

Provider Access to a Community Equivalent

Pilot Feedback

The former Community-Based Training program is now known as “[Provider Access to a Community Equivalent](#)” or “PACE.” PACE is one option for early learning providers to meet the licensing staff qualifications for an initial or short certificate. This option is part of the objectives outlined in [House Bill 2556](#). For more information, visit the [Project Executive Summary \(English/Spanish\)](#).

Pilot Implementation

DCYF, along with Child Care Aware of Washington, the Imagine Institute, and Voices of Tomorrow, conducted a shortened pilot in May and June 2021. Events were hosted in June 2021 to learn more about the experience of the approximately 70 pilot participants. Feedback from these events will influence the development, revisions, and delivery of the PACE equivalent.

- Five feedback sessions with early learning providers via Zoom (June 2021):
 - Feedback sessions were held in English, Spanish, and Somali.
 - Approximately 4 English, 15 Spanish, and 12 Somali participants joined the live feedback sessions.
- Feedback session for trainers who provided the pilot via Zoom (June 2021):
 - 4 Spanish, 2 English, and 1 Somali trainers joined the live feedback session.
 - Administrative support attended feedback session to provide feedback on coordinating the pilot.
- Participants and trainers completed a survey to provide additional feedback.

PACE Feedback

Feedback is organized by themes identified by all meeting sessions:

- Delivery Strategies
- Training Content
- Needs for Implementation
- Demonstrating Learning
- Additional Training Supports

Delivery Strategies

- Training content and methods of instruction honors various learning styles and cultures.
- Training activities are relevant and can be implemented in the work right away.
- Training provides brainstorming sessions with colleagues.
- Blends adult learning with on-the-job observations and application.

“It was a very enriching experience, I learned about agencies that are involved in supporting early childhood education. But above all, I learned that I must observe, try new strategies, reflect on teaching practices, and improve where necessary.” – Spanish participant



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Training Content

- Can be applied to the diversity of families served.
- Includes helpful videos that enhance learning.
- Expands on existing knowledge.
- Training is interesting and professional.
- Topics are connected to the early learning environments.
- More visuals are needed.
- Some participants spent additional time learning about these topics on their own time.

Needs for Implementation

- Training assignments may need further explanation.
- Some providers may need more time to complete PACE.
- On-the-job learning needs to feel connected to the work so it doesn't feel like it's extra work.

“The handouts were helpful as I was able to follow since sometimes the internet was not strong and would miss content. I was still able to follow since I had the handouts.” – English participant

Demonstrating Learning

- The job-embedded learning activities support the content learned.
- Activities can be incorporated into early learning program right away.
- Stronger guidance is needed on how to include the job-embedded pieces.
- Application of learning makes the learning more meaningful.
- Activities reinforces the learning.

“For me, this training was very successful. There are many tools to work with children, with special needs, all ages. And this training, if DCYF implemented it, would be a very useful training for all providers and all the people who work with children. This is a very efficient training; it would be a success if they implement it.” – Spanish participant

Additional Training Supports

- Training handouts were helpful to have.
- Trainers would like to see more training content and facilitation tips in the training manual.
- Identify what pages of the participant workbook is connected to specific PPT slides.
- Additional Q&A or working sessions should be offered for those who want/need the support.

“The program is a great opportunity, I loved the idea of getting my studies through this method, it would only improve to add more to the learning material, but this method is a great opportunity for all of us who are dedicated to child care.” – Spanish participant

Next Steps

The feedback collected from all community outreach opportunities will be reviewed with the consulting workgroup. These suggestions will be considered in the continued development of the PACE equivalent.

More Information

Visit the [DCYF PACE webpage](#) for the most current information. To provide additional feedback or for more information, contact Diana Stokes at diana.stokes@dcyf.wa.gov.