The Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) is recruiting members for the Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) and is accepting applications from qualified and interested individuals who are essential to coordinating statewide services for prenatal children through age 12.

## Open Seats

* Representative from the Developmental Disabilities Community representing children and families involved in Part C of the federal individuals with disabilities education act
* Representative from the Developmental Disabilities Community representing children and families involved in Part B of the federal individuals with disabilities education act.
* Representative designated by sovereign tribal governments
* Representative designated by sovereign tribal governments, representing a tribal early childhood education assistance program or head start program
* Representative from a statewide advocacy coalition of organizations that focuses on early learning
* Representative from an association representing statewide business interests
* Representative from a regional business coalition
* Representative of an advocacy organization for immigrants and refugees
* Representative of an organization advocating for expanded learning opportunities and school-age child care programs
* Representative from the largest union representing child care providers
* Representative of educational service districts
* Representative of the early childhood education and assistance program
* Representative of licensed family home providers
* Representative of child care centers
* An infant or early childhood mental health expert
* A Family, Friend, and Neighbor caregiver
* Representative from prenatal to three services
* A Pediatrician
* Representative of the statewide child care resources and referral organization

## About ELAC

ELAC was created by the Legislature ([RCW 43.216.075](https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=43.216.075)) in 2007, with recent changes to membership during the 2021 session in the [Fair Start for Kids Act](http://lawfilesext.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2021-22/Pdf/Bills/Session%20Laws/Senate/5237-S2.SL.pdf?q=20210701122321). The Council plays a pivotal role in the early learning system as an advisory body to DCYF and serves as a connector among the state, local communities, and constituencies across Washington.

ELAC’s membership reflects Washington’s regional, racial, and cultural diversity and includes parents, child care providers, health/safety experts, legislators, representatives of Tribal Nations, independent schools, the K-12 and higher education systems, and others from both the eastern and western side of the state interested in building a comprehensive system of quality early learning programs and services for Washington’s young children and families.

ELAC representatives from around the state meet regularly to advise and work with DCYF on policy development and implementation that promotes alignment of private and public sector actions, objectives, and resources, with the overall goal of promoting school readiness for all children.

Read more about ELAC and its work.

## Membership

Members serve a minimum of two-year terms that expire on June 30 of the second year. ELAC meets at least six times per year; generally, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (***due to COVID-19, the schedule has been slightly altered***). ELAC members are expected to attend the majority of meetings and be prepared to actively participate. Members who volunteer in subcommittees or work groups should expect to meet outside of the regular meeting dates.

Council members are eligible for mileage reimbursements (when meetings resume in person) to help support participation. Mileage will be reimbursed at current state travel reimbursement rates and in accordance with the State of Washington Office of Financial Management Travel Regulations. Current rates for travel can be accessed at: <http://www.ofm.wa.gov/policy/10.90.htm#10.90.10>.

### Process and Timeline

Aug. 31, 2021: Applications Due

Sept. 17, 2021: Applications Reviewed

Sept. 24, 2021: Applicants Notified

Oct. 1, 2021: Member Terms Begin

### Supplemental Questions

We encourage you to answer the questions in a way that helps you best express yourself. This may include written answers, video (YouTube), electronic submission, or phone conversations. If you would like to schedule a phone call to address the questions, please contact us at [dcyf.communityengagement@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:dcyf.communityengagement@dcyf.wa.gov) **by August 20, 2021**. Feel free to contact us ([dcyf.communityengagement@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:dcyf.communityengagement@dcyf.wa.gov)) with any questions.

**All submissions are due by Aug. 31, 2021**

*Please fill out the questions and submit in one of the following ways:*

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| **Email**:  [dcyf.communityengagement@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:dcyf.communityengagement@dcyf.wa.gov) | **Electronically:**  [SurveyMonkey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JCN2YTC) | **Mail**:  Community Engagement  PO Box 40975  Olympia, WA 98501 |

*All information shared below will only be used for this recruitment process.*

*Thank you for completing.*

Name:  City:

Phone Number(s):  Email Address:

What is the best way to reach you?

Race and Ethnicity (optional):

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| 1. Why are you interested in serving as a representative on the Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC)? |

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| 1. What is your perspective on or approach to providing equitable early learning opportunities? |

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| 1. What impact do you hope to see ELAC have on early learning in Washington and how would you like to contribute to that as a member? |

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| 1. Are you able to make the necessary time commitments to the Early Learning Advisory Council – six in-person meetings per year?  YES  NO |

If no, please explain:

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| 1. How did you hear about this opportunity and/or who referred you? |

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| 1. Please share anything else you would like us to know about you, your experiences and why you feel you’d be a good representative for ELAC. |

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