

Snapshot Comparison:

Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) and Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP)



Working Connections Child Care (WCCC)

Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP)

Purpose	Child care assistance on a sliding scale for parents who are working or participating in approved educational activities	Comprehensive PreK serving families with low-incomes
Age	Children 0-13, or up to 19 with special needs	Children 3-5 (by August 31 of the school year)
Hours	Determined by the parent's work needs	Part Day, School Day, Working Day
Timing	Year round	School year, except for Working Day slots which are year round
Eligibility	<p>Working families at or below 60% of the State Median Income (SMI) at application</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ For a family of two: \$4,736 per month ■ For a family of three: \$5,851 per month ■ For a family of four: \$6,965 per month <p>Or 65% of SMI when reapplying</p>	<p>Families at or below 36% of the State Median Income (SMI)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ For a family of two: \$2,841 per month ■ For a family of three: \$3,947 per month ■ For a family of four: \$4,179 per month <p>Or meeting special qualifying circumstances</p>
Cost to families	Families earning less than 20% of SMI have no copayment, otherwise families pay a monthly copayment (no higher than \$215)	Free to enrolled families
Caseloads	37,000 families enrolled and 47,000 determined eligible	More than 14,000 children served

Comparing Free and Low-Cost Child Care Options for Families with Low-Incomes

Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) and Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP)



Working Connections Child Care (WCCC)

Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP)

What is the program purpose?	Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) helps eligible families pay for child care, including before- and after-school care with participating licensed providers	The Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) is Washington's state-funded, comprehensive pre-kindergarten program
What aged children are served?	Children younger than 13 years old or younger than 19 years old with special needs	Children 3 years old but not yet 5 years old on Aug. 31 of the school year
How much care is available?	Care units are determined by the parent's documented needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Half-day (under 5 hours) ■ Full day (5-10 hours) ■ Overtime (over 10 hours) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Part Day (2.5 or more hours, several days a week) ■ School Day (5.5-6.5 hours per day, 4 or 5 days a week) ■ Working Day (at least 10 hours a day, year-round, combining WCCC and ECEAP)
When is care available?	Families can access licensed care options throughout the year, including 24-hour care options	ECEAP programs are offered on a school year calendar, except for Working Day programs which are offered year-round
Who is eligible to participate?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Family income must be at or below 60% of the State Median Income (SMI) at application or 65% of SMI when reapplying <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ For a family of two: \$4,736 per month ■ For a family of three: \$5,851 per month ■ For a family of four: \$6,965 per month AND 2. Parent (or parents in two-parent households) must participate in approved work or education activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ High school or equivalency for parents ages 21 and younger ■ Community, technical, or tribal college full-time seeking an associate or vocational degree OR part-time AND working 20 hours per week ■ Activities approved under the parents WorkFirst or BEET plan 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Family income must be at or below 36% of the State Median Income (SMI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ For a family of two: \$2,841 per month ■ For a family of three: \$3,947 per month ■ For a family of four: \$4,179 per month OR 2. Special qualifying circumstances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Tribal child w/ family earning at or below 100% SMI ■ Child w/ IEP, experiencing homelessness, and/or participating in EHS, ESIT, or ECLIPSE ■ If space is available, family earning at or below 50% of SMI with an additional priority factor, or child turning 3 mid-year meeting other eligibility requirements
How much does care cost?	<u>Copay Calculation Table</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ For families earning 0-20% of SMI: \$0 copayment ■ For families earning 20-36% of SMI: \$65 copayment ■ For families earning 36-50% of SMI: \$90 copayment ■ For families earning 50-60% of SMI: \$165 copayment ■ For families earning 60-65% of SMI (at reapplication): \$215 	Free to enrolled families