



Agency Recommendation Summary

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) requests \$299,065,000 (\$298,300,000 General Fund State (GF-S)) and 47 Full Time Equivalents (FTES) in the 2023-25 Biennial Budget to standardize care, simplify the family and provider experience, and expand eligibility to those who need early learning services most. DCYF offers a variety of child care and early learning programs. DCYF proposes to simplify access for families and ensure that families with the most vulnerable children have continuity of care and access to high quality child care. Access to child care is essential to our state’s economy, as well as a key strategy in kindergarten readiness. This request simplifies family and provider experience and expands eligibility to those who furthest from opportunity. The timing is essential to stabilize the child care market by ensuring families who are eligible receive benefits, while also reducing administrative burden for providers.

Program Recommendation Summary

010 - Children and Families Services

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) requests \$299,065,000 (\$298,300,000 General Fund State (GF-S)) and 47 Full Time Equivalents (FTES) in the 2023-25 Biennial Budget to standardize care, simplify the family and provider experience, and expand eligibility to those who need early learning services most. DCYF offers a variety of child care and early learning programs. DCYF proposes to simplify access for families and ensure that families with the most vulnerable children have continuity of care and access to high quality child care. Access to child care is essential to our state’s economy, as well as a key strategy in kindergarten readiness. This request simplifies family and provider experience and expands eligibility to those who furthest from opportunity. The timing is essential to stabilize the child care market by ensuring families who are eligible receive benefits, while also reducing administrative burden for providers.

030 - Early Learning

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) requests \$299,065,000 (\$298,300,000 General Fund State (GF-S)) and 47 Full Time Equivalents (FTES) in the 2023-25 Biennial Budget to standardize care, simplify the family and provider experience, and expand eligibility to those who need early learning services most. DCYF offers a variety of child care and early learning programs. DCYF proposes to simplify access for families and ensure that families with the most vulnerable children have continuity of care and access to high quality child care. Access to child care is essential to our state’s economy, as well as a key strategy in kindergarten readiness. This request simplifies family and provider experience and expands eligibility to those who furthest from opportunity. The timing is essential to stabilize the child care market by ensuring families who are eligible receive benefits, while also reducing administrative burden for providers.

090 - Program Support

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) requests \$299,065,000 (\$298,300,000 General Fund State (GF-S)) and 47 Full Time Equivalents (FTES) in the 2023-25 Biennial Budget to standardize care, simplify the family and provider experience, and expand eligibility to those who need early learning services most. DCYF offers a variety of child care and early learning programs. DCYF proposes to simplify access for families and ensure that families with the most vulnerable children have continuity of care and access to high quality child care. Access to child care is essential to our state’s economy, as well as a key strategy in kindergarten readiness. This request simplifies family and provider experience and expands eligibility to those who furthest from opportunity. The timing is essential to stabilize the child care market by ensuring families who are eligible receive benefits, while also reducing administrative burden for providers.

Fiscal Summary

Fiscal Summary <i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Fiscal Years		Biennial	Fiscal Years		Biennial
	2024	2025	2023-25	2026	2027	2025-27
Staffing						
FTEs	34.5	59.5	47.0	59.5	59.5	59.5
Operating Expenditures						
Fund 001 - 1	\$836	\$833	\$1,669	\$833	\$833	\$1,666
Fund 001 - A	\$279	\$278	\$557	\$278	\$278	\$556
Fund 001 - 1	\$521	\$871	\$1,392	\$871	\$871	\$1,742
Fund 001 - A	\$78	\$130	\$208	\$130	\$130	\$260
Fund 001 - 1	\$104,502	\$190,737	\$295,239	\$190,613	\$190,676	\$381,289
Total Expenditures	\$106,216	\$192,849	\$299,065	\$192,725	\$192,788	\$385,513
Revenue						
001 - 0393	\$279	\$278	\$557	\$278	\$278	\$556
001 - 0393	\$78	\$130	\$208	\$130	\$130	\$260
Total Revenue	\$357	\$408	\$765	\$408	\$408	\$816

Decision Package Description

The proposal takes a multi-tiered approach to simplify and standardize child care subsidy and early learning programs as intended with the establishment of DCYF. These solutions streamline family eligibility for families accessing child care subsidy and the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), ensure that our most vulnerable children have access to high quality care, and reduce administrative burden for early learning providers. Collectively these policies will provide 8,500 families who were previously ineligible with access to Working Connections Child Care and increase coverage for an additional 8,775 families. These proposals will also increase ECEAP access to an additional 168 families. This proposal includes:

Transition Child Welfare Child Care to Working Connections Child Care

- Families involved with child welfare access child care subsidy through either the Child Welfare Child Care (CWCC) or Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) based on a family's circumstances when and where they apply. Families receive month-to-month eligibility under CWCC, impacting the continuity of care versus families eligible under WCCC who receive 12-months of eligibility. Combining the child care programs under WCCC and improving support for children involved in child welfare will:
 - Provide 12-month eligibility for families increasing continuity of care.
 - Give stability for providers who offer slots to children involved in child welfare.
 - Improve provider communications, and payment to providers.
 - Allow DCYF use both IV-E and CCDF funding to support 12-month eligibility.
- The necessary policy changes that create cost are:
 - Provide categorical eligibility for families with children involved protective services.
 - Providing families with children who have exited the child welfare system with have 12 months child care subsidy coverage upon case closure.
- This will provide increased access for about 1,002 families annually who adopt a child receiving services from DCYF and 5,078 children annually who receive child care from CWCC.

Authorize full-time care for children eligible for Working Connections Child Care.

- 5% of families eligible for child care subsidy receive less than full-time care. Full-time care is defined as 22 full-time days for non-school-age children, and 30 half-days for school-age children. This directly limits children from participating in early learning activities due to being authorized as few as 1 day of care per month. This further indirectly limits a child's participation due to provider's preference of enrolling children eligible for full-time care.
- This will support access for 2,467 children.

Allow child participation in ECEAP and Head Start as an approved activity for WCCC.

- ECEAP, Early ECEAP, Head Start, Early Head Start, Migrant Head Start, and Tribal Head Start programs have different eligibility requirements than child care subsidy and once a child is determined to be eligible, the child remains eligible up until they age out. These providers often rely on child care subsidy to support their full-day programs. Families are at danger to lose child care subsidy after any subsidy eligibility period has ended while the child remains in these other programs, leaving providers with the potential to perform services without sufficient funding to support the families.
- Families that are income eligible for ECEAP and Head Start are also financially eligible for WCCC. Allowing the child's participation in ECEAP, Head Start will allow families to continue their WCCC eligibility providing continuity of care for families and continuity of care for providers.
- This proposal requires families to continue to be income eligible for WCCC at application and reapplication, and only addresses loss of eligibility due to the parent not participating in an approved activity.
- This will support access for about 165 families.

Exclude child support, Social Security, and Supplemental Security payments as countable income for Working Connections Child Care and ECEAP.

- Numerous families are denied subsidy because they are unable to provide verification of their direct child support.
- 12 families are denied monthly due to counting non-taxable income including child support and social security payments.
- Excluding non-taxable income of child support, Social Security, and Supplemental Security payments will further align program eligibility while supporting children with access to high-quality child care.
- This will expand eligibility for approximately 1,374 children for WCCC and 168 children for ECEAP.

Expanding Child Welfare Early Learning Navigators (CWELN)

- The Child Welfare Early Learning Navigators assist children and families to access child care and other early learning programs which support involved in child welfare services. This proposal maintains the current 7 CWELN staff funded under the Preschool Development Grant (PDG) which is ending, and adds an additional 2.5 staff, for a total team of 9.5.

Allow formal and informal job search as an approved activity for WCCC at application and reapplication.

- DCYF currently allows job search as an approved activity during a family's eligibility period but does not support families when looking for work at application and reapplication.
- Allowing families who are looking for work as an approved activity at application and reapplication aligns with federal recommendations and supports families with child care for more effective job search.
- Approving child care during a parent's job search allows increased time for families to find a provider, allowing families to begin work sooner.
- This will support approximately 1,100 additional families per year.

Remove the twelve-month restriction for the Homeless Grace Period.

- Families experiencing homelessness are given 12-month eligibility under the Homeless Grace Period.
- Families are not eligible for two consecutive Homeless Grace Periods.
- Families experiencing homelessness tend find more permanent housing during their eligibility period, however, they may lose their housing

during the certification period.

- DCYF proposes removing 12-month restriction and provide 12-month eligibility when a family is experiencing homelessness at application or reapplication.
- This will support approximately 23 families per year.

Allow participation in four-year degrees and universities as an approved activity.

- DCYF proposes funding child care subsidy for parents participating in four-year degrees at Community, Technical, and Tribal Colleges (CTC) and supporting students participating in programs at universities.
- The FSKA included these families as an eligible population, but the legislature did not provide funding to support this in the 2021-23 biennial budget.
- Supporting these programs will support 200 additional families with students participating in four-year degrees at CTC schools, 2,173 families with students attending full-time at universities and other four years school, and 1,239 additional families with students attending part-time at universities who also meet the work requirement for part-time students.

Requiring only one parent in a two-parent household to participate in an approved activity to the extent allowed under CCDF

- DCYF does not approve two parent families when the parents have approved activities without overlapping schedules.
- DCYF does not approve two parent families when one person is not in an approved activity unless the parent is medically unable to care for the children.
- Approving child care for children in families who are financially eligible with at least one parent in an approved activity will support children with access to high quality care while ensuring that the parent is able to continue to participate in the approved activity.
- This will increase access for approximately 2,300 families.

Allow participating in medical activities as an approved activity for WCCC to the extent allowed under CCDF.

- DCYF does not approve families who are not actively participating in an approved activity at application or reapplication. This includes families who are unable to work due to a medical activity.
- DCYF proposes approving families who are employed but unable to work due to a medical activity.
- This will increase access for approximately 142 families.

In addition to the above items, DCYF request funds to contract for outreach and communication services to ensure families who are newly eligible for care are aware of their options. This will be necessary infrastructure support for any and all of the items listed above.

This proposal makes child care work for families by simplifying and standardizing policies within DCYF early learning programs. This proposal supports eligibility as allowed under CCDF requirements and supports early learning access for our most vulnerable families. These changes also improve administrative burden for providers. Which in turn, further supports family access to high quality care. DCYF has received positive partner and stakeholder feedback including feedback from ELAC, IPEL, Provider Supports, and the Child care Task Force.

Assumptions and Calculations

Expansion, Reduction, Elimination or Alteration of a current program or service:

DCYF request \$290,175,000 (\$273,568,000 GF-S) in the 2023-2025 Biennial Budget to standardize care, simplify the family and provider experience, and expands eligibility to those who need early learning services most.

Transition Child Welfare Child Care to WCCC

- DCYF assumes the cost of transitioning CWCC to WCCC is \$10,626,000GF-S in FY24 and \$19,676,000GF-S in FY25.
- DCYF will make administrative changes to simplify family participation in child care subsidy across programs. The cost associated with this transition is specific to extending eligibility a full twelve months in addition to the IV-E and state funding support for CWCC, and supporting adoptive parents with 12-month eligibility.
- 5,078 children received CWCC in FY22. DCYF assumes similar participation in future years.
- The average annual use of CWCC for these children is 6.8 months.
- DCYF assumes that 44% of these children transition to WCCC based on current caseload transitions, leaving 56% of these children needing an additional 5.2 months of coverage.
- DCYF assumes the average case monthly per cap is \$1,645.89 and \$914.38 per child averaging 1.8 children per case. (\$1645.89/1.8)
- The annual cost of transitioning the remaining children to 12-month eligibility is \$13,520,000 (5,078 children x 56% x 5.2 months of coverage x \$914.28 average child monthly per cap)
- The first year will have a 12-month roll-up, which is 54% of the annual total, with a cost of \$7,301,000. 1,002 children participating in DCYF protective services were adopted in FY22. DCYF assumes a consistent number of adoptions in future years.
- DCYF assumes that 44% of these children transition to WCCC based on current caseload transitions, leaving 56% of these children without child care subsidy.
- DCYF assumes the average case monthly per cap is \$1,645.89 and \$914.38 per child averaging 1.8 children per case. (\$1,645.89/1.8)
- The annual cost of transitioning the remaining children to 12-month eligibility is \$6,156,000 (1,002 children x 56% x 12 months of coverage x \$914.28 average child monthly per cap)
- The first year will have a 12-month roll-up, which is 54% of the annual total, with a cost of \$3,325,000.
- DCYF will continue to track IV-E eligibility and reimbursement for eligible services.

Authorize full-time care for children eligible for Working Connections Child Care.

- DCYF assumes the cost of full-time authorization is \$6,148,000 GF-S in FY24 and \$11,385,000 GF-S in FY25.
- 4.7% of current authorizations are less than full-time, representing 2,467 children.
- The average amount of care authorized is 57% of the full-time equivalent, with an average difference is \$384.56.
- The total anticipated annual cost is \$11,385,000 (2,467 children x \$384.56 x 12 months).
- The first year will have a 1-month roll-up, which is 54% of the annual total, with a cost of \$6,148,000.

Allow child participation in ECEAP and Head Start as an approved activity for WCCC.

- DCYF assumes the cost of allowing ECEAP and Head Start participation as an approved activity is \$1,760,000 GF-S in FY24 and \$3,259,000 GF-S in FY25.
- Allowing child participation in ECEAP, Early ECEAP, Head Start, Tribal Head Start, and Migrant Seasonal Head Start as an approved activity will allow children who are dually enrolled in Head Start and ECEAP programs and Working Connections Child Care to continue to receive services in both programs. This further supports providers offering integrated services to families.
- Based on FY19 data analysis, 2% of children participating in ECEAP also participate in child care subsidy.
 - DCYF currently has 15,834 ECEAP slots of these, 282 cases also participate in child care subsidy. Of the 282 cases, 127 cases are denied at reapplication.
 - DCYF assumes that 29 cases annually will be extended 12 months for children participating in ECEAP.
 - The anticipated annual cost for allowing ECEAP participation is \$573,000 (\$1,645.89 monthly per cap x 12 months x 29 cases).
 - The first year will have a 12-month roll-up, which is 54% of the annual total, with a cost of \$309,000. Based on the 2021 Head Start Program Information Report, 1,318 children participate in Head Start programs and Subsidy.
- 790 children in Washington participate in Head Start and Subsidy, and 528 children participate in Early Head Start for a total of 1,318 children.
 - Of the 1,318 cases, 593 cases are denied at reapplication.
 - DCYF assumes that 136 cases annually will be extended 12 months for children participating in Head Start Programs.
 - The anticipated annual cost for allowing Head Start participation is \$2,686,000 (\$1,645.89 monthly per cap x 12 months x 136 cases).
 - The first year will have a 12-month roll-up, which is 54% of the annual total, with a cost of \$1,450,000.

Exclude child support as countable income

- DCYF assumes the cost of excluding child support as countable income is \$1,823,000 GF-S in FY24 and \$3,376,000 GF-S in FY25.
- 25% of cases have child support income averaging \$424.87.
- In the past six months 3,417 applications had child support coded; 36%, or 1,230 cases, would have a lower copayment.
- The copayment decreases an average of \$42.12
- The total anticipated annual cost as a result of lower copayments is \$1,243,000 (2,460 cases in a year x 12 months x \$42.12).
- DCYF denies an average of 9 cases per month for families that would be eligible if not counting child support.
- The total anticipated annual cost as a result of increased caseloads is \$2,133,000 (9 cases per month x 12 months in the year x 12 months eligibility x \$1,645.89 per cap).
- The first year will have a 12-month roll-up, which is 54% of the annual total, with a cost of \$1,823,000.

Exclude SSI and Social Security payments as countable income

- DCYF assumes the cost of excluding child support as countable income is \$3,418,000 GF-S in FY24 and \$4,032,000 GF-S in FY25.
- WCCC averages three denials per month for families who have Social Security Income (SSI).
 - The total anticipated annual cost as a result of increased caseloads is \$711,000 (3 new cases per month x 12 months in a year x 12 months eligibility x \$1,645.89 per cap).
 - Additionally, 70 cases per month are approved with families having SSI or Social Security Income. The average copay reduction for these 70 cases is \$51.
 - The total anticipated annual cost as a result of increased copays is \$514,000 (70 new cases per month x 12 months in a year x 12-month eligibility x \$51).
 - The first year will have a 12-month roll-up, which is 54% of the annual total, with a cost of \$662,000.
- In 2021-22, less than 1% of ECEAP enrollments reported SSI income for the parent.
 - DCYF assumes 1% of the total slot amount would increase each year, with 85% of slots being School Day (SD) and 15% being Working Day (WD). This amounts to an increase of 168 slots, with 143 School Day slots and 25 Working Day slots.
 - The total anticipated cost for ECEAP slots in FY24 is \$2,757,000 ((143 School Day slots x \$15,145 SD slot rate) + (25 Working Day slots x \$23,645 WD slot rate)).
 - The total anticipated cost for ECEAP slots in FY25 is \$2,807,000 ((143 School Day slots x \$15,418 SD slot rate) + (25 Working Day slots x \$24,070 WD slot rate)).

Expanding Child Welfare Early Learning Navigators (CWELN)

- DCYF assumes the cost of increasing family accessibility to Child Welfare Early Learning Navigators is \$1,312,000 (\$1,008,000 GF-S)

in year one and \$1,308,000 (\$1,005,000 GF-S) in the following years. Expanding CWELN requires additional FTEs. 10 CWELN FTEs would allow each navigator to cover about 3 of 62 child welfare offices and 2 of 10 Washington Communities for Children regions statewide. Currently, DCYF employs five Navigators and one Project Coordinator. Funding for these positions is provided through the Preschool Development Grant (PDG), which ends in December of 2022. DCYF requests funding to maintain the 7 existing CWELNs, as well as adding three additional CWELNs.

Allow formal and informal job search as an approved activity for WCCC at application and reapplication

- DCYF assumes the cost of allowing formal and informal job search as an approved activity is \$11,771,000 GF-S in FY-24 and \$21,798,000 GF-S in FY25.
- Formal job search is consumers receiving unemployment compensation (UC).
 - DCYF denied 218 applications in the past year for families receiving UC but not in an approved activity.
- In-formal job search is for unemployed consumers who provide self-attestation that they are looking for work.
- Using an anticipated unemployment rate of 4%, DCYF can use this to estimate a 4% increase to the caseload (including the number of formal job search families above).
- The total anticipated annual cost as a result of allowing formal and informal job search is \$21,798,000 (27,591 (June 2023 anticipated caseload) x 4% x 12 months x \$1,645.89 per cap).
- The first year will have a 12-month roll-up, which is 54% of the annual total, with a cost of \$11,771,000.

Remove the twelve-month restriction for the Homeless Grace Period

- DCYF assumes the cost of removing the 12-month restriction for the HGP is \$454,000 GF-S annually.
- Families experiencing homelessness do not have to wait 12 months to be eligible under HGP.
- 23 cases have been denied in the last 12 months due to receiving the HCP in the prior 12 months.
- The total anticipated annual cost is \$454,000 (23 families x 12 months eligibility x \$1,645.89 monthly per cap).

Allow participation in four-year degrees and universities as an approved activity

- DCYF assumes the cost of allowing student parents full-time participation in WCCC is \$39,728,000 GF-S in FY24 and \$73,571,000 GF-S in FY25.
- DCYF assumes the annual anticipated participation is 3,725 families.
 - 3,725 families is made up of 200 full time BA participants at CTC schools, 114 part-time BA participants at CTC schools, 2,173 full-time participants in universities, colleges, and out-of-state based online programs, and 1,239 part-time participants in universities, colleges, and out of state based online programs.
 - 200 Full-time BA participants at CTC schools (3,267 total student parents participating in BA degrees x 47% of students attending full time x 13% uptake rate)
 - 114 Part-time BA participants at CTC schools (3,267 total student parents participating in BA degrees x 53% of students attending part time x 51% of student parents working 20 hours a week x 13% uptake)
 - All CTC school data is based on the dashboard at <https://www.sbctc.edu/colleges-staff/research/data-public/enrollment-data-dashboard.aspx>
 - 149,682 total students attending public and private universities in the state and 11,825 students attending out of state schools online for a total of 161,507 total students. DCYF assumes 22.01% have children (<https://nces.ed.gov/datalab/powerstats/121-national-postsecondary-student-aid-study-2016-undergraduates/percentage-distribution>) for a total student parent population of 35,548
 - 2,173 Full-time participants at universities, colleges, and online programs (35,548 total student parents participating x 47% of students attending full-time x 13% uptake)
 - 1,239 Part-time participants at universities, colleges, and online programs (35,548 total student parents participating x 53% of students attending part-time x 51% of part-time parents working 20 hours per week x 13% uptake)
 - University data is based on
 - Public school enrollment data: <https://erdc.wa.gov/data-dashboards/public-four-year-dashboard#annual-enrollment>
 - Private school enrollment data: <https://www.collegesimply.com/colleges/washington/private-colleges/#:~:text=There%20are%2016%20private%20colleges%20and%20universities%20in%20Washington%20enrolling%2036%2C271%20students>
 - Showing 7.9% of online students attending from out of state: https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d21/tables/dt21_311.15.asp
- The anticipated annual cost is \$73,571,000 (3,725 children x 12 months of coverage x \$1,645.89 monthly per cap)
- The first year will have a 12-month roll-up, which is 54% of the annual total, with a cost of \$39,728,000.

Requiring only one parent in a two-parent household to participate in an approved activity to the extent allowed under CCDF

- DCYF assumes the cost of allowing only one parent in a two-parent household to participate in an approved activity is \$24,530,000 GF-S in FY24 and \$45,427,000 GF-S in FY25.
- Allowing one parent to participate in approved activities supports working parents and removes one of the reasons applicants omit household members on their application.

- In the last six months DCYF has denied 1,150 applications when one adult in a two-parent household is not working. This could be minimized by allowing job search as an approved activity.
- The total anticipated annual cost is \$45,427,000 (2,300 annual cases denied x 12months x \$1,645.89 monthly per cap).
- The first year will have a 12-month roll-up, which is 54% of the annual total, with a cost of \$24,530,000.

Allow participating in medical activities as an approved activity for WCCC to the extent allowed under CCDF

- DCYF assumes the cost of allowing medical activity as an approved activity is \$1,515,000 GF-S in FY24 and \$2,805,000 GF-S in FY25.
- The US Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that workers experience an average of 1.9% absence rate due to medical reasons. https://www.bls.gov/cps/cpsaat47.htm#cps_eearn_abs_ft_occu_ind.f.1
- DCYF assumes that at any given time 1.9% of employed adults would apply for child care subsidy and be eligible with the intent of returning back to work.
- DCYF assumes that most families will apply for child care while participating in an approved activity and that only 1.9% of applicants denied for no approved activity are actively employed.
- DCYF denied 7,456 applications in FY22.
- DCYF assumes 1.9% of 7,456 applications will gain eligibility under this policy for an annual increase of 142 cases per year.
- The total anticipated annual cost is \$2,805,000 (142 cases x \$1645.89 monthly per cap x 12 months)
- The first year will have a 12-month roll-up, which is 54% of the annual total, with a cost of \$1,515,000.

In addition to the programmatic requests above, DCYF requests the following infrastructure resources.

Outreach and communications contracted services

- DCYF assumes that communication contracted services will cost \$125,000 GF-S in FY24 and \$125,000 GF-S in FY25.
- \$250,000 per biennium to contract for services to ensure newly and previously eligible families are aware of their subsidized child care options.
 - Contracted activities may include messaging and promotional material development, media buys, a multichannel and multi-lingual cross-platform marketing campaign, digital retargeting via regional media, search engine optimization, coordinating cross-system outreach (i.e. paid family leave, Working Families Tax Credit) to leverage existing efforts to families who are likely eligible across programs, outreach to community partners (libraries, community health clinics, *etc.*) to tap into a network of trusted messengers, tabling at local community fairs and festivals, or hosting online open houses.

Barcode Changes

- DCYF assumes the total one-time costs for Barcode changes are \$98,000 GF-S in FY24.
- DCYF partners with the Department of Social and Health Services Economic Services Administration for programming associated with Barcode changes. There are some significant programming changes in this proposal.
- DCYF assumes DSHS ESA will bill for the following FTE hours:
 - Transition CW child care to WCCC
 - IT Business Analyst – 6 weeks/240 hours
 - IT App Developer – 8 weeks/320 hours
 - Authorize only full-time child care
 - IT Business Analyst – 1 week/40 hours
 - IT App Developer – 2 week/80 hours
 - Exclude Child Support and SSI/SSDI/SSA income as countable income
 - IT Business Analyst – 1 week/40 hours
 - IT App Developer – 2 week/80 hours
 - Allow job search as an approved activity
 - IT Business Analyst – 1 week/40 hours
 - IT App Developer – 1 week/40 hours
 - Remove 12-month eligibility limit for HGP
 - IT Business Analyst – 1 week/40 hours
 - IT App Developer – 1 week/40 hours
 - Allow medical activities as approved activity
 - IT Business Analyst – 1 week/40 hours
 - IT App Developer – 2 week/80 hours
 - Allow a single parent countable activity for two parent households
 - IT Business Analyst – 1 week/40 hours
 - IT App Developer – 2 week/80 hours
 - Allow 4-year degrees and university programs

- IT Business Analyst – 1 week/40 hours
- IT App Developer – 2 week/80 hours

Office of Administrative Hearings Appeals

- DCYF assumes that the total cost of appeals will be \$40,000 GF-S in FY24 and \$79,000 GF-S in FY25.
- DCYF partners with the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) for appeals. The work in this decision package will increase appeals referrals to OAH.
- DCYF assumes that there will be 64 new appeals referrals in FY24 and 127 new appeals referrals in FY25 and beyond.

Detailed Assumptions and Calculations:

See attached model for detailed calculations.

Workforce Assumptions:

DCYF requests \$9,445,000 and 59.5 Full Time Equivalent Staff (FTEs) in the 2023-2025 Biennial Budget.

Child Welfare Early Learning Navigators - \$1,312,000 (\$1,008,000 GF-S) in FY 2024 and \$1,308,000 (\$1,005,000 GF-S) ongoing.

- Continuation of 5.0 Social & Health Program Consultant 3s - \$557,000 per year
- Continuation of 1.0 Management Analyst 4 - \$111,000 per year
- 3.0 New Social & Health Program Consultant 3s - \$334,000 per year
- 0.5 New IT Data Management Journey - \$69,000 per year
- DCYF assumes a standard annual cost of \$17,000 for goods and services (\$3,900 per FTE).
- DCYF assumes a standard annual cost of \$23,000 for travel (\$2,400 per FTE).
- DCYF assumes one time cost of \$25,000 in FY 2024 for capital outlays (\$7,200 per FTE).

WCCC - \$3,033,000 (\$2,981,000 GF-S) in FY 2024, \$5,760,000 (\$5,655,000 GF-S) ongoing.

- The WCCC caseload will increase by an additional 8,500 cases. The workload associated with these changes is the direct increase in caseload. (8,500). DCYF staffs WCCC at 1 PBS3 staff per 200 cases, 1 PBS4 staff per 11 PBS3, and 1 PBS5 staff per 12 PBS3/4 staff.
- 21.25 Public Benefit Specialist 3s in FY 2024 - \$1,833,000 per year
- 21.25 Public Benefit Specialist 3s in FY 2025 - \$1,833,000 per year
- 2.0 Public Benefit Specialist 4s in FY 2024 - \$180,000 per year
- 2.0 Public Benefit Specialist 4s in FY 2025 - \$180,000 per year
- 1.75 Public Benefit Specialist 5s in FY 2024 - \$168,000 per year
- 1.75 Public Benefit Specialist 5s in FY 2025 - \$168,000 per year
- DCYF assumes a standard annual cost of \$45,000 in FY 2024 and \$90,000 in FY 2025 for goods and services (\$3,900 per FTE).
- DCYF assumes a standard annual cost of \$60,000 in FY 2024 and \$120,000 in FY 2025 for travel (\$2,400 per FTE).
- DCYF assumes one time cost of \$180,000 in FY 2024 and \$180,000 in FY 2025 for capital outlays (\$7,200 per FTE).

Strategic and Performance Outcomes

Strategic Framework:

This proposal contributes to the Governor's Results Washington goal areas of Prosperous Economy, World Class Education, and Healthy and Safe Communities by ensuring that our most vulnerable children have access to high quality child care and early learning. Increasing access to high quality child care leads ultimately to improved outcomes for low-income children and families around the state.

Performance Outcomes:

DCYF expects to increase the number of families who apply and are eligible for child care subsidy. This provides families with increase financial support to access high quality child care. This in turn allows families to participate in the work force supporting the economy. High quality care supports child development and also decreases the need for parents to have unplanned leave due to child care issues, especially tied to the inability to afford child care.

Specifically, DCYF expects a WCCC caseload increase of 8,500 families by the end of FY2024.

Equity Impacts

Community outreach and engagement:

In the context of early childhood, BIPOC children are more likely to experience poverty than White children, and barriers to high-quality, culturally- and linguistically responsive education and care. Racial stereotyping and implicit bias also negatively impact children of color's participation in early childhood programs. BIPOC, particularly Black children, are disproportionately disciplined and are more likely to be suspended and expelled from preschool than White children. This negatively impacts their developmental and educational progress and contributes to the "preschool-to prison pipeline." Furthermore, children of color are less likely than their white peers to enter kindergarten ready, which has lasting impacts on high-school graduation, college attendance, and job prospects. This proposal intentionally centers the experience of BIPOC children, youth, and families in the design of subsidy eligibility and in the supports for families to access the kind of high-quality, trauma-informed care that will help ensure all children, regardless of race or family income, are kindergarten ready.

Robust stakeholder engagement, ELAC, ELAA, SEIU 925, providers, EL advocates, parent groups.

Disproportional Impact Considerations:

Families who are eligible for WCCC.

Target Populations or Communities:

Families eligible for WCCC are often families of color, this package will remove barriers to access child care and financial supports

Other Collateral Connections

Puget Sound Recovery:

Not applicable

State Workforce Impacts:

Most of these policy changes increase the caseload that is managed by DCYF staff. The work and type of work is not changing, and FTEs will increase to account for the increased caseloads.

The one exception is transitioning Child Welfare Child Care to WCCC. DCYF will need to provide notice to WFSE regarding this change.

Transitioning CWCC to WCCC will also simplify how licensed family homes and family, friend, and neighbor providers interact with DCYF and subsidy. DCYF will have to provide notice to SEIU 925 regarding this change.

Intergovernmental:

Tribal, County, and City governments that offer child care subsidy programs will be indirectly impacted as DCYF simplifies early learning program eligibility. This will support other programs by standardizing eligibility and provides consistent foundation to build their programs. DCYF expects strong support from these agencies and communities.

Stakeholder Response:

Stakeholder response has been overwhelmingly supportive of the focus on families in this DP and on increasing eligibility for subsidy. Based on stakeholder feedback DCYF added in the elements around excluding social security income for eligibility, funding the 4-year degree student parent eligibility, and the outreach/communications services. All of the ideas in this proposal have been raised by stakeholders at one point or another. DCYF has shared these ideas with the Early Learning Advisory Committee, Provider Supports, Early Learning Action Alliance, the Early Care and Education Consortium, representatives of school-age providers and School's Out Washington, OneAmerica, ECEAP directors, Parent Ambassadors, Indian Policy Early Learning Committee, SEIU 925, CCA of WA, and Washington Association of ECEAP and Head Start.

State Facilities Impacts:

Not applicable

Changes from Current Law:

DCYF will need to modify rules pertaining to family eligibility WAC Chapter 110-15. No changes to RCW are needed.

Legal or Administrative Mandates:

Not applicable

IT Addendum

Does this Decision Package include funding for any IT-related costs, including hardware, software, (including cloud-based services), contracts or IT staff?

No

Objects of Expenditure

Objects of Expenditure <i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Fiscal Years		Biennial	Fiscal Years		Biennial
	2024	2025	2023-25	2026	2027	2025-27
Obj. A	\$799	\$799	\$1,598	\$799	\$799	\$1,598
Obj. B	\$273	\$273	\$546	\$273	\$273	\$546
Obj. E	\$16	\$16	\$32	\$16	\$16	\$32
Obj. G	\$23	\$23	\$46	\$23	\$23	\$46
Obj. J	\$4	\$0	\$4	\$0	\$0	\$0
Obj. A	\$1,561	\$3,122	\$4,683	\$3,122	\$3,122	\$6,244
Obj. B	\$620	\$1,239	\$1,859	\$1,239	\$1,239	\$2,478
Obj. C	\$125	\$125	\$250	\$125	\$125	\$250
Obj. E	\$85	\$169	\$254	\$169	\$169	\$338
Obj. G	\$60	\$120	\$180	\$120	\$120	\$240
Obj. J	\$180	\$180	\$360	\$0	\$0	\$0
Obj. N	\$101,773	\$185,782	\$287,555	\$185,838	\$185,901	\$371,739
Obj. S	\$98	\$0	\$98	\$0	\$0	\$0
Obj. T	\$599	\$1,001	\$1,600	\$1,001	\$1,001	\$2,002

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