



Agency Recommendation Summary

The Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) \$1,357,000 (\$1,351,000 General Fund-State) and 2.0 Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) in the 2024 Supplemental Budget to meet joint requirements in Coordinated Recruitment and Enrollment (CRE) with OSPI as required in 2HSB 1550, Transition to Kindergarten, from the 2023 Legislative Session. This package will create a collaborative system of supports that includes integrated resources at the state, regional, and local partnership levels. This work supports families increasing access to inclusive pre-k programming that meet identified needs and ensures consistent and informed parent choices.

Program Recommendation Summary

030 - Early Learning

The Department of Children, Youth and Families requests \$1,313,000 and 2.0 Full Time Equivalents (FTE) in the 2024 Supplemental Budget to meet joint requirements in Coordinated Recruitment and Enrollment (CRE) with OSPI as required in 2HSB 1550, Transition to Kindergarten, from the 2023 Legislative Session.

090 - Program Support

The Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) requests \$44,000 (\$38,000 GF-State) in the 2024 Supplemental Budget to fund program support functions that scale with the additional FTEs requested in this package. This will allow the agency to scale in capacity the critical back-office business needs, such as but not limited to, Human Resources, Information Technology, Finance, etc.

Fiscal Summary

Fiscal Summary <i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Fiscal Years		Biennial	Fiscal Years		Biennial
	2024	2025	2023-25	2026	2027	2025-27
Staffing						
FTEs	0.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Operating Expenditures						
Fund 001 - 1	\$0	\$1,313	\$1,313	\$1,299	\$1,199	\$2,498
Fund 001 - 1	\$0	\$38	\$38	\$38	\$38	\$76
Fund 001 - 2	\$0	\$6	\$6	\$6	\$6	\$12
Total Expenditures	\$0	\$1,357	\$1,357	\$1,343	\$1,243	\$2,586
Revenue						
001 - 0393	\$0	\$6	\$6	\$6	\$6	\$12
Total Revenue	\$0	\$6	\$6	\$6	\$6	\$12

Decision Package Description

Currently families struggle to consistently find available services that best meet their needs because there is not a coordinated system in place to capture up-to-date options that list all programming availability. This proposal works to ensure increased informed parent choice, and to deepen collaborative, inclusive community early learning enrollment efforts. Coordinated Recruitment and Enrollment is essential to meet the needs of ECEAP entitlement, maintain and maximize early learning programming across the state, and to ensure DYCF and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) meet their partnership requirements in 2HSB 1550. With the passage of this legislation, funding is needed to carry out the requirements of the law.

DCYF and OSPI have been co-hosting a statewide Coordinated Recruitment and Enrollment steering group with over 100 providers and core team since 2021. This work was funded in Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6168, Section 225, Subsection 4(z), and directed the agencies to work together to build administrative efficiencies, recommendations, resources, and supports for the early learning programs, which both agencies administer for 3–5-year-old children. This one-time funding ended at the conclusion of the 2019-2021 Biennium.

Through the creation of this CRE system, DCYF and OSPI will co-convene a statewide steering committee with representation from key state partners to determine the details of this structured approach to serving children and families in the programming they qualify for. Funding will be added to an existing contract with a key state partner to staff this work at the state and regional offices. Staff in regional offices will bring local early learning partners together (school districts, ECEAP/HS, child care, private schools, tribes, etc.), for increased planning and partnership. These staff will provide dispute resolution, as needed, and will complete key reporting activities. CRE data from this reporting will be reviewed regularly by the steering committee who will use data-informed approaches to create future requirements and improvements to this system. This will result in strengthened and coordinated technical assistance mechanisms for providers in communities. This proposal represents the funding needed for DCYF.

As Washington State continues to increase early learning opportunities for 3-5 year old children through ECEAP, Transition to Kindergarten (TK), and other programming, this coordinated system is critical to ensuring the most children as possible are served with the funding available and to ensure informed family choice. This proposal also advances racial equity by placing responsibility on providers to coordinate messaging to and enrolling of families, rather than putting the burden on families to seek out and apply at multiple different locations without knowing what is available to meet their need.

Right now, the burden of finding early learning services that meet the needs of their child and family is on families who are often overwhelmed and under resourced. This proposal would allow DCYF and OSPI to implement a state to local responsive CRE system, which would provide families with needed support in identifying their local options and eligibility regardless of what door they walk through. In addition, this proposal helps ensure that funding is utilized responsibly and efficiently, so that many more families can access quality early learning services in the state.

This package purchases staffing at DCYF and in Child Care Aware (CCA) main and regional offices to support coordination between early learning providers in communities. It also includes an additional year of coordinated contracted support, and funding for key communications activities. This will reduce the burden on families of finding appropriate services and fund key coordination work that our partners and stakeholders have agreed is critical to the success of a coordinated early learning system in the state. This CRE system will reduce the crisis for child care providers of 3 and 4 year olds leaving care for other programs and negatively impacting their ability to keep their businesses open; it will increase collaborative partnerships and provide coordination guidance and technical assistance to providers in communities who are often feel that they are competing to enroll the same families; it will support meeting ECEAP entitlement by ensuring ECEAP-eligible families are encouraged to apply to ECEAP.

DCYF and OSPI have been working together for the past several years to recommend administrative efficiencies, supports for programming, and tiering of services offered in communities to serve the most children possible in PreK. Based on input from the field, DCYF and OSPI cannot complete this work without partners in regional offices coordinating local providers to carry out the vision of coordinated recruitment and enrollment. Without local intervention, the status quo will continue, which is: families will struggle to find available services that best meet their needs, more childcare businesses will shut down due to loss of PreK children to ECEAP and TK, ECEAP and Head Start providers will experience significant decreases in enrollment due to TK enrolling ECEAP-eligible children, which is currently resulting in these providers reducing the number of slots in their communities with less children receiving needed early learning services.

Assumptions and Calculations

Expansion, Reduction, Elimination or Alteration of a current program or service:

The Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) requests \$1,357,000 (\$1,351,000 General Fund State) in the 2024 Supplemental Budget to meet joint requirements in Coordinated Recruitment and Enrollment (CRE) with OSPI as required in 2HSB 1550, Transition to Kindergarten, from the 2023 Legislative Session.

Detailed Assumptions and Calculations:

Coordinated Recruitment and Enrollment

DCYF assumes the total cost of Coordinated Recruitment and Enrollment will be \$1,052,000 in FY25.

DCYF contracts with Child Care Aware (CCA) to provided Coordinated Recruitment and Enrollment services. This contract funds 1.0 CCA WA position and 6.0 CCA Regional positions. DCYF assumes these positions are the equivalent of the Commerce Specialist 3 position. The total assumed cost of the CCA contract will be \$945,000 per fiscal year ongoing.

DCYF requests one-time funding for a contract to support consultation and state planning work. The assumed cost will be \$100,000 in FY25.

DCYF requests ongoing funding to support Zoom licenses. The assumed cost will be \$7,000 per fiscal year.

Workforce Assumptions:

DCYF requests \$305,000 (\$299,000 General Fund State) and 2.0 Full Time Equivalents (FTE) in the 2024 Supplemental Budget.

1.0 Commerce Specialist 4 - \$147,000 per FY

1.0 Management Analyst 4 - \$147,000 per FY

Strategic and Performance Outcomes

Strategic Framework:

This package supports the Governor's Results Washington Goal 1 area: world-class education metric that children who enter kindergarten demonstrate that they are ready. By working together, PreK providers in the state can provide more access to high quality PreK services, therefore enabling more children to be ready for kindergarten.

This package supports the agency's strategic plan to create a high-quality integrated B-8 system, through supporting the creation of a responsive and inclusive integrated Pre-K system. This package supports providers coordinating together to be as responsive and inclusive as possible.

The items in this package work together to support child outcomes, educational quality, and workforce quality and retention for a specific, high priority population of PreK children.

Performance Outcomes:

This funding will support:

Aligning and tiering eligibility so that more families can access quality PreK services in the state.

Common screening processes so that programs can work together to inform family's choices and use funding efficiently.

Program availability data through enhancement of databases to ensure providers and families know what programs are available where in their communities.

Equity Impacts

Community outreach and engagement:

Throughout the last two years, DCYF engaged with tribes, the Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC), ECEAP contractors, Head Start providers, school districts, private schools, child care centers, family child care home providers, and families (focused interviews) about what is needed to support the early learning system in the state. In addition, DCYF and OSPI coordinated a statewide advisory group in 2021-22 and 2022-23 to help develop recommendations for CRE. This group has representatives from many programs the two agencies oversee and partner with. These package recommendations come from that extensive feedback.

Disproportional Impact Considerations:

This decision package supports developing an integrated Birth to Eight Early Learning System and helps eliminate racial disproportionality and advances racial equity.

Target Populations or Communities:

This proposal will affect and strengthen coordination for almost every type of family seeking early learning services for their 3-5 year old child (however this seeds of this system will be able to expand to B-12 in the future), including ECEAP and Head Start eligible children, Transition to Kindergarten (TTK), working families who qualify for WCCC, families with school aged children who need their children to have the same schedule and locations, children with disabilities, and children who need additional support to be ready for kindergarten.

Other Collateral Connections

Puget Sound Recovery:

Not Applicable

State Workforce Impacts:

Full-time employee (FTE) needs will increase as described in the package details.

Intergovernmental:

This proposal further supports Indigenous families and providers acknowledging and supporting tribal sovereignty. It also provides critical support for early learning providers, many of which are tribal, county, city, and local governments. DCYF anticipates these providers will support this package.

Stakeholder Response:

This package provides critical support for all PreK providers, many of which are nonprofit organizations, Head Start grantees, family child care home and child care center providers, and other non-governmental organizations. It also supports ECEAP-eligible, WCCC-eligible, and TK-eligible families in the state. DCYF anticipates these providers and stakeholders will support this package.

State Facilities Impacts:

Not Applicable

Changes from Current Law:

Not Applicable

Legal or Administrative Mandates:

Not Applicable

HEAL Act Agencies Supplemental Questions

Not Applicable

IT Addendum

Does this Decision Package include funding for any IT-related costs, including hardware, software, (including cloud-based services), contracts or IT staff?

No

Objects of Expenditure

Objects of Expenditure <i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Fiscal Years		Biennial	Fiscal Years		Biennial
	2024	2025	2023-25	2026	2027	2025-27
Obj. A	\$0	\$178	\$178	\$178	\$178	\$356
Obj. B	\$0	\$60	\$60	\$60	\$60	\$120
Obj. C	\$0	\$1,052	\$1,052	\$1,052	\$952	\$2,004
Obj. E	\$0	\$4	\$4	\$4	\$4	\$8
Obj. G	\$0	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$5	\$10
Obj. J	\$0	\$14	\$14	\$0	\$0	\$0
Obj. T	\$0	\$44	\$44	\$44	\$44	\$88

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