized, and understandable!

What is the plan for the intersectionality of wages and subsidy rates? The state cannot have one without the other. Providers can no longer make up the difference.

Staffing, staff pay, staff supports, release time, and ongoing professional development as well as meaningful alternatives and skill-based assessment pathways

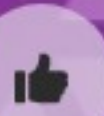
Early Learning Decision Package Concepts

DCYF Assistant Secretary of Early Learning Nicole Rose

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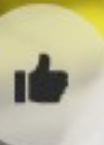


FY 24 Supplemental Early Learning Budget and 25-27 Draft Decision Package Concepts

April 9, 2024



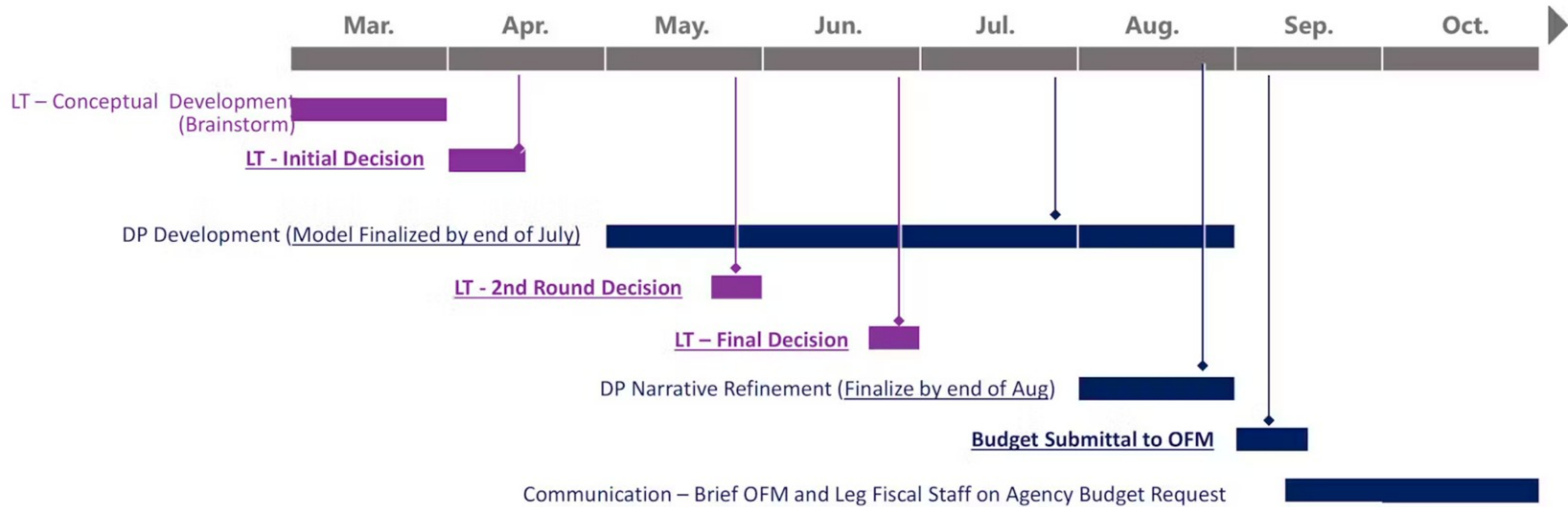
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Purpose of our time:

- Share the agency Decision Package / Agency Request Legislation process
- Share draft decision package concepts and connections to the FSKA recommendations*
 - Items connected to FSKA recommendation will include an *
- Time for questions on draft concepts or the FY24 supplemental budget (see one pager)

Proposed Decision Package and Agency Request Legislation Timeline for 2025–27 Biennial Session



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

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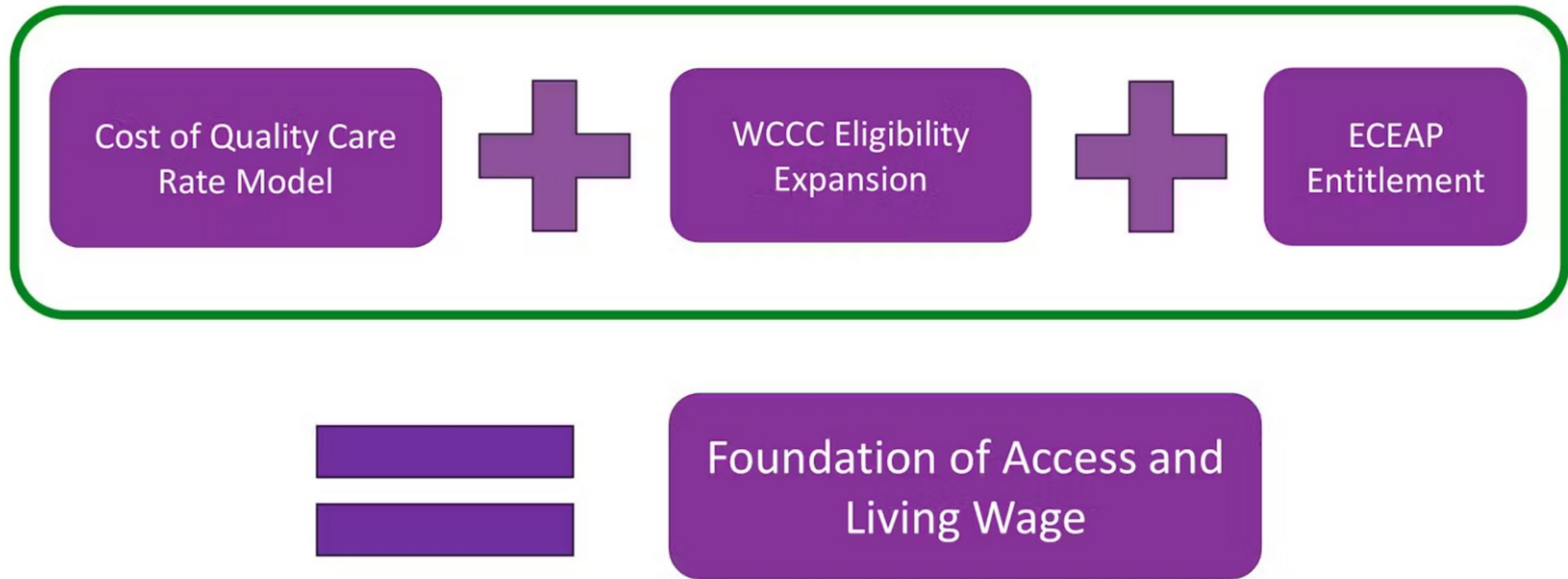
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Adding it All Up for 2025-27 and beyond



**Early
Learning
Division
Draft
Decision
Package
Concepts
for 2025-27**

ECEAP Entitlement

WCCC Eligibility Expansion*

Cost of Quality Care Model*

CCDF Updated Regulations*

Child Welfare Child Care

2025-27 Early Learning Draft Decision Package Concepts

- Working Connections Child Care Eligibility Expansion to 75 percent* SMI (ELAC FSKA) – family of three is \$6,321 per month - \$75,852
 - ~9,500 families
- ECEAP Entitlement* – Slots, rates, and supports to meet entitlement
- Cost of Quality Child Care Rates* – Personnel, Non-personnel, Quality Enhancements

2025-27 Early Learning Draft Decision Package Concepts

- Child Care Development Fund Federal Compliance*
 - Enrollment based pay, and prospective provider subsidy payment
 - ECE services through grants and contracts for underserved geographic areas, infants and toddlers, and children with disabilities
 - 12-month eligibility – children added during eligibility period
- Child Welfare/Child Care – Merge child welfare subsidy with WCCC
 - Provide continuity of care and access to high quality early learning for children in out of home placement through permanency

QUESTIONS



Do you have any additional comments, questions or feedback on the Early Learning Decision Package Concepts?

Implementation as soon as possible, i.e., moving up the timeline, should be a priority.

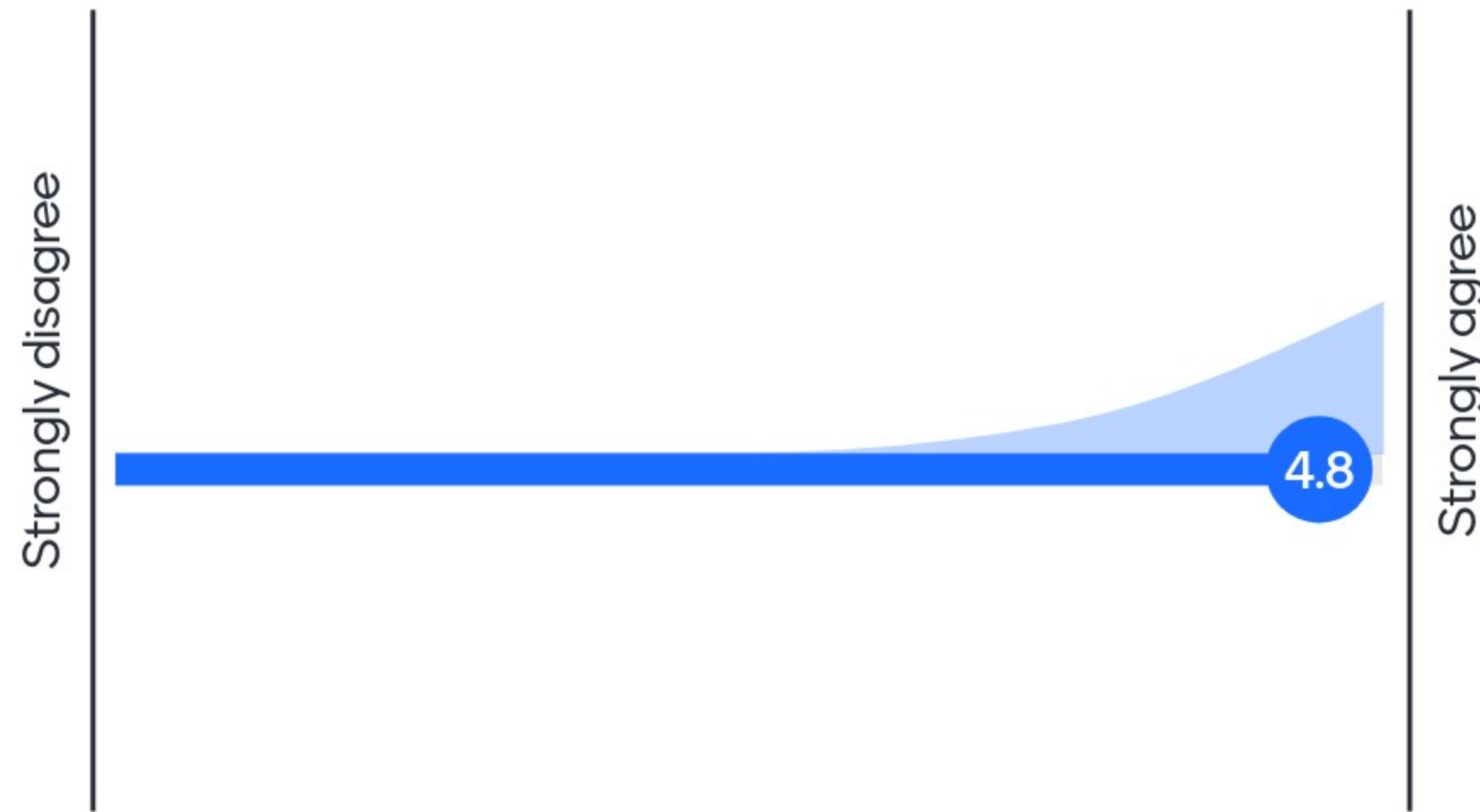
Eligibility expansion should not happen before rates are increased (enrollment based AND cost of care fully implemented).



2



Overall, I felt today's meeting was productive and a good use of my time.



Meeting Follow Up & Closing Remarks
Thank you for your participation today!

Next Meeting:

Report Development – May 14, 2024

Public Meeting – June 4, 2024

