

DCYF Legislative Update

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Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

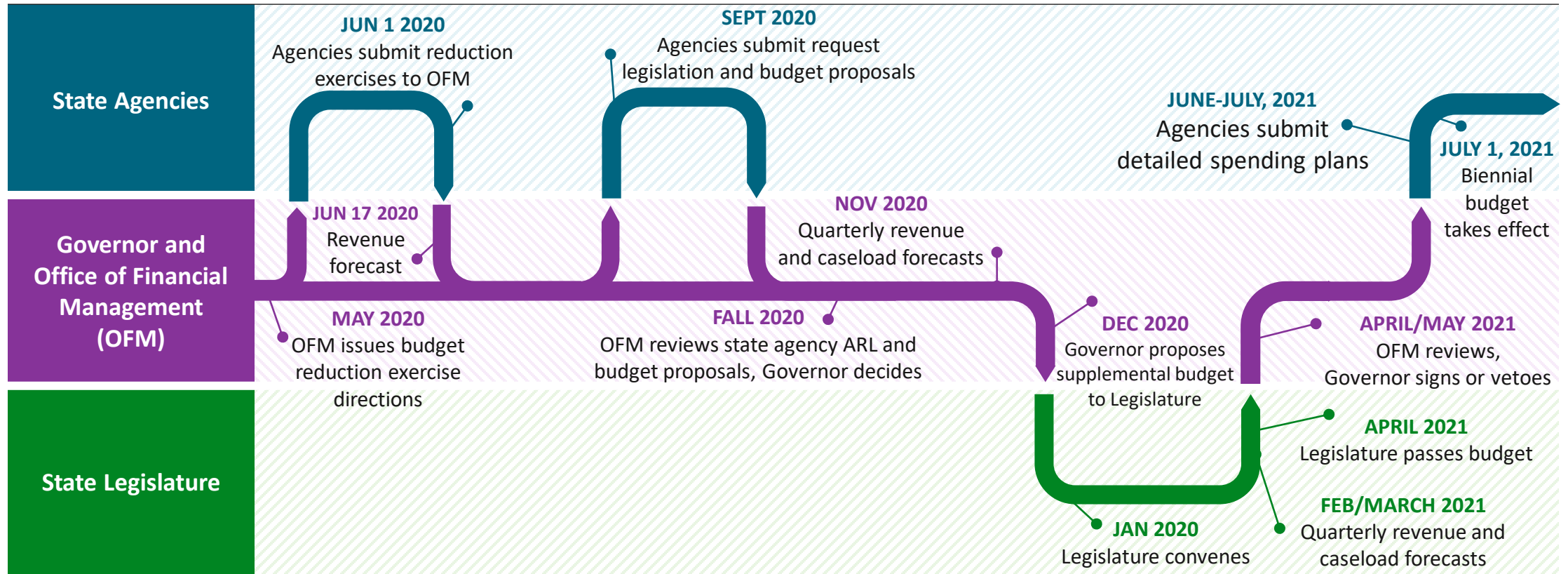
Agenda



- Preparing for 2021-2023
- Agency Request Legislation and Decision Package proposals
 - Less restrictive, more therapeutic environments for youth in Juvenile Rehabilitation
 - Agency Culture Change
- Agency Reduction Proposals



Preparing for 2021 – State Budget Timeline



Preparing for 2021-2023

Realities

- The Economic and Revenue Forecast Council predicts a shortfall of \$4.3 billion in the 2021-23 biennium.
- Agencies were required to submit budget reductions that total 15 percent of our projected maintenance level for fiscal years 2022 and 2023.



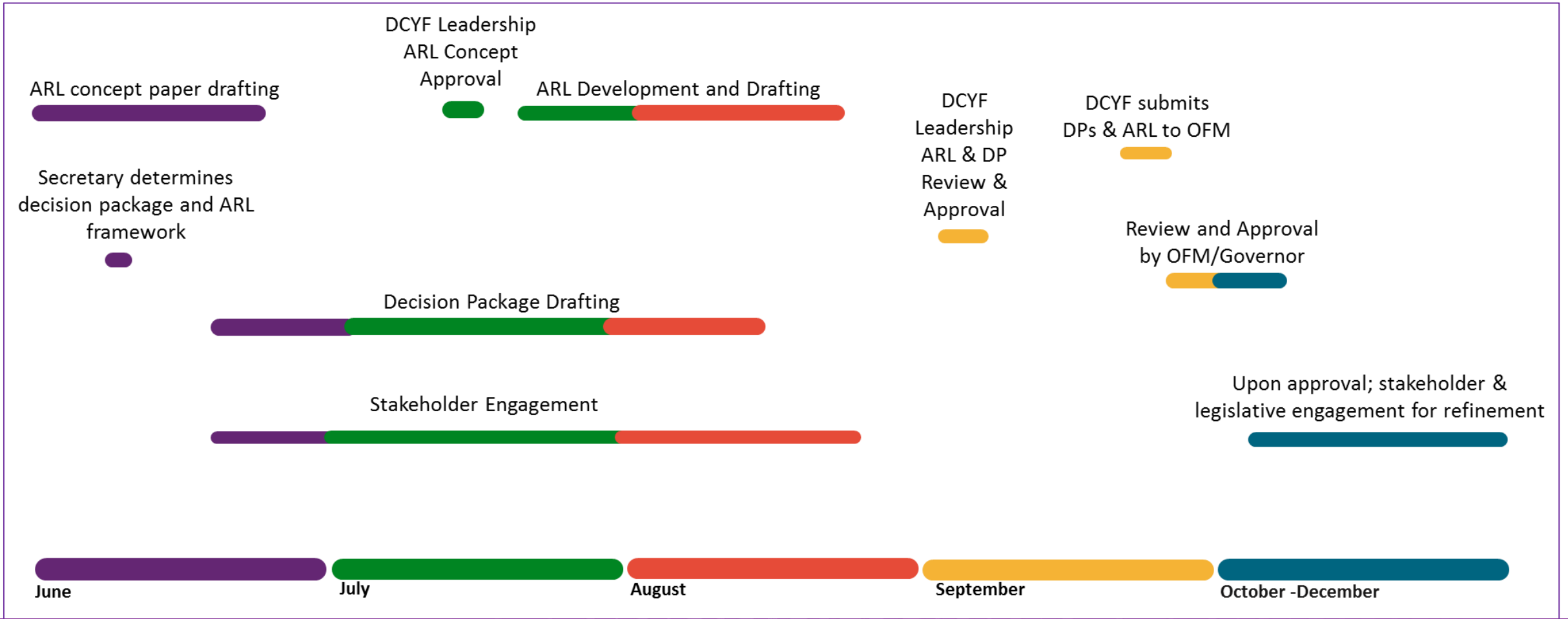
Agency Request Legislation and Decision Package Requirements

- Funding needed to continue an existing program, as required by statute.
- Investments needed to improve practice or service delivery, which will generate savings within three to five years.
- Funding needed to protect the health, safety, and well-being of children, youth, and families. This can not be interpreted loosely.
- Funding needed to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities and disproportionate impacts on the Black, Indigenous and People of Color we serve.
- Promotes agency and Governor priorities.
- **Proposals have limited fiscal impacts.**
 - This is not the time for good ideas with fiscal impacts
- Focus on strategic priorities while reducing spending
 - Include a focus reducing non-priority programs, reports, taskforces and out-of-date statutes

Guiding Principles for DCYF

- Prioritize resources that focus on core responsibilities outlined in DCYF's vision and strategic plan.
- Prioritize programs and services that reduce racial and ethnic disparities in outcomes across all DCYF systems of care.
- Prioritize prevention services and intervention solutions to keep children, youth and families safe in their community and not going deeper into the DCYF system.
- Prioritize funding for programs and policies that have demonstrated their effectiveness in improving outcomes through evidence based and promising practices.

Agency Request Legislation & Budget Development Timeline



2021 Session Legislative Buckets

Agency Culture Change; do better and serve better

Less restrictive, more therapeutic environments for young people in Juvenile Rehabilitation

Reduction options as required to submit



Less Restrictive and More Therapeutic Environments for Young People: Options in Lieu of Incarceration in Juvenile Rehabilitation

- Currently a step down (least restrictive setting) opportunity is only provided to approximately 25% of the JR population due to capacity. This leaves 75% of young people in JR with no step down option to facilitate their reentry into the community.
- Approximately half the JR population does not receive parole aftercare, so there is no transition and support for community reentry for those young people.
- Electronic Home Monitoring as a step down option would ease the bottleneck that occurs due to limited capacity for Community Facility placement, and provide additional opportunity for transition services and reentry community connections.



Less Restrictive and More Therapeutic Environments for Young People: Community Reentry for All JR Youth

- Create options in lieu of incarceration to provide another step-down alternative for eligible youth—proposed Agency Request Legislation.
- Expand reentry aftercare support for all youth.
- Address the needs for compliance of Community Facility Quality Operations and Performance Standards.
- Revamp risk/needs and actuarial assessments to address racial disparities and allow for increased movement to step-down facilities.



Less Restrictive and More Therapeutic Environments for Young People: Provide Necessary Behavioral Health Services to Youth in JR

- Provide substance use disorder (SUD) treatment for the nearly 58% of youth with identified treatment needs who do not receive it.
- Provide high-fidelity, culturally-responsive Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) to young people up to age 25 with complex mental health needs.



Agency Culture Change: Innovations, Improvements, and Efficiencies to DCYF Licensing

Current licensing division oversees licensing of child care family homes and centers, foster care relative and non-relative placements, and group care facilities.

Goals for this piece of legislation:

- Create efficiencies across licensing division at DCYF.
- Take an innovative approach to licensing and license exempt practices.
- Reduce unnecessary agency liability.
- Clarify existing terms and practices across multiple parts of DCYF's licensing services.

Agency Culture Change: Responsible Living Skills Program Amendments

- RCW 74.15.020 - removes the word minor and changes the participation ages of the program from sixteen to twenty-one. Also, strikes language so that youth do not need to live in unsafe situations to be eligible for the program along with removing the line allowing minors age fourteen and fifteen to participate as this placement is not federally eligible per P.L. 113-183 Sec. 112 for youth under the age of sixteen.
- RCW 74.15.230 - removes the programs participation cap and clarifies that DCYF has authority to license providers who serve youth ages 18-21 who are dependent youth under chapter 13.34 RCW.
- RCW 74.15.240 - removing the word minor and the requirement to live in a HOPE center or secure crisis residential center will allow the program to accept EFC youth who need more support than a Supervised Independent Living setting can provide, and to enter the program after the age of eighteen.



Agency Culture Change: Family First Prevention Services Act Plan Implementation

Through Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) states have the option to use Title IV-E funds for prevention services for eligible children at risk of foster care placement and their families, based on a federally-approved Prevention Services Plan.

The Family First Transition Act (FFTA) provided states with federal funding to implement Family First. DCYF will use these funds to implement the Prevention Plan, allowing us to claim IV-E funds for CPS workers and approved prevention services. In order to access this claiming, key changes to our IT system will be necessary, as well as expanding our service array, and making changes to our casework system to meet FFPSA requirements.

Agency Culture Change: NEICE Electronic Interstate System

Funding is requested to build an electronic system to process Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, which is the law required to place dependent children across state lines.

- Updates to FamLink to meet the federal requirement for a National Electronic Interstate Compact Enterprise (NEICE), a secure mechanism for exchanging information electronically between states.
- NEICE is a real-time data exchange that will expedite the process for sharing data and documents with other states.
- NEICE will improve timeframes for permanency of children.



As Required, Agency Reduction Proposals



Reduction Proposals Overview

- Agencies are required to submit budget reduction proposals for Fiscal Year(FY) 21-23 biennium.
- DCYF and all state agencies completed reduction exercises in June for FY21.
- DCYF identified on-going reductions based on the FY21 reduction exercise to prepare the 2021-23 biennium reduction decision packages.

Reduction Decision Packages Overview

Category	Summary
Agency Wide Reduction	Freezes personal service contracts and hiring staff; 10 percent reduction to goods and services and travel; continues the COLA implementation delay for WMS, EMS, and exempt employees.
Programmatic Reduction	Prioritize resources that focus on core responsibilities and direct services. Programs and contracts such as FRS, in-home provider travel reimbursement, and juvenile court programming are reduced.
Program Elimination	Eliminate programs and pilots, such as Enhanced Emergent Placement Services.
Practice Improvement	Reduces ancillary services, foster care maintenance payments/exceptional cost plans, foster care support goods, urinalysis services, CPS child care, BRS out-of-state placements, EPS beds, and child care subsidy (seasonal child care underspend and reduce HB 2158). Leverages Medicaid funding for BRS out of state placements. Begin charging for OIAA data services.

Reduction Decision Packages Overview (Cont.)

Category	Summary
Professional Development Reduction	Reduces scholarships, trainer support, and educational awards for professional development in the Early Learning program.
Change in Subsidy Eligibility	Eliminate recently passed expanded access proposals for subsidized child care for students at institutions for higher education (HB 1303).
Early Achievers Reduction	Eliminate the environment rating scale, implement a virtual data collection process for ratings, reduce coaching and implement virtual coaching, implement virtual trainings for Early Achievers Quality Institutes, and reduce facilitated play and learn groups.
IT Reduction	Reduces IT licenses and non-mission critical equipment purchases.
ECEAP Reduction	Reduces expansion slots, eliminates the complex needs rate, and eliminates the rate increase, which is a technical correction given this was vetoed in the 2020 supplemental budget.



Thank you!

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