
DCYF Updates

Senate Early Learning & K-12
Education Committee Work Session

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Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES



Child Care and Early Learning Universe

Settings



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.

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.



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.

**Includes grants/incentives from 2020*



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