



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

Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) Meeting
April 9, 2024

State Agency and Partner Updates

Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) Updates

Rule Making Update – Rules Under Development

Family, Friends, and Neighbors (FFN) in-home/relative child care providers

DCYF is updating Chapter 110-16 WAC License-exempt care—Family, friends, and neighbors (FFN) in-home/relative child care providers. DCYF Licensing Division is amending these rules to clarify requirements for FFN providers, providing care for children getting services through the Working Connections Child Care subsidy program. These updates will also allow DCYF to better meet federal directives concerning the number of children in care under age two.

Licensing Division: Capacity Waiver

DCYF Licensing Division is amending Capacity Waivers WACs in chapter 110-300-0358. The WAC revisions will allow DCYF to:

- Revise waivers related to capacity.
- Limit issuing waivers to providers with successful licensing history.
- Require better coordination between DCYF, child care providers and local building authorities.
- Revise requirements for emergency preparedness.

Licensing Division: Prohibiting behaviors, discipline, and physical removal of children

DCYF Licensing Division is amending Prohibiting Behaviors WACs 110-300-0331, 110-301-0331, and 110-302-0331. Revising these rules will allow DCYF to better inform providers how prevent harm to children.

Read the full update here: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WADEL/bulletins/39430ed>

For questions about DCYF rules, email dcyf.rulescoordinator@dcyf.wa.gov.

Additional State Agency/Partner Updates

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

Upcoming PD Opportunities:

- Save the Date: November 13-14, 2024, Northwest Early Learning & Pyramid Summit
- Register Now! **Infant and Early Childhood Conference 2024**, For more information on registration, schedule, etc., visit the [IECC conference website](#).

National Resources:

- [Recruitment and Retention of Early Intervention \(EI\) and Early Childhood Special Education \(ECSE\) Personnel \(ectacenter.org\)](https://ectacenter.org)

The Biden-Harris Administration has secured historic educational investments, including an additional \$1.9 billion in annual funding for the Title I program since 2021.

- Revised [Non-Regulatory Guidance on Serving Preschool Children Through Title I, Part A \(Title I\) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act \(ESEA\)](#) that provides details about how states and local leaders can reach more young learners by using Title I funds to expand access to high-quality preschool.
- [Early School Success Dear Colleague Letter](#) that supports the Department’s two track Raise the Bar early learning strategy: o Expand access to high-quality preschool with Title I funds and o Ensure kindergarten is a more sturdy bridge between the early years and early grades.
- A [Dear Colleague Letter on Mixed Delivery Preschool](#) jointly released by the U.S. Department of Education and Department of Health and Human Services lifts up available federal funds to expand access to high-quality preschool through a variety of settings to meet the needs of young learners and their families.

For additional information, review OSPI’s [Unlocking Federal and State Program Funds to Support Student Success](#).

For more information, please contact Ryan Guzman at Ryan.Guzman@k12.wa.us

Department of Health (DOH)

No updates at this time...

For more information, please contact Astrid Newell and Angie Funaiole at astrid.newell@doh.wa.gov and angie.funaiole@doh.wa.gov.

Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA)

The Department of Defense increased the provider rate cap used to calculate fee assistance for military families receiving childcare from civilian providers to \$1800 per month. Child Care providers interested in being a part of the military’s referral and fee assistance system can confirm their eligibility and sign up for the program (Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood/Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood-PLUS) at www.militarychildcare.com. In December, 1,647 military children in Washington received military fee assistance for childcare from civilian providers.

For more information, please contact Olivia Burley at Olivia.burley@dva.wa.gov

Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)

- In December 2022, Congress authorized a new permanent Summer EBT program called SUN Bucks. SUN Bucks is a food benefit program that allows households with eligible, school-aged children to buy groceries during summer months when free and reduced-price school meals

are not available. SUN Bucks provides up to \$120 in additional food benefits to each eligible child, adjusted annually. Eligibility for SUN Bucks includes children aged 8 to 18 who are approved for free or reduced-price Meals in National School Lunch Program schools and are in households receiving SNAP, TANF or other categorical-eligibility-based programs. An application process specific to SUN Bucks will be made available to children who do not automatically qualify. SUN Bucks will likely be issued in mid-June 2024, but this date is tentative and could change pending approval of our state plan.

- The Community Services Division helps promote the Working Families Tax Credit program: As of Feb. 1, 2024, the Department of Revenue began accepting applications for the Working Families Tax Credit for tax year 2023. This year, the credit provides payments of up to \$1,255 to individuals and families who meet the following eligibility requirements:
 - Have a valid Social Security Number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number.
 - Lived in Washington a minimum of 183 days in 2023 (over half the year).
 - Are at least 25 and under 65 years of age *or* have a qualifying child in 2023.
 - Filed a 2023 federal tax return.
 - Are eligible to claim the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) on their 2023 tax return (or would meet the requirements for EITC but are filing with an ITIN).

Eligible participants can [apply](#) using tax preparers and software, online through the MyDOR filing portal (available in English and Spanish) or by paper (available in English and 12 other languages).

The DOR has a wealth of resources available on the WFTC website at workingfamiliescredit.wa.gov, including:

- An events [calendar](#) with current outreach and application-assistance events.
- A partner [toolkit](#) with promotional materials available in several languages. Partners can place a free [order](#) to have materials printed and mailed.
- Educational [videos](#) with helpful information about eligibility and the application process.
- Contact information for the WFTC [outreach team](#) to connect with local outreach specialists who can offer support.

You can [request that](#) the DOR meet with your organization or team to share more about the WFTC program or to brainstorm outreach partnerships and strategies.

For more information, please contact Christian Carvajal at Christian.carvajal@dshs.wa.gov.