

# Fair Start for Kids Act (FSKA) Recommendation Report | Status Tracker

The 2023 FSKA Recommendation Report highlights legislative recommendations from ELAC to DCYF in its advisory capacity. Several recommendations have been implemented by DCYF. This status tracker provides a general idea of recommendation, and the status of recommendation as of Spring 2024.

The recommendations fall into **five** broad 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**

Link to full report: [https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/2023\\_ELAC\\_FSKARecommendationReport.pdf](https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/2023_ELAC_FSKARecommendationReport.pdf)

## 2023 Recommendations and Status

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### Expanding, Supporting and Strengthening Child Care

#### Specific Recommendations

Fund expanded access and services for children with serious behavioral issues.

#### Significant Updates

- DCYF continues to award Trauma-Informed Care Financial Awards to providers who complete trainings that improve and increase skills related to trauma-informed care.
  - The 2023-24 Child Care Complex Needs Grant application closed in January and awards were given out to 162 providers, totaling \$9.9M.
  - The Legislature allocated an additional \$1.75 M annually for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation. Additional funds will go to CCA of WA for IECHMC, including a set aside of 150k to support consultation services in rural schools and child care programs in rural communities.
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## Provider Recruitment, Retention, and Professional Development

### Specific Recommendations

- 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.

### Significant Updates

- ESSB-5950, section 601(57), provides additional funding to Community and Technical Colleges to better support providers completing their qualifications.
- DCYF is collecting feedback from advisory groups and scoping the implementation report on Child Care Access and Living Wage, due to the Governor and legislature by June 30, 2025.

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## Language Access

### Specific Recommendations

- 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.
- Create a glossary and clearinghouse for language access resources.

### Significant Updates

- DCYF has created a Language Access Team for the agency, charged with developing and implementing an agency-wide Language Access Plan.
  - The DCYF Early Learning and Licensing Divisions continue to onboard bilingual staff, translate written materials, and ensure that interpreters are available, when needed.
  - The Early Learning Spanish and Somali glossaries are available online: <https://dcyf.wa.gov/services/earlylearning-profdev>
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## **Funding and Grant Opportunities**

### **Specific Recommendations**

- Before grant applications go live, DCYF should connect with the community to address any equity and access concerns.

### **Significant Updates**

- The DCYF Early Learning Division has instituted a refinement process for new and existing grants. This process includes presenting to advisories and collecting feedback to continuously improve our grant processes.
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## **Communications and Engagement**

### **Specific Recommendations**

- 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.

### **Significant Updates**

- TTK 2SHB-1550 and the 2024 Coordinated Recruitment and Enrollment DP create a collaborative system that to braid existing funding and support informed parent choices. Funding was provided, see ESSB-5950, section 229(42).
- DCYF is planning to host in-person regional child care forums across the state, starting in 2024. The goal is to host one event per quarter per region.