

# DCYF Legislative Update: End of Session Webinar

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May 14, 2025

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

# Agenda



- Legislative Session Update
- Current Bill Status
- Conference Budget Overview

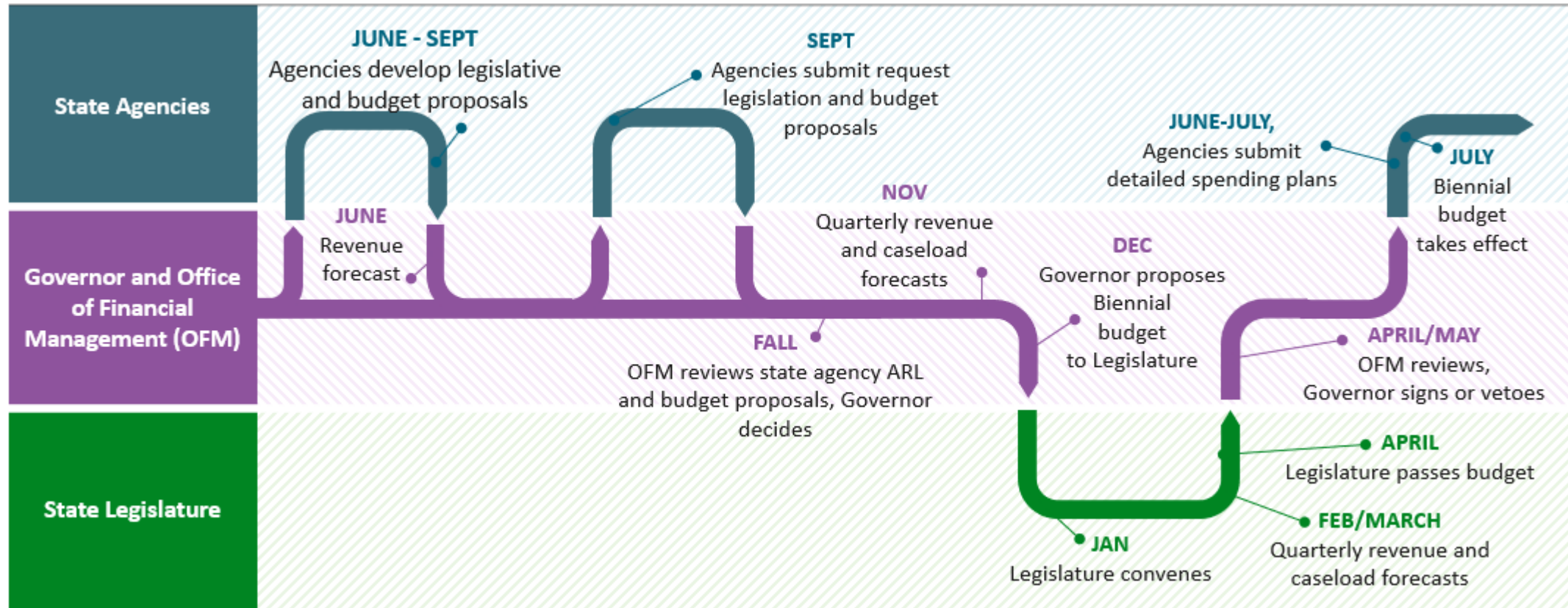
***PLEASE NOTE:***

**This information is up to date as of May 13, 2025**

The Governor has not yet signed the budget.  
Any vetoes affecting the information in this presentation will be posted as a “Version 2” after the budget is signed by Governor Ferguson.



# Preparing for Legislative Session



# Realities

- Year one of biennial session, budget setting session, long session
- New administration; significant lawmaker changes
- State-wide program spending are outpacing revenue growth
- Budget includes a mix of program eliminations and reductions, new spending, and revenue generation



# Prevention and Child Welfare Bills

Bill	Abbreviated Title	Description	Funding Level
SB 5163	<b>Modernizing the child fatality statute</b>	Changes various provisions related to child mortality reviews by the Department of Health impacting DCYF public disclosure workload.	<b>\$199 K</b>
SB 5149	<b>Expanding the early childhood court program</b>	Expands eligibility to participate in the Early Childhood Court program to allow these courts to serve families with children under age six.	<b>\$22 K</b>
SB 1177	<b>Concerning the child welfare housing assistance program</b>	Requires DCYF to write rules for the Child Welfare Housing Program serve eligible families on the waiting list, subject to appropriation.	<b>\$ 500 K</b>
HB 1509	<b>Concerning family reconciliation services</b>	Requires DCYF to offer a contract or contacts to provide community-based Family Reconciliation Services in at least one location, subject to appropriation.	<b>\$ 600 K</b>
SB 5263	<b>Concerning special education funding</b>	Increases the cost multiplier for the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers program.	<b>\$17.408 M</b>



# Prevention and Child Welfare – Underspend Savings

Item	Description
<b>Intensive Foster Care Assessment</b>	<b>-\$300 K</b> reduction by assuming some recent underspend in the Intensive Foster Care Program contracted with Harborview Center for Sexual Assault and Traumatic Stress is ongoing
<b>Sexually Aggressive Youth</b>	<b>-\$170 K</b> reduction by assuming that recent underspend for the Sexually Aggressive Youth program is ongoing
<b>Guardianship Subsidy Underspend</b>	<b>-\$203 K</b> reduction by assuming recent underspend to implement Chapter 221, Laws of 2023 (SB 5124) that expanded guardianship subsidy eligibility continues into FY 2026.
<b>D.S. Referrals and Transitions</b>	<b>-\$2.000 M</b> reduction by assuming recent underspend of funding provided for DCYF to revise referral and transition procedures for youth entering foster care as part of the D.S. vs. DCYF settlement agreement is ongoing
<b>Caregiver Supports Adjustment</b>	<b>-\$24.542 M</b> reduction in funding for placement supports including case management and case aide support.

# Prevention and Child Welfare – Underspend Savings Continued

Item	Description
<b>Child Specific Underspend</b>	<b>-\$4 M</b> reduction by assuming projected underspend in child-specific foster care costs.
<b>Emergent Placement Underspend</b>	<b>-\$3.750 M</b> reduction by assuming projected underspend in Emergent Placement Services (EPS), which is a contracted, short-term placement option for children and youth in foster care when there is no other placement available.
<b>Combined In-Home Services (CIHS)</b>	<b>-\$3.3 M</b> reduction by assuming that recent underspend for combined in-home services (CIHS) is ongoing.
<b>7-Level Foster Care Project Manager</b>	<b>-\$800 K</b> reduction of anticipated underspend for project management to oversee the transition from a four-level to a seven-level foster care rate assessment system.



# Prevention and Child Welfare – Program Eliminations

Item	Description
<b>Intercept Program Elimination</b>	<b>-\$972 K</b> reduction by eliminating funding for the Intercept Program, which prevents or limits out-of-home placement for youth involved in the child welfare system.
<b>Safecare Elimination</b>	<b>-\$200 K</b> reduction by eliminating funding for a Safecare program, an in-home parent training program, in Grays Harbor County that currently has no contracted provider.
<b>Crisis Family Intervention Elimination</b>	<b>-\$238 K</b> reduction by eliminating funding for a short-term counseling service provided to families aimed at reducing conflict.
<b>Foster Care Respite Elimination</b>	<b>-\$128K</b> reduction by eliminating funding for case aides as this is now funded as part of the statewide caregiver support system.
<b>CSEC Receiving Centers Elimination</b>	<b>-\$2.802 M</b> reduction by eliminating funding for two receiving centers for sexually exploited children, we have not been able to procure a contractor within the funding level provided.



# Prevention and Child Welfare – Program Reductions

Item	Description
<b>Home Visiting</b>	<b>-\$3 M</b> savings by assuming underspend in the Home Visiting program, which provides voluntary, family focused services to expectant parents and families with new babies and young children to support the physical, social, and emotional health of the child.
<b>Family Reconciliation Services (FRS)</b>	<b>-\$1.741 M</b> reduction in funding and 7.0 FTE are eliminated for the state-operated FRS program, a voluntary program serving runaway adolescents and youth in conflict with their families.
<b>Pediatric Interim Care Reduction</b>	<b>-\$2.394 M</b> reduction by reducing funding for contracts with the pediatric interim care center.
<b>Mentor Washington Reduction</b>	<b>-\$250 K</b> reduction in the Mentor Washington contract.



# Child Welfare and Prevention – New Investment

Item	Description
<b>Critical Incident Review Staff</b>	<b>\$322 K</b> Funding is provided for an additional staff member to review critical incidents, which occurs when there is a fatality or near-fatality for a family involved in the child welfare system.
<b>Foster Care Workgroup</b>	<b>\$50 K</b> Funding is provided to convene a workgroup for the purpose of examining the rights of foster youth and to provide a report with recommendations regarding these rights by December 1, 2025.
<b>Rising Strong</b>	<b>\$4.702 M</b> in funding is provided to continue a grant to a nonprofit organization in Spokane with expertise in the Rising Strong model that provides family-centered drug treatment and housing programs for families experiencing substance use disorder
<b>Positive Indian Parenting (PIP)</b>	<b>\$889 K</b> in funding for the Positive Indian Parenting Program (PIP), which is an evidence-based program that is used to help Tribal families reunite with their children.
<b>D.S. Compliance</b>	<b>\$18.597 M</b> in funding is provided for additional beds for the Adolescent Transition Living Program, Group Receiving Care, Intensive Group Receiving Care and Emergent Placement. Funding is also provided for 1.0 FTE to support data implementation and one-time funding in FY26 for Exception to Placement costs.
<b>CSEC and Missing Tribal Youth</b>	<b>\$565 K</b> in funding is provided for 2.0 staff to support victims of human trafficking and sexual abuse and for missing tribal youth.



# Early Learning Bills

Bill	Title	Description	Funding Level
HB 1314	<b>Early learning facilities grant and loan program.</b>	Makes changes to the Early Learning Facilities (ELF) program including establishment of an Emergency Fund; clarifies ECEAP conversion qualifies for ELF; makes Tribal Compact Schools eligible for the ELF Public School District program; and changes the match requirements.	<b>\$0</b>
HB 1351	<b>Adjusting age requirements for accessing ECEAP.</b>	Adjustments allow for enrollment of eligible three-year-olds who turn three during the school year after the August 31 deadline. Clarifies this population is not part of the entitlement.	<b>\$0</b>
HB 1648	<b>Modifying child care provider qualifications.</b>	Delays the staff qualification requirement timeline for child care providers, adjusts length of experience-based competency demonstration, creates workgroup for staff qualification and verification process improvement.	<b>\$0</b>
SB 5030	<b>Vital records access.</b>	Waives fees for accessing vital records. Also allows for the acceptance of alternative documents to show a child's age or date of birth for enrollment in ECEAP.	<b>\$63 K</b>
SB 5769	<b>Addressing transition to kindergarten programs.</b>	Beginning in the 2025-26 school year, caps enrollment in TTK programs at the amount specified in the omnibus appropriations act. Directs OSPI in collaboration with DCYF to develop a recommended plan for phasing in program.	<b>\$0</b>
SB 5752	<b>Modifying child care and early childhood development programs.</b>	Makes a number of modifications to early learning programs. Clarifies ECEAP entitlement definition. Requires the department to write rules for compliance with new CCDF requirements. Increases the frequency for the MRS/COQ report to every 2 years. Requires DCYF to conduct a pilot to increase access to school-age-only child care programs.	<b>*Included in budget overview</b>



# Early Learning – WCCC Rates and Compliance

Item	Description
<b>Center-Based Rates</b>	<b>\$126.974M</b> Delays base rate increase to the 85th percentile of the Market Rate Survey (MRS) by one year, until July 1, 2026 for centers.
<b>WCCC – Rate alignment</b>	<b>-\$4.039 M</b> Savings achieved by removing the hold harmless for subset of providers that have current rates that exceed the 85th percentile of MRS starting FY27.
<b>CBA – Family Home Providers</b>	<b>\$381.743 M</b> Full funding provided for Collective Bargaining Agreement
<b>Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Compliance</b>	<b>\$10.754 M</b> Funding provided to implement revised CCDF regulations, including reimbursing child care providers prospectively and based on enrollment, and not pursuing overpayments.



# Early Learning – Eligibility Changes

Item	Description
<b>Eligibility Expansion to 75% SMI</b>	<b>-\$161.740 M</b> Savings achieved by delaying income eligibility expansion up to 75 percent state median income (SMI) until July 1, 2029
<b>Child Care Employees Eligibility</b>	<b>-\$15.214 M</b> Savings achieved by removing child care employees from the expanded eligibility category for WCCC.
<b>Registered Apprenticeships Eligibility</b>	<b>-\$477 k</b> Savings achieved by removing those enrolled in registered apprenticeships from the expanded eligibility category for WCCC.
<b>Student Parents Eligibility</b>	<b>-\$12.292 M</b> Savings are captured to reflect under-utilization of a WCCC exemption that allows the waiver of work requirements for certain student parents.
<b>Family Copayments</b>	<b>-\$9.757 M</b> Savings achieved with the increase of copayment amounts starting October 1, 2026.
<b>12-Month Eligibility Determination</b>	<b>-\$47.899 M</b> Assumed savings by adjusting the 12-month authorization to begin when a family is deemed eligible for care, rather than authorized for care.
<b>ECEAP Entitlement</b>	<b>-\$70.081 M</b> Entitlement is delayed to 2030-31 school year for all children defined as entitled



# Early Learning – ECEAP and ECLIPSE funding

Item	Description
ECEAP – Rates	<b>\$13.903 M</b> 5% rate increase for school-day slots in FY26
ECEAP – Slot Reduction	<b>-\$60.498 M</b> Reduce 3,000 part-day slots beginning FY26
ECEAP – Slot Increase	<b>\$13.903 M</b> Increase 250 school-day slots in FY27
ECEAP Complex Needs Fund	<b>-\$198 K</b> Reduction in funding (projected underspend)
Early Childhood Intervention and Prevention Services - ECLIPSE	<b>-\$528 K</b> Reduction in funding (projected underspend)



# Early Learning – Program reductions and eliminations

Item	Description
<b>Trauma Informed Care Enhancement</b>	<b>-\$4.896 M</b> Reduction to TIC, eliminated for center-based providers and retained for family child care
<b>Dual Language Designation</b>	<b>-\$3.2 M</b> Reduction in funding for dual language rate enhancement (50 percent reduction) for center-based providers and retained for family child care
<b>Early ECEAP</b>	<b>-\$9.254 M</b> Funding for Early ECEAP eliminated, includes program supports
<b>WCCC Seasonal Child Care</b>	<b>-\$3.120 M</b> Savings achieved by removing duplicative funding for the WCCC Seasonal Child Care program



# Early Learning – Other Reductions

Item	Description
Equity Grants	-\$2.624 M Reduction of funding by 50% for equity grants for center-based providers and retained for family child care
Child Care Complex Needs Fund	-\$5 M Reduction in funding by 25% for child care complex needs grants
Early Learning Facilities – Technical Assistance	-\$692 K Reduction in funding for ELF technical assistance by assuming underspend
Facilitated Play and Learn Groups	-\$1.32 M Reduction in Fair Start for Kids (FSKA) funding to program
Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation	-\$4.354 M Reduction in funding for IECMHC
Tribal Mental Health Consultation	-\$320 K Reduction in funding to Tribal IMC program by assuming underspend



# Early Learning – New Investments

Item	Description
<b>Washington Communities for Children (WCFC)</b>	<b>\$2 M</b> added for Washington Communities for children services
<b>Child Care Mental Health Pilot Program</b>	<b>\$300 K</b> Funding provided for DCYF to contract with a licensed child care center located in Spokane with an existing child care mental health pilot program
<b>Early Learning Facilities Fund (Dept of Commerce)</b>	<b>\$51 M</b> provided to fund the early learning facilities (ELF) grant and loan program for designing, construction, purchasing, expanding, or modernizing ELF. Grants may also be awarded for supporting ECEAP slot conversion (new). <b>\$9 M</b> provided for minor renovations <b>\$3 M</b> provided for emergency grants per HB 1314 (new).



# Juvenile Rehabilitation Bills

Bill	Abbreviated Title	Description	Funding Level
SB 5032	<b>Juvenile Rehabilitation Ombuds</b>	Expands the duties of the office of the family and children's ombuds to include juvenile rehabilitation facilities operated by the department of children, youth, and families.	<b>\$421 K</b>
HB 1827	<b>Basic Education/Juvenile Justice</b>	Modifies the duties and timeline related to the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction assuming responsibility for the delivery and administration of basic education to certain justice-involved students.	<b>\$0</b>
HB 1815	<b>Prison Riot Offenses</b>	Excludes facilities operated by DCYF or county juvenile detention facilities from the definition of "correctional institution" for the purposes of the charge of Prison Riot. The bill is retroactive to convictions or adjudications and offenses that have been charged. <i>May impact ADP and funding alignment will be provided in subsequent forecasts.</i>	<b>\$0</b>
HB 1391	<b>Court Alternatives/Youth</b>	Removes successful diversions from a youth's criminal history, prohibits parents and guardians from preventing a juvenile from entering a diversion agreement. Creates new diversion data reporting requirements for the Administrative Office of the Courts. <i>May impact ADP and funding alignment will be provided in subsequent forecasts. No funding for DCYF.</i>	<b>\$0</b>
SB 5128	<b>Juvenile Medicaid Reentry</b>	Specifies requirements to suspend - rather than terminate - the Medicaid status of a person in confinement in an institution operated by DCYF.	<b>\$0</b>



# Juvenile Rehabilitation Investments

Item	Description
<b>Block Grant Investment</b>	<b>\$3 M</b> in increased funding for the Juvenile Court Block Grant administered by DCYF to support diversion and disposition alternatives.
<b>Harbor Heights</b>	<b>\$25 M</b> provided solely for DCYF to open and operate a 48-bed living unit, a modular building, and recreation area at the Stafford Creek corrections center in Aberdeen.
<b>Opioid Use Intervention</b>	<b>\$2.096 M</b> provided for a contract to provide opioid use disorder post-release education and intervention services.
<b>Opioid Use Disorder Medical Staff</b>	<b>\$652 K</b> provided for medical personnel to provide medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) education and treatment
<b>Classification Specialists</b>	<p><b>\$814 K</b> provided for three classification specialists to create and operate a formal classification process to provide more frequent individualized security-level reviews at each full and partial confinement facility.</p> <p>The classification specialists must also review and update the policies for assigning security classification. DCYF shall report on any statutory barriers to incorporating evidence-based best practices into the updated policies.</p>
<b>Behavior Management System Staff</b>	<p><b>\$528 K</b> provided for two specialists to create and implement an infractions policy to respond to incidents of violence, harmful behaviors, and safety issues at each full and partial confinement facility operated by the department.</p> <p>DCYF shall, in consultation with organizations focused on juvenile justice policy and reform, review infraction data every six months to identify disparities and implement any necessary changes to the system. This review shall include an assessment of factors that lead to the most common infractions.</p>
<b>Green Hill Security Staffing</b>	<b>\$3.77 M</b> and 18.6 FTEs are provided for additional safety staffing at Green Hill School
<b>Echo Glen Security</b>	<b>\$3.494 M</b> is provided for additional security equipment, services, and to contract for security staff to enhance security measures at the Echo Glen Children's Center until a fence is constructed around the facility.



# Juvenile Rehabilitation – Proviso Changes

Item	Description
<b>Surveillance Records System</b>	<b>\$3.976 M</b> is included in the state's Information Technology Pool appropriation to update the technology and storage for video records.
<b>Residential Communication Resources</b>	<b>\$1.54 M</b> is provided for a secure communication technology system to provide enhanced communication services that allows access to education, rehabilitation services, and entertainment activities to be used by individuals incarcerated in JR facilities
<b>JR Capacity Needs Assessment Model</b>	<p><b>\$259 K</b> is provided for DCYF to develop a capacity needs assessment model (CNAM) for all secure residential facilities, community residential facilities, and community transition services for which the juvenile rehabilitation is responsible or that are operated, managed, or administered by the juvenile rehabilitation.</p> <p>This capacity needs assessment model shall provide the department with a predictive tool that shows the current number of beds available and the forecasted number of beds that are needed, by security level, over a 10 fiscal-year period, and must specify beds based on crime of conviction and assigned custody level over 10 fiscal years, by gender, age, custody level, and fiscal year.</p>
<b>JR Proposal for Future Growth</b>	<p><b>Within existing resources</b>, DCYF shall develop a proposal for future capacity growth – Evaluating the feasibility of using existing state-owned facilities, including: Mission Creek corrections center for women, Larch corrections center, Ahtanum View reentry center, Peninsula reentry center, Tri-Cities reentry center, and facilities owned by DSHS and DCYF. The proposal must also specifically consider facilities located in eastern WA among the possible options.</p> <p>The department must submit a report by September 15, 2025, that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The planned bed capacity,</li> <li>• An assessment of the impact of expanded use of the Community Transition Services program or Community Facility placement</li> <li>• Fiscal estimates for operational aspects of each option evaluated, (capital improvements, staffing, education, vocational, recreational, and therapeutic services);</li> <li>• An analysis of workforce needs and availability for all locations;</li> <li>• An assessment of the physical capacity of each site for programming to support the goals of juvenile rehabilitation; and</li> <li>• The identification of any statutory barriers to increasing the use of less restrictive settings.</li> </ul>



# Capital Investments

Item	Description
<b>Additional Juvenile Rehabilitation Capacity</b>	<b>\$3 M – Additional Juvenile Rehabilitation Capacity:</b> Acquisition, Predesign, and Design of one or more facilities to be used as medium security juvenile rehabilitation facilities. DCYF shall submit an estimate of anticipated construction costs in the 2026 supplemental budget and a full plan that includes a construction schedule for consideration in the 2027-2029 biennial budget.
<b>6-Year Statewide Facilities Master Plan</b>	<b>\$250 K</b> - This project proposes the Department expand its capital footprint thoughtfully using an evidence-based approach. This project will hire consultants with expertise in Master Planning for Children and Family serving organizations.
<b>Green Hill School HVAC Upgrade</b>	<b>\$4.5 M</b> - Necessary upgrades to the HVAC system to improve air quality and reduce risk of airborne communicable virus.
<b>Green Hill School Visitor Screening and Security Improvements</b>	<b>\$4.5 M</b> - To modify the building and interior spaces in such a way that visitors, including employees, can be properly screened before entering the campus grounds or contacting clients.
<b>Echo Glen HVAC Replacement</b>	<b>\$8.2 M</b> - Necessary replacement to the HVAC system to provide adequate heating and air quality in the recreation building.
<b>Echo Glen Central Family Visiting Center</b>	<b>\$250 K</b> - This project proposes remodeling an existing mothballed building 4 located near central campus into a central location for family and professional visits. This funding is for predesign work.
<b>Echo Glen Secure Facility Improvements</b>	<b>\$800 K</b> – Provided to reconfigure parking near the new single point of entry to campus.



# Program Support – Eliminations and Increases

Item	Description
<b>Team Child Detention Release Proviso</b>	<b>-\$1.4 M</b> reduction in Detention Release funding
<b>LifeSet Program Eliminated</b>	<b>-\$4.64 M</b> LifeSet program is eliminated.
<b>Independent Living Investment</b>	<b>\$1.5 M</b> in funding is provided to maintain the rate increase for providers passed in 2024.
<b>Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS)</b>	<b>\$63.786 M</b> is provided for the next phase of the CCWIS IT project
<b>Social Security Benefits</b>	<b>\$113 K</b> in funding is provided for the department to adopt rules to establish procedures for children and caregivers to request and receive disbursement of social security and other public benefits. (One-time.)



# Other Agency Budgets

Item	Description
<b>Insurance Commissioner Study</b> <i>(OIC)</i>	<b>\$350 K</b> to study the feasibility of using a joint underwriting association to provide insurance coverage for child care centers, group foster homes, family child care homes, child and youth serving organizations, and child placement services.



# DCYF Staffing Impacts

## Increases for all state employees:

- Effective July 1, 2025, all ranges and steps of the General Service Salary Schedule will be increased by 3%
- Effective July 1, 2026, all ranges and steps of the General Service Salary Schedule will be increased by 2%

## Increases for some state employees:

- **Classification Range Increases Impacted by Minimum Wage Increases**
  - Administrative Intern, Custodian 1, Laundry Worker 1, Office Assistant (1 & 2), Procurement & Supply Specialist 1, and Stockroom Attendant 1
- **Classification Range Increases Impacted by Compression & Inversion:**
  - Administrative Assistants (1,2,3,4,& 5), Administrative Intern 3, Cook (1 & 2), Customer Service Specialists 3, Fiscal Analysts (1,2,3,& 4), Food Service Worker, Office Assistant 3, Office Manager, Program Coordinator
- **Group C Assignment Pay (location and classification specific to address recruitment and retention issues):**
  - Dental Assistant 1 – Echo Glen and Dental Hygienist 2 – Echo Glen
- **Targeted Class Increases (range increases impacting specific classifications):**
  - Electrician, JR Counselor (1, 2, & 3), JR Officer (1, 2, 3, & 4), JR Program Manager, JR Specialist, Maintenance Mechanic (1, 2, 3, & 4), Registered Nurse (2 & 3), Social Service Specialist (1, 2, 3, 4, & 5), Social Service Support Specialist, Wastewater TP Operator 2

## Administrative Efficiencies – Agency Staffing Reductions:

- Reductions in Conference Budget by budget codes (CW – 23 FTEs, EL - \$6M admin efficiencies, and PS – 14 FTEs )



# THANK YOU!

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**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**