



Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) Meeting
May 14, 2024

DCYF Early Learning Proviso Implementation Update

Expanding, Supporting and Strengthening Child Care

1. **SHB 1945** makes clear that a child is income eligible for WCCC, ECEAP, and Early ECEAP when a member of the child's assistance unit is eligible for and receiving state or federal food assistance; however, the ECEAP provision is subject to space availability. These changes will be effective November 1, 2024. The ECEAP program income eligibility will no longer be subject to space availability effective August 1, 2030.

Implementation Notes:

Program Lead: Child Care Subsidy

Funding: \$0

Outcome(s): Ensure income eligibility and household streamline reporting are implemented given the different effective statutory dates.

Scoping Notes: WAC and IT changes for Sections 2, 3, 5, and 6. No required reporting, no pilot. Possible policy changes for Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 – still reviewing.

2. **2SHB 2124** – This bill is funded in the supplemental operating budget. Nothing in this act modifies or exempts applicants from WCCC income eligibility requirements. This act does three main things. In section 1 and 4, WCCC approved activities are expanded to include Early ECEAP and Early Head Start participation. Section 2 expands WCCC subsidy to include additional early learning provider employment so long as the household income is at or below 85 percent of the state median income adjusted for family size (additional employment includes ECEAP, Early ECEAP, Head Start, and Early Head Start programs). Section 3 requires that the Dual Language Rate Enhancement (Dual Rate) be adjusted for inflation every two years regardless of funds appropriated for this purpose. All changes are effective November 1, 2024.

Implementation Notes:

Program Lead: Child Care Subsidy

Funding: \$1.246 million (GF, on-going, 1.7 FTEs), FY 2025

Outcome(s): Ensure application is consistent with HB 2111; that WAC, policy, materials refer to the correct RCW; and communicate updated approved activities before effective date to internal/external interested persons.

Scoping Notes: WAC and IT changes for Sections 1 and 2. No required reporting, no pilot.

3. **E2SSB 6109**, specifically **Section 201**, in addition to adding a new chapter to RCW 43.216, this section of the act requires DCYF to accomplish one objective and provides an optional objective, both of which are subject to \$1.579 million in funding appropriated for the following purposes:

1. Shall establish a contracted child care slot pilot program for infants receiving child protective services in locales with the historically highest rates of child welfare screened-in intake due to the exposure or presence of high-potency synthetic opioids in the home; [emphasis added] and
2. Unused contracted child care slots in the pilot program may be used for children who are screened-in due to a parent's substance use disorder for substances other than a high-potency synthetic opioid. [emphasis added]

Implementation Notes:

Program Lead: Child Care Subsidy

Funding: \$1.579 million (Opioid Abatement Settlement Account, one-time, 1.448 FTEs)

Outcome(s): Plan and implement child care contracted slot pilot program – Fiscal Note assumes 100 full-day infant child care slots in priority locales.

Scoping Notes: IT changes, performance-based contracting, and identifying locales. No required reporting, yes pilot. Possible workgroup for discussing locales and unused slots– TBD.

4. Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation

Description: Existing contract for infant and early childhood mental health consultation.

Summary of Change: Provides additional funding and reserves \$150K of this additional funding specifically for consultation services to support rural schools and child care programs in rural communities.

Implementation Notes:

Program Lead: Early Learning

Additional Funding: \$1.75 million (Federal, on-going)

Outcome(s): Ensure that the additional funding serves the intent of the proviso.

Scoping Notes: Existing performance-based contract with Child Care Aware of Washington.

5. Spokane Child Care Workforce and Capacity Pilot Program (NEW)

Description: Contract with a local Spokane non-profit entity to administer a pilot program to increase child care workforce and capacity in the greater Spokane area. The pilot must include a minimum of 10 child care facilities to engage in culture index and blueprint assessments.

Implementation Notes:

Program Lead: Early Learning

Funding: \$250 thousand (GF, one-time), FY 2025

Outcome(s): Ensure that the additional funding serves the intent of the proviso.

Provider Recruitment, Retention and Professional Development

1. [SSB 5774](#) requires DCYF to provide fingerprinting services at early learning and child welfare offices throughout the state. The funding provided is based on the underlying fiscal assumption of rolling out, 0.5 FTE at each of 7 offices, prioritizing areas that lack convenient access to fingerprinting services. \$254K is appropriated for this purpose and the legislation is effective immediately.

Implementation Notes:

Program Lead: ASD - Provider Supports

Funding: \$254 thousand (federal, 1.3 FTEs)

Outcome(s): Work with existing vendor contract constraints, DCYF office infrastructure, and limited funding to meet amendment to RCW 43.216.270 that requires office locations:

- (a) Be prioritized based on proximity to existing fingerprinting service capacity, regional demand, and criteria to enhance timely access;
- (b) Provide staff support of a minimum of 0.5 full-time equivalent employees per office location; and
- (c) Provide fingerprinting services solely for prospective and current child care employees, licensed group care employees, families, and relatives involved in child welfare.

Scoping Notes: This was only partially funded and is contributing to current implementation constraints. No reporting required, no pilot. Possible sites are Colfax, Goldendale, and Port Townsend offices because these locations have the necessary requirements to be an enrollment site under vendor requirements and have the needed site infrastructure.

2. Relationship-Based Professional Development Provider Support

Description: Existing contract with an organization that provides relationship-based professional development support to providers to establish new affordable, high-quality child care and early learning programs.

Summary of Change: Provides additional funding and clarifies that the contract establishes *and supports* new affordable, high-quality child care and early learning programs. [emphasis added]

Implementation Notes:

Program Lead: Early Learning

Additional Funding: \$2.5 million (Federal, one-time)

Outcome(s): Ensure that the additional funding serves the intent of the proviso.

Scoping Notes: Existing performance-based contract with The Imagine Institute but may require a new performance-based contract due to state contracting laws.

3. Inclusion Mentorship Program (NEW)

Description: Contract with a non-profit entity that implements an inclusive mentorship program (program) provided to child care and early learning providers (providers). Program outcomes are to ensure providers have the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively support children with disabilities, developmental delays, or challenging behavioral needs. There are no reporting requirements.

Implementation Notes:

Program Lead: Early Learning

Funding: \$650 thousand (Federal, one-time)

Outcome(s): Ensure that the additional funding serves the intent of the proviso.

Communications and Engagement

1. Coordinated Recruitment and Enrollment Appropriations

Proviso funding provided to implement chapter 420, Laws of 2023 ([2SHB 1550](#)). 2SHB 1550 section (1)(4)(d) requires DCYF to collaboratively work with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction on developing a “statewide coordinated eligibility, recruitment, enrollment, and selection best practices and provide technical assistance to those implementing a transition to kindergarten program to support connections with local early learning providers.” This funding will be used to create a collaborative system of support and leverage resources at the state, regional, and local level to support increased access based on families’ needs and choice.

Implementation Notes:

Program Lead: Early Learning

Funding: \$1.357 million (GF, on-going, 2.0 FTEs), FY 2025

Outcome(s): Ensure coordinated recruitment and enrollment is implemented and functions as required.

Scoping Notes: Performance-based contracting with Child Care Aware of Washington to facilitate supporting connections between TTK/early learning programs, and providers.

2. Snohomish County Early Learning Coalition (NEW)

Description: Contract with Snohomish County Early Learning Coalition (the Coalition) for the purposes of the Coalition to develop a leadership team that will identify and report on ways to strengthen Snohomish County’s early learning community.

Implementation Notes:

Program Lead: Early Learning

Funding: \$200 thousand (GF, one-time), \$30 thousand FY 2024; and \$170 thousand FY 2025. Looking into moving 2024 funding to 2025 due to the timing of implementing the contract (FY 2024 ends June 30, 2024).

Outcome(s): Ensure that the additional funding serves the intent of the proviso.

Scoping Notes: Snohomish county Early Learning Coalition is named in the proviso.

Other

1. [HB 2111](#) reorganizes and recodifies existing working connections child care (WCCC) program requirements: RCW 43.216, RCW 43.216.1368, RCW 43.216.1364, RCW 43.216.145, RCW 43.216.136, RCW 43.216.139, RCW 43.216.141, RCW 43.216.143, RCW 43.216.730, and RCW 43.216.749; and repeals provisions that are expired and or no longer relevant, RCW 43.216.725 and RCW 43.216.137. These changes are technical in nature and are not substantive.

Implementation Notes:

Program Lead: Child Care Subsidy

Funding: \$0

Outcome(s): Ensure that WAC, policy/materials refer to the correct RCW and communicate updated codification to internal/external interest persons.

Scoping Notes: No issues related to statute reorganization.