

# Early Learning Advisory Council

## Virtual Meeting

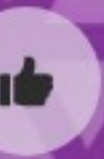
### August 6, 2024



**Welcome to today's webinar.**  
**Please remember to mute your phone and computer upon entry.**  
**We will begin shortly. Thank You!**



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# Virtual Meeting Protocols

## Audio and Video Connection

- Throughout the webinar, please mute yourself unless you are speaking or responding to a question.
- We have Q&A portions dedicated throughout the meeting, but feel free to use the chat box to post questions or comments at any time.
- If for any reason you place the call on hold and music begins to play, your call will be disconnected. You are more than welcome to rejoin the meeting once you are available again.
- Individuals using a webcam or video option will be displayed throughout the meeting.

*If you have any questions or technical difficulties, please contact us via the chat box or at [dcyf.communityengagement@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:dcyf.communityengagement@dcyf.wa.gov).*

# Introductions

Please share in the chat:

- Your name,
- Where you are located and
- Your role

# Review of Meeting Minutes

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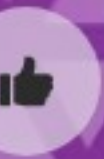


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# Feedback Loop

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# State Agency/Partner and Regional Coalition Updates

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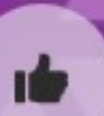
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# Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice (ORESJ)

DCYF Racial Equity and Social Justice Administrator Ray Soriano

[www.dcyf.wa.gov](http://www.dcyf.wa.gov)





Office of  
Racial Equity  
& Social  
Justice

## Our Purpose

The Office of **Racial Equity** & **Social Justice** takes an **intersectional** approach, leading with race, to provide the vision, expertise, and framework necessary to make progress on DCYF's commitment to advance racial equity and eliminate disproportionality.







## Supporting + Protecting Children, Youth, and Families

### Mission

Protect children and strengthen families so they flourish.

### Vision

All Washington's children and youth grow up safe and healthy—thriving physically, emotionally, and educationally, nurtured by family and community.

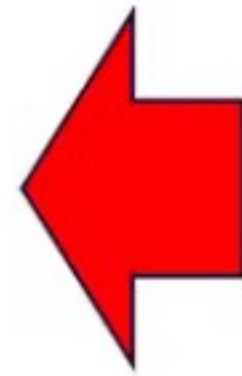
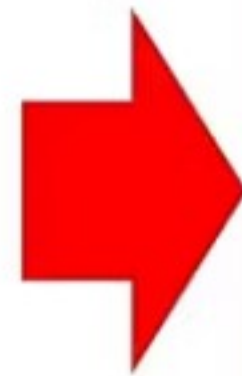


**DCYF is committed to eliminating racial disproportionalities and advancing racial equity in our systems, workforce, programs, and services. *Adm. Policy 6.01***



Agency Priority	Focused Agency Work To Accomplish Priorities
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<b>INTENTION</b>	Safely reduce the number/rate of children and youth in out-of-home care by half	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement and expand effective secondary prevention</li> <li>• Prevent entries into foster care</li> <li>• Reduce length of stay</li> <li>• Improve service availability</li> </ul>
	Create successful transitions into adulthood for youth and young adults in our care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Least restrictive environments</li> <li>• Strengthen therapeutic environments</li> <li>• Enhance availability of services and supports</li> <li>• Enhance stability and quality of adult relationships</li> </ul>
	Create a high quality integrated B-8 system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand access to infant/toddler support and services</li> <li>• Expand access to affordable, high-quality child care</li> <li>• Support recovery of the child care business sector</li> <li>• Create a responsive and inclusive integrated pre-K system</li> <li>• Support the early learning workforce</li> </ul>
<b>CAPACITY</b>	Improve quality and intention of our practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support staff as our most valuable resource</li> <li>• Enhance supportive supervision and management</li> <li>• Evaluate and re-design child welfare practice model</li> <li>• Re-dedication to JR residential therapeutic model</li> </ul>
	Improve quality and availability of provider services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agencywide implementation of performance-based contracting</li> <li>• Expand access to effective and needed services</li> <li>• Enhance service matching at individual and population levels</li> <li>• Identify opportunities to integrate contracts and management</li> </ul>



# A brief racial equity and social justice strategic planning timeline

HB1661

SB 6507



**Race Equity** speaks to the vision or existence of a community, society, or world in which race, or color does not predict the amount and quality of opportunities, services, and benefits.

**Social Justice** recognizes the dignity of every human being and strives to provide support so that everyone's basic needs are met, regardless of class, race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other characteristic.



**ORESJ serves as the compass to guide RESJ strategies and propel the entire agency towards a common vision.** *vision.*

**Divisional, regional, and program leaders are best positioned to develop strategic RESJ roadmaps for collective action.**



# The ORESJ Team



**Keshia Porcincula**  
(SHE/KESHIA/KESHIA'S)

**RACIAL EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE ADMINISTRATOR**



**JAZZY JAMES**  
(SHE/HER/THEY)

**SENIOR RACIAL EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE SPECIALIST**



**Alice Coil**  
(SHE/HER/HERS)

**Interim Director**



**ALETA MAHONE**  
(SHE/HER/HERS)

**ORESJ ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**



**RAY SORIANO**  
(HE/HIM/HIS)

**RACIAL EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE ADMINISTRATOR**



# ORESJ Activities

DCYF Inclusive Racial Equity Change Team

LGBTQIA+ Advisory Group

Monthly Lunch & Learn Forum

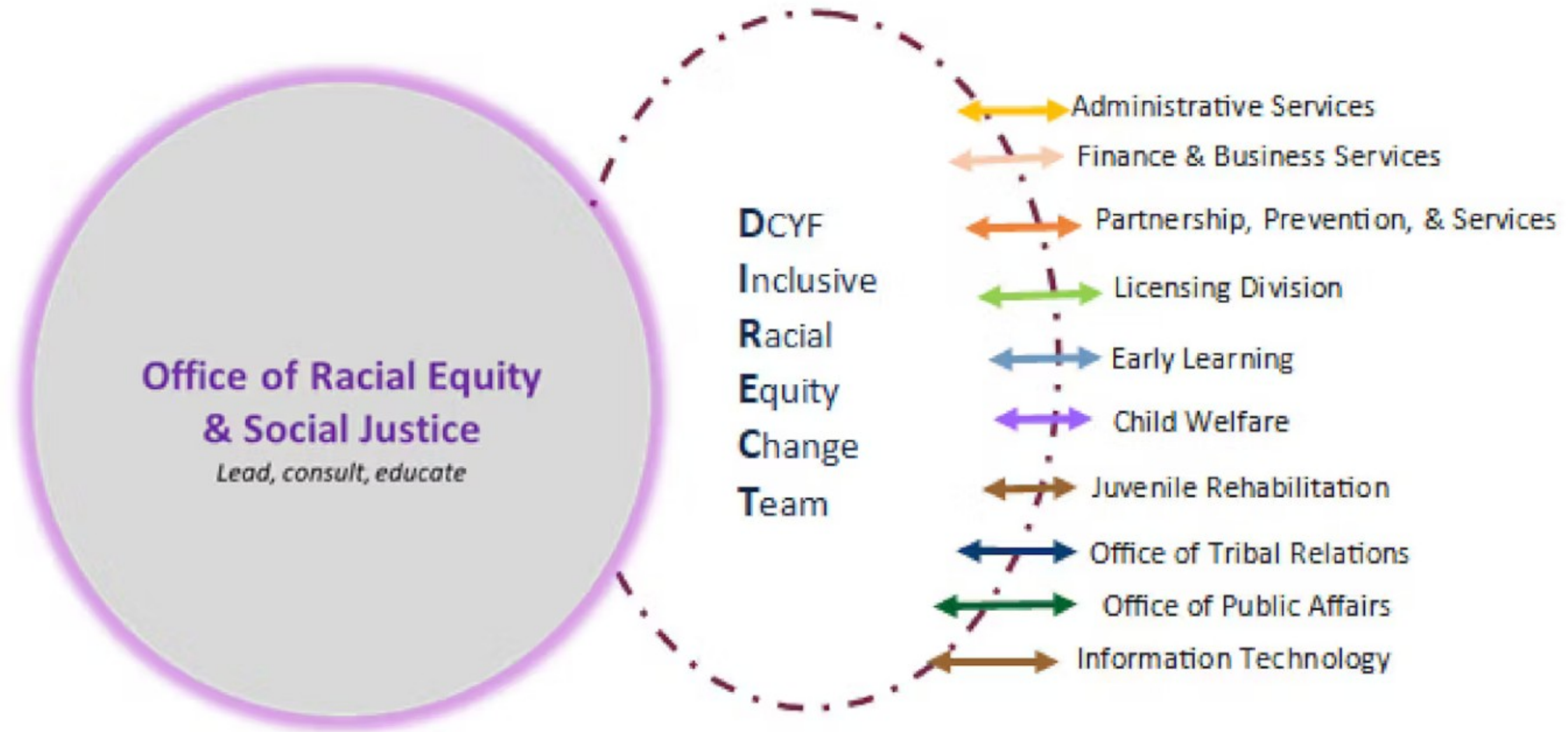
EDI Resource Hub

Consultation & Coaching





# DCYF Inclusive Racial Equity Change Team



The pursuit of racial equity & social justice requires individual and collective action.



# Locate ORESJ

https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/practice/resj

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OUR PRACTICE OFFICE OF RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

## ORESJ

- Introduction
- Lunch & Learn Series

### Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice

Every child has the right to grow up in a safe, healthy, and nurturing environment. Currently children of color are underrepresented in the percentage of children entering kindergarten with the skills they need to be successful. Children and youth of color are overrepresented in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. DCYF is committed to transforming the way we operate to promote racial equity, diversity, inclusion, and justice, so all Washington's children and youth grow up safe, healthy, and thriving.

Established on July 1, 2020, the Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice (ORESJ) is taking an intersectional approach, leading with race, to provide the vision, expertise, and accountability mechanisms necessary to make progress on DCYF's commitment to advance racial equity and to reduce the impact of racial and ethnic disproportionality and disparities.

#### Contact

- Alice Coil, Interim Director
- Ray Soriano, Racial Equity & Social Justice Administrator
- Jazzy James, Senior Racial Equity & Social Justice Specialist
- Aleta Mahone, ORESJ Administrative Assistant
- Keshia Porcincula, Racial Equity & Social Justice Administrator

http://intranet.dcyf.wa.gov:8090/drupal-8.4.0/racial-equity-social-justice

Inside DCYF A SITE FOR STAFF

DCYF Internet site DCYF Communications

HOME PERSONNEL POLICY FORMS COMPUTER HELP

## Racial Equity and Social Justice

### Ways You Can Help to Advance Racial Equity & Social Justice

- Learn about how disproportionality and disparities impact the children, youth & families we serve
- Help create an inclusive and just work environment, where people belong
- Become aware of your own biases and how it affects your work
- Engage in training and ongoing conversations to advance racial equity and social justice

#### Ways to Advance Racial Equity and Social Justice

- Learning & Training
- Racial Affinity Group Spaces
- Tools & Resources
- ORESJ Team

## Contact ORESJ

dcyf.racialequityandsocialjustice@dcyf.wa.gov

# Coordinated Recruitment and Enrollment Presentation with Provider Panel

DCYF Birth-5 ECEAP Administrator Jennifer Cassarino

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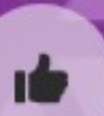
# Early Learning Decision Package Concepts

Senior Policy Advisor Melissa Cheesman and  
Assistant Secretary of Licensing Ruben Reeves

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# DCYF: 2024 Early Learning and Care DP/ARL Proposal

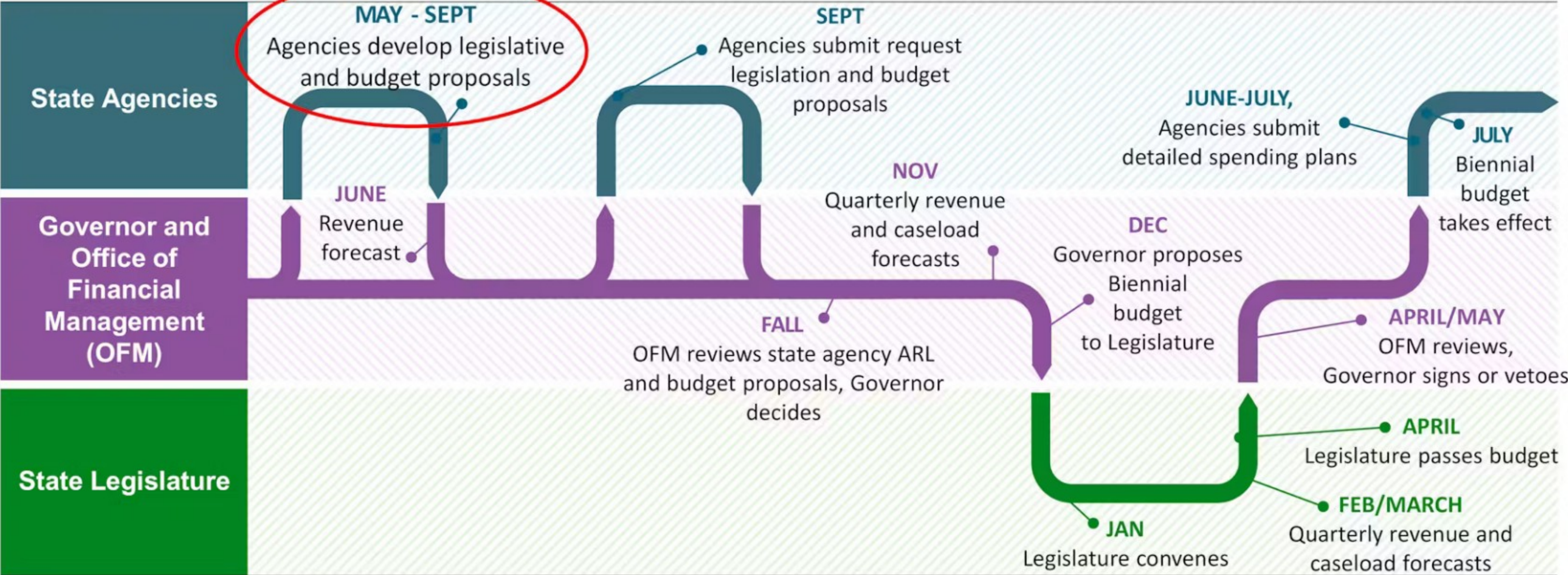
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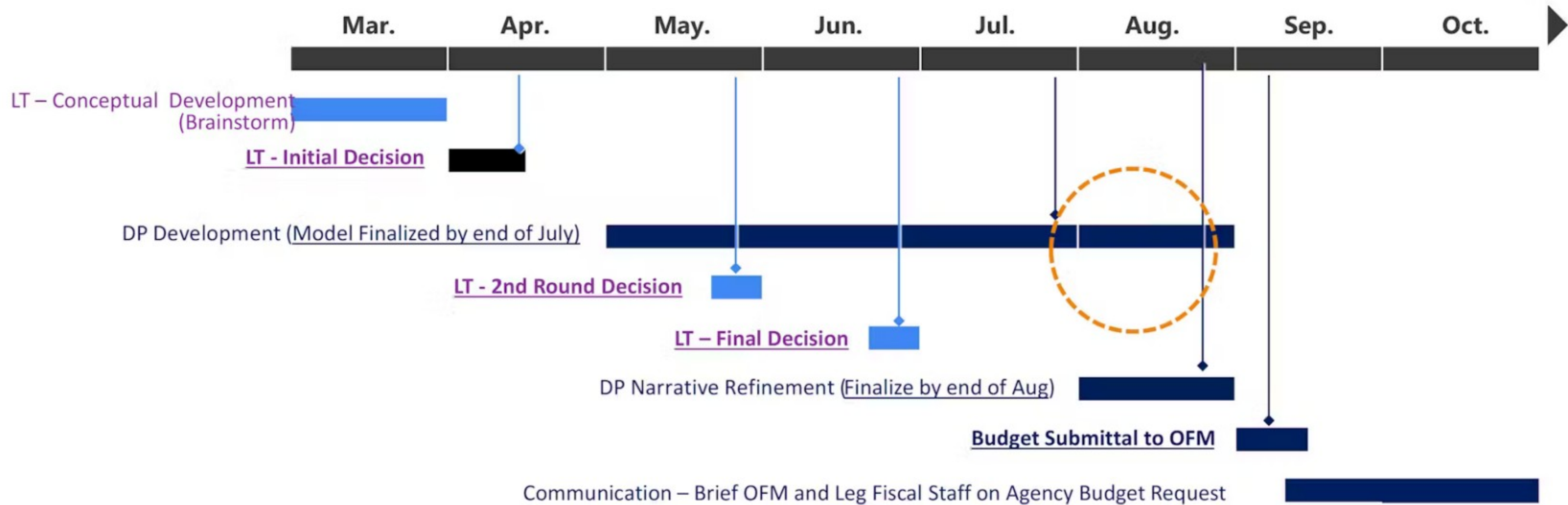
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# Preparing for Legislative Session



# Proposed Decision Package and Agency Request Legislation Timeline for 2025–27 Biennial Session





# DCYF ARL/DP Development Process

## May

- Conducting internal scoping meetings to determine key point people on staff to start stakeholder engagement

## June

- Authorizing authority instructions and guidance for next biennium budgets

## Through July

- Ideas and concepts further developed by program staff
- Community engagement, feedback loop
- Work on cost modeling and fiscal estimates

## August

- **DPs and ARLs finalized**

## September 15-ish

- Agency decision packages and request legislation are due for inclusion in the Governor's budget.



# Realities for 2025

- New Administration
- DCYF implementing significant investments and policy changes
- Declining revenues and slowing economic outlook
- Uncertainty over ballot initiatives and future revenues





## DCYF Strategic Outcomes:

- 80 percent of Washington children ready for Kindergarten.
- High-quality early learning available and affordable to all in Washington.
- Prevention goals connected to early learning include:
  - Safely reduce the need for child abuse and neglect intakes. Reduce entries and re-entries into child welfare and juvenile rehabilitation.
  - Safely reduce the number of children in out of home care by 50%.
- Eliminate racial disproportionality and advancing racial equity in early education.

# Early Learning Related Decision Packages:

- ECEAP Entitlement – *Increase Slots, rates, and supports to meet entitlement*
- WCCC Eligibility Expansion – *Increase income eligibility to 75 % of SMI*
- 2024 MRS (85<sup>th</sup> percentile) – *Increase to base subsidy rates*
- CCDF Compliance – *Enrollment based and prospective payments, Grants for ECE services, 12-month eligibility – adding children*
- Compliance/Complaints Unit – *Increase technical assistance and Reduce licensing caseloads*

# Early Learning Decision Packages: In development . . .

## **Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) Entitlement**

- [RCW 43.216.556](#) requested funding to support 2026-27 school year ECEAP entitlement.
  - For 2026-27 school year:
    - Any eligible child is entitled to be enrolled ([RCW 43.216.505](#) defines “Eligible child”)
    - Voluntary enrollment
- DCYF must add approximately 6,515 slots.
- Funding request includes conversion of part day slots into school day/working day slots, sustainable slot rates, quality supports, and provider scholarships.

# Early Learning Decision Packages: In development . . .

## **Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) Income Eligibility**

[RCW 43.216.802\(3\)](#) Beginning July 1, 2025, income eligibility is at or below 75 % of the state median income adjusted for family size (~7,983 families which is about 13,571 additional children).

- Establish a second-tier eligibility to 80% SMI (CCDF required):
  - Co-pay at no more than 7%, copayment \$350/mo. Or 6.8% gross monthly.
  - Is required under CCDF when income eligibility is less than 85% SMI.
  - Allows families to have some income growth and retain child care at reapplication.
  - Currently second-tier eligibility is to 65% SMI with a copayment \$215/mo.

# Early Learning Decision Packages: In development . . .

## WCCC Subsidy/Benefit Base Rates (rates) Paid to Providers

- [RCW 43.216.828](#) provides:
  - Rates to achieve the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile of Market Rates Survey (MRS), and
    - DCYF developed a cost model to produce rates that compensate licensed or certified providers at full COQC.
    - Goal: Over time rates = full cost of high quality child care (i.e., COQC),
- 2024 MRS rates achieve 62% – 95% of COQC (infant – school ages rates).
- Required funding request to comply with the [Fair Start for Kids Act](#) (2021).
- Increasing provider rates supports increased access and affordability for children through increased provider participation.

# Early Learning Decision Packages: In development . . .

## **Federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) New Requirements**

- New Rule effective April 30, 2024, expand availability and affordability for eligible children and families.
- Required funding to implement the following new requirements:
  - Enrollment based pay, and prospective provider subsidy payment;
  - Early care and education services through grants and contracts for underserved geographic areas, infants and toddlers, and children with disabilities; and
  - Providing a full 12-month eligibility when a new child is added during eligibility period.



# Early Learning Decision Packages: In development . . .

## **Establish a new Compliance/Complaints Unit within Licensing**

- Supports mission to protect children and strengthen families so they flourish.
- Separates general licensing duties from licensing CPS investigations:
  - Requested by providers,
  - Reduce potential conflict of interest,
  - Addressing steady increases and complexity of investigations, and
  - Supports more balance workload for program staff.

# Thank you!

**Contact:**

Melissa Cheesman

[melissa.cheesman@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:melissa.cheesman@dcyf.wa.gov)



# Meeting Follow Up & Closing Remarks

Thank you for your participation today!

## Next Meeting:

Report Review – August 13, 2024

Public Meeting – October 1, 2024

