

Making Child Care Work for Families

2023-25 Decision Package

The proposal takes a multi-tiered approach to simplify and standardize child care subsidy and early learning programs as intended with the establishment of the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF). These solutions streamline eligibility for families accessing child care subsidy and the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), ensure that our most vulnerable children have access to high-quality care, and reduce administrative burden for early learning providers. Collectively, these policies will provide 8,775 additional families with access to Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) as well as increase ECEAP access to an additional 168 families.

THE DECISION PACKAGE INCLUDES:

Authorize Full-Time Care for all Children

- ✓ Centering the learning needs of the child by allowing full-time care for all children, regardless of parent activity.

\$17.53M

Adding More Student Parents to Eligibility

- ✓ Funding child care subsidy for parents participating in four-year degrees at Community, Technical, and Tribal Colleges (CTC) and supporting students participating in programs at universities.

\$113.3M

Require Only One Parent to Participate in an Approved Activity

- ✓ Approving child care for children in families who are financially eligible with at least one parent in an approved activity will support children with access to high-quality care.

\$69.96M

Allow Child Participation in ECEAP and Head Start as an Approved Activity for WCCC

- ✓ Allowing families with children participating in ECEAP, Early ECEAP, Head Start, Tribal Head Start, and Migrant Season Head Start the ability to also receive WCCC when otherwise eligible.

\$5.02M

Allow Family Participation in Medical Activities as an Approved Activity

- ✓ Allowing families who are employed but unable to work due to a medical activity to be eligible for WCCC.

\$4.32M

IMPACTS:



Support access for approximately
2,467 children



Help approximately
3,612 families



Increase access for approximately
2,300 families



Support access for approximately
165 families



Increase access for approximately
142 families



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

THE DECISION PACKAGE INCLUDES:

Allow Job Search as an Approved Activity at Application and Reapplication

- ✓ Allowing families who are looking for work as an approved activity at application and reapplication aligns with federal recommendations, and supports families with child care for more effective job search.

\$33.57M

Remove 12-Month Restriction on Homeless Grace Period

- ✓ Supporting families experiencing homelessness with continued access to child care subsidy throughout the time they meet the McKinney Vento definition of homelessness.

\$908K

Exclude Child Support, Social Security, and Supplemental Security Payments as Countable Income for Working Connections Child Care and ECEAP

- ✓ This change will further align program eligibility while supporting children with access to child care.

\$12.65M

Increase Family Access to Child Welfare Early Learning Navigators (CWELN)

- ✓ Increasing the number of CWELN navigators to 10 statewide. These navigators assist children and families in accessing child care and other early learning programs to support families before participation in child welfare services, so that lack of access to child care doesn't become a barrier to placement and stability for the child.

\$2.62M

Transition Child Welfare Child Care to Working Connections

- Provide 12-month eligibility for foster/kin families, increasing continuity of child care.
- Give stability to providers who offer slots to children involved in child welfare.
- Allow DCYF to use both Title IV-E and CCDF funding to support 12-month eligibility

\$30.30M

IMPACTS:



Increase the child care subsidy caseload by approximately
1,100 families



Support approximately
23 families per year



Expand eligibility for approximately
1,542 children



Enhance service delivery to approximately
1,000 families



Provide increased access for approximately
1,002 families per year
and
5,078 children per year

OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION CONTRACTED SERVICES - \$500K

In addition to the above items, DCYF request funds to contract for outreach and communication supports to ensure families who are newly or previously eligible for care are aware of their options. This will be necessary infrastructure support for any and all of the items listed above.

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

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

TOTAL COST:

23-25 BIENNIUM: \$299,065,000

Contact:

DCYF Office of Public Affairs,
genevieve.stokes@dcyf.wa.gov

DCYF does not discriminate and provides equal access to its programs and services for all persons without regard to race, color, gender, religion, creed, marital status, national origin, sexual orientation, age, veteran's status, or presence of any physical, sensory, or mental disability.

If you would like free copies of this publication in an alternative format or language, please contact DCYF Constituent Relations at 1-800-723-4831 or email communications@dcyf.wa.gov.

DCYF PUBLICATION GC_0032 (11-2022)