



Child Care Aware of Washington



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Child Care Aware of Washington is a managing network utilizing six regional organizations to deliver services to providers and operates a statewide Family Call Center.

- **Data** regarding statewide child care trends.
- **Referrals** to licensed child care programs through our statewide **Family Call Center**.
- **Support for Homeless Families** to ensure they have access to the state's Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) subsidy.
- **Technical assistance and support** to the six CCA of WA regions who deliver Early Achievers services to providers
- **Communications** around statewide issues
- Contract management and monitoring

Who is CCA of Washington?



What have families experienced since March 2020?

Working families have been significantly impacted by the COVID crisis. Child Care programs were closed, or care was only available to first responders. Parents had to work AND create a care plan for their children that would allow them to continue to do so.

Many families, due to the lack of care options created solutions that utilized family, friends and other caregivers.

Schools did not reopen in the Fall of 2020 causing child care providers who support working families to have the additional challenge of supporting on-line learning for children in their care.

Recently, due to the Omicron variant, families are faced with inconsistent school and child care options due increased numbers of teachers and children testing positive. This has resulted in classroom and program closures due to staffing shortages.

Families are under tremendous pressure and stress.



The Fair Start Act, First Quarter

New Eligibility Levels and Lower Co-pay levels went into effect on October 1st.

The holiday season occurred during the quarter which is traditionally a low call volume period for the call center.

We have had only three months of experience to share with you today.

We are sure there will be more experiences and stories to share in the coming months!



Example of Fair Start Impact: Central Washington

Two Parent Household, 1 Infant, 1 Preschool Age Child

- Monthly income eligibility maximum increases from \$4,416 (\$52,956) to \$5,088 (\$61,056 annually)
- Monthly copay decreases from \$755 to \$115
- Estimated monthly savings for a newly qualifying family enrolled in licensed child care is \$1,631
- Monthly savings for families already accessing WCCC \$640
- Median monthly cost of care for Infant \$1,075
- Median monthly cost of care for Preschool \$786
- Yakima County Median Income \$58,736
- University of Washington Self-Sufficiency Standard \$62,738 (two adults, one infant, one preschool)** the amount of income needed to support families of various sizes without additional help from the government, community or other personal resources.

The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Washington State 2020 -

http://www.selfsufficiencystandard.org/sites/default/files/selfsuff/docs/WA2020_SSS.pdf



The CCA of WA Family Call Center

Our Family Call Center serves families from across the state of Washington seeking child care solutions.

CCA of WA Region	Percentage of Total Families Served	% Families Served With a WCCC Subsidy
Central WA	7%	62%
Eastern WA	10%	64%
King & Pierce Counties	49%	46%
Northwest WA	14%	58%
Olympic Peninsula	10%	53%
Southwest WA	10%	51%
Statewide	100%	51%

Currently, most families we serve via phone are families who have complex child care needs, are seeking support for paying for child care and/or currently receive WCCC subsidy.

We hear many family stories around the challenges they face finding and paying for care and are always happy to share!

What are we hearing from families?



Our call center staff report that they are:

- Frequently informing families that they are now income eligible for Working Connections Child Care subsidy.
- Serving families that have decided they can afford to use the subsidy due to the copay being capped by providing them a list of available care options.
- Introducing the subsidy to families that are not used to being eligible for any public benefits.

Your family may qualify for low-cost quality child care



Quality child care just got much more affordable. More financial assistance is now available to families who need child care to work or go to school.

- **Pay less for trusted child care.** Subsidized families never pay more than \$115 a month, whether you have one child or more.
- **Make more money and still qualify.** Families can make 60% or less of the state median income. For a family of four, that's \$61,056/year. Families do not need to receive any other state assistance.
- **Pays for care while you work or learn.** Parents must be employed, self-employed, in school or doing approved activities.
- **Give your children a great start and give yourself peace of mind!** Quality child care helps the whole family.

WE WILL HELP YOU

To find quality child care or for financial assistance information, call The Family Center at [1-800-446-1114](tel:1-800-446-1114). You may also search for licensed child care online at www.childcareawarewa.org/families.



A Story we have heard Statewide

“I used to receive many calls from families who were asking for child care financial resources since they no longer qualified for Working Connections due to working overtime, receiving a small bonus or receiving a raise. In those cases, I found that I could provide little assistance.

Now, when I receive calls with this story my first question is when did you lose the subsidy. Many report a date prior to October 1st. If that is the case, I rescreen them for eligibility based on the new guidance and frequently find they are now eligible for care.”



“I spoke with a parent about child care options in Vancouver WA and I explained about DCYF income guidelines and based on her household size and income she would qualify, and her co-pay would not exceed \$115.00 per month for both children. She was very happy to hear the new changes in income and shared that being a single mother of 2 children is very hard when you have no additional support.”

Child Care Aware of Southwest Washington



Child Care Aware of Olympic Penninsula

“ I served a single mother of an infant in Olympia WA who was asking for a list of child care providers with a discount because she was sure she did not qualify for any type of assistance. I explained to her that DCYF income guidelines for eligibility changed October 1st and that she was able to qualify for child care based on her income. I helped her to understand the application process and how to apply. She was very excited and could not stop saying thank you!”

- **Annually the Family Call Center's call volume is higher** between January through June each year. This will result in many more families finding out they are eligible for subsidy and reaching out to DCYF to apply. We expect to be able to assist many more families utilize their WCCC subsidy during upcoming second and third quarters of Fair Start for Kids Act implementation.
- **Only two of our six regions** (CCA Central and Eastern Washington) have self sufficiency standards that match the current WCCC subsidy eligibility level.
- **Four of our six regions (CCA of Northwest, King/Pierce, Olympic Peninsula and Southwest Washington)** have self sufficiency standards that are significantly more than the WCCC eligibility levels. This means there are still families that need support to access child care.

A Few Thoughts and Considerations



Questions?

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