
DCYF 2025 Legislative Proposals

Allison Krutsinger
Director of Public Affairs

Rene Newkirk
Chief Financial Officer

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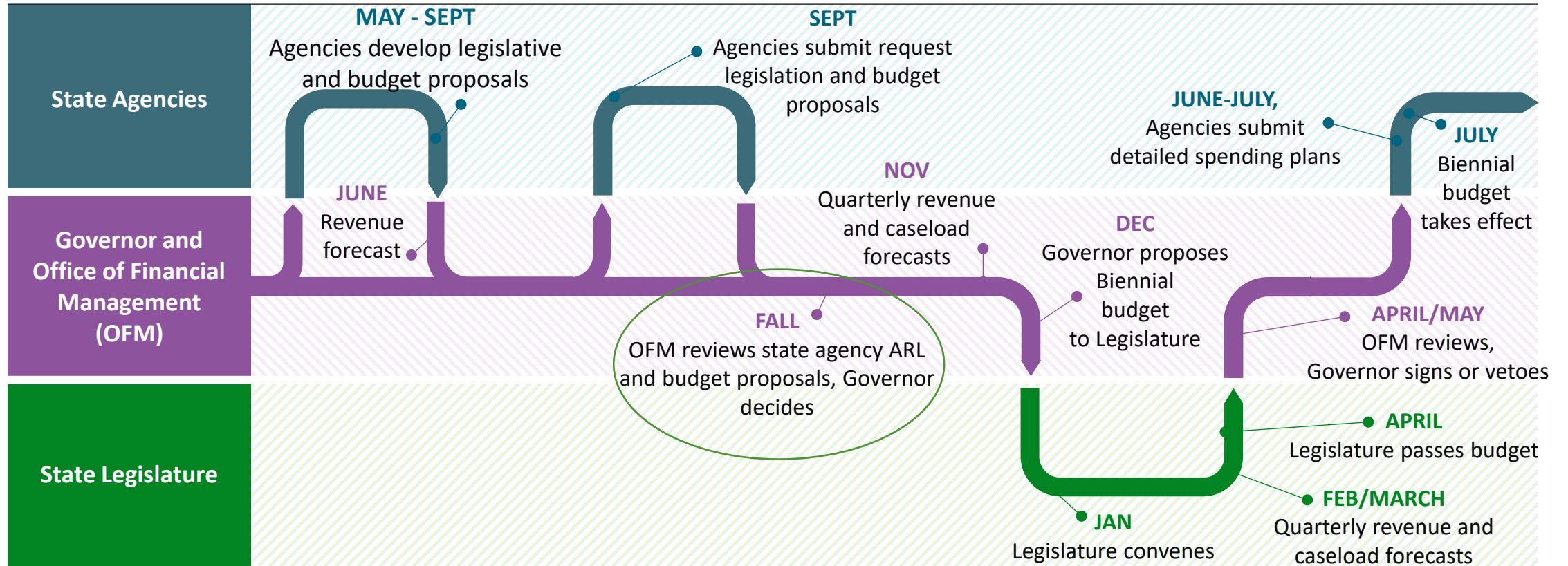
Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES



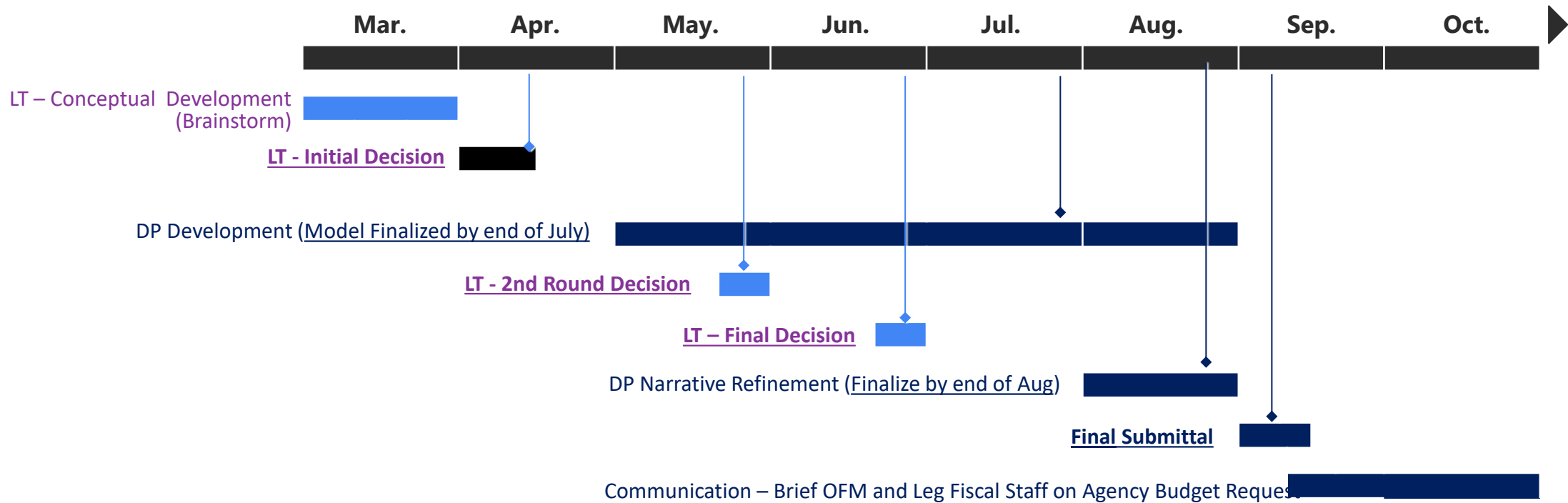
Guiding Principles for Development

- Prioritize resources that focus on core responsibilities outlined in DCYF's vision and strategic plan.
- Prioritize programs and services that reduce racial and ethnic disparities in outcomes and access to services across all DCYF systems of care.
- DCYF's top priority is to stabilize the Juvenile Rehabilitation program due to the growing population with high and increasing acuity of the young adults in our care.
- Ensuring children remaining in their home are safe requires adequate prevention resources.
- Adolescent service enhancements are needed to support adolescents throughout the continuum of care.
- Required implementation based on state and federal laws.
- Continue existing programs, addressing caseload increases, with limited critical expansion.

Preparing for Legislative Session



Decision Package and Agency Request Legislation Timeline for 2025–27 Biennial Session



Realities for 2025

- Year one of biennial session, budget setting session, long session
- New administration; significant lawmaker changes
- Declining revenues and slowing economic outlook; uncertainty over ballot initiatives and future revenues



DCYF Priorities for 2025



**Stabilize
Juvenile
Rehabilitation**



**Prevention
Services**



**Adolescent
Service
Enhancement**



**Legally
Required
Early
Learning
Expansions**



**Effective &
Efficient
Government**



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Safety & Security Processes

Decision Package
\$27.004M

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Create successful transitions into adulthood for youth and young adults in our care
- Improve the quality and intention of our practice

What?

DCYF requests funding to ensure Juvenile Rehabilitation's (JR) facilities are safe and secure for residents and staff. Funding is also requested to support the infrastructure needed to establish transparent, fair, and consistent procedures for young people in JR's care.

Why?

- Safety is the critical foundation to rehabilitation.
- Longstanding need to replace out of date approaches to behavior management and restorative practices with clear, formal, and accessible systems to ensure consistency, reduce bias, and build trust.

Transparent Processes Components

- Internal Infractions Unit
- Formal Grievance Process
- Hearings Unit Staff
- Classification Unit
- Records Management Unit
- Multi-Tiered Systems of Support Framework incorporating Positive Behavior Management (*shift from legacy Integrated Treatment Model*)

Security Infrastructure Components

- Securus Communication System
- Video Storage and Privacy Protection
- Contraband Investigation capacity
- Security Technology Systems manager
- Continuation of Echo Glen Contracted Security (*for duration of fence construction*)

Youth Wellbeing

Decision Package

\$13.904M

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Create successful transitions into adulthood for youth and young adults in our care
- Improve the quality and intention of our practice

What?

DCYF requests funding for additional mental health treatment and to maintain essential substance use and opioid prevention services in the Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) program. The request also includes funding for discharge planners, necessary to implement the Re-entry Initiative under the 1115 Medicaid Demonstration Waiver.

Why?

- Young people entering JR are faced with increasing complex behavioral challenges and co-occurring MH/SUD needs.

Components Include:

- Mental Health Treatment in four residential living units – serving GHS and EGCC
- Reentry-focused Opioid Use Disorder program
 - *Positive Outcomes through Successful Transition (POST), delivered in partnership with Seattle Children's Hospital*
- Discharge Planners in preparation for the Re-entry Initiative
- Expanding quality assurance via the Standardized Program Evaluation Protocol (SPEP)

Expand Employment and Education

Decision Package
\$2.062M

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Create successful transitions into adulthood for youth and young adults in our care
- Improve the quality and intention of our practice

What?

DCYF requests funding to expand opportunities and supports for educational and vocational programming for young people in DCYF's Juvenile Rehabilitation institutions.

Why?

- The growing population and differentiated needs of young adults in JR highlights the urgency to expand the current suite of education and employment offerings, as it currently does not meet needs. Young people need more opportunity.
- Providing vital education and career development skills to ensure future success of young people and reduce recidivism.

Components Include:

- Specialists and post-secondary vocational staff (like in place for secondary support)
- Contracted professional consultant and workforce development supports
- Vocational Programming Expansion
- Contracted consultant to provide reentry/future planning preparation gap analysis to determine remaining workforce development needs
- Provide paid employment on campus to improve re-entry success rates

Electronic Health Records

Decision Package
\$8.18M

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Create successful transitions into adulthood for youth and young adults in our care
- Improve the quality and intention of our practice

What?

DCYF requests funding to implement an Electronic Health Record (EHR) system to coordinate medical care for young people in the Juvenile Rehabilitation institutions.

Why?

- DCYF must have an EHR under the Re-entry Initiative under the Medicaid Transformation Project (MTP).
- This solution will support communication with providers, refer, and bill for Medicaid services.

Components Include:

- Funding to implement the Health Care Authority's brokered Health Care Management and Coordination System as the EHR solution, which is the most financially feasible option.

Expand Secure Residential Settings

Decision Package Placeholder

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Create successful transitions into adulthood for youth and young adults in our care
- Improve the quality and intention of our practice

What?

DCYF requests funding to expand the JR footprint by establishing new secure residential capacity.

Why?

- JR is in crisis due to increasing population resulting in overcrowding at Green Hill School. Additional capacity is needed to address safety concerns for residents and staff.
- Many young people are not eligible for Community Facilities or Community Transition Services; therefore, new capacity is needed.
- DCYF is seeking to move toward securing smaller, flexible facilities with a therapeutic design, creating a welcoming, normalized, reformative environment where rehabilitation is more likely.

Components Include:

- Operating - Placeholder request for funding to secure and operationalize a facility or living unit(s) to provide JR with additional capacity.
- Capital - pre-design to site new, smaller residential settings.

Protection of Body Scanner Images

Agency Request Legislation

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Improve the quality and intention of our practice

What?

A Public Records Act exemption for sensitive images from body scanners.

Why?

- DCYF must ensure the same protections that other facilities have.
- DOC and private detention facilities both have protections for sensitive images that result from body scanners.
- DCYF recently implemented use of these machines in our secure facilities.

Components Include:

- This language would add a narrow exemption to the Public Records Act to ensure that sensitive image records cannot be disclosed, except to young people who the records pertain to – if requested.

Prevention – Community Pathways

Decision Package
\$9.622M

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Safely reduce the number/rate of children in out of home care
- Improve quality and availability of provider services

What?

DCYF requests funding to implement community-based prevention through Family Resource Centers and the Plan of Safe Care.

Why?

- The Keeping Families Together Act (HB 1227) has had the intended impact of reducing removals, however, increased front end child welfare services are needed to support moderate to high-risk families.
- With federal policy changes in the Plan of Safe Care, not all substance exposed infants are referred to CPS. This coupled with the fentanyl epidemic, more supports and connection is needed to keep vulnerable infants safe, and parents supported.

Components Include:

- Direct funding to 5 Family Resource Centers to provide enhanced capacity for resource navigation, evidence-based practices, and concrete supports
- Funding for the Plan of Safe Care community pathway that serves infants with prenatal substance exposure and pregnant persons with substance use

Home Visiting Rates

Decision Package Placeholder

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Improve quality and availability of provider services
- Create a high-quality integrated B-8 system

What?

DCYF requests funding to implement rates for Home Visiting models, Nurse-Family Partnerships and Parents as Teachers. DCYF also requests to maintain additional slots established through SB 6109 (2024).

Why?

- DCYF has conducted a rate setting process for HV models to support provider wage and cost increases and create more equity in contracting for HV services. Funding is needed to implement rates for the final two models.
- SB 6109 established a pilot program for contracted home visiting slots in high-risk locales with disproportionate out of home placements for Black and Native children, which DCYF requests to continue.

Components Include:

- Placeholder request to implement home visiting rates for Nurse Family Partnership and Parents as Teachers models
- Funding to sustain the additional contracted slots established through SB 6109

CIHS Quality Improvement and PIP

Decision Package
\$14.784M

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Improve quality and availability of provider services
- Eliminate racial disproportionalities and advance racial equity

What?

DCYF requests funding to implement quality improvement efforts for Combined In Home Services, including embedding Motivational Interviewing within the Family Preservation Services program and implementation of Positive Indian Parenting, an evidence-based program.

Why?

- Embedding Motivational Interviewing, an evidence-based program, into the Family Preservation Services model will ensure high quality intervention and allow an extended duration of services.
- DCYF's service array needs to be fundamentally more culturally responsive and meet the unique, specific, cultural needs of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) families.

Components Include:

- Funding for Motivational Interviewing training and service duration increase for FPS
- Enhanced funding for concrete goods and transportation costs
- Culturally responsive consultation for combined in home service array
- Implementation of the Positive Indian Parenting program

CSEC and Victim Advocacy

Decision Package
\$10.432M

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Improve quality and intention of our practice
- Improve quality and availability of provider services

What?

DCYF requests funding to improve the Department's ability to identify and respond to human trafficking in all forms.

Why?

- DCYF experienced a 145% increase in identified child victims of sex trafficking in 2023, demonstrating the need to identify and respond to human trafficking.
- DCYF needs enhanced infrastructure to make needed improvements in screening, identification, and connection to services for youth involved in trafficking.

Components Include:

- Funding to increase the rate for CSEC receiving centers (one on east side and one on west side), which is necessary to secure providers and cover cost
- Expand access to victim advocacy services to support victims through a healing process
- Funding for a position to assist with locating missing tribal youth
- Adapting and implementing a new validated screening tool for both labor and sex trafficking and implementing enhanced screening practices

Adolescent Services

Decision Package
\$3.501M

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Create successful transitions to adulthood for youth and young adults in our care
- Improve quality and availability of provider services

What?

DCYF requests funding to maintain the current level of service provision for Independent Living (IL) and to expand the LifeSet program to two additional counties.

Why?

- IL and LifeSet, are two integral programs serving youth and young adults as they exit systems of care for a successful transition to independence and adulthood.
- Additional investments are needed to ensure IL services continue to support the current number of clients and to provide LifeSet services to an estimated additional 600 young adults.

Components Include:

- Requests one-time rate increase of \$750K provided in the 2023-25 biennium to be made on-going for the Independent Living program
- Funding to expand LifeSet to two additional counties – Clark (FY26) and Pierce (FY27)

D.S. Compliance

Decision Package
\$22.063M

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Create successful transitions into adulthood for youth and young adults in our care

What?

DCYF requests funding to continue to meet the agency's obligations under the D.S. settlement agreement.

Why?

- To develop and expand placement resources to eliminate the use of placement exceptions including night-to-night foster care placement stays and improve placement stability as required by the settlement agreement.

Components Include:

- Additional Placements:
 - Adulthood Transitional Living Program (10 additional beds- 5 in R4; 5 in R6)
 - Group Receiving Care (12 additional beds- 6 in R4; 6 in R6)
 - Exceptional Placement Services (10 additional beds)
 - New Placement Type- Intensive Group Receiving Care (6 beds)
 - Exceptional Placements (temporarily fund third facility)
- Rate Increase for Group Receiving Care – Region 3
- Other resource supports to include funding for plaintiff fees, fiscal resources, and Data, Research, and Implementation Manager to support system improvements

EFC Incentive Program

Decision Package
\$6.748M

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Create successful transitions into adulthood for youth and young adults in our care

What?

DCYF requests funding to implement an incentive program as required under 2SSB 5908 (2024) and effectively serve all young adults in EFC at a level that meets the young person's current life situation.

Why?

- 2SSB 5908 removed the federal eligibility requirements for EFC, removing barriers for entry, creating a youth choice program.
- Young adults need concrete support as they are transitioning into independence and adulthood.

Components Include:

- Incentive program – monthly payments of \$150 to begin July 1st, 2025
- Additional funding for concrete goods to support the increased EFC population. Concrete goods include bedding, appliances, furniture, and other essentials.
- Additional caseworkers and staff to support the increased EFC caseload and requirements of the new legislation.

Community Based FRS

*Decision Package
and Agency Request
Legislation
\$15.012M*

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Eliminate racial disproportionalities and advance racial equity
- Safely reduce the number/rate of children in out of home care

What?

DCYF requests funding and statutory authority to implement the community-based Family Reconciliation Services (FRS) model in three early implementing regions. FRS serves families and youth ages 12 – 17 who are in conflict.

Why?

- FRS is currently underutilized with many families hesitant to engage in FRS services in part due to the association that the current DCYF-delivered model has with CPS investigations and fear of further child welfare system involvement.
- Community-based organizations are well positioned to serve youth and families, connecting them to culturally relevant and appropriate local services.
- The FRS community-based model was co-designed with community members and people with lived experience.

Components Include:

- Funding for implementation in three early implementing regions; Regions 1, 3, 5

Conserving Public Benefits

*Decision
Package and Agency
Request Legislation
\$11.737M*

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Create successful transitions into adulthood for youth and young adults in our care

What?

DCYF requests funding and statutory authority, to discontinue the practice of using supplemental security income and retirement, survivors, or disability insurance benefits to reimburse the Department for the cost of care. By discontinuing the practice, DCYF will conserve the benefits for the youth's future needs.

Why?

- Funds intended for young people should be available for their use when they exit care to help support a successful transition.
- Although, using these benefits are legally permitted to cover the cost of care, it is not in the child or youth's best interest to do so.

Components Include:

- As of January 1, 2026, DCYF will no longer use public benefits to reimburse for the cost of care. Funding is needed to backfill the discontinuation of this practice.
- Funding to contract with an entity to conserve benefits in an appropriate investment account.
- Funding to contract with an entity to provide financial literacy and supports to youth that receive these benefits before exiting care.

Child Care Subsidy Base Rates

Decision Package
\$298.273M

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- 80 percent of Washington children ready for Kindergarten
- High-quality early learning available and affordable to all in Washington
- Support the early learning workforce
- Prevention goals connected to early learning

What?

DCYF requests funding to maintain child care subsidy base rates at the 85th percentile of the most current market for child care centers as required by [RCW 43.216.828](#), resulting in a rate increase based on the 2024 Market Rate Survey (MRS).

Why?

- Requested funding will support family access and child care providers in meeting the needs of children served based on the 2024 MRS.
- Requested funding needed to comply with the [Fair Start for Kids Act](#) (2021) and RCW [RCW 43.216.828](#).
- The increase in subsidy base rates was also included in the bargained subsidy rates for licensed family homes in the Collective Bargaining Agreement with SEIU 925. Parity will be maintained if the bargained subsidy rates and this request are funded.

Components Include:

- Increase subsidy base rates beginning July 1, 2025
- *Note: DP includes center-based care rate increase. FCC rate increase is in the collective bargaining agreement between DCYF and family child care providers.*

WCCC Eligibility 75% SMI & Dual Language

Decision Package
\$256.925M

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- 80 percent of Washington children ready for Kindergarten
- Eliminate racial disproportionalities and advance racial equity
- High-quality early learning available and affordable to all in Washington

What?

DCYF requests funding to increase Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) eligibility to 75 percent of the State Median Income (SMI) effective July 1, 2025, as required under [RCW 43.216.802\(3\)](#), and to increase dual language rates to adjust for inflation under [RCW 43.216.775](#).

Why?

- Expanding income eligibility provides families with increased and equitable access to high quality child care, which is essential to family self-sufficiency and positive child outcomes.
- High quality child care supports child development and kindergarten readiness.

Components Include:

- Increase Working Connections Child Care eligibility to 75 percent SMI
- Increase Dual Language Rates using the U.S. Implicit Price Deflator
- Increased funding for outreach, resource and referral to inform families who are eligible and who have not been eligible historically

ECEAP Entitlement

Decision Package
\$451.416M

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- 80 percent of Washington children ready for Kindergarten
- Eliminate racial disproportionalities and advance racial equity
- High-quality early learning available and affordable to all in Washington
- Prevention goals connected to early learning

What?

DCYF requests funding to prepare for the Early Childhood Education Assistance Program (ECEAP) to meet entitlement per [RCW 43.216.556](#).

Why?

- High quality early learning/prekindergarten supports school readiness and success and increases high school graduation rates.
- ECEAP's family self-reliance model helps families set and achieve goals related to health, wellbeing, and family self-sufficiency.

Components Include:

- Sustainable ECEAP slot rates, representing a 29 percent slot rate increase
- Slot expansion for an additional 6,515 slots to meet entitlement
- Slot conversion of Part Day slots to School day slots (7,592) and Working day slots (18)
- Quality supports for curriculum and ongoing assessments for classrooms and children and increased funding for scholarships and ratings

Comply with New CCDF Requirements

Decision Package
\$94.914M

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Eliminate racial disproportionalities and advance racial equity
- 80 percent of Washington children ready for Kindergarten
- High-quality early learning available and affordable to all in Washington
- Prevention goals connected to early learning

What?

DCYF requests funding to comply with the 2024 Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Final Rule change that became effective April 2024.

Why?

- Requested funding needed to comply with federal requirements.
- Funding will increase access and affordability to high quality child care.

Components Include:

- Supports eligible children and families with a full 12 months of WCCC benefit authorization beginning July 1, 2025.
- Align child care subsidy payment practices with the private market by July 2026:
 - Pay providers prospectively (instead of retrospectively), and
 - Pay based on enrollment (instead of by attendance)
- Only require overpayment collection for families approved under presumptive eligibility when federally required
- One-time costs for an outreach and communication contract and training support for providers who participate in child care subsidy programs

Licensing Complaint Unit

Decision Package
\$5.605M

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Eliminate racial disproportionalities and advance racial equity
- Support the early learning workforce
- Prevention goals connected to early learning

What?

DCYF requests funding to create a child care complaint investigations unit within the Licensing Division to address the licensing complexities for all child care licensed providers and support provider compliance.

Why?

- Child care licensors administer all aspects of licensing oversight, both compliance and complaint investigations. This unit would create separation of duties, which would reduce risk of bias and conflict of interest.
- A child care complaint investigation unit will improve the quality and intention of licensing practice, improve quality and availability of provider services statewide equitably.
- Enable staff to meet timelines and support licensed providers holistically.

Components Include:

- Requests 20.0 full-time equivalents to create the Complaint Investigations Unit.

CW & JR Forecast

*Decision Package (JR)
and Agency Request
Legislation
Placeholder*

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Improve the quality and intention of our practice
- Improve the quality and availability of provider services

What?

DCYF requests to include supports the agency currently provides into the forecast for the child welfare and juvenile rehabilitation programs.

Why?

- To ensure sufficient funding is provided for the child welfare and juvenile rehabilitation entitlement programs through the forecasting process.

Components Include:

- To include all foster care placements and supports as well as include preventive services and staffing in the child welfare forecast.
- To establish a per capita to replace the outdated marginal rate used, which funds the forecasted caseload for the juvenile rehabilitation program. A per capita will include basic care, treatment services, education, programming, and staffing to youth and young adults in juvenile rehabilitation residential care.

Risk Mitigation

Decision Package
\$14.949M

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Improve quality and intention of our practice

What?

DCYF requests funding to provide additional practice and professional development supports associated with the increase in tort filings and improve practice to reduce future tort claims.

Why?

- In SFY 2020, DCYF had fewer than 200 tort claims with the vast majority associated with child welfare. In SFY 2024, DCYF experienced an increase in juvenile rehabilitation claims. DCYF had over 500 claims, which were equally shared between juvenile rehabilitation and child welfare.
- There has been a significant increase in the critical incidents. DCYF reviewed 51 cases in 2023, compared to 23 cases in 2019.

Components Include:

- Additional staff to the critical incidents team to respond to the rise in the need for reviews
- Additional staff to address tort claims; discovery and information governance and to conduct quality assurance to mitigate risk and reduce claims.
- Positions to support the unified Family Practice Model
- Positions to provide de-escalation training to case workers
- Contracted services to include observing and coaching de-escalation trainers.

DCYF Enterprise Payment Solution

*Decision Package
Placeholder*

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Improve the quality and intention of our practice
- Improve the quality and availability of provider services

What?

DCYF requests funding to begin implementing a modern DCYF Enterprise Payment Solution (DEPS). The implementation phase would begin without a gap after Procurement is completed to maintain project momentum, resource continuity, and mitigate risk in accordance with OneWA timelines.

Why?

- Implementation would be the next phase in the DEPS project to replace Social Service Payment System (SSPS) and associated payment authorization systems.
- Projected to improve payment efficiency, accuracy, and transparency, ensuring that payment recipients receive timely support.
- Aligns with broader agency objectives to enhance system and process efficiency to comply with legislative and regulatory mandates and make best use of technology where the risk-adjusted benefit is appropriate and substantial.

Components Include:

- Modern DEPS will compliment and interoperate with the state implementation of Workday
- Three-year maximum implementation period to begin approximately August 2025
- Five years of maintenance and operations

CCWIS Implementation

*Decision Package
Placeholder*

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Improve the quality and intention of our practice
- Improve the quality and availability of provider services

What?

DCYF requests funding to continue implementing the Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS). The solution involves the adoption of a robust case management software designed to enhance agency capabilities in managing and improving Child Welfare Services.

Why?

- The current system, FamLink does not adequately meet the needs of DCYF or its clients.
- FamLink does not comply with federal final rule (45 CFR Chapter XIII and Parts 1355 and 1356) on Comprehensive Child Welfare Information Systems.
- FamLink is complex with linked, dependent components that propose significant hurdles when attempting to introduce modifications or updates.

Components Include:

- A complete FamLink replacement application
- Projected hybrid team of State FTEs and contracted staff from vendor partners
- Software solution and implementation bid from vendor anticipated October 2024

One Pager Overviews 2025-27 Biennial Budget Decision Packages & Agency Request Legislation

- Decision Packages are currently posted on DCYF's Government Affairs webpage.
- One-page summaries of DCYF's budget requests and agency request legislation for the 2025 Legislative Session will be linked on the DCYF Government Affairs webpage.
- These will be added as they are completed – please check back or reach out if you would like more details on any proposal.



Washington State Department of
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THANK YOU

Allison Krutsinger

Allison.krutsinger@dcyf.wa.gov

Rene Newkirk

Rene.Newkirk@dcyf.wa.gov



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Thank you