

# 2022-23 ECEAP Expansion

Addendum #2 Request for Application (RFA) Questions and Answers

Nov. 29, 2021

## All Applicants

### 1. If a program wants to do working day (WD), do they need to be open over 10 hours a day?

Working Day ECEAP requires a minimum of 2,370 classroom hours per year, at least 10 hours per day, five days per week, year-round. A parent must be employed, in a formal training program, approved for Child Protective Services child care, or in WorkFirst activities listed on a DSHS to access Working Day ECEAP.

### 2. Would a program have to ask for a waiver, or illustrate anything because they are stuck in the Early Achievers rating queue? Will providers be able to start over with their timeline or will they start where they were before the pandemic?

No, programs do not need to request a waiver if they are on the waiting list in the queue for their quality recognition level. When a site is on the waiting list for quality recognition, they are considered to have met the legislatively required timeline mandates, provided the site remains in the queue and moves forward with the Early Achievers process. Each site's timeline is individual to them based on start dates according to the Early Start Act. Nothing is reset in the revision work. ECEAP programs need to submit for their initial/renewal/re-rate within their legislatively mandated timelines to get on the waiting list in the queue.

Gov. Inslee's Proclamation 20-31.11, which put a hold on Early Achievers timeline requirements beginning March 26, 2020, will remain in effect until the State of Emergency is lifted. At that point in time, the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) will update providers with what to expect when timelines resume. If you are interested, you can visit the Governor's website for up-to-date information on proclamations.

### 3. On the new education WAC requirements for lead teachers, what is the timeline for obtaining that ECE degree? Two years or five years for subcontractors?

For ECEAP, the **2021-2022 Performance Standards PDTR-4 Lead Teacher Qualifications** explain the process for obtaining an ECE degree if the best candidate is not fully qualified (page 12):

**PDTR-4 Lead Teacher Qualifications**



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

1. All persons serving in the role of ECEAP lead teacher must meet one of the following qualifications:
  - a. An associate or higher degree in ECE; or
  - b. DCYF equivalent
2. If the best candidate for the position is not fully qualified, the contractor must ensure the newly hired staff person *is on a Professional Development Plan (PDP) to fully meet the qualifications of their role within five years from the date of hire*. Contractors must monitor progress on all PDPs and ensure staff make yearly progress to meet the required qualifications.
3. If a contractor hires a substitute lead teacher for more than three weeks, the substitute must meet ECEAP lead teacher requirements. If a qualified substitute is unavailable, contractors must begin the PDP process within three weeks of appointment.

For more information about ECE qualifications and timelines, please view this document:  
[https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/EPS\\_0039.pdf](https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/EPS_0039.pdf)

#### **4. Does the five years start when someone becomes an ECEAP contractor for a lead teacher qualification?**

Yes, if the best candidate for the Lead Teacher position is not qualified for the position, that person can be put on a Professional Development Plan (PDP) in order to fully meet the qualifications. The timeline to complete the PDP is five years.

#### **5. Are there any other things that the Fair Start Act is supporting in the ECEAP world?**

##### **The Fair Start Act:**

- Expands the ECEAP entitlement groups to 36% State Median Income (SMI) (140% FPL), then to 50% SMI (in 2030-31);
- Adds specific populations as eligible (homeless; families that participated in ECLIPSE, ESIT, Early ECEAP, or EHS; an Indian child as defined in rule up to 100% SMI);
- Moves entitlement to the 2026-27 school year.
- Directs DCYF to report on integration of early learning systems and develop a methodology for predicting ECEAP slot needs post entitlement.
- Increases ECEAP slot rates by 10% (started July 1, 2021);
- Makes Early ECEAP a permanent program

#### **6. Will the State Medium Income (SMI) rates change yearly? When will they update? Does it update with minimum wage increases?**

Yes, SMI rates will change yearly, updated in July.

## **7. What are the trainings for new contractors, are they free, and do they all happen at once?**

An example of the annual calendar can be found here:

[https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/eceap/annual\\_calendar.pdf](https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/eceap/annual_calendar.pdf). This calendar includes trainings, deliverable due dates, and other important meetings throughout the year.

Trainings for new and existing contractors provided by DCYF are free and offered at various times of the year. Some of the trainings that DCYF provides include:

- Creative Curriculum Training (online)
- TSG child assessment training (online)
- ELMS Administrator Training
- Recruitment, Eligibility, and Enrollment Training
- Mobility Mentoring® Foundations Training (online)
- New Directors Meetings
- Coaching to Fidelity Training
- Various ongoing community learning experiences to meet the needs of different groups of staff

## **8. Who creates the content for the Learning Management System (LMS) in ECEAP?**

For any training related to ECEAP in LMS, DCYF contracts with an outside agency to create the training and ECEAP provides the content in partnership with DCYF's Professional Development Team.