



Agency Recommendation Summary

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) requests \$264,752,000 (\$264,649,000 General Fund State (GF-S)) and 20.5 Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) in the 2023-2025 Biennial Budget to prepare for ECEAP Entitlement as required by Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5237 passed in the 2021 Legislative Session, by increasing rates to cover the actual service costs and funding for slots that more effectively serve the needs of families.

Program Recommendation Summary

030 - Early Learning

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090 - Program Support

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) requests \$264,752,000 (\$264,649,000 General Fund State (GF-S)) and 20.5 Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) in the 2023-2025 Biennial Budget to prepare for ECEAP Entitlement as required by Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5237 passed in the 2021 Legislative Session, by increasing rates to cover the actual service costs and funding for slots that more effectively serve the needs of families.

Fiscal Summary

Fiscal Summary <i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Fiscal Years		Biennial	Fiscal Years		Biennial
	2024	2025	2023-25	2026	2027	2025-27
Staffing						
FTEs	17.0	24.0	20.5	31.0	38.0	34.5
Operating Expenditures						
Fund 001 - 1	\$95,437	\$168,522	\$263,959	\$239,550	\$311,526	\$551,076
Fund 001 - 1	\$285	\$405	\$690	\$525	\$644	\$1,169
Fund 001 - A	\$43	\$60	\$103	\$78	\$96	\$174
Total Expenditures	\$95,765	\$168,987	\$264,752	\$240,153	\$312,266	\$552,419
Revenue						
001 - 0393	\$43	\$60	\$103	\$78	\$96	\$174
Total Revenue	\$43	\$60	\$103	\$78	\$96	\$174

Decision Package Description

The Fair Start for Kids Act (FSKA) (SB 5237) made significant investments to move ECEAP in a positive direction towards entitlement. There remains further opportunity and need for increased investments to continue building a flexible, responsive, and robust system that better supports ECEAP and other early learning providers as they prepare to help us meet entitlement. The proposals outlined below will position DCYF to respond to these challenges. Increasing ECEAP capacity is a highly complex process that requires providers across communities to build facilities, develop a qualified workforce, and foster supportive community partnerships. Increased funding for the areas outlined below would position DCYF to meet entitlement as well as ensure the field has the resources needed to support ECEAP children and families. This proposal addresses immediate needs for enabling the next phase of ECEAP expansion towards entitlement, which involves the core elements listed below:

Sustainable Rates

To achieve both the expansion and conversion goals needed to reach entitlement, DCYF is requesting a sustainable slot rate for School Day (SD) and Working Day (WD), so that the agency can meet entitlement by the legislatively-mandated date of the 2026-27 school year. The National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) estimated the average cost of spending per child across all programming in Washington for Head Start is (\$15,284), Transitional Kindergarten is (\$14,660), and ECEAP is (\$9,662). Additionally, DCYF has observed that as Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) rates have increased (an absolute necessity for that system) ECEAP rates have not had commensurate increases, despite the higher requirements and standards for these providers. In fact, when ECEAP and WCCC rates are compared with each other on a per hour level, almost all ECEAP models would pay less in regions 3 and 4. If ECEAP does not receive a rate that supports contractors sustainably, we may fail to get enough contractors willing to provide full day ECEAP, jeopardizing entitlement.

To move ECEAP SD and WD slots to a more sustainable rate that reflects the requirements and resources needed to implement comprehensive services, ECEAP modeled a 20% increase on the current FY 23 rates. This takes into account inflation for the out years as modeled in the FY 23 Conference Budget. This 20% increase for SD and WD slot rates allows ECEAP to be more in alignment with Transitional Kindergarten (NIEER quality rating of 6) and WCCC rates. Both of these funding sources have less requirements than ECEAP which rated 9 out of 10 quality points by NIEER in their annual State Yearbook rated ECEAP.

This 20% increase is a placeholder as DCYF waits for Phase 2 of the ECEAP Cost Study.

Expansion and Conversion

Slot Expansion: In FY 23, ECEAP has the capacity to serve 16,278 children. To meet entitlement ECEAP will need to add 12,482 slots by 2026-27 to serve all estimated 28,760 entitled children. In four years, ECEAP will need to also be able to serve the additional eligible population as outlined in FSKA. To meet demand for slots and the entitlement requirement DCYF is requesting 3,000 slots per year of the upcoming biennium for a total of 6,000 slots. This would result in 450 WD slots per year, and 2,550 SD slots per year. If this amount is received, ECEAP will need an additional 8,891 slots to reach entitlement in the out biennium.

Conversion of Slots: To achieve the agency goal to ensure increased dosage, which has better outcomes for children and is more feasible for working parents, DCYF is requesting conversion of Part Day to School Day slots. 56% of ECEAP slots are currently Part Day, which amounts to about 8,850 slots. School Day slots make up 38% of current ECEAP slots, with Working Day representing 6% of current slots. In order to meet the goal of converting all Part Day slots by 2026-27, funding for converting slots is needed at a rapid pace, paired with additional funding to make the slot rate for school day fiscally feasible for ECEAP Contractors. For FY 24 and 25 DCYF is requesting to convert 2,500 Part Day slots each year for a total of 5,000 converted School Day slots.

ECEAP Entitlement Infrastructure (EEI) Funding

DCYF is requesting funding to support the following areas of entitlement: Readiness Pathways, Quality Supports, and DCYF’s ECEAP Support Rate. This funding will provide the necessary infrastructure to ensure we successfully reach entitlement. Together, this funding will help cover vital pieces of ECEAP services, such as:

- The growing cost of assessment and curriculum, which is vital to high quality services and outcomes
 - Support, training, and technical assistance for potential ECEAP providers and contractors that the system will need in order to lift up the thousands of slots needed for entitlement
 - Staff to support the varying, complex, and increasing needs of the ECEAP contractor field, without which ECEAP’s high quality will suffer.
- Based on a per slot calculation, the total amount requested is as follows with an amount assessed at a per slot basis.

ECEAP Entitlement Infrastructure Funding			
	Total Amount	Slots	Cost Per Slot
FY 24	\$ 11,104,128.00	19,278	\$576
FY 25	\$ 13,121,742.00	22,278	\$589
FY 26	\$ 15,192,078.00	25,278	\$601
FY 27	\$ 17,687,400.00	28,760	\$615

This funding includes:

Readiness Pathways – To ensure adequate preparation, readiness, and capacity to provide high quality ECEAP services, DCYF will require resources to deploy Readiness Pathway technical assistance efforts to the various ECEAP provider types. This will provide prospective ECEAP providers an equitable opportunity to establish a trained workforce, administrative systems, and other standards and regulations for program implementation. Technical assistance topics will include hiring and training workforce, contractor readiness supports for current contractors uncertain about subcontracting, readiness supports to providers interested in providing ECEAP, curriculum and assessment support related to meeting ECEAP substantial related requirements, Performance Standards, comprehensive services, fiscal and administrative supports, and other critical topics, particularly for tribal, rural/remote, family child care homes, developmental pre-k, and child care center providers. With the ending of private grants in 2020, and the anticipated end of the federal Preschool Development Grant in 2023, staffing positions that have been funded by external sources for years will no longer be available. We need additional flexibility to fund these vital positions. We also need to create more capacity to support growing more providers in becoming contractors. As the provider and contractor base grows, DCYF staff capacity to support the rapidly growing field needs to grow as well.

Quality Supports – To ensure continued quality and child outcomes, DCYF is also requesting an increase to the quality rate. In the last legislative session, the Quality Supports rate was funded for Teaching Strategies Child assessment licenses, TSG child portfolios, curriculum, and Mobility Mentoring; all of which is critical to measuring and improving ECEAP child and family outcomes. Since that time, Teaching Strategies, the vendor DCYF works with (and which is also used for WaKIDS), restructured their pricing and almost doubled the amount it will cost to support the field. Without the increase, ECEAP will not be able to cover the cost of these services to the field. This would also significantly impact what DCYF is able to report to the Legislature around child outcomes and training participation.

DCYF ECEAP Support Rate – To ensure adequate infrastructure to implement ongoing entitlement needs, the agency is requesting adjustments to the DCYF ECEAP Support Rate (formerly known as the administrative rate) This funding is necessary to support key elements needed to implement entitlement, such as Continuous Quality Improvement Efforts, contractor relations, critical data and reporting elements, and more. The program level funds provide critical quality training and technical assistance activities to the field such as:

- Contractor relations
- Continuous quality improvement activities
- Critical data and reporting elements in the Early Learning Management System (ELMS),
- ECEAP Kindergarten transitions
- Tribal Pathways
- Inclusion efforts and coordination
- Request for Application (RFA) and Entitlement processes
- Curriculum and assessment implementation
- Coaching support for the field
- ECEAP contract coordination and oversight
- Facilities collaboration with the Department of Commerce

The current rate supports the ECEAP budget in the following percentages:

ECEAP Program Support Break Down		
61%	\$ 176.00	Salaries
21%	\$ 62.00	benefits
1%	\$ 4.00	Good and Services
2%	\$ 5.00	Travel
3%	\$ 8.00	Capital Outlays
15%	\$ 44.00	Interagency Reimbursements

Since 2008, the ECEAP program added over 7,000 new slots while being funded at \$247 per slot. This means that all staffing and program expenses have not received the inflationary adjustments necessary to keep up with the demands of the field. Based on a recent Gates Foundation systems-level analysis conducted by RAND, that compared 6 state pre-k programs across the nation, the ECEAP Support Rate per child should be \$420. In this decision package, ECEAP is asking for an increase in the ECEAP Support Rate (titled Admin. rate in budget back up documentation from the Legislature) per slot to support program level operating activities with annual inflation adjustments. This will ensure that DCYF ECEAP has the flexibility to build essential infrastructure and respond to contractors as the program moves towards entitlement.

ECEAP Complex Needs Funding

DCYF was appropriated \$4,755,000 for Complex Needs grants to ECEAP providers in the 2021-23 biennial budget. The agency received over \$8M in grant applications for FY 23 which would serve approximately 8,300 children. This is proving to be a much-needed funding resource for the field. Approximately 51% of ECEAP eligible children qualify for Complex Needs services. In order to meet the statewide need, DCYF requests additional funding to support Complex Needs for ECEAP providers.

Scholarships

To ensure there is an adequate and qualified workforce, DCYF requests funding for scholarships to ensure resources are infused in a system in crisis following the COVID-19 pandemic. This will help ensure that needed staff will be ready to provide ECEAP services by the entitlement deadline. This support is necessary to address workforce needs and create a pathway for educators to enter the field.

Assumptions and Calculations

Expansion, Reduction, Elimination or Alteration of a current program or service:

DCYF request \$ 263,494,000 GF-S in the 2023-2025 Biennial Budget to expand ECEAP services.

Sustainable Rate

- DCYF assumes the cost to implement a sustainable rate for school day and working day slots is \$32,628,000 GF-S in FY24 and \$51,389,000 GF-S in FY25.
- Current ECEAP rates do not support the requirements and resources needed to implement comprehensive services. While DCYF waits for Phase 2 of the ECEAP Cost Study, a placeholder request is submitted with an assumption of a 20% rate increase in FY24 and an additional 1.8% inflationary increase in FY25.
- The anticipated number of School Day and Working Day slots is based on currently funded slots, proposed conversion slots, and proposed expansion slots.
 - 10,816 School Day slots in FY24 (5,766 current school day slots + 2,500 converted slots + 2,550 new slots) and 15,866 School Day slots in FY25 (5,766 current school day slots + 5,000 converted slots + 5,100 new slots)
 - 1,352 Working Day slots in FY24 (902 current working day slots + 450 new working day slots) and 1,802 Working Day slots in FY25 (902 current working day slots + 900 new working day slots)
- DCYF assumes the FY 24 School Day rate would be \$15,145 (\$12,621 current School Day rate + 20% rate increase) and the FY25 School Day rate would be \$15,372 (\$12,621 current School Day rate + 21.8% rate increase).
- DCYF assumes the FY24 Working Day rate would be \$23,646 (\$19,705 current Working Day rate + 20% rate increase) and the FY25 Working Day rate would be \$24,001 (\$19,705 current Working Day rate + 21.8% rate increase).
- The total anticipated cost in FY24 to move School Day slots to a sustainable rate would be \$27,230,000 (10,816 school day slots x (\$15,145 sustainable school day rate - \$12,621 current school day rate).
- The total anticipated cost in FY25 to move School Day slots to a sustainable rate would be \$43,647,000 (15,866 school day slots x (\$15,372 sustainable school day rate - \$12,621 current school day rate).
- The total anticipated cost in FY24 to move Working Day slots to a sustainable rate would be \$5,328,000 (1,352 working day slots x (\$23,646 sustainable working day rate - \$19,705 current working day rate).
- The total anticipated cost in FY25 to move Working Day slots to a sustainable rate would be \$7,741,000 (1,802 working day slots x (\$24,001 sustainable working day rate - \$19,705 current working day rate).

Expansion

- DCYF assumes the cost to expand the ECEAP program will be \$41,051,000 (\$41,046,000 GF-S) in FY24 and \$82,102,000 (\$82,076,000 GF-S) in FY25.
- DCYF assumes 85% of slots are School Day Slots and 15% of slots are Working Day slots.
- DCYF assumes 28,760 slots are needed to meet entitlement. This means the ECEAP program will need to add 12,482 slots over the next four years.
- DCYF will add 3000 slots per Fiscal Year, of which 2,550 will be School Day and 450 will be Working Day.
- DCYF assumes the slot rate is \$12,621 for School Day slots and \$19,705 for Working Day Slots.
- DCYF assumes an ECEAP administrative rate of \$247 per slot; this rate supports the addition of FTEs to provide quality training and technical assistance to ECEAP providers. The annual anticipated administrative cost of expanding in FY24 will be \$741,000 (3000 slots x \$247) and in FY25 will be \$1,482,000 (6000 slots x \$247).

- The annual anticipated cost of expanding school day slots in FY24 will be \$32,184,000 (3000 slots x 85% x \$12,621 school day slot rate) and in FY25 will be \$64,367,000 (6000 slots x 85% x \$12,621 school day slot rate).
- The annual anticipated cost of expanding working day slots in FY24 will be \$8,867,000 (3000 slots x 15% x \$19,705 working day slot rate) and in FY 25 will be \$17,735,000 (6000 slots x 15% x \$19,705 working day slot rate).

Conversion

- DCYF assumes the cost to convert part day slots to school day slots will be \$8,200,000 GF-S in FY24 and \$16,400,000 GF-S in FY25.
- DCYF assumes that 2500 slots will be converted from part day to school day per fiscal year.
- Reducing the number of part day slots will result in a savings of \$23,353,000 (2,500 slots x \$9,341 part-day slot rate) in FY24 and \$46,705,000 (5,000 slots x \$9,341 part-day slot rate) in FY25.
- DCYF assumes the conversion of 2500 school day slots per fiscal year will cost \$31,553,000 (2,500 slots x \$12,621 school day slot rate) in FY24 and \$63,105,000 (5,000 slots x \$12,621 school day slot rate) in FY25.
- The annual anticipated cost to convert part day slots to school day slots is \$8,200,000 (\$31,553,000 school day slot cost - \$23,353,000 part-day slot savings) in FY24 and \$16,400,000 (\$63,105,000 school day slot cost - \$46,705,000 part-day slot savings). ?

Entitlement Infrastructure Rate

- DCYF assumes the total anticipated cost of the entitlement infrastructure rate is \$5,507,000 (\$5,489,000 GF-S) in FY24 and \$6,789,000 (\$6,760,000 GF-S) in FY25.
- DCYF requests to increase the entitlement infrastructure rate to \$576 per slot in FY24 and \$589 per slot in FY25. This rate includes the following sub-categories:
 - DCYF assumes \$156 of this rate will support Readiness Pathways:
 - The total anticipated annual cost of Readiness Pathways is \$3,007,000 ((16,278 current slots + 3,000 new slots) x \$156) in FY24 and \$3,475,000 ((16,278 current slots + 6,000 new slots) x \$156) in FY25.
 - DCYF assumes \$120 of this rate will support Quality Supports activities.
 - The total anticipated annual cost of Quality Supports is \$1,454,000 ((16,278 current slots + 3,000 new slots) x \$120) in FY24 and \$1,814,000 ((16,278 current slots + 6,000 new slots) x \$120) in FY25.
 - DCYF assumes \$300 in FY24 and \$313 in FY25 will support ECEAP Support functions.
 - The total anticipated annual cost for ECEAP Support functions will be \$1,046,000 ((16,278 current slots + 3,000 new slots) x (\$300 new ECEAP Support Rate - \$247 current administrative rate)) in FY24 and \$1,500,000 ((16,278 current slots + 6,000 new slots) x (\$313 new ECEAP Support rate - \$247 current administrative rate)).

Complex Needs

- DCYF assumes the cost of ECEAP Complex Needs will be \$4,806,000 GF-S in FY24 and \$6,278,000 GF-S in FY25.?
- In FY22, there was \$8,000,000 in requests for Complex Needs, but only \$4,755,000 in available funding.
- 51% of current ECEAP participants qualify for Complex Needs services. This is 8,315 children based on currently funded slots, and an additional 1,530 children per 3,000 new slots.
- The assumed Complex Needs rate is \$962 per slot (\$8,000,000 divided by 8,315 children).
- The total anticipated annual cost for ECEAP Complex Needs in FY24 is \$4,806,000 (((16,278 current slots + 3,000 new slots) x 51% x \$962) - \$4,652,000 existing Complex Needs ECEAP funding).
- The total anticipated annual cost for ECEAP Complex Needs in FY25 is \$6,278,000 (((16,278 current slots + 6,000 new slots) x 51% x \$962) - \$4,652,000 existing Complex Needs ECEAP funding).

Scholarships

- DCYF assumes the cost of Scholarships will be \$2,185,000 GF-S in FY24 and \$3,936,000 GF-S in FY25.
- DCYF assumes the number of ECEAP children will increase by 3,000 annually with expansion. This will increase the number of ECEAP educators.
 - ECEAP Leads – 150 ((3,000 children divided by 20 children per classroom) x 1 lead per classroom) annually.
 - ECEAP Assistant – 150 ((3,000 children divided by 20 children per classroom) x 1 assistant per classroom) annually.
 - ECEAP Aid – 150 ((3,000 children divided by 20 children per classroom) x 1 aide per classroom) annually.
 - ECEAP Family Support – 100 ((3,000 children divided by 30 children) x 1 family support per 30 children) annually.
- DCYF assumes a 40% turnover of staff; this means the number of staff that require training will increase by the number of new staff needed each year, as well as an additional 40%.
 - ECEAP Leads that need education or training – 210 (150 + 40% turnover) annually
 - ECEAP Assistants that need education or training – 210 (150 + 40% turnover) annually
 - ECEAP Aids that need education or training – 210 (150 + 40% turnover) annually
 - ECEAP Family Supports that need education or training – 154 (100 + 40% turnover) annually
- Scholarship funding needs are divided into four categories:
 - Scholarships for Associate Degrees and Certificates
 - DCYF assumes that ECEAP Leads and ECEAP Family Supports will require Associate Degrees. The anticipated cost of an Associate Degree is \$5,880 per year.
 - DCYF assumes that ECEAP Assistants and ECEAP Aids will require certificates. The anticipated cost of certificates is \$2,160.
 - DCYF assumes 5% inflation annually.

- DCYF assumes that it will take 3 years for Leads and Family Supports to complete an Associate Degree.
- DCYF assumes that a certificate program can be completed in one year.
- DCYF assumes that 50% of educators will need scholarships for education.
- The total anticipated annual cost for scholarships for associate degrees is \$1,070,000 ((210 Leads + 154 Family Supports) x 50% x \$5,880) in FY24 and \$2,247,000 ((420 Leads + 308 Family Supports) x 50% x \$6,174).
- The total anticipated annual cost for scholarships for certificate programs is \$454,000 (210 Assistants + 210 Aids) x 50% x \$2,160) in FY 24 and \$476,000 (210 Assistants + 210 Aids) x 50% x \$2,160) in FY25.
- Initial Child Care Basics (CCB) Training
 - DCYF assumes 25% of educators will take part in CCB training through DCYF partners.
 - The cost of CCB Training is \$900 per participant in year one, with 5% inflation in out years.
 - The annual anticipated cost for CCB Training in FY24 is \$176,000 (784 educators x 25% x \$900) and \$194,000 (784 educators x 25% x \$992).
- In-Service Training
 - DCYF assumes all new educators will require 15 hours of In-Service training annually.
 - The cost for in-service training is \$518 (15 hours x \$30/participant hour + 15% admin fee) in year one, with 5% inflation in out years.
 - The total anticipated annual cost for In-Service Training is \$406,000 (784 educators x \$518) in FY24 and \$853,000 (1,568 educators x \$544).
- Education Awards
 - Education awards are provided to educators who show proof of obtaining education credits.
 - DCYF assumes an average award amount of \$100.
 - DCYF assumes 100% of new educators will receive an education award.
 - The total anticipated annual cost of education awards is \$78,000 (784 educators x \$100) in FY24 and \$167,000 (1,568 educators x \$105).

Detailed Assumptions and Calculations:

Additional details provided in backup files and calculations.

Workforce Assumptions:

DCYF requests \$5,980,000 (\$5,877,000 GF-S) and 20.5 Full Time Equivalents (FTE) in the 2023-2025 Biennial Budget.

Readiness Pathways - Early Achievers

- DCYF assumes 1.0 ongoing Program Specialist 4 beginning in FY24 – \$102,000 annually

Scholarships

- DCYF assumes 3.0 ongoing Management Analyst 3s beginning in FY24 – \$294,000 annually

Licensing

- DCYF assumes 1.0 ongoing Social and Health Programing Specialist 2 beginning in FY24 - \$102,000 annually

ECEAP Expansion

- DCYF assumes 1 FTE per 450 slots
- Funding for all ECEAP Expansion FTEs is provided in the \$247 per slot admin rate
- DCYF assumes 5.0 Commerce Specialist 3s in FY24 - \$533,000
- DCYF assumes 10.0 Commerce Specialist 3s in FY25 - \$1,067,000

ECEAP Entitlement Infrastructure Rate Increase

- Funding for ECEAP FTEs is provided in the ECEAP per slot ECEAP Support rate, which would be \$300 in FY24 and \$313 in FY25
- DCYF assumes 1 FTE per 450 slots
- DCYF assumes 7.0 Commerce Specialist 3s in FY24 - \$747,000
- DCYF assumes 9.0 Commerce Specialist 3s in FY25 - \$960,000

Strategic and Performance Outcomes

Strategic Framework:

This package supports the Governor's Results Washington goal area and statewide priority: World Class Education. ECEAP is noted as one of the key factors that increases kindergarten readiness and that closes the opportunity gap across all demographic groups. By converting PD slots to School Day slots, children and families will have access to more high-quality comprehensive programming that supports positive outcomes for Kindergarten readiness.

ECEAP helps improve several areas of the agency's performance goals, including:

- Education: Kindergarten Readiness through high quality classrooms and education services
- Resilience: all of the following goal areas in Resilience are affected through high-quality ECEAP family engagement and partnership services, including ECEAP Mobility Mentoring® services and all other family engagement services provided by teachers, family support staff, and other ECEAP staff:
 - Children and Youth are Supported by Healthy Relationships With Adults
 - Parents and Caregivers are Supported to Meet the Needs of Children and Youth
 - Families are Economically Secure
- Health: Child and Youth Development through ECEAP's high-quality health coordination services, which ensure children are up to date on critical health services such as well child exams, screenings, immunizations; and education services, which screen, refer, and track developmental growth of children throughout their time in ECEAP.

Performance Outcomes:

This would result in ECEAP contractors having the resources needed to plan for and be better prepared to meet the needs of entitlement on time so that more eligible children in Washington will be served in state pre-k programming.

Equity Impacts

Community outreach and engagement:

Robust stakeholder engagement, ELAC, ELAA, SEIU 925, providers, EL advocates, parent groups.

This decision package request impacts equity in the state of Washington in multiple ways.

It will support the expansion of ECEAP towards meeting entitlement. All funding supports communities across the state in serving families furthest from opportunity in high-quality preschool services. These services occur in communities with the most demonstrated need, including highest percentage of unserved children, rural, remote, and isolated communities, and communities serving children and families furthest from opportunity who need services prior to kindergarten to get ready.

- 81% of enrolled ECEAP families live at 110% of the FPL or lower
- 87% of ECEAP children would be eligible for free lunch while 94% would be eligible for free and reduced lunch
- 66% of children enrolled in 2019-20 were children of color
- ECEAP serves higher percentages of children of color in ECEAP than in the state population

Increasing funding levels for ECEAP services will create greater equity between other federal and state funded programming for pre-k aged children (such as Transitional Kindergarten) that exists in Washington State. Funding to convert Part Day to School Day is also needed for communities across the state. Overwhelmingly, these requests come from parent and family demand in the community for more dosage for their children's preschool experience. If they cannot have additional dosage in their community in ECEAP, families often opt to find other care for their children. ECEAP eligible children should be able to be served in ECEAP in the model that parents need and want for their children, and what research studies have shown for many years, is the best dosage for preschool outcomes for most children and families.

Disproportional Impact Considerations:

ECEAP families are furthest from educational opportunity in the state. Two-thirds of children served are from families of color.

Target Populations or Communities:

ECEAP providers and families.

Other Collateral Connections

Puget Sound Recovery:

Not applicable

State Workforce Impacts:

Not applicable

Intergovernmental:

Based on feedback/partnerships with tribal early learning staff who participate in the Tribal ECEAP Pathway workgroup and our existing partnerships with city and county government contractors, we anticipate support of this proposal.

Stakeholder Response:

Stakeholders have been supportive of this proposal. Based on stakeholder feedback DCYF added in the scholarships and complex needs elements. DCYF has shared these ideas with the Early Learning Advisory Committee, Provider Supports, Early Learning Action Alliance, the Early Care and Education Consortium, representatives of school-age providers and School's Out Washington, OneAmerica, ECEAP directors, Parent Ambassadors, Indian Policy Early Learning Committee, SEIU 925, CCA of WA, and Washington Association of ECEAP and Head Start.

State Facilities Impacts:

Not applicable

Changes from Current Law:

Not applicable

Legal or Administrative Mandates:

Not applicable

IT Addendum

Does this Decision Package include funding for any IT-related costs, including hardware, software, (including cloud-based services), contracts or IT staff?

No

Objects of Expenditure

Objects of Expenditure <i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Fiscal Years		Biennial	Fiscal Years		Biennial
	2024	2025	2023-25	2026	2027	2025-27
Obj. A	\$1,312	\$1,864	\$3,176	\$2,416	\$2,968	\$5,384
Obj. B	\$466	\$661	\$1,127	\$856	\$1,050	\$1,906
Obj. E	\$165	\$495	\$660	\$842	\$1,482	\$2,324
Obj. G	\$41	\$58	\$99	\$74	\$91	\$165
Obj. J	\$122	\$50	\$172	\$50	\$50	\$100
Obj. N	\$93,331	\$165,394	\$258,725	\$235,312	\$305,885	\$541,197
Obj. T	\$328	\$465	\$793	\$603	\$740	\$1,343

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