

ECEAP Impacts on Children and Families

Partnering to Increase Outcomes

Why DCYF ECEAP Uses Performance-Based Contracting

The legislation that created the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), which oversees ECEAP (the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program), requires contracts for direct services in communities to use performance-based contracting. This type of contracting is intended to support high-quality services and provide the ability to measure change.

What is Performance-Based Contracting?

The goal of performance-based contracting is that the services funded for children and families are measurably helping to meet DCYF goals in three main areas:

- **Resilience:** Parents and caregivers are supported to meet the needs of children
- **Education:** Kindergarten readiness
- **Health:** Child development

These are three types of contract **performance measures** that lead to DCYF child outcome goals:



Where is DCYF ECEAP Now with Performance-Based Contracting?

We know ECEAP works because for years we have gathered the data ECEAP providers share and we work with providers to learn together and make continuous quality improvements to ECEAP's comprehensive services. Partnership and shared use of data consistently result in outcome increases for children and families.

In the 2019-20 school year, ECEAP contracts include two quality-based performance measures to meet performance-based contracting requirements. These measures were picked using partner feedback and data analysis:

- **Recruitment and Enrollment:** Increase access to ECEAP for children and families furthest from opportunity.
- **Ensuring High-Quality Child Assessment:** Completion of Teaching Strategies GOLD® Interrater Reliability Certification.

What's Happening Next?

In the 2020-21 school year, ECEAP contracts will continue to support high-quality and accessible services that help us all reach our shared goals. For the first time, ECEAP contracts are required to include a performance measure that is a child and/or family outcome. "Outcomes" are the results of ECEAP services for children and families. Examples of outcomes are children learning new math skills, children

being up-to-date on well-child exams or families having increased knowledge about community resources.

How Do Performance Measures Affect Contract Funding?

ECEAP funding will not be withheld from providers that don't meet the contract's outcome performance target. Instead, DCYF ECEAP staff and ECEAP providers will continue to view data together related to outcomes, learn from it and look for new ways to keep increasing outcomes.

ECEAP Families' Perspectives and Input

DCYF ECEAP is requesting families' feedback to pick a child or family outcome measure for next year's contract. To do this, we'll focus on the following key factors for decision-making:

- **Equity:** Could it impact some families' or communities' access to responsive services more than others?
- **Achievability:** Is it reasonable to expect an improvement in the measure?
- **Available:** Can data be collected objectively and regularly?
- **Aligned:** Is this a shared priority of families, contractors and DCYF?

DCYF ECEAP is committed to racial equity and decision-making that gets us closer to equitable outcomes for all children. As we consider which outcome to use, we seek research and data analysis that shows a direct connection between the outcome and our shared goals such as learning, health, racial equity and family well-being.

Another important consideration is deciding the extent of ECEAP providers' influence or control over a child or family outcome. There are many factors that may impact outcomes for families and those factors may affect some communities more than others.

Potential Outcome Measures

We are seeking ECEAP families' input about which one of the three outcomes below is recommended to include in next year's ECEAP contracts. An outcome measure is included for each area of ECEAP services:

Child Health

- Percentage of children who are up-to-date on vision and hearing screenings.

Family Engagement

- Percentage of families that make gains in one Mobility Mentoring® area. Some examples of the types of gains in Mobility Mentoring® are:
 - Family knowledge of community services
 - Parents involved with schools and advocating for their child
 - Financial security

Child Development/Kindergarten Readiness

- Average growth in learning in areas such as social-emotional development, math or reading.

