



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES
1500 Jefferson Street, SE • P.O. Box 40975 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0975

November 6, 2017

Dear David,

With the creation of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), the legislature acknowledged the need for greater investment in prevention services to help reduce the number of at-risk children/youth entering the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, to limit progressively deeper systems-involvement, and to further reduce trauma for the children and youth who have entered these systems. The department requests \$11.9 million to begin to increase investment in children along the continuum of development, as well as to build greater capacity to identify and invest in local communities with high concentrations of children and families at very high risk for child adverse experiences.

This decision package will:

- Support caregivers of infants and toddlers involved in the child welfare system by enhancing the availability of high-quality child care in high-need areas and supporting those providers with relationship-based, trauma-informed coaching;
- Expand home visiting to families with young children involved in the child welfare system in high-need communities;
- Pilot ECEAP enhancements for summer programming and the 3-year old gap;
- Update Washington's 2011 study on Universal Prekindergarten to provide policy options for high-quality universal prekindergarten programming; and
- Micro-target local communities with very high rates of child maltreatment for community-driven prevention activities.

This investment will keep kids safe and prevent further harm to our at-risk youth, I look forward to working with you further to improve childhood outcomes for all of Washington's children.

Sincerely,

Ross Hunter, Secretary