

DCYF Organizational License Project Overview

The Background

During the COVID-19 pandemic, child care organizations with multiple sites encountered barriers to adding new sites to meet the community's need for licensed child care. In response, stakeholders supported Senate Bill 5092 Sec. 229 (19), which requires the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) to establish a pilot project to determine the feasibility of a child care license category for multi-site programs operating under one owner or one entity.

The Purpose and Scope

The purpose of the Organizational License Project is to determine the feasibility of an organizational license category type for multi-site child care programs operating under one owner or one entity. This is a three-year project, with the pilot taking place between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023. DCYF will provide alternative pathways for providers and stakeholders to be involved if they are not pilot participants. This will include community engagement events to provide updates on the project and hear input from the provider community. Providers and stakeholders may also have an opportunity to participate in the project's workgroups to make recommendations for the pilot design or in the advisory group, which makes recommendations for final business decisions. Members of the DCYF Licensing Division Racial Equity and Social Justice Advisory Group (RESJ) are involved in the project, and a racial equity tool is being applied to the creation of the pilot and decision-making throughout the project.



The Pilot

- The pilot will provide a streamlined process for multi-site programs to have a new site licensed and will include systems to maximize efficiencies in the ongoing oversight processes.
- Pilot participants must include at least one governmental agency, one non-profit organization, and one for-profit private business.
- DCYF will be conscientious of providing the pilot opportunity to facilities that provide care to underserved children and marginalized communities.
- DCYF will create a set of criteria to recruit and screen interested participants for the pilot and will recruit participants from a mix of rural, urban, and suburban locations.

Alignment with Agency Priorities

- Improve the quality and intention of our practice.
- Improve the quality and availability of provider services.
- Improve the quality and availability of child care statewide.

For more information, please email:
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If you would like copies of this document in an alternative format or language, please contact DCYF Constituent Relations (1-800-723-4831 | 360-902-8060, ConstRelations@dcyf.wa.gov).

DCYF PUBLICATION LIC_0033 (10-2021)



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES