

Fair Start for Kids Act and Early Learning Investments Implementation Updates

Senate Early Learning – K12 Committee Work Session
November 17, 2021

Nicole Rose, Assistant Secretary of Early Learning, DCYF

www.dcyf.wa.gov



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Fair Start for Kids Act and Early Learning Investments Goals

- Expand access to a comprehensive continuum of high-quality early childhood development programs
- Stabilize child care market through supports to providers
- Make child care more affordable for families
- Strengthen prevention and intervention services



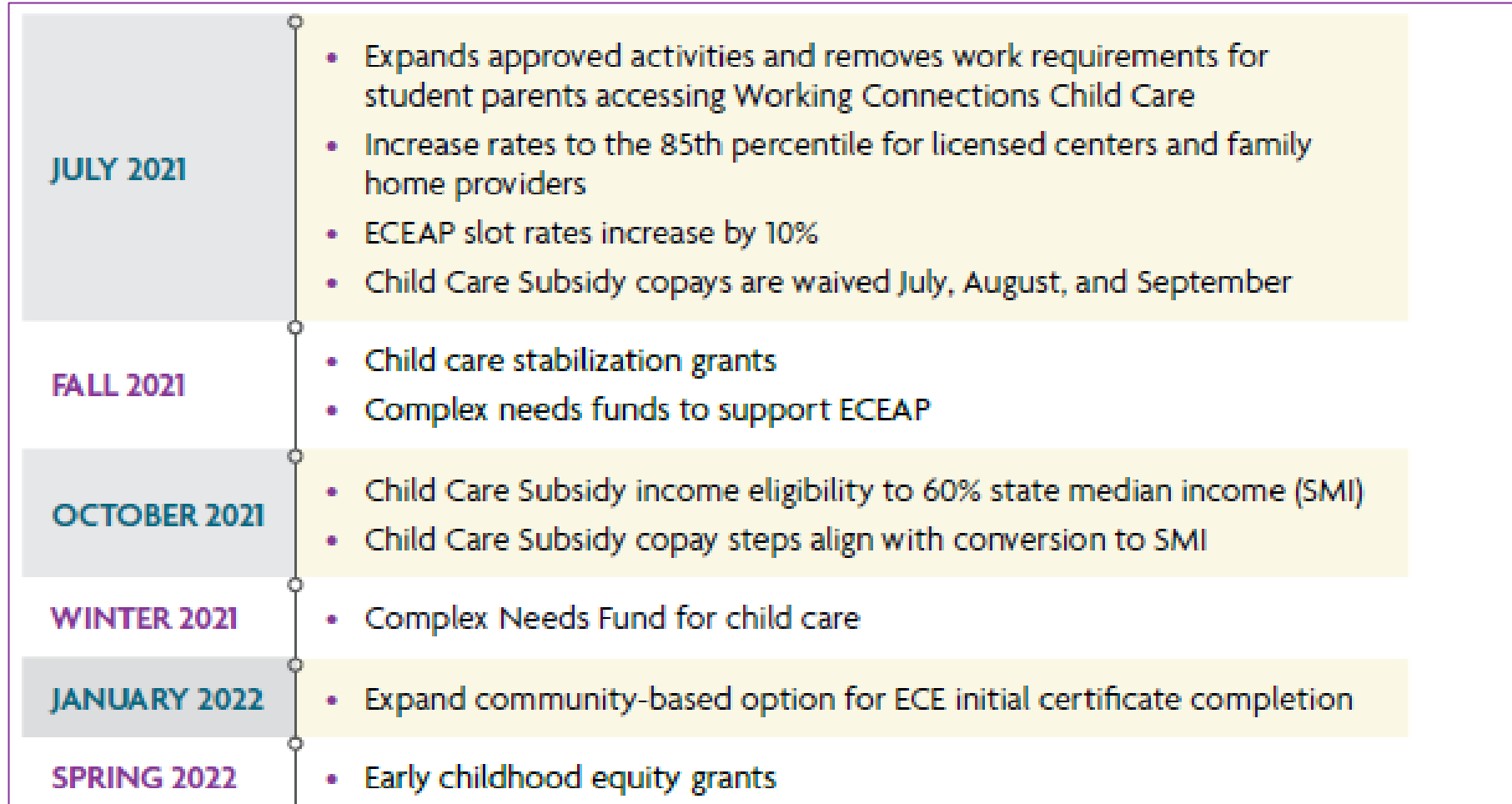
Overview of FSKA & EL Budget Components

- ECEAP Expansion & Early ECEAP
- Working Connections Child Care
- Child Care Professional Development
- Grants and Rate Enhancements
- Child Care Health Benefits
- Child Care Licensing
- Indian Child Definition
- Language Access for Early Learning
- Home Visiting Expansion
- ECLIPSE Expansion
- Help Me Grow
- FFN Play and Learn Groups
- Early Learning Facilities Fund Grant
- IECMH-C Expansion
- Organizational License Pilot
- Federal Child Care Stabilization Grants

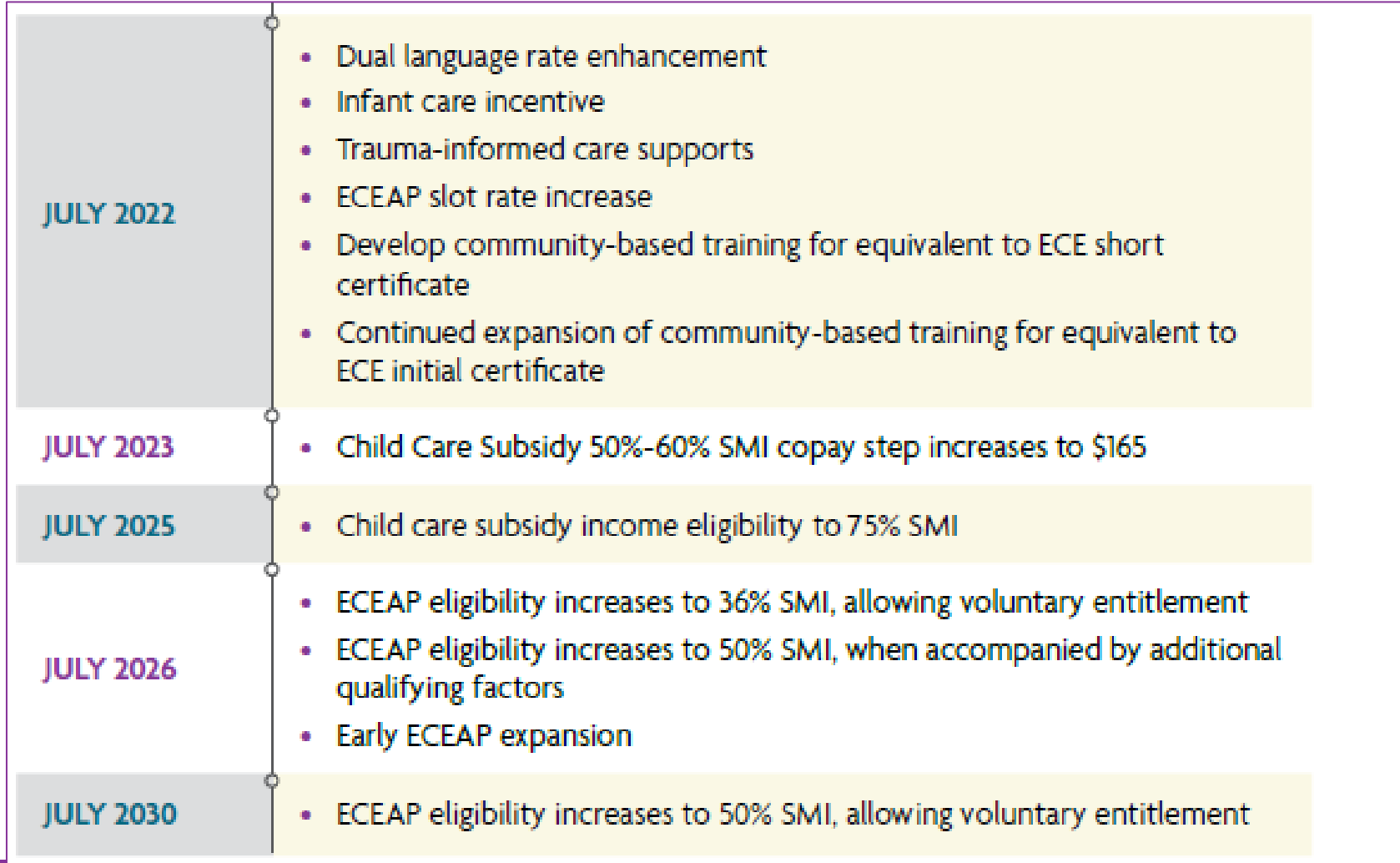
<https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/about/government-affairs/fair-start-for-kids-act>



Implementation Timeline, pt. 1



Implementation Timeline, pt. 2



Fair Start for Kids Act Implementation Updates Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program

2021 Activities:

- ECEAP Expansion Fall 2021
 - 500 expansion slots awarded in Spring 2021
 - Working Day: began July 2021, in-person, hybrid and remote
 - Part Day and School Day: began September 2021, in-person, hybrid and remote
- Complex Needs funding application went live in September 2021
- ECEAP providers received 10% slot rate increase July 2021

Planning Activities Underway:

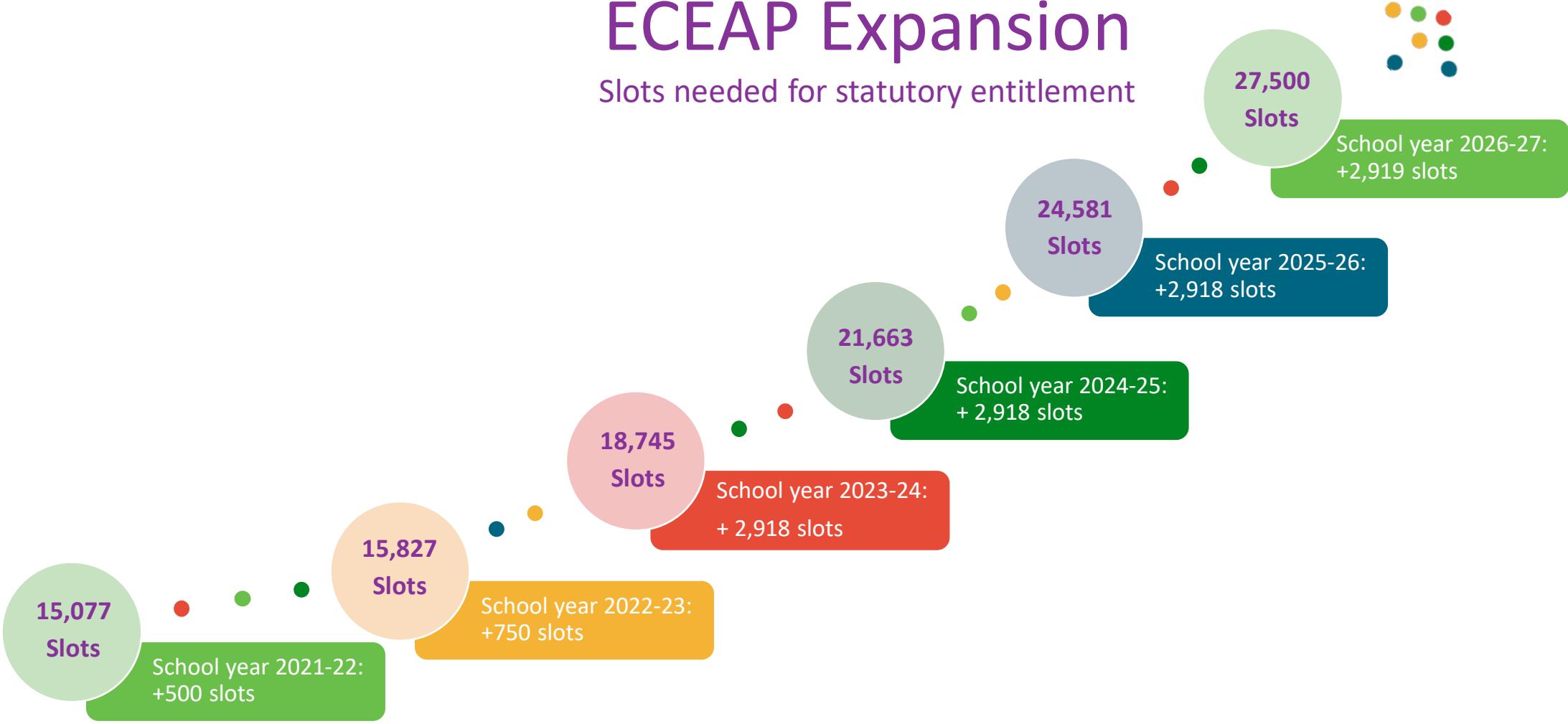
- Continued Cost Study work
- ECEAP slot-need methodology work underway
- 2022-2023 ECEAP Expansion RFA is underway



Fair Start for Kids Act Implementation Updates

ECEAP Expansion

Slots needed for statutory entitlement



Fair Start for Kids Act Implementation Updates

Working Connections Child Care

Changes to Working Connections Child Care - 2021

- July 1: Subsidy base rate raised to 85th percentile of Market Rate
 - Based on the most recent Market Rate Survey (2018)
- October 1: Increased income eligibility to 60% SMI
 - DCYF expects up to 2,100 additional families will have access to child care subsidies in the next 12 months.
- October 1: Decreased copayments based w/ set amounts and capping at 7% family income
 - DCYF expects up to 3,900 families will have more access to affordable, high-quality child care due to reduced co-payment.

Upcoming 2022: Child care non-standard hours rate model recommendation

Fair Start for Kids Act Implementation Updates

Child Care Professional Development

Supports to meet Education Requirements

- \$1.3 million increase to education scholarships, including \$400K for responsive/innovative pathways

Training Expansion and Delivery

- Providers can begin PACE now by starting the ‘Enhancing Quality of Early Learning’ training series

State-Approved Trainers

- Creation of a workgroup to support the recruitment and growth of linguistically diverse trainers

Trauma Informed Care (TIC) Supports

- Developing a plan with QRIS partners on training and implementation of Pyramid Model – an approach for SEL and inclusion.

Fair Start for Kids Act Implementation Updates

Grants and Rate Enhancements

<p>Complex Needs Funds for child care: Stakeholder engagement plan in development. Child care providers will be able to apply in early 2022.</p>	<p>Dual Language in Early Learning: DCYF forming a stakeholder group to inform the establishment of dual language designation for July 2022 implementation. This will also be used to inform future FSKA funding opportunities. Dual Language training delivery continues across the state, per <u>House Bill 1445</u> in 2017.</p>
<p>Infant rate enhancement: Currently developing project plan. Rate enhancement scheduled to be available in July 2022.</p>	<p>Early Childhood Equity Grants: Stakeholder engagement plan in development. Application opportunities will be available in Spring 2022.</p>

Fair Start for Kids Act Implementation Updates

Child Care Health Benefits

New Premium Assistance Program for Employees of Licensed Child Care Facilities

- Brings monthly premiums down to \$0 for employees making up to 300% of FPL who enroll through Washington Healthplanfinder
- By mid-October, DCYF completed initial outreach to all identified employees of licensed child care facilities in WA (~34,000)
- Enrollment began with November Open Enrollment Period
- Exchange certified navigators at Yakima Neighborhood Health Services are helping employees sign up, including during evening and weekend hours, and language assistance is being provided by bilingual Navigators, and telephonic interpretation in over 200 languages.

Fair Start for Kids Act Implementation Updates

Child Care Facilities and Licensing

Early Learning Facilities Fund grant program:

- 2021 community-based org. grant open now, closing Dec. 1.
- More than 100 applicants so far, another 90+ in pre-application process.
- Maintenance/renovation grant in development with stakeholders, including Imagine Institute.

Organizational license pilot project:

- In the stakeholdering and design phase. Includes meeting with provider groups and holding informational webinars.

Licensing subcommittee:

- DCYF established the necessary staffing/programmatic support for the ELAC temporary licensing subcommittee
- DCYF and ELAC are working to develop a framework and work plan for this effort.

Fair Start for Kids Act Implementation Updates

Language Access for Early Learning

Language Access

- Two Early Learning Language Access Coordinators (LAC), Spanish and Somali focus.
 - Spanish LAC has been hired
- LACs will address immediate language needs related to COVID-19 child care relief and recovery.
- LACs working to develop and implement language access services for early learning, and partnering in the development of an agency-wide strategy for language access.

Fair Start for Kids Act Implementation Updates

Home Visiting

Home Visiting Expansion Fall 2022

Increase of 150 slots at 7 programs across the state:

- Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital NFP (*Yakima County*)
- Chinese Information & Service Center PC+ (*King County*)
- First Step Family Support Center PAT (*Clallam and Jefferson Counties*)
- Thurston County Public Health & Social Services NFP (*Lewis and Mason counties*)
- Catholic Charities of Southwest WA PAT (*Yakima County*)
- Atlantic Street Center PC+ (*King and Pierce Counties*)
- Seattle King County Public Health NFP (*King County*)

Total Budget: \$1,311,082

- *Total applications: 14 programs, \$2,642,000*



Fair Start for Kids Act Implementation Updates

Early Childhood Intervention Prevention Services (ECLIPSE)

- **Current Programming**
 - 2 Contractors Continuing to Provide ECLIPSE Services
- **Expansion of ECLIPSE Programming**
 - Working to create an RFA system for expansion to a third region in the state with an RFA date that aligns with the ECEAP RFA
- **Integration of Tiered ECLIPSE/ECEAP Programming**
 - Working with contractors to build a tiered system of services and supports

Fair Start for Kids Act Implementation Updates

Additional Supports

Infant Early Childhood Mental Health-Consultation (IECMH-C) Expansion:

- CCA has hired 13 of 15 IECMHC
- Implementation guidance and protocols for the MHC team are fully developed.
- Case management and referral systems are operational and undergoing continuing refinement.
- MHCs are engaged in ongoing professional development training and certifications, both as a group and to meet individual workforce development goals.
- Collaboration and development of referral practices between MHCs and Coaches continues to develop and expand.
 - This is ground breaking work across the nation.
 - The partnership between coaches and consultants incredibly successful in increasing coach capacity and partnership to support provider needs

Fair Start for Kids Act Implementation Updates

Additional Supports

FFN Play and Learn Groups:

- Overall, attendance the past two years in all FFN Play & Learn activities has grown and more families and caregivers are being reached than pre-pandemic.
- Groups have been virtual throughout the pandemic and largely remain so
- By the end of FY23, DCYF and its partner Child Care Aware of Washington will:
 - Increase the number of state-funded facilitated in person play groups from 7 to 37
 - Increase the number of CSO Early Connections text messaging program locations from 9 to 12 counties
 - Provide program access to 1,400 more children and 900 more FFN caregivers and parents
 - Fund vital infrastructure for staff training, materials translations, evaluation, technology, and leveraging local funding

Child Care Collaborative Task Force Implementation Updates

- Commerce and DCYF reconvening task force fall 2021 – fall 2022 to complete a Cost of Quality Child Care study and cost model
- Contract has been signed with national partner who supported the only other state, and the District of Columbia, to successfully complete a CoQ study
- Commerce and DCYF also partnering with King County and City of Seattle who are undertaking their own cost studies
- Final report and recommendations due November 2022

<https://www.commerce.wa.gov/about-us/boards-and-commissions/child-care-collaborative-task-force/>

Stabilization Grants

Grant award includes program amount, workforce amount, and verifiable add-ons seen here on dashboard.

Data dashboards are live on:
<https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/practice/oiaa/reports/early-learning-dashboards/child-care-stabilization>

Dashboard Map - Zip Code Factors

Select the zip code criteria on the right to see specific zip code factors, separate or in combination.

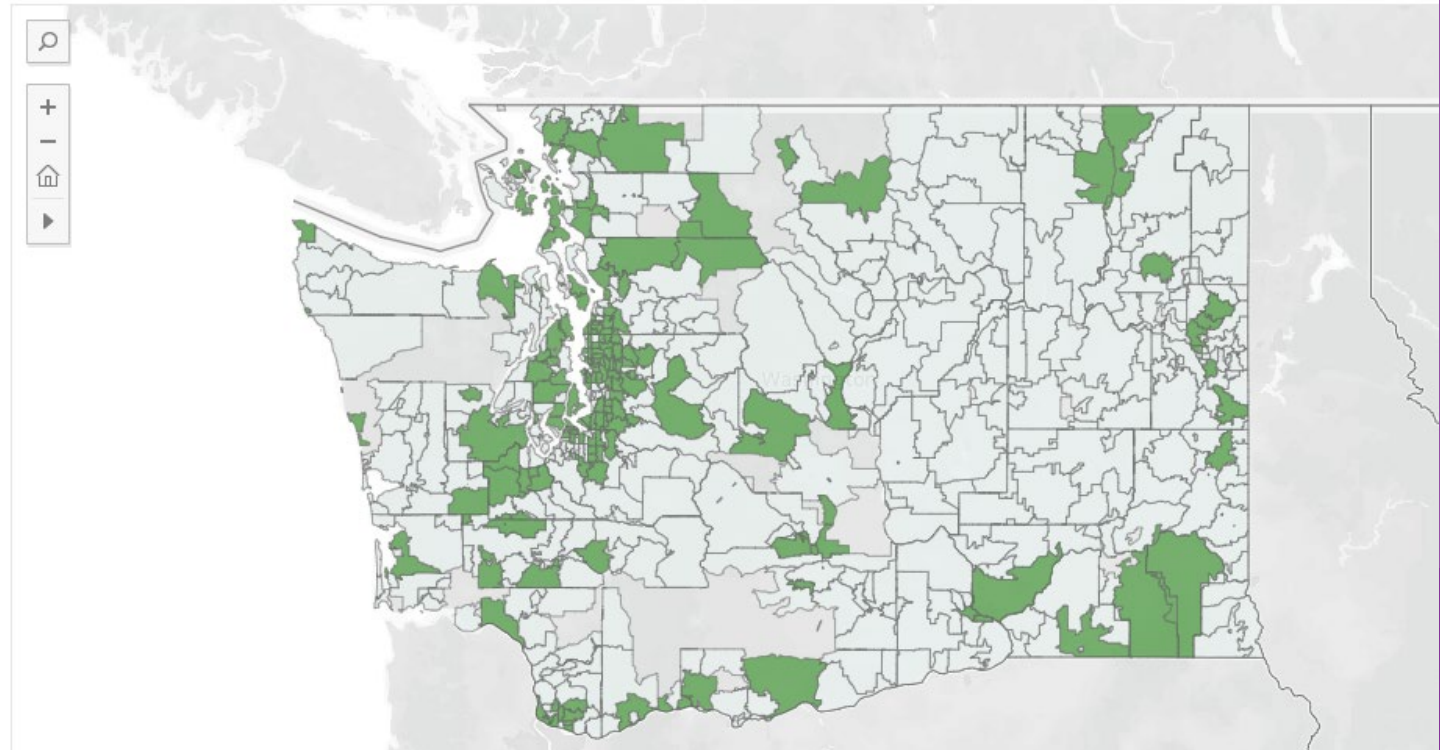
County: (All) ZIP Code: (All)

Rural Counties: (All)

Conditions Met: Yes No

ZIP Code Criteria:

- Extreme childcare access desert
- High rates child maltreatment
- High childhood poverty
- High AI/AN-Black-Hispanic-NH/PI children <5
- High children of color <15
- High COVID-19 impact



Stabilization Grants

As of November 15, **3,220** licensed child care providers have applied for the grant, for an estimated total of **\$221,316,500**.

Over **425** FFN providers have also applied.

15-Nov-21	Applications	Licensed Capacity	Application Amounts
LFH	1,931	19,712	\$ 102,697,000
CCC	1,289	93,863	\$ 118,619,500
Totals	3,220	113,575	\$ 221,316,500
9-Nov-21	Applications	Minimum Amount	Maximum Amount
FFN	425	\$ 318,750	\$ 743,750

Questions?
dcyf.govaffairs@dcyf.wa.gov

