



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

## **Provider Supports Subcommittee**

### **Agency Updates**

**April 17, 2024**

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

##### **CCDF Plan Engagement**

Every three years, Washington submits a Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Plan to the federal Office of Child Care, which oversees the grant. The Plan serves as our application for CCDF funds and demonstrates compliance with CCDF grant requirements. Because the requirements address every major Early Care and Education (ECE) initiative at DCYF, the Plan also serves as a description of the ECE system statewide in its current state.

Before submitting a draft Plan, DCYF engages stakeholders, Tribal Nations, and communities to receive their feedback. From January through March, 2024, DCYF developed an engagement Plan, developed a draft Plan, and completed the Cost of Quality Care Study also required under the Plan. DCYF began engagement with the Early Learning Advisory Committee at their April 9 meeting where members received background information on the Plan and new federal CCDF rules it also addresses. Members provided feedback on questions related to the new rules which require:

- *Enrollment based, 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 for children newly added in the middle of an eligibility period*

Members of Provider Supports are also invited to view the draft Plan and slides from the ELAC meeting, found [here](#). Members can further comment on the Plan as to the new rules using the Smartsheet questionnaire found [here](#).

The Plan is now open for comment. DCYF will host an informal Public Meeting on May 6, as well as a formal Hearing on June 10, at which time the public comment period will end. DCYF will post invitations to these events on the [CCDF webpage](#) and social media and will distribute email invitations via a GovDelivery email with registration information.

##### **Early Care and Education Access and Living Wage Proviso Updates**

The Early Care and Education (ECE) Access and Living Wage Proviso supports DCYF's goal of an integrated, mixed-delivery system of affordable (no more than 7% of their family income), high-quality early care and education for ALL of Washington's children and providers are provided a living wage and benefits.

DCYF continues to partner with SEIU 925 and Child Care Aware of Washington. Work is shifting from initial planning to soliciting feedback from providers, family members, and community members and DCYF staff to inform the ECE Access and Living Wage Implementation Plan. These feedback sessions

will provide valuable input that will help refine the recommendations outlined in the implementation plan, due to the legislature by June 30, 2025.

The project team expects to present progress to date on this work and the initial findings at ELAC, Provider Supports, and IPEL meetings over the coming months.

**Milestone Met:** DCYF contracted with the Washington Communities for Children to conduct listening sessions and surveys with family members and providers across Washington State. DCYF recently presented at the 2/14 Provider Supports Subcommittee meeting. Based on interest, DCYF hosted a special meeting on 3/26 for ELAC and Provider Supports members to provide feedback on the policy considerations informing the implementation plan.

**Next Steps:** DCYF and WCFC will continue to lead feedback sessions over the next several months to discuss policy considerations related to developing the implementation plan. Feedback obtained from these groups will inform and provide guidance on implementations plans related to access and affordability for families, facilities, professional development for providers, and integrated classrooms and systems.

#### **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](mailto:dcyf.rulescoordinator@dcyf.wa.gov).