DCYF ECEAP 2026-27 Priority Points

INCOME	DCYF Points
0-13% State Median Income (SMI)	300
14-36% SMI	250
37-50% SMI	100
51-85% SMI	50
86-100% SMI	30
INDIAN CHILD INCOME (Indian Child is defined in WAC 110-425-0030)	
0-13% SMI	300
14-100% SMI	250

*Above 100% SMI does not receive income prioritization points

CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM OR EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS	DCYF Points
Foster care	100
Kinship care (with a relative or suitable other, with or without grant)	100
Adopted after foster care, kinship care, or after living in an orphanage in another country	100
Reunited with parents after foster or kinship care in past 12 months	50
Family actively involved in and/or receiving support from tribal or state systems including Child Protective Services (CPS), Family Assessment Response (FAR), Indian Child Welfare (ICW), comparable tribal services, or law enforcement/court system regarding child abuse, neglect, or sexual assault	100
Previously involved in and/or received support from tribal or state systems including CPS/FAR/ICW, comparable tribal services, or law enforcement/court system regarding child abuse, neglect, or sexual assault	50
Homeless currently per McKinney-Vento Act	100
Homeless in past 12 months	50

RESEARCH-BASED PRIORITIZATION FACTOR	DCYF Points
Developmental delay or disability with Individualized Education Program (IEP) or was determined eligible for special education services through school district or tribal school evaluation	15
Developmental delay or disability – diagnosed with no IEP, or developmental screening clearly recommending referral for evaluation	10
Child has a family member who attended an Indian Boarding School	15
Limited English language	15
Parent requires an interpreter	15
Migrant or Seasonal Worker (Max 15 points):	
Migrant or seasonal agricultural worker (*parent income is from agricultural work)*	15
Parent and child moved to engage in traditional cultural practices or employment (*seasonal or temporary in agricultural or fishing work*)	15
Expelled from early learning program due to behavior	15
Born premature (<37 weeks) or with low birth weight (<5.5 lbs.)	10
Teen parent – below age 18 at this child's birth	10
Parent education level – 6th grade or less	15
Parent education level – 7th to 12th grade, no diploma or GED	10
Child has experienced a parent incarcerated in jail or prison	15
Loss of parent or primary caregiver such as by death or abandonment	15
Child has lived in a household with domestic violence, *including in-utero*	15
Child has lived in a household with substance abuse, *including in-utero*	15
Child has chronic physical or mental health condition (choose one):	
Parent reports severe impact on child development or attendance, *includes 504 plan, ESIT list*	15
Parent reports moderate impact on child development or attendance	10
Household family member has chronic physical or mental health condition with (choose one):	
Parent reports severe impact on ability to engage in work, school, or family life	15
Parent reports moderate impact on ability to engage in work, school, or family life	10
Military parent deployed currently or within past 12 months, or for a total of 19 or more months within the child's lifetime	10
Single parent	10
Previous ECLIPSE, EHS, ESIT, or Early ECEAP enrollment	15

Additional Prioritization Points- these factors alone will not make a child eligible for ECEAP

ADDITIONAL PRIORITIZATION POINTS	DCYF Points	ADDITIONAL PRIORITIZATION POINTS	DCYF Points
4 years old by August 31	10	No medical coverage	5
Previous ECEAP (this child)	5	No medical home	5
Parents divorced/separated during child's life	5	No dental coverage	5
Not fully immunized and not exempt	5	No dental home	5
Suspected developmental delay or disability, no IEP or diagnosis or screening, or developmental screening with result "rescreen needed"	5	No previous early learning preschool enrollment	5

Note:

- To learn more about eligible and allowed enrollment, review the ECEAP Performance Standards.
- Both eligible and allowed children must be prioritized for available slots.
- This priority point system and the ELMS database are designed to manage these requirements.
- Companion Document: ECEAP ESE Chart.

Washington State Department of CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

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Early Learning Division | Approved for distribution by Kimberly Burgess Simms, ECEAP Senior Administrator