



Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC)

Regional Coalition Updates

Date: August 5, 2025

Southeast (SELC)

June and July is a slower time for the South East Early Learning Coalition. In June and July we have done our planning for the upcoming year and hoping to hear back from a grant opportunity soon.

For more information, please contact: Brittany Hartikainen, brittany@bh-consulting.org

Inland Northwest Early Learning Alliance (INWELA), Northeast

The Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences (HOPE) framework is gaining momentum in Spokane! In June, many INWELA members completed their HOPE facilitator training. With key early learning partners, including the City of Spokane, embracing this strengths-based approach, we're energized to be at the table and continually exploring ways to increase positive childhood experiences (PCEs) across our region.

Like many of you, INWELA spent June and July deep in planning mode - strategizing, building partnerships, and pursuing funding opportunities. We're especially grateful to the Washington State Legislature for their continued investment in Washington Communities for Children, which strengthens the backbone of our work.

Earlier this year, INWELA selected Greater Spokane Inc. (GSI) as our fiscal sponsor. Their support has been instrumental, particularly as we advance our region's Coordinated Recruitment and Enrollment (CRE) work. Identified as a top priority in our January 2024 regional strategic plan, CRE is central to our efforts to increase access to care. This plan was grounded in regional data and intentionally elevated the voices of communities who are often underrepresented.

We're also excited to deepen our partnership with the Spokane Workforce Council (SWC). INWELA members recently voted to formally designate a Workforce Development Lead within our governance structure, an exciting new role that SWC will fill. As we face an ongoing child care workforce crisis, this partnership helps to ensure we remain on supporting providers and championing their needs.

Finally, we're proud of the continued advocacy work of Colleen Condon, one of INWELA's Regional Co-Leads. Colleen is cultivating strong relationships with local legislators, including Washington's new Governor, Bob Ferguson, and amplifying early learning priorities at both the state and federal levels. Her leadership keeps child care at the forefront of policy conversations, where it belongs!

For more information, please contact: Colleen Condon, colleen@lilaccityelc.com

Investing in Children Coalition: Central

In recent months, the Investing in Children Coalition has continued using tools like the State of the Children reports, Help Me Grow analytics, and Padlets to guide our strategies, share progress, and



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keep communication transparent. Our cross-sector partnerships have strengthened resource navigation for families, especially those facing barriers tied to language, income, or disabilities. Looking ahead, we're excited to host a joint in-person meeting with the Home Visiting Collaborative in August, featuring guest speakers and opportunities for collective planning. Together, we remain committed to building a more equitable, accessible early learning system where every child can thrive.

For more information, please contact: Lindsay Bowsell, lindsayb@yakimavalleycf.org

North Central

- NCELC members and leadership team support local training events and opportunities that impact children and families: including the Symposiums offered by Our Valley Our Future. July was focused on Wildfire Education and Health conversations, and they led a breakout to discuss supporting families and educators.
- NCELC outreach and community events attended were the Upper Valley resource fair, Moses Lake family picnic, Founders days in Cashmere, and The Brave Warrior Project resource fair for families with special needs.
- NCELC leadership coordinators participated in the local Civic Design team with the North Central Community Foundation to network with community partners like The Community for the Advancement of Family Education (CAFE), CW Areas Health Education Center (AHEC) Thriving Together (ACH), the Equity Justice Alliance, Brave Angels and local school districts to support strong civic leadership.
- NCELC/ GCHD partnered with Poverty Action Network to schedule a listening session in Grant County where those affected by poverty can share their experiences and speak to local representatives.
- NCELC leadership attended the Grant County Resource Coordination meeting to update other agencies about the work that is being done to support children and families in our communities.
- The NCELC partnered with local health agencies to distribute Vroom resources to new families.
- NCELC leadership continued to partner with the North Central WA Library Children's Services Manager to inform families across North Central Washington about library services and resources and to add the information to NCELC web page.
- June and July have been focused on leaning into community partners to support the NCELC leadership including partnering with Our Valley Our Future to support membership communication and meeting/ presentation facilitation.
- NCELC leadership has strengthened connections to our Latino community through partnerships with CAFE' and the NCW Equity Alliance.

For more information please contact: Nancy Spurgeon, nspurgeon49@gmail.com



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Pierce County Early Childhood Network

PCECN has begun its new fiscal year with moving our Data & Evaluation work, and Diaper Bank Coordination in-house through First 5. We are continuing our monthly recurring action team meetings and Community Partnership meetings with a few shifts to condense spaces as requested by our community partners. Currently, we are accepting nominations for the [Champions for Children](#) with a reception to follow in the Fall. Finally, we are beginning to plan and strategize around advocacy since we will be having to go back to seek continued funding. We are excited to convene and uplift local voice by providing Advocacy Trainings specific to childcare providers, community health workers and parents.

For more information please contact: Muriel Herrera-Velasquez muriel@first5fundamentals.org

Visions for Early Learning, West Central

- **Grays Harbor:** Grays Harbor Early Learning (GHEL) coalition typically meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 1:30 – 3:00 pm. Contact Molly Leithold, ghearlylearningcoalition@gmail.com, coalition lead to get connected.
- **Lewis:** Lewis County's Early Learning Coalition (ELC) typically meets the 2nd Thursday of each month from 11:30 – 1:00 pm. Contact Juli Jager, lewiscountyselc@gmail.com, coalition lead to get connected.
- **Mason:** The ELC of Mason County typically meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 8:30 – 10:00 am. Contact April Messenger, masoncountyselc@gmail.com, coalition lead to get connected.
- **Thurston:** The Thurston Early Childhood Coalition (TECC) typically meets the 4th Thursday of each month from 9:30 – 11:00 am. Contact Shawn Thurman, thurstonecc@gmail.com, coalition lead to get connected.
- **Pacific:** Know and Grow, North Pacific County's early learning coalition typically meets the 3rd Monday of each month from 2:00 – 3:30 pm. Contact Rhonda Johnson, knowandgrowpacificco@gmail.com, coalition lead to get connected.

For more information, please contact: Sheila Kavanaugh, kav.consulting231@gmail.com

Southwest Washington Early Learning (SWEL)

No updates currently. **For more information please contact: Debbie Ham,**
Debbie.ham@selfwa.org

King County

No updates currently. **For more information, please contact: Logan Endres or Tristen Hall,**
kcelc@childcare.org



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Northwest

No updates currently. **For more information please contact: Breana Ramos,**
breana@nwelcoalition.org

Peninsula Early Learning Coalition

No updates currently. **For more information, please contact: Elisia Anderson,**
elisiaf_fstep@olypen.com

Washington Communities for Children (WCFC) Updates

Stay in Touch!

Want to learn more about WCFC, be the first to hear updates, or get connected with your local early childhood coalition? Get in touch with us!

Website: washingtoncfc.org | Facebook: WashingtonCFC | Instagram: Washington_cfc

For more information please contact: Rachel Hall, WCFC State Lead,
rachelh@first5fundamentals.org