

# Supporting Providers to Increase Child Care Access

## 2023-25 Decision Package

Access to high-quality child care for families can be limited by structural constraints on providers. This is especially true for providers serving children on Working Connections Child Care and those serving infants/toddlers. The Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) is proposing to simplify administrative processes to reduce the burden for providers who participate in subsidy and to provide targeted supports to make it feasible for providers to serve specific populations of children.



### SUSTAINABLE SUBSIDY PAYMENT - \$114.4M

- ✓ Paying providers based on enrollment aligns with the private market and allows providers to have a consistent source of payment. This is important in reducing the inequities between private pay and subsidy rates. This is also consistent with payment methods for private pay children.

### CHILD CARE COMPLEX NEEDS FUND - \$15.4M

- ✓ Expand the child care complex needs fund above what was established in the Fair Start for Kids Act (FSKA) to meet the needs of providers serving children who have developmental delays, disabilities, behavioral needs, or other unique needs.

### EARLY CHILDHOOD EQUITY GRANTS - \$18.7M

- ✓ Expand these grants above what was established in FSKA to meet needs of providers to support inclusive and culturally and linguistically specific early learning and early childhood and parent support programs across the state.

### INFANT-TODDLER ACCESS - \$45M

- ✓ Increase the infant rate enhancement for child care subsidy from \$90/month to \$500/month, providing increased access for infants that receive subsidy.
- ✓ Expand Early ECEAP in areas of most need. Through this proposal, DCYF will expand ECEAP to 350 slots in FY 24 and another 100 in FY 25.
- ✓ Contracted slots to secure access for children involved in protective services.

### ALIGN OVERPAYMENT COLLECTION WITH FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS - \$768K

- ✓ Collect overpayments on Fraud and Intentional Program Violations.
- ✓ Remove the penalty of making administrative errors and align overpayment collection with federal Child Care and Development Fund requirements.

### NON-STANDARD HOURS BONUS - \$41.46M

- ✓ Increase the bonus for children receiving subsidy to \$500/month per child to help expand the supply of critically needed after-hours care to meet the needs of parents and caregivers and a round-the-clock economy.

### DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Improve quality and availability of provider services
- Improve quality and intention of our practice
- Eliminate racial disproportionalities and advance racial equity
- Create a high-quality integrated B-8 system

### TOTAL COST

23-25 BIENNIUM: \$236,810,000

### Contact:

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DCYF PUBLICATION GC\_0031 (11-2022)



Washington State Department of  
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