

# ECEAP Theory of Change

## A. Overarching Principles That Guide Action

**1.** Equity is the foundation of and driving force behind all ECEAP policies, programming, and funding. See ECEAP's Equity Statement for more information: [www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/early-learning-providers/eceap](http://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/early-learning-providers/eceap)

**2.** Partners and stakeholders are engaged in envisioning and implementing ECEAP's future.

**3.** Child care licensing serves as the foundation of quality. Early Achievers is the quality framework.

### DCYF ADMINISTRATION STRATEGIES

#### B. Administrative and Infrastructure Capacity

##### 1. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES

- Annually revise RFA process, incorporating feedback from previous applications
- Streamline and differentiate monitoring and TA processes
- Develop and implement streamlined contracting process
- Revise Saturation Study methodology, including equity considerations
- Plan and budget program enhancements and requirements
- Increase administrative rate
- Expand outreach to increase ECEAP capacity in the field

##### 2. STAFFING

- Staff**
- Continue to prioritize and expand DCYF ECEAP staff capacity
- Training and Professional Development**
- Strengthen staff onboarding and professional development
  - Enhance racial equity capacity and leadership

##### 3. ECEAP TRIBAL PATHWAY

- Continue to partner with tribes to develop pathway
- Increase tribal pathway capacity

##### 4. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- Engage Steering Committee, ECEAP families in expansion, quality, and integrations plans
- Continue to strengthen inter- and intra- agency collaboration
- Continue to strengthen partnerships with OSPI around shared initiatives

##### 5. DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS AND TOOLS

- Strengthen analytics and use of data to guide action and decision-making
- Enhance ELMS

##### 6. FUNDING AND POLICY

- Secure sufficient funding to ensure equitable statewide availability of high-quality programming that maximizes child and family outcomes
- Develop and implement policies to maximize ECEAP contribution to agency goals
- Strengthen transitions from and alignment between B-3 to Pre-K to kindergarten

### DCYF PROGRAMMATIC STRATEGIES

#### C. Maintain and Enhance Quality

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor program compliance through a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) cycle</li> <li>Develop and implement quality initiatives</li> <li>Promote quality through focused training and professional development that strengthen quality and equity practice, with an increase in virtual learning and collaboration tools</li> <li>Plan, implement, and evaluate program models and pathways</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase fidelity of curriculum implementation</li> <li>Revise eligibility and prioritization to align with equity principles and best practices</li> <li>Convert part day slots to school day slots</li> <li>Continue to strengthen differentiated family support</li> <li>Decrease disproportionality of child and family outcomes</li> <li>Promote and enhance anti-bias and culturally responsive practices</li> </ol> |
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#### D. Enable Readiness and Expansion of Services

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annually project slot demand for two to three years in advance to enable preparation of the right slots in the places where they are needed</li> <li>Ensure equitable statewide coverage and access to ECEAP in all parts of state at entitlement</li> <li>Update ECEAP Expansion Plan and ECEAP Work Plan</li> <li>Award successful RFA applicants</li> <li>Attract, prepare, and assess readiness of providers and bolster ability of contractors to expand services</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate financing and development of facilities in partnership with Dept. of Commerce</li> <li>Engage communities in sustaining services as demand increases and fluctuates</li> <li>Define, test, and solidify slot flexibility options, including locally designed program options</li> <li>Increase the number of tribal children served by tribal early learning providers</li> <li>Finalize Early ECEAP pilot and implement Early ECEAP as a state funded program</li> </ol> |
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#### E. Align and Integrate Early Learning Programs

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to plan and implement coordinated CQI visits</li> <li>Align and integrate professional learning</li> <li>Facilitate policy and program alignment across prenatal to 3rd grade continuum</li> <li>Analyze and address provider shortage areas, wage data, impact of minimum wage</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance degree pathways, scholarships, and compensation to build and sustain workforce that reflects the makeup of children and families served</li> <li>Work with key partners to develop supports and policy around integrated and inclusive high quality programming, including Transitional Kindergarten, inclusion, kindergarten transitions, and ECLIPSE services</li> </ol> |
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### CONTRACTOR AND SUBCONTRACTOR STRATEGIES

#### CURRENT CONTRACTORS AND PROVIDERS

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide early childhood, health coordination, and differentiated family support services</li> <li>Recruit and retain qualified and diverse staff</li> <li>Provide professional learning for staff</li> <li>Assure compliance and CQI</li> <li>Request conversion of part-day slots according to community need</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruit, determine eligibility, and enroll eligible children</li> <li>Oversee attendance</li> <li>Facilitate Parent Policy Council</li> <li>Conduct Community Assessment (5 years)</li> <li>Participate in statewide planning</li> <li>Complete required reports</li> <li>Complete required ECEAP trainings</li> </ol> |
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#### NEW CONTRACTORS AND PROVIDERS

- Recruit/assess provider readiness
- Recruit new providers or sites that meet needs in underserved areas
- Negotiate service area coordination
- Apply for funding and implement new services
- Provide/expand facilities as agreed
- Recruit highly-qualified staff
- Implement existing contractor/provider strategies

- Implement aligned standards, including alignment with Early Achievers standards
- Align P-3 programming within organization and among partners
- Facilitate transitions among programs and settings
- Increase opportunity for inclusive environments for all children

### OUTCOMES

ECEAP provides high-quality culturally responsive services

ECEAP services are available to all eligible children in Washington

There is an ample supply of qualified and diverse early learning professionals

Aligned and integrated programs are effective and efficient

High-quality, culturally responsive, effective, and efficient early learning services are available to all eligible children and families

Children are ready for kindergarten

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