



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

Provider Supports Subcommittee

Agency Updates

August 14, 2024

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

DCYF Releases 2024 Cost of Care & Market Rate Survey Report

DCYF is excited to release its [2024 Cost of Quality Care and Market Rate Study Report](#). The report can be found at the bottom of the [Child Care and Development Fund](#) webpage, as well as on the [Find a Report](#) webpage.

The report works as an essential tool for Washington state when establishing Working Connections Child Care subsidy reimbursement rates paid to providers serving children receiving subsidy benefits. Strong rates are critical to supporting access to quality early care and education for Washington's children.

State law requires subsidy rates to be set according to the market rate. Rates are currently based on 2021 market rate data. This report assists policymakers to decide the basis for subsidy rates moving forward. Policymakers will need to determine whether rates will be based on market rates or the cost of quality care.

DCYF Community Child Care Forums

DCYF will host two community child care forums in August.

Olympia Forum Details:

- **Time:** 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- **Date:** Monday, Aug. 19, 2024
- **Location:** DCYF Headquarters, 1500 Jefferson St SE, Olympia, WA 98501, Room 1213
- **Parking:** Visitor parking is available at the 1500 Jefferson building and across the street at the [Jefferson & Maple Park Parking Lot](#) (free after 5 p.m.). Metered parking spots also available and free after 5 p.m.
- [Register here](#)

Mount Vernon Forum Details:

- **Time:** 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- **Date:** Wednesday, Aug. 21, 2024
- **Location:** McIntyre Hall Performing Arts and Conference Center, 2501 E. College Way, Mount Vernon, WA 98273
- [Map and directions](#)
- [Register here](#)

The Community Child Care Forums aim to:

- Strengthen relationships between providers and the agency;
- Make a space for providers and DCYF to share and celebrate what is going well; and
- Foster opportunities for ongoing collaboration.

These forums are open to licensed child care centers, licensed family homes, outdoor nature-based providers, and school-age providers, including certified providers, who may be located on Tribal lands.

Visit the [Community Child Care Forums webpage](#) for information on additional forum dates and locations. For questions, email dcyf.communityengagement@dcyf.wa.gov.

Rule Making Update – Rules Under Development

Working Connections Child Care – Eligibility

The Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) Early Learning Division is amending rules on the eligibility requirements for child care and food assistance. DCYF is also amending rules to allow the following programs to be an approved activity for eligibility: birth to three Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) and early Head Start programs. These amendments are required by legislation. More information can be found in [WSR 24-14-053](#).

Working Connections Child Care – Infant Enhancement Rate, Nonstandard Hours Bonus

The DCYF Early Learning Division is revising the infant enhancement rate and non-standard hours bonus rate to align with legislative requirements. More information can be found in [WSR 24-14-034](#). On July 1, 2024, these rules went into effect under [emergency status](#)

Working Connections and Seasonal Child Care Subsidy Programs

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) Early Learning Division is revising Chapter 110-15 WAC Working Connections and Seasonal Child Care Subsidy Programs. The purpose of this rule-making is to clarify and update language to transition operations from Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to DCYF and use plain talk as required by [Executive Order 23-02](#). The notice of intent for this rule-making was filed under [WSR 24-15-069](#) on July 17, 2024.