

# DCYF End of Session Legislative Update - 2025

## Provided to the Parent Advisory Group – May 21, 2025

Resource: DCYF External End of Session Legislative Update Webinar [recording](#) and [slides](#) (Available on the [DCYF Government Affairs webpage](#) under “Updates and Webinars”).

## 2025-27 Budget Summary

*\*Please note that this is a shortened, high-level summary. For a more comprehensive budget overview, please refer to the DCYF External End of Session Legislative Update Webinar. The Governor has until May 20, 2025, to exercise their veto powers. As of the submission date of this handout the Governor has not signed the budget.*

## Prevention and Child Welfare

### Funding Reductions:

- Intensive foster care assessment: There is a reduction in funding to this program by assuming some recent underspend is ongoing. DCYF is working through the implementation and impacts to youth and families currently served.
- Family Reconciliation Services: There is a reduction in funding and staff to this program, though the FRS statute has remained unchanged and DCYF is still required by law to provide FRS services.

### New Investments:

- Foster Care Workgroup: Funding is provided to convene a workgroup for the purposes of examining the rights of foster care youth and to provide a report with recommendations regarding these rights by December 1, 2025.
- Rising Strong: Funding is continued to support the Rising Strong model in Spokane.
- Positive Indian Parenting (PIP): Funding is providing for PIP to be used at three new sites to help Tribal families reunite with their children.
- Commercially Sexually Exploited Children and Missing Tribal Youth: Funding is provided for staff to support victims of human trafficking and sexual abuse, and for missing tribal youth.

## Early Learning

### Program Delays

- Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) eligibility expansion up to 75 percent of state median income is delayed until July 1, 2029.
- Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) entitlement is delayed to the 2030-31 school year for all children defined as entitled.



Washington State Department of  
**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

## **Funding Reductions and Adjustments**

- **WCCC Eligibility Changes:** Child care employees and those enrolled in registered apprenticeships up to 85 percent of state median income (SMI) are removed from the expanded eligibility category of WCCC. Families will now need to meet standard eligibility requirements, meaning those under 65 percent of SMI are still eligible, but there will likely be copayment changes. This change will occur at reauthorization and with new authorization.
- **WCCC Family Copayments:** Family copayment amounts ([RCW 43.216.804](#)) will increase starting October 1, 2026, based on changes to the household income tranches and corresponding maximum monthly copayment calculations ([ESSB 5752 Sec. 6\(3\)](#)).
- **WCCC 12-month Eligibility Determination:** DCYF is directed to change the way the 12-month authorization is applied to paying child care providers to serve children. DCYF is working through data logistics and the timing of implementing this change and the impacts to children, families, and providers.
- **Early ECEAP:** Funding for this program is eliminated, including program supports. DCYF is working through the implementation and impacts to children, families, and providers.
- **Facilitated Play and Learn Groups, Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation, and Tribal Mental Health Consultation:** There are partial reductions in funding to these programs. DCYF is working through the implementation and impacts to children, families, and providers.

## **New Investments**

- **Washington Communities for Children (WCFC):** One time funding is provided for WCFC services, which is a network of coalitions that connects local and statewide efforts to support children, families, and communities. A critical aspect of community engagement within the network is family voice and resource access.