



Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC)

Regional Coalition Updates

Date: June 3, 2025

Inland Northwest Early Learning Alliance, Northeast

It's been a huge couple of months for our coalition! We are thrilled and relieved that WCFC was included in the final WA State budget at maintenance level funding! INWELA members have been working to name our priorities, finalize our regional budget, and put the finishing touches on our 2025-2026 Commitment Plan. We also recently named a new Fiscal Sponsor, Greater Spokane Inc. We are excited and ready for this next fiscal year!

Coordinated Recruitment and Enrollment efforts are ramping up with workgroups around Provider and Family Engagement, Communications, Data, Website Development, and more. The group's purpose is "to strengthen coordination between local public schools and early learning providers, ensuring equitable access to early education for all families. By addressing challenges in coordination, funding, and resource alignment, we can build a comprehensive and inclusive system that supports children, families, and providers. This effort will bring together industry leaders to shape regional education strategies, foster meaningful collaboration, and create lasting impact for Spokane's youngest learners. This work will not only enhance early learning access in Spokane but also serve as a scalable model that can be implemented in other communities across the region. Through dedicated collaboration and a shared commitment to change, we can build a stronger foundation for early learning that benefits families and providers well beyond Spokane."

Many INWELA members have been attending the local Social Connections Learning Series focused on the four Building Blocks of HOPE (Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences). The series wraps up in June and many of us are excited to continue our learning journey with the HOPE framework by participating in the HOPE Facilitator Training and subsequent community of practice spaces. We're excited by the positive impact this framework could have on our communities!

INWELA's Co-Lead, Colleen Condon, along with Excelsior Wellness and The Jasmin Group, is working to open an all-day, inclusive Child Care Center on the Excelsior campus in North Spokane!

For more information, please contact: Colleen Condon, colleen@lilaccityelc.com

North Central

NCELC members and leadership team supported local training events and opportunities that impact children and families: example: Symposiums offered by Our Valley Our Future.

Participated in registration, set up and small group facilitation. Sample topics: mental health, diabetes education, and in July Wildfire Education and Health conversations.

NCELC leadership coordinators participated in the local Civic Design team with the North Central Community Foundation to network with community partners like The Community for the Advancement of Family Education (CAFE), CW Areas Health Education Center (AHEC) Thriving Together (ACH), the Equity Justice Alliance, Brave Angels and local school districts to support strong civic leadership.

NCELC leadership participated in resource fair event at St Jude's landing to connect with families around accessing early learning resources and how to engage in advocacy efforts. NCELC leadership attended the Grant County Resource Coordination meeting to update other agencies about the work that is being done to support children and families in our communities.

The NCELC leadership team is working on updating the NCELC Charter and membership agreement.

The Family Voice lead and NCELC Coordinator worked on a project with the North Central WA Library Children's Services Manager to inform families across North Central Washington about library services and resources and to add the information to NCELC web page.

May NCELC membership meeting included presentations:

- Jessica Lara Director of Head Start/Migrant Head Start/ECEAP program data in Central Washington. How program cuts will affect services in our communities.
- Hilary Martinez Director of Early Learning at Wenatchee Valley College and Michele Reeves Director of Early Learning at Big Bend Community College. Overview of ECE programs and data related to number of providers receiving certifications and degrees over past three years.

NCELC and Child Care Aware celebrations for "Week of the Young Child".

- Creation of flyers to encourage programs to celebrate and incorporate activities into their programs.
- Signed proclamation by local mayors and Representative Tom Dent.
- Okanogan County Child Home Care Provider read the proclamation and was recorded to share on NCELC website.
- Celebration at Play and Learn Group, read proclamation and had a small parade with children and families through the local Pybus Public Market

For more information please contact: Nancy Spurgeon, nspurgeon49@gmail.com

Southeast (SELC)

We held our monthly meeting on Tuesday May 13th from 1-3 pm virtually. We are continuing to finish up our work plans and write our commitments and budget for the upcoming contract year. We are also meeting ad hoc several times this month to make sure that we get this completed on time.

We are also in the process of working with partners to submit an Early STEM Grant Proposal to Washington STEM.

For more information, please contact: Brittany Hartikainen, brittany@bh-consulting.org

Visions for Early Learning, West Central

Grays Harbor: Grays Harbor Early Learning (GHLE) coalition typically meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 1:30 – 3:00 pm. Contact Molly Leithold, ghearlylearningcoalition@gmail.com, coalition lead to get connected.

Lewis: Lewis County's Early Learning Coalition (ELC) typically meets the 2nd Thursday of each month from 11:30 – 1:00 pm. Contact Juli Jager, lewiscountyelc@gmail.com, coalition lead to get connected.

Mason: The ELC of Mason County typically meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 8:30 – 10:00 am. Contact April Messenger, masoncountyelc@gmail.com, coalition lead to get connected.

Thurston: The Thurston Early Childhood Coalition (TECC) typically meets the 4th Thursday of each month from 9:30 – 11:00 am. Contact Shawn Thurman, thurstonecc@gmail.com, coalition lead to get connected.

Pacific: Know and Grow, North Pacific County's early learning coalition typically meets the 3rd Monday of each month from 2:00 – 3:30 pm. Contact Rhonda Johnson, knowandgrowpacificco@gmail.com, coalition lead to get connected.

For more information, please contact: Sheila Kavanaugh, kav.consulting231@gmail.com

Washington Communities for Children (WCFC) Updates

Stay in Touch!

Want to learn more about WCFC, be the first to hear updates, or get connected with your local early childhood coalition? Get in touch with us!

- Website: washingtoncfc.org
- Facebook: WashingtonCFC

- Instagram: Washington_cfc

For more information please contact: Rachel Hall, WCFC State Lead,
rachelh@first5fundamentals.org

Investing in Children Coalition: Central

- **No updates currently. For more information, please contact: Lindsay Bowsell, lindsayb@yakimavalleycf.org**

King County

- **No updates currently. For more information, please contact: Logan Endres or Tristen Hall, kcelc@childcare.org**

Northwest

- **No updates currently. For more information please contact: Breana Ramos, breana@nwelcoalition.org**

Peninsula Early Learning Coalition

- **No updates currently. For more information, please contact: Elisia Anderson, elisiaf_fstep@olypen.com**

Pierce County Early Childhood Network

- **No updates currently. For more information please contact: Muriel Herrera-Velasquez muriel@first5fundamentals.org**

Southwest Washington Early Learning (SWEL)

- **No updates currently. For more information please contact: Debbie Ham, Debbie.ham@selfwa.org**