



Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC)

State Agency & Partner Updates

Date: August 5, 2025

Updates from the Early Learning Division

Staff Qualifications Workgroup Implementation Updates

The Early Learning Division (ELD) coordinates the planning and implementation of the E2SHB 1648 Workgroup. The DCYF's goal is to comply with the requirements of [E2SHB 1648](#) (or 1648) and (to the extent feasible within existing resources) go above the requirements.

DCYF intends to leverage existing advisory groups to inform recommendations coming out of the stakeholder work sessions. DCYF heard and acted on ELAC feedback to balance organizational membership with commensurate representation of licensed early learning and school age workforce. To ensure balanced representation with organizational stakeholders, DCYF has added ten professionals who are actively working in licensed, certified, or certified-for-payment-only settings.

The planning activities completed to date:

- Drafted planning documents in alignment with legislative requirements.
- Invitations were sent to the named organizations in E2SHB 1648.
- Presented the selection criteria and workflow to the Provider Supports and Indian Policy Early Learning advisory groups for their review and finalized both based on their input.
- Completed selection process to identify ten licensed certified, or certified-for-payment-only settings.

Current work under development:

- Drafting a "Dear Tribal Director" letter to solicit engagement of early learning centers and home serving tribes.
- Drafting contracts for consulting services.
- Creating a stakeholder recommendation discussion tracking form
- Drafting a workplan to engage the facilitator in planning fall meetings and ensure timely delivery of the required report
- Developing a communication plan, which includes a dedicated DCYF webpage for the workgroup.

Next Steps

- Share the workplan Early Learning Advisory Council.
- Create onboarding and notification materials for workgroup participants.
- Begin workgroup sessions in fall 2025.
- Work with stakeholder group to schedule and sequence work sessions.

Members received an update on this work during the July 22 ELAC Special Webinar, to learn more view the [July 22 Special Webinar recording here](#).

Complex Needs Supports for Child Care and Early Learning Providers

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) offers various resources to support providers who serve children with developmental delays, disabilities, behavioral needs, or other unique needs.

Training

- **Complex Needs Trainings:** DCYF partners with the University of Washington (UW) Haring Center to offer trainings on strategies for teaching and including ALL children in early care settings, with a focus on social-emotional support and individualization. The trainings are free and held remotely via Zoom. All trainings offer in-service (STARS) training hours. Learn more at the [UW Haring Center website](#).

Consultation

- **Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation:** Child Care Aware of Washington (CCA of WA) offers Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (IECMHC) to Early Achievers participants through their Holding Hope program. It promotes social-emotional development and the well-being of young children in licensed child care settings. Learn more at the [Holding Hope webpage](#).

Intervention

- **The Early Childhood Intervention Prevention Services (ECLIPSE):** ECLIPSE is an intervention and treatment service for children and families enrolled in ECEAP who have experienced substantial stress and/or complex trauma. Licensed mental health professionals provide therapeutic interventions at the child, family, and teacher/classroom environmental levels. Learn more at the [DCYF ECLIPSE webpage](#).
- **Early Supports for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT):** ESIT provides early support services in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part C for eligible children birth to 3 who have developmental delays or disabilities. The mission of the ESIT program is to build on family strengths by providing coordination, supports, resources, and services to enhance the development of children through everyday learning opportunities. ESIT services are provided by community-based agencies. Learn more at the [DCYF ESIT webpage](#).

Funding

- **Child Care Complex Needs Fund:** This competitive funding opportunity supports early child care and education providers who serve children with developmental delays, disabilities, behavioral needs, or other unique needs. It promotes inclusive, less restrictive environments. Learn more at the [Child Care Complex Needs Fund webpage](#).
- **ECEAP Complex Needs Fund:** Same as the Child Care Complex Needs Fund, but only available to ECEAP contractors.
- **Child Care Subsidy - Special Needs Rate:** A supplemental rate that supports children who have unique physical, emotional, or developmental needs. The special needs rate is payment made to providers in addition to regular subsidy payment. It is based on the additional time a provider

spends on the needs of a child. The family must establish the child's eligibility. Special needs rate does not pay for the provider's training or for the child's equipment needs while in the child care setting. Learn more at the [DCYF Special Needs Rate webpage](#).

Commerce Early Learning Facilities Funding Opens Sept. 1

The Washington State Department of Commerce Early Learning Facilities (ELF) program will open the 2025–2027 grant application on Sept. 1, 2025. Applications will be accepted through ZoomGrants and are due by 5 p.m. on Oct. 31, 2025.

ELF Grants support organizations to expand capacity for families receiving Working Connections Child Care and/or ECEAP services. Eligible applicants include nonprofits, public entities, tribes, school districts, and for-profit businesses.

These funds support capital projects in various stages of development, including:

- Pre-design
- Pre-development
- Construction, Renovation, and Acquisition
- Maintenance Funding for Health & Safety *
 - **This option is available for licensed and certified for payment only providers.*

Visit [Commerce's ELF website](#) for updates, resources, and to subscribe to receive email alerts.

Early Learning Division Communications

List of Early Learning Division newsletters and messages sent out to providers since the last ELAC Meeting:

- 7/15/25 – [Early Care and Education Newsletter- July 2025](#)
- 7/9/25 – [Education Verification Processes](#)
- 7/8/25 – [2025-2026 Early Achievers Needs Based Grant Announcement](#)
- 6/20/25 – [Licensed Family Home Subsidy Rate Increase Effective July 1, 2025](#)
- 6/20/25 – [FFN Child Care Providers – Changes to the Child Care Subsidy Program](#)
- 6/18/25 – [Recent Legislative Action Affecting Child Care Subsidy Effective July 1, 2025](#)
- 6/11/25 – [Early Care and education Newsletter – June 2025](#)

DCYF Rule Making Updates – July 25, 2025

Emergency Rules

Early Learning Division – Rates

Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF), Early Learning Division filed [WSR 25-14-115](#) to modify WAC language to align with the 2025 approved state budget. The revisions pertain to increasing licensed family home provider rates to the 85th percentile of the current market, and increasing Family, Friends and Neighbor (FFN) provider rates to \$4.50 effective July 1, 2025, per Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5167. The rules went into effect on July 1, 2025.

Early Learning Division – Presumptive Eligibility

The Early Learning Division filed [WSR 25-14-112](#) to modify WAC language to align with child care development fund grant requirements to not pursue overpayments that may occur related to presumptive eligibility approvals, except in cases of fraud or intentional program violations, per Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5167. The rules went into effect on July 1, 2025.

Early Learning Division - Repealing expanded eligibility for registered apprenticeships and child care employees

The Early Learning Division filed [WSR 25-14-108](#) to modify WAC language to implement Child Care Subsidy Program changes related to Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5752 related to repealing expanded eligibility for registered apprenticeships and child care employees, and removing enrollment in a state registered apprenticeship as being excluded from the work requirements as a condition of receiving Working Connections Child Care. The rules went into effect on July 1, 2025.

Questions?

For questions about DCYF rules or to request an alternate format for this information, please contact the DCYF Rules Coordinator at dcyf.rulescoordinator@dcyf.wa.gov.

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

No updates currently. To learn more, or if you have questions for OSPI, please contact Samantha Bowen at samantha.bowen@k12.wa.us.

Department of Health (DOH)

No updates currently. For more information, please contact Astrid Newell and Angie Funaiole at astrid.newell@doh.wa.gov and angie.funaiole@doh.wa.gov.

Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)

No updates currently. For more information, please contact Christian Carvajal at Christian.carvajal@dshs.wa.gov.

Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA)

No updates currently. For more information, please contact Olivia Burley at Olivia.burley@dva.wa.gov.