

Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) Rates and Income Eligibility

2023-25 Decision Package (Maintenance Level)

Meeting the mandates of the Fair Start for Kids Act (FSKA) of 2021 (SB 5237), the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) is requesting funds to increase child care provider subsidy rates, modify the co-pay schedule for some families, and increase subsidy income eligibility in the out biennium.

Overview:

INCREASE SUBSIDY RATES TO 85TH PERCENTILE – \$272,702,000

- ✓ Increase subsidy rates to the 85th percentile of the most recent Market Rate Survey (MRS) (2021).

CO-PAY CHANGES FOR FAMILIES TO \$165 \$1,869,000 (COST SAVINGS)

- ✓ DCYF must implement a co-pay increase for some families beginning in FY24 as required under RCW 43.216.1368. Increased co-pays are for families in the 50-60% State Median Income range. This change will keep family co-pays less than 7% of the gross family income and will impact about 2,000 families.

DCYF does not discriminate and provides equal access to its programs and services for all persons without regard to race, color, gender, religion, creed, marital status, national origin, sexual orientation, age, veteran's status, or presence of any physical, sensory, or mental disability.

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DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Eliminate racial disproportionalities and advance racial equity
- Create a high-quality integrated B-8 system
- Improve quality and availability of provider services

COST:

2023-25 BIENNIUM –\$270,834,000

Contact:

DCYF Office of Public Affairs
genevieve.stokes@dcyf.wa.gov



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES