
DCYF Updates

House Human Services, Youth & Early Learning Committee Work Session

January 10, 2023

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Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

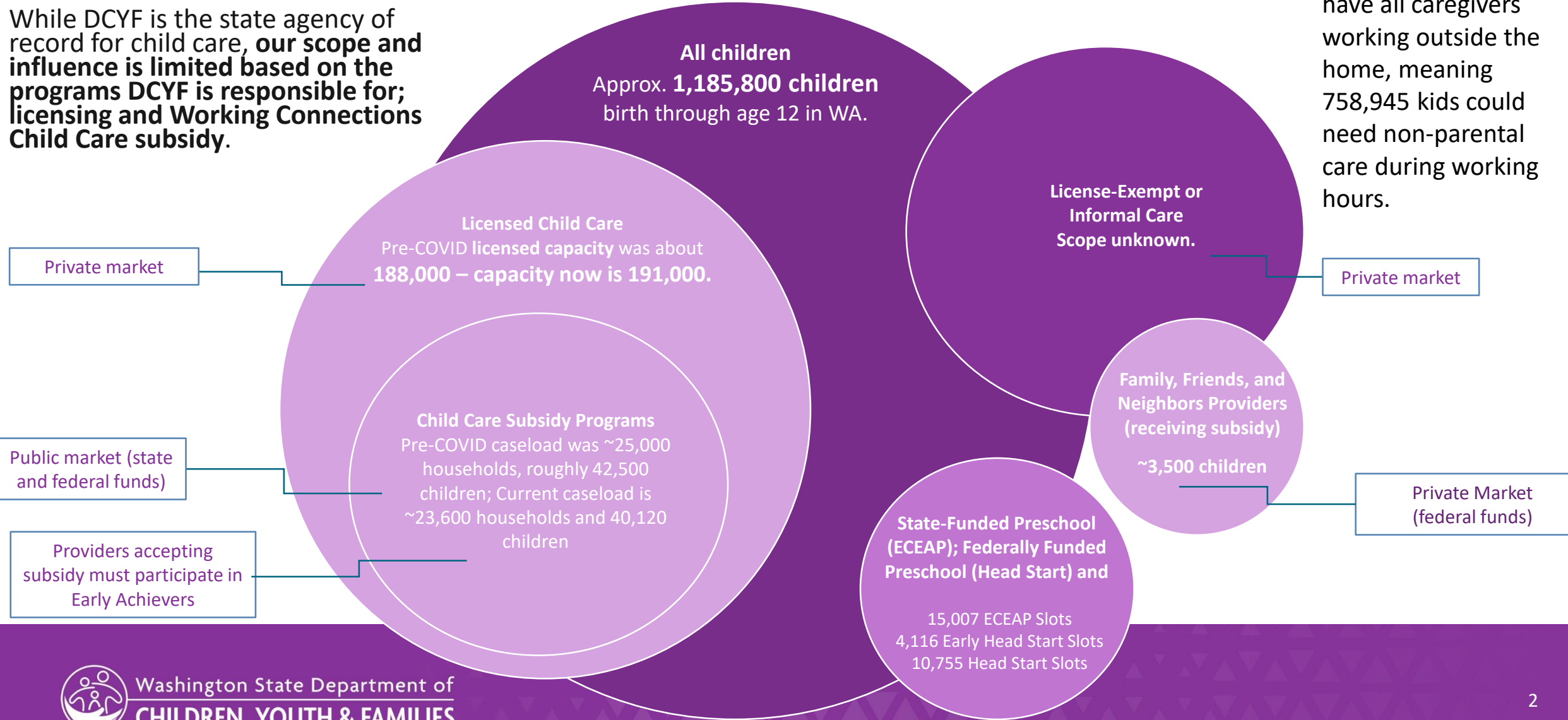


DCYF Role in Child Care

Relative Scale of Care Options in the Child Care Market

While DCYF is the state agency of record for child care, **our scope and influence is limited based on the programs DCYF is responsible for; licensing and Working Connections Child Care subsidy.**

Its estimated that 64% of children under 12 have all caregivers working outside the home, meaning 758,945 kids could need non-parental care during working hours.



Child Care and Early Learning Classroom Based Universe



Family Homes

- Children served in a residential home
- Ages 0-12
- Up to 12 children (Waiver allowed)



Centers

- Children served in commercially zoned setting
- Ages 0-12
- Capacity based on sq. ft.



Outdoor

- Children served outdoors in public land
- Ages 4 -12
- Capacity based on sq. ft.



Schools

- Children served in district school settings
- Ages 0-12
- Capacity based on sq. ft.

Settings

Program Elements

Licensed child care: Foundational quality standards **ensure safe, healthy, and nurturing environments**. Serves children birth through age 12. Approximate capacity for 188,000 children.

Early Achievers: Washington's **quality recognition and improvement system**. Providers are licensed, eligible to receive subsidy through Working Connections Child Care, licensed certified, along with tribal and military sites. Private pay providers and non-licensed ECEAP also participate. Serves children birth to age 12.

Working Connections Child Care: Washington's **child care subsidy program**, helping low-income families pay for child care. Providers must be licensed or certified. Eligibility up through age 12 with a current ~26,400 caseload.

ECEAP (Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program): **Washington's state-funded pre-kindergarten** program for 3- and 4-year-old children from families furthest from opportunity with a 9 out of 10 NIEER quality rating. 15,866 slots in 2022-23 school year.

Head Start: Federally funded preschool program for 3- and 4-year-old children from families furthest from opportunity. 11,263 slots.

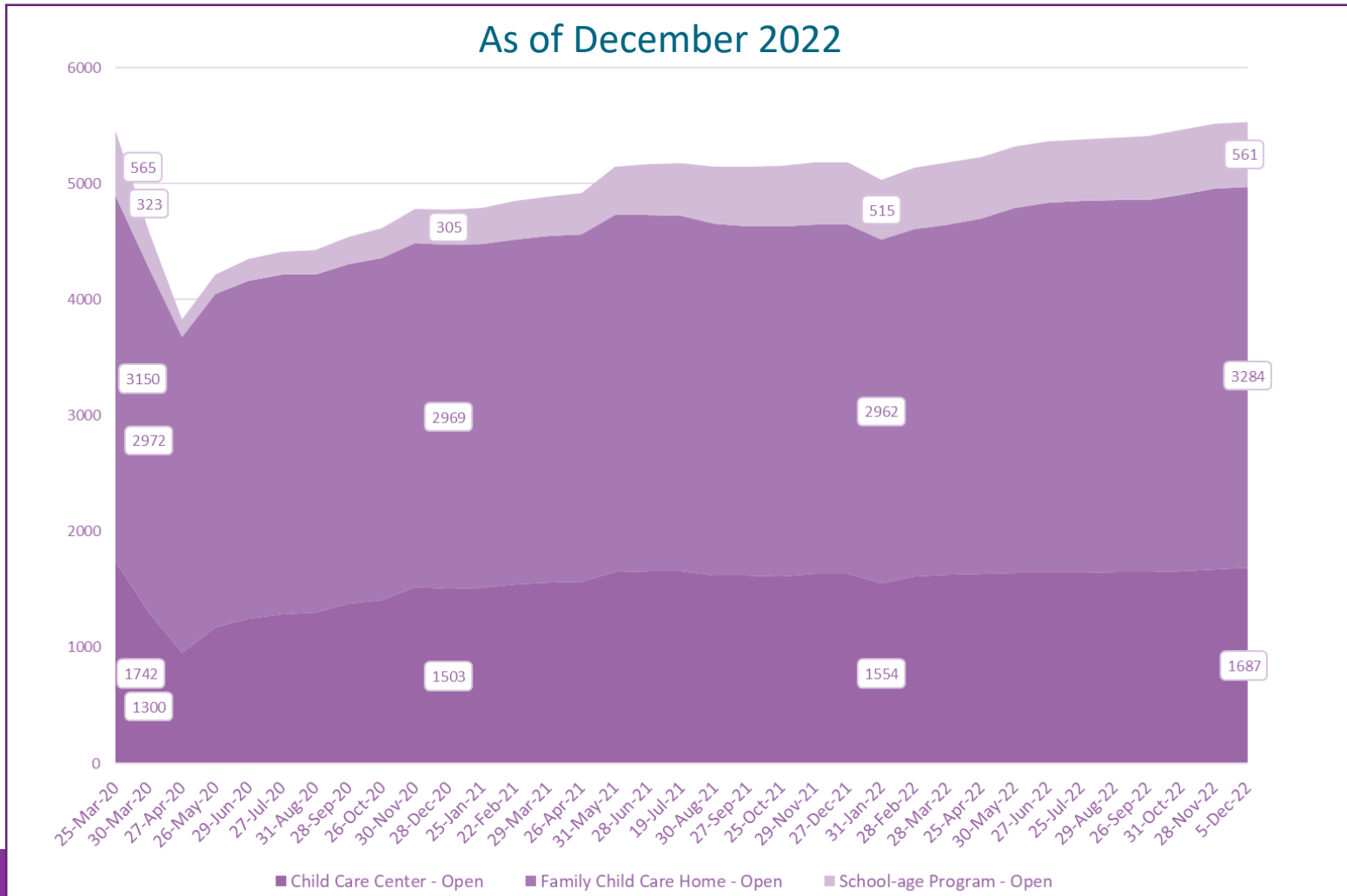


Children Served in DCYF Subsidy & ECEAP Programs

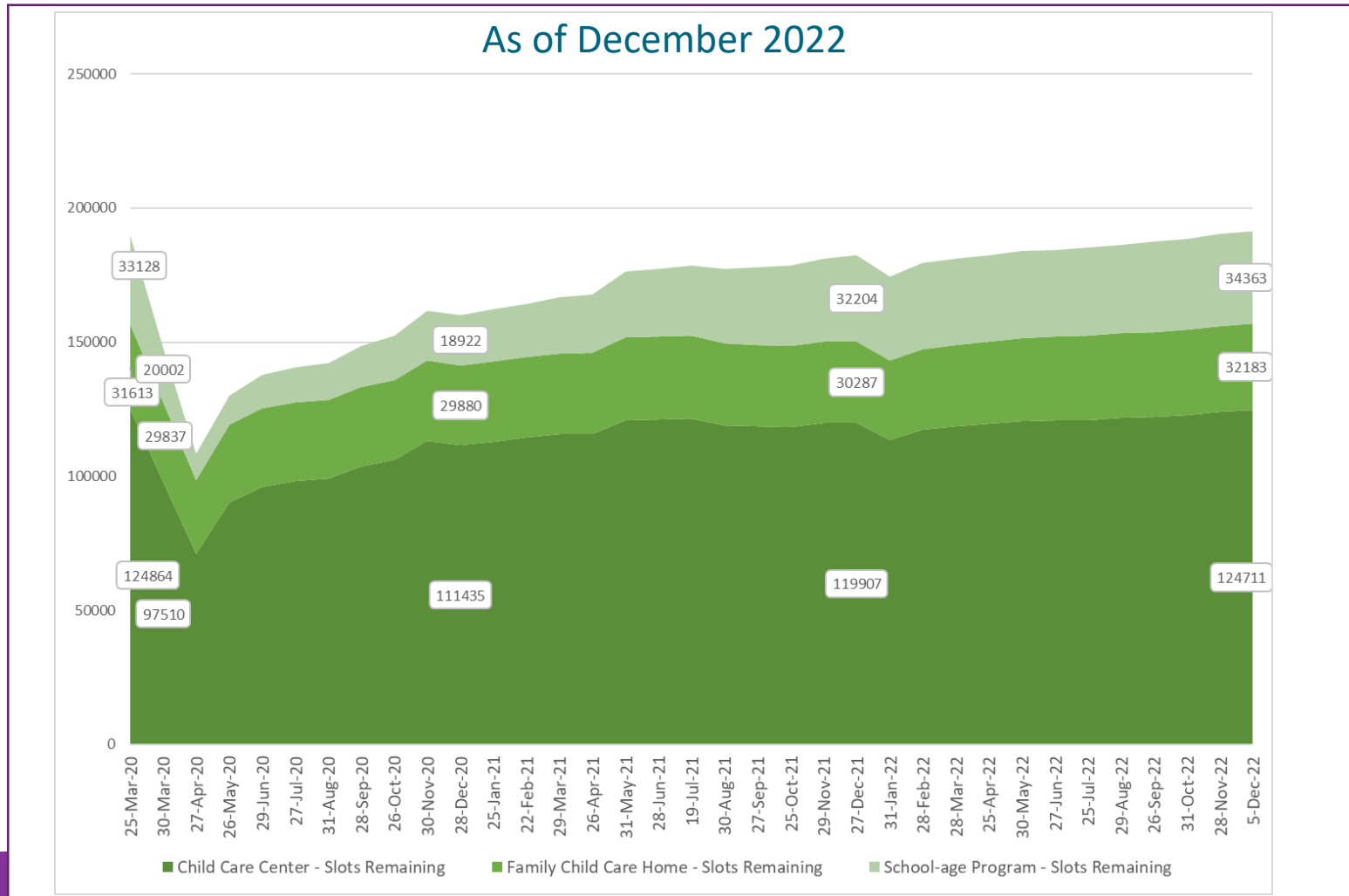
Children Served in Subsidized Child Care and ECEAP by Race/Ethnicity and Language, FY 2022				
	Subsidy <5 (Licensed Care)	WA <5 <=200% FPL, 2016	ECEAP	WA 3-4 <=110% FPL, 2016
Total	29,242	124,209	15,405	25,387
American Indian / Alaska Native	4.6%	5.5%	4.9%	6.6%
Asian / Pacific Islander	4.5%	5.4%	6.0%	4.8%
Black / African American	20.5%	13.7%	12.1%	11.4%
Hispanic / Latino	28.8%	33.9%	39.4%	39.8%
Multiracial / Other / Unknown	6.7%	3.9%	5.6%	2.9%
White	34.8%	37.6%	32.1%	34.5%



Child Care Providers, by Type



Licensed Capacity, by Type



Licensed & FFN Early Learning Workforce

JOB ROLE - April 2022	COUNT
Assistant or Aide	14,463
Lead	13,698
Director/Program Sup/FCC	9,721
Support Roles	2,070
Other (cook, bus driver)	4,846
Household Members	5,013
FFN Provider	4,042
Volunteers	1,426
Grantee/Contractor Staff	1,053
Substitutes (DCYF/Imagine)	605
Currently Applying	1,976
Direct Service/On-Site Workforce	58,913

*not shown are an additional 60K of coaches, trainers,
and ESIT workforce making a combined estimate of 120K*

Licensing

Licensing Approach

- DCYF practices a technical assistance first approach
- Aim is to assist and encourage best practices while assuring full compliance to health and safety standards
- Child Care licensing has established a pre-licensing TA support unit

Licensing's "New Normal"

- Nurture partnerships with providers and stakeholders
- Increase dosage of TA, decrease intensity of licensing activities
- Targeted supports for providers serving the most vulnerable populations
- Empower innovative business and operating models
- Enhance adoption to technology
- Enhance language access supports



Early Achievers

Early Achievers is Washington's Quality Recognition and Improvement System (QRIS) for early learning programs.

- **Framework for improving the quality of early learning** in Washington, helping to ensure families (esp. those furthest from opportunities), have access to the high-quality programs critical for K-readiness and ongoing development.
- Required for all providers who accept subsidy for non-school age children

Early Achievers Provides

- Coaching, scholarships, grants, and tiered reimbursements for providers.
- More than 4,100 participating providers [family homes + centers]

March 2020

- DCYF put all Early Achievers onsite data collection for ratings on hold due to COVID-19 response.
- Moved all coaching to virtual coaching.

April 2020

- Began to develop a new approach that includes virtual system of assessing and supporting quality growth.
- DCYF, participants, and stakeholders engaged in revisions process. Years of implementation, participant feedback and literature review informed the design.

July 2021

- DCYF completed the design process to accommodate both increased virtual service delivery and decreased Early Achievers budget availability.
- Began revised implementation in phases.

Current approach:

- Rebranded to “recognition” instead of “rating”
- Program evaluation inclusive of multiple touch-points over time
- Feedback on program practices from the QRIS team, data driven coaching, Program Profile and Video Highlights.
- Records Review, National Accreditation



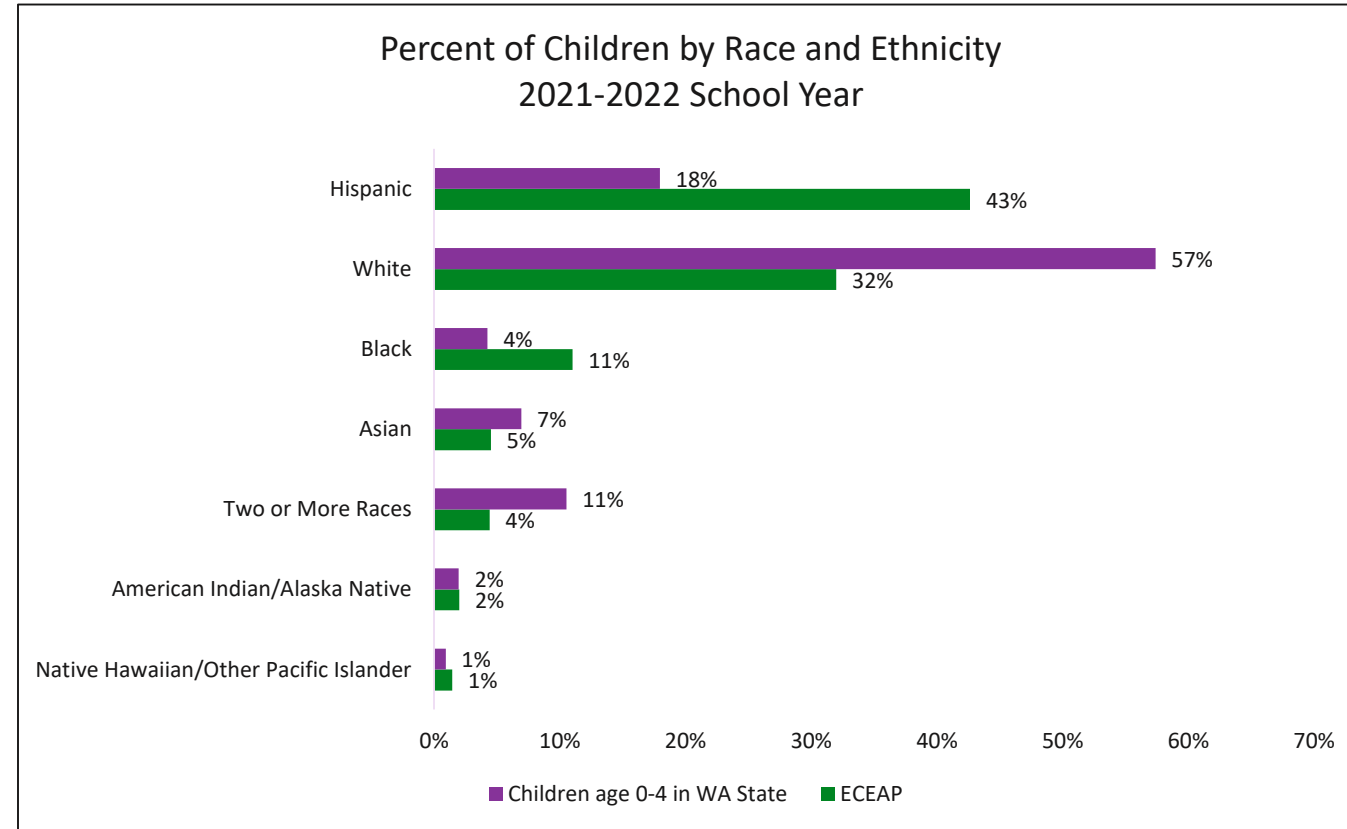
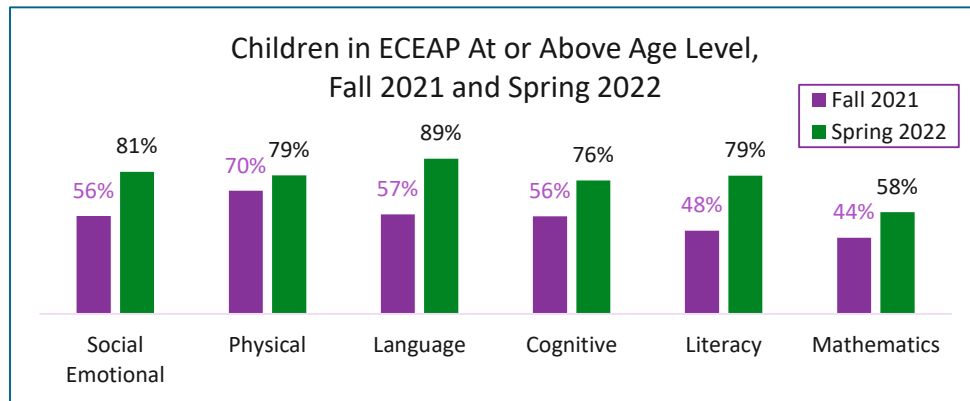
Early Achievers

- Total number of providers eligible for Early Achievers: 5,429
- 76.4% of eligible providers are participating in Early Achievers (4,148 of 5,429).
 - 57.3% of participants have received their Quality Level Assignment (2,378 of 4,148)
 - 96.2% are recognized at a Quality Level 3 or higher (2,288 out of 2,378)

Active Participants	Quality Level 2	Quality Level 3	Quality Level 3+	Quality Level 4	Quality Level 5	No Quality Level Yet	Grand Total
Existing ECEAP	3	1	6	159	2	9	180
Existing Subsidy	20	296	124	29	0	18	487
New ECEAP	1	0	1	51	0	72	125
New ECEAP + Licensed	0	46	22	41	0	31	140
New Subsidy	7	139	30	4	1	201	382
Private Pay/No State Funding	59	1,081	193	62	0	1,439	2,834
Grand Total	90	1,563	376	346	3	1,770	4,148

Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP)

- School, center and family child care based programs
- Slot types:
 - Part Day – 3 hrs.
 - School Day – 6 hrs.
 - Working Day – 10 hrs.
- Increases social-emotional, physical, and pre-academic skills
- Helps families move toward self-sufficiency and builds their capacity to support their children’s success



Early ECEAP

Early ECEAP is Washington’s comprehensive birth to three program for low-income children, and children with specific risk factors. Right now, there are 178 Early ECEAP slots across the state.

Early ECEAP Children Ages		
< 1 years old	46	18.8%
1 years old	106	43.3%
2 years old	85	34.7%

County	% of Slots
Chelan	6%
Clark	16%
King	15%
Klickitat	4%
Lewis	5%
Pierce	13%
Snohomish	12%
Spokane	7%
Yakima	22%



Head Start/Early Head Start

Program Overview:

- Free early learning child care or preschool to support child's development and learning. In some locations, Head Start may also offer home-based services.
- Family support and parent involvement.
- Child health coordination, nutrition and mental health.
- Services responsive and appropriate to each child's and family's heritage and experience.
- Federal funding directly to 48 local grant recipients.
- 10,755 Head Start slots statewide
- 4,116 Early Head Start slots statewide

Eligibility Requirements:

Child age 3 to 5 years for Head Start; pregnant or 0-3 years for Early Head Start, and meet one of the following:

- Income \leq 130% federal poverty level, priority to those at or below 100% FPL
- Eligible for or receiving one of the following public assistance:
 - TANF
 - SSI
 - Basic Food Assistance in Washington State
- Experiencing homelessness
- In foster care

Some children may be accepted who are over income if they have developmental or environmental factors



Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT)

Overview

- Early intervention services for children birth to 3 with developmental delays or disabilities.
- Washington's Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is ESIT and was formally established in October 1986.



93% of children served through ESIT receive services in their family home.



20,466 children were enrolled between July 2021 and June 2022.



ESIT is provided by community based providers such as school districts and non-profits.

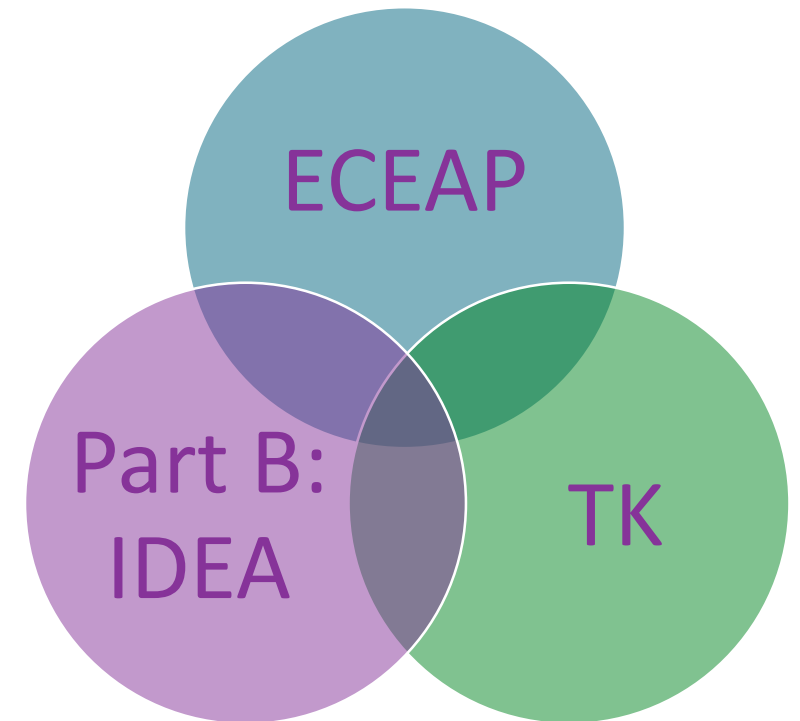


Partnerships with K-12

DCYF and OSPI have been partnering to:

- Lead statewide Coordinated Recruitment and Enrollment efforts
- Develop recommendations and further actions to align and integrate high quality early learning programs, such as:
 - Coordinated Recruitment and Enrollment Regional Committee development
 - Enhanced program demand and management data
 - Workforce and professional development supports

The Integrated and Inclusive Pre-K Report outlines the work between these two agencies and was recently delivered to the legislature.



Partnerships with K-12

Program Name	Administration and Oversight	Current Funding Level	Children Served
ECEAP	DCYF	\$184,999,900	15,869
Head Start (Head Start, American Indian Alaska Native HS)	Department of Health and Human Services (Federal)	\$193,880,495	8,476
Migrant and Seasonal Head Start	Department of Health and Human Services (Federal)	\$39,825,828	2,384
Working Connections Child Care Subsidy	Department of Health and Human Services (Federal) / DCYF	\$355,000,000	55,927 (ages 0-12)
Part B, IDEA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 619 (ages 3-5) • 611 (ages 3-21) 	OSPI and USDOE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$8,503,692 • \$244,172,280 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9,565 (ages 3-5)
Title I, Part A – Early Childhood Set Aside	OSPI and USDOE	\$8,319,062	Current federal data collection processes make it difficult to determine the # of children served
Transitional Kindergarten	OSPI	\$37,180,030	3,127
Tribal Early Learning Programs	Tribal Nations	No data available**	No data available**

Supporting Providers

Since 2021, DCYF has achieved:

- ✔ Delivered more than **\$475.66 million** in grants and incentives to early learning providers.*
- ✔ **16% cost of care rate enhancement to licensed center providers** through the Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) program.
- ✔ **Over 500 child care employees enrolled** in \$0 monthly premium health care since November 2021.
- ✔ **10% increase in the rate per slot by** for ECEAP providers as of July 2021.
- ✔ **Doubled funds** available for mental health consultation for providers.

Improving Accessibility

Since 2021, DCYF has achieved:

- ✔ **7,000 more families eligible** to access child care subsidies through Working Connections Child Care (WCCC).
- ✔ **1,000 + new pre-k slots** through the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP).
- ✔ **185 additional families served** through 7 home visiting programs across the state.

Supporting Families

DCYF is working to provide more options for care, particularly for families of color:

- ✓ Increased **home visits** for expectant parents.
- ✓ Expanded eligibility for **tribal member families** to access the ECEAP and preschool education.
- ✓ Enabled access to affordable child care for **student parents** attending community and tribal colleges.
- ✓ Established **statewide standards** so parents can find information about the quality of providers.
- ✓ Created grants for **family, friends, and neighbors** who provide child care and early learning.

COVID-19 Related Relief Grants – Child Care

Grant	# of Awardees	Provider Type	Total Amount Awarded
Child Care COVID-19 Spring 2020 Grant	3,671 Grants 1,782 FFN Incentives	Centers – 1057 LFH – 2509 Outdoor preschool – 1 School Age – 104 FFN – 1,782	\$28,832,000
Child Care COVID-19 Fall 2020 Grant	3,128 Grants 1,840 FFN Incentives	Centers – 953 LFH – 2016 Outdoor preschool – 3 School Age – 156 FFN – 1840	\$30,200,300
Child Care COVID-19 Spring 2021 Grant	4,260 Grants 1,826 FFN Incentives	Centers – 1,246 LFH – 2,615 Outdoor preschool – 2 School Age – 397 FFN – 1,826	\$31,324,725 (Grants and Incentives) -And - \$10,600 (Temporary rate increase)
Child Care Stabilization Grant	6,852 Grants	Centers – 1,586 LFH – 3,223 FFN – 1,477 Outdoor preschool – 11 School Age – 555	\$363,355,750
Workforce Retention Grant	3,638 Providers 18,359 employees	Centers – 1,532 LFH – 2,106	\$12,851,300

Child Care Stabilization Grant

Total Grant Amount Awarded

6,852 applications were approved and grant awards were distributed, totaling \$363,355,750 in grant funds. The grant closed on September 30, 2022.

Technical Assistance Offered

DCYF contracted with Voices of Tomorrow and The Imagine Institute to provide outreach and technical assistance:

- Assistance in the provider’s language,
- Guidance on preparing for and accessing the application, spending and saving receipts.
- Technical Assistance contractors delivered over 37,000 technical assistance sessions in over 27 languages to over 8,000 unduplicated providers.

License Type	Total Count	Total Amount	Licensed Capacity
Child Care Center	1,586	\$145,138,500	116,695
Licensed Family Home	3,223	\$171,046,000	31,847
Outdoor Preschool	11	\$498,000	228
School-Age Program	555	\$44,514,500	33,461
Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN)	1,477	\$2,158,750	N/A
Total	6,852	\$363,355,750	182,231

FSKA Implementation: Early Childhood Equity Grants



First round of grants complete

34 applications were funded in this first round. Awards ranged from \$2,000 - \$100,000 depending on provider type and funding request. Additional rounds will be offered this Spring.

To date, the top funding requests are:

- Hiring specialized staff
- Purchasing classroom materials
- Staff training and education
- Curriculum

Provider Type	Number of Awards	Total Amount Awarded	Licensed Capacity
Child Care Center	5	\$414,095.58	204
Licensed Family Home	22	\$1,026,213.94	239
Family, Friend, and Neighbor	2	\$4,000	N/A
Play and Learn Group	3	\$65,595	N/A
ECEAP Contractor	2	\$196,165	N/A
Total	34	\$1,706,069.52	443

FSKA Implementation: Complex Needs Fund

ECEAP Awards:

- DCYF had \$4.6 million available for the 22-23 funding year.
- ✔ DCYF received 43 grant applications that totaled to \$8.3 million in funding requests – all 43 were funded, at less than their requested amounts

Child Care Awards:

- Grants of \$5,000-\$100,000 for staffing, therapeutic services, ADA facility improvements, supportive and adaptive materials and equipment, or teacher training.
- DCYF had \$4.5 million from the 2021-23 biennial budget.
- DCYF received more than 1,400 applications totaling \$86M
- DCYF was able to use additional CRRSA funds to increase Round 1 awards to \$7.35 million.
- ✔ Round 1 total grant awards will fund 131 applications (82 centers and 50 licensed family homes)

FSKA Implementation: Dual Language Designation

Implementation updates and expected outcomes:





- ✔ 1500 providers may be eligible for a designation award
 - DCYF will work with partners to project how many programs are serving children who speak languages other than English and have teachers who also speak that language
- ✔ Providers will “opt-in” to receive the designation and then will make commitments to demonstrate their program practices
 - Early Achievers participants will be able to opt-in by this Winter
- ✔ Awards will be distributed up to 2 times this FY and in regular intervals
- ✔ Priority for tribal programs, programs serving in child care deserts, marginalized communities, and BIPOC communities

FSKA Implementation: Infant Care Incentive

DCYF must provide an infant rate enhancement for licensed or certified child care providers and birth to three ECEAP program contractors who are:

- Accepting state subsidy;
- In good standing with the early achievers quality rating and improvement system; and
- Caring for a child between the ages of birth and 11 months.

Implementation Successes:

-  1,639 infant care incentives per month on average
-  939 infants attending 360 licensed centers
-  700 infants attending 562 licensed family homes
-  The infant incentive is \$90 per infant, per month

FSKA Implementation: Trauma-Informed Care Supports

Implementation updates and expected outcomes:



1100 providers are currently eligible to receive a TIC award – we anticipate 1000 more providers will be eligible based on new TIC training that will be offered this year.



In addition, with other funding DCYF will:

- Integrate trauma-informed content in existing training and expanding delivery of approved trauma-informed training, including delivery in Spanish and Somali.
- Establish trauma-informed practices and standards that can be used to expand trauma-informed and provide a structure for future credentials or specializations.
- Increase delivery of training on developmental screening by 78 programs across the state.

FSKA Implementation: Community Based Training

The community-based training option is known as PACE (Provider Access to a Community Equivalent)

- PACE is one of multiple options providers have to meet licensing standards and reach education goals.
- PACE is a responsive and flexible pathway designed sustain and attract a diverse early childhood educators while also supporting quality.
- PACE content aligns with the College pathway option. Current efforts towards an articulation agreement with the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges.

Implementation updates :

- ✔ DCYF continues to work closely with the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges toward creating an elective continuation path from a training pathway to a college certificate program.
- ✔ We are excited to continue to expand access to PACE and have a Spanish cohort starting soon, with an eye to a Somali cohort in the future

THANK YOU

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Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

A photograph of a white card with the words "Thank you" written in blue cursive. The card is placed on top of a brown envelope. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

Thank you