

Washington State Agency Decision Packages

EARLY LEARNING SUMMARIES



This document includes a high-level summary of the early learning related decision packages submitted to the Governor's Office of Financial Management (OFM) as of Oct. 4, 2022. Details are subject to change.

For further details on the decision package process, here's a [deep dive](#) from our newsletter.

Department of Commerce

\$7M in biennial funding.

Child Care Partnership Grants	<p>\$3.5M in SFY 24 / \$3.5M in SFY 25</p> <p>This funding will allow the Department of Commerce to support 30-36 new community partnerships with capacity building dollars for communities to address locally developed plans, including a focus on early learning facility needs.</p>
Early Learning Facilities School District Grants Capital Budget	<p>A total of \$5.406M in the 2023-25 biennium to support early learning facilities in the following school districts:</p> <p>Toppenish School District - \$1.08M South Bend School District - \$300K Highline School District - \$808.6K Orondo School District - \$1.08M Issaquah School District - \$1.057M Bethel School District - \$1.08M</p>

Department of Children, Youth and Families

More than \$1B for the 2023-25 biennium.

ECEAP Expansion Package \$264.752M for 2023-25 biennium (\$95.765M in SFY 24 and \$168.987M in SFY 25). \$552.419M for 2025-27 biennium.	
Rate Increase for School-Day/Working-Day Slots	\$32.628M in SFY 24 / \$51.389M in SFY 25 This funding serves as a placeholder at a 20% rate increase, pending completion of the ECEAP cost study.
Expansion	\$41.051M in SFY 24 / \$82.102M in SFY 25 A total of 12,482 new slots are needed to serve all estimated 28,760 children eligible for ECEAP by the 2026-27 deadline. This funding would support an expansion of 3,000 slots a year for a total of 6,000 slots during the biennium (this equates to 2,550 new school-day and 450 new working-day slots a year).
Conversion	\$8.2M in SFY 24 / \$16.4M in SFY 25 The current distribution of slots breaks down as 56% part-day, 38% school-day and 6% working-day. Part-day slots are the least requested as families need access to longer hours of care. This funding would support the conversion of 2,500 part-day slots to school-day each year of the biennium for a total conversion of 5,000 slots.
The ECEAP package also includes <i>additional funding</i> to support: ECEAP Entitlement Infrastructure Rate (formerly known as Administrative Rate) <ul style="list-style-type: none">\$5.507M in SFY 24 / \$6.789M in SFY 25 ECEAP Complex Needs Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none">\$4.086M in SFY 24 / \$6.278M in SFY 25 Scholarships <ul style="list-style-type: none">\$2.185M in SFY 24 / \$3.936M in SFY 25	

Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) Rate Increase Package

\$270.834M over the 2023-25 biennium and \$431.049M for the 2025-27 biennium.

Co-Payment Increase Cost Savings	<p><i>Cost savings:</i> (\$655,000) in SFY 24 / (\$1.214M) in SFY 25</p> <p>This Decision Package includes an expected <i>cost savings</i> to the state when the WCCC co-payment rises from \$115 a month to \$165 a month per Fair Start for Kids Act.</p>
Child Care Centers Rate Increase	<p>\$135.797M in SFY 24 / \$136.905M in SFY 25</p> <p>This DP's main expense is bringing the WCCC subsidy rate for child care centers to the 85th percentile of the 2021 Market Rate Survey. (Note the DP does not add up perfectly).</p> <p>Five centers are currently reimbursed above the 85th percentile rate after the 16% rate increase included in the 2022 supplemental budget. The DP proposes to maintain these centers at that higher rate.</p>
Family Child Care Rate Increase (Cost not included in DP total)	<p>\$53.539M in SFY 24 / \$53.943M in SFY 25</p> <p>This DP does <u>not</u> include the costs to bring Family Child Care Homes to the 85th percentile of the Market Rate survey, which will be brought forward separately as part of collective bargaining.</p> <p>The cost for Family Child Care to be reimbursed at the 85th percentile of market rate is projected at \$107.482M for the biennium.</p>
Increase Income Eligibility to 75% of State Median Income Starting 7/1/25.	<p>\$83.512M for SFY 26 / \$23.513M for SFY 27</p> <p>Because of the requirement for a four-year balanced budget, the DPs include SFY 26 and SFY 27 for the increase in income eligibility to 75% of the State Median Income, as stipulated in the Fair Start for Kids Act.</p>

Child Care Access and Affordability Package \$236.810M over the biennium.	
Enrollment-Based Payment	\$56.963M in SFY 24 / \$57.434M in SFY 25
Increase Infant Enhancement Rate from \$90/month to \$500/month	\$12.13M in SFY 24 / \$12.212M in SFY 25
Increase Non-Standard Hour Bonus to \$500/month	\$20.661M in SFY 24 / \$20.803M in SFY 25
Align Overpayment Collection with Federal Requirements	\$384,000 a year
Move to Contracted Slots for Infants/Toddlers in Child Protective Services	\$143,000 in SFY 24 / \$136,000 in SFY 25
Child Care Complex Needs Fund	\$7.698M a year
Equity Grants	\$9.346M a year
Expand Early ECEAP	\$8.842M in SFY 24 / \$11.521M in SFY 25 To support 350 new slots in SFY 24 and another 100 in SFY 25.

Making Child Care Work for Families Package \$299.065M over the biennium.	
Allow Participation in Four-Year Degrees and Universities as an Approved Activity for WCCC	\$39.728M in SFY 24 / \$73.571M in SFY 25
Require Only One Parent in Two-Parent Household to Participate in Approved Activity	\$24.530M in SFY 24 / \$45.427M in SFY 25
Transitioning Child Welfare Child Care to Working Connections Child Care	\$10.626M in SFY 24 / \$19.676M in SFY 25

Full-Time Authorization for all Children in WCCC	\$6.148M in SFY 24 / \$11.385M in SFY 25
Allow Child Participation in ECEAP and Head Start as Approved Activity for WCCC	\$1.76M in SFY 24 / \$3.259M in SFY 25
Allow Participating in Medical Activities as Approved Activity for WCCC	\$1.515M in SFY 24 / \$2.805M in SFY 25
Exclude Child Support as Countable Income for WCCC and ECEAP	\$1.823M in SFY 24 / \$3.376M in SFY 25
Exclude Social Security and SSI as Countable Income for WCCC and ECEAP	\$3.418M in SFY 24 / \$4.032M in SFY 25
Expand Child Welfare Early Learning Navigators	\$1.312M in SFY 24 / \$1.308M in SFY 25
Allow Formal and Informal Job Search as Approved Activity for WCCC	\$11.771M in SFY 24 / \$21.798M in SFY 25
Remove 12 Month Restriction on the Homeless Grace Period for WCCC	\$454,000 a year

Early Learning Facilities/Capital Budget \$50M for the biennium.	
Early Learning Facilities Capital Budget	Through the Capital Budget, DCYF requests \$50M for the Department of Commerce to continue to operate the Early Learning Facilities Fund Grant Program (\$40M) and one-time funding for a non-expansion Child Care Minor Renovation Grant round (\$10M).

Home Visiting \$15.225M over the biennium.	
Workforce	\$4.650M in SFY 24 / \$4.650M in SFY 25 To support a 30% compensation adjustment as well as \$7.650M in SFY 26 to support another 20% increase.
Expansion	\$3M in SFY 25 To support expansion to an additional 325-400 families focusing on BIPOC and rural communities. The DP projects every other year expansion of the same number in the out-years.
Professional Development, Data Systems and Community Engagement	\$1.550M in SFY 24 / \$1.375M in SFY 25 A total of \$2.925M for these purposes. This will include community engagement in advance of expansion.
Background Checks and License Fees \$16.597M for the biennium.	
To waive background check fees, create capacity for every DCYF office to conduct fingerprint screening and permanently remove child care licensing fees.	
Language Access \$3.39M over the biennium.	
To support DCYF infrastructure for continued work on a Language Access Plan to promote language-based inclusion and enhance the agency's ability to serve families with limited English. Note this request is broader than early learning to include other programs within the agency's purview.	

For more information, please contact:

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