

Start Early Washington works with public and private partners to promote comprehensive prenatal-to-five learning experiences for all children and their families in Washington state. Currently, two primary priorities hold the most promise to impact Washington's children and families.

- 1. Implementation of the Fair Start for Kids Act.** With the passage of the [Fair Start for Kids Act](#) during the 2021 legislative session, our state has a roadmap for strengthening its early learning system. Given this historic action, much of our focus in 2022 will continue to be on implementing the Fair Start for Kids Act. We will also continue to work on identifying technical fixes needed to facilitate implementation.
- 2. Preparation for federal investments from Build Back Better.** Along with our national partners, we are closely following the passage of the Build Back Better Act, which could result in additional pre-K and child care opportunities. Federal action in these areas would likely result in needed policy and budget action at the state level to ensure new federal resources align with the Fair Start for Kids Act roadmap.

Given these focused priorities, our 2022 Budget and Policy Priorities will be limited to:

- **Increasing spending authority for the Home Visiting Services Account.** We support increasing the Home Visiting Services Account spending authority by an annual amount of \$1.5 million. This technical fix would allow the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) to budget and expend existing funding in the Home Visiting Services Account. As a result, an additional 150 to 175 families would benefit along with added training and technical assistance opportunities for programs. This is a budget neutral request.
- **Supporting legislation to provide compensation for people with lived experience.** We support compensating people with lived experience for their time and essential perspectives to inform public policy. Multiple efforts are underway to change existing policy that limits compensation to individuals with lived experience for their participation in state advisory committees, workgroups and other committees.

November 2021

For more information, please contact:

ERICA HALLOCK, Director of Policy & Advocacy | ehallock@startearly.org | (509) 991-2390