



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

Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) Meeting  
August 6, 2024

## **State Agency and Partner Updates**

### **Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) Updates**

#### **Rule Making Update – Recently Completed Rules**

##### ***Child-Specific Licenses to an Indian Child’s Family or Extended Family Member***

The Licensing Division filed [WSR 24-12-067](#) to amend WAC 110-148-1326 to give DCYF the authority to issue child-specific licenses to an Indian child’s family or extended family member with children in the custody of an Indian tribe or the tribe’s child placing agency. This authority is required by Senate Bill 5683. The amended rule went into effect July 4, 2024.

##### ***Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) – Definition of Indian Child***

The Early Learning Division filed [WSR 24-12-042](#) to amend WAC 110-425-0030 Definitions because the Fair Start for Kids Act (Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5237) requires DCYF to establish a definition of an Indian child that will be used for Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) enrollment. The definition will include federally recognized tribal members and increase clarity around which children are eligible for enrollment as an Indian child into ECEAP programming. The amended rule went into effect July 1, 2024.

**For questions on WACs, please email the DCYF Policy Team [dcyf.policyteam@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:dcyf.policyteam@dcyf.wa.gov)**

#### **Rule Making Update – Rules Under Development**

##### ***Working Connections Child Care – Eligibility***

The Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) Early Learning Division is amending rules on the eligibility requirements for child care and food assistance. DCYF is also amending rules to allow the following programs to be an approved activity for eligibility: birth to three Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) and early Head Start programs. These amendments are required by legislation. More information can be found in [WSR 24-14-053](#).

##### ***Working Connections Child Care – Infant Enhancement Rate, Nonstandard Hours Bonus***

The DCYF Early Learning Division is revising the infant enhancement rate and non-standard hours bonus rate to align with legislative requirements. More information can be found in [WSR 24-14-034](#). On July 1, 2024, these rules went into effect under [emergency status](#)

##### ***Working Connections and Seasonal Child Care Subsidy Programs***

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) Early Learning Division is revising Chapter 110-15 WAC Working Connections and Seasonal Child Care Subsidy Programs. The purpose of this

rule-making is to clarify and update language to transition operations from Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to DCYF and use plain talk as required by [Executive Order 23-02](#). The notice of intent for this rule-making was filed under [WSR 24-15-069](#) on July 17, 2024.

### **Rule Making Update – Proposed Rules**

#### ***Licensing – Multi-Licensed Foster Care Family Home and Family Home Child Care License***

The DCYF Licensing Division filed [WSR 24-14-136](#) to open the public comment period on proposed rule amendments and proposed new rules to allow a family home to be licensed for both foster care and child care. The anticipated effects are more child care options within communities and increased placement options for children needing foster care. Furthermore, the proposed rules allow for continuity of care which is expected to create more stable experiences for impacted children.

#### ***Working Connections Child Care – Eligibility***

The DCYF Early Learning Division filed [WSR 24-14-137](#) to open the public comment period on proposed rule amendments to expand eligibility to people working in licensed child care centers and licensed family homes, specialty and therapeutic court participants, and undocumented children. This rulemaking will also establish eligibility for families with a parent participating in a state-registered apprenticeship with income less than 85% of the state median income who, within the last year, were approved for Working Connections Child Care. The proposed rules are currently in effect under [emergency status](#).

### **Additional State Agency/Partner Updates**

#### **Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)**

*No updates to share at this time.*

For more information, please contact Ryan Guzman at [Ryan.Guzman@k12.wa.us](mailto:Ryan.Guzman@k12.wa.us)

#### **Department of Health (DOH)**

Department of Health continues to support a number of initiatives and programs that focus on early childhood health and family well-being. Some current topics and weblinks include:

Promoting Child Well-Care Visits

- [Child and Adolescent Well-Care Visits | Washington State Department of Health](#)

Promoting Universal Developmental Screening:

- [Universal Developmental Screening — A Strong Start for Children | Washington State Department of Health](#)

Ensuring Access to Nutrition

- [Women, Infants, and Children \(WIC\) Nutrition Program | Washington State Department of Health](#)

Partnering with Other State Agencies and Community Partners on Early Childhood Systems

- [About Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems | Healthier Washington Collaboration Portal \(waportal.org\)](#)
- [Washington Prenatal to Three Coalition \(withinreachwa.org\)](#)

For more information, please contact Astrid Newell and Angie Funaiole at [astrid.newell@doh.wa.gov](mailto:astrid.newell@doh.wa.gov) and [angie.funaiole@doh.wa.gov](mailto:angie.funaiole@doh.wa.gov).

## Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA)

*No updates to share at this time.*

For more information, please contact Olivia Burley at [Olivia.burley@dva.wa.gov](mailto:Olivia.burley@dva.wa.gov)

## Department of Social and Health Services

- In December 2022, Congress authorized a new, permanent, summer EBT program called SUN Bucks. It's a food benefit program that allows households with eligible, school-aged children to buy groceries during summer months when free and reduced-price school meals are not available. SUN Bucks provides up to \$120 in food benefits to each eligible child, adjusted annually. Eligibility for SUN Bucks includes children aged 8 to 18 who are approved for free or reduced-price meals in National School Lunch Program schools and are in households receiving SNAP, TANF or other categorical-eligibility-based programs.
- Effective Aug. 1, 2024, the way earned income for cash households is calculated will change. Second Substitute House Bill 1447 amends the calculation of monthly cash benefits by exempting the first \$500 of earned income before the 50% earned income disregard is applied.

Cash households with earned income will get a letter explaining the increase in cash benefits and any resulting changes to their Basic Food benefits. Staff need to be aware of the standardized formula to explain to the household if its members have questions. There are, however, no changes to staff processing or procedures for entering earned income, as ACES automation will correctly calculate benefits for August 2024 and beyond.

- Effective July 1, 2024, CSD has opened an outstation at the Forks Transit Center located at 551 South Forks Avenue, Forks, WA. The outstation has limited services and is open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Please see the attached partner letter for more information.
- As of July 1, 2024, per passage of [Substitute House Bill 2007](#), families who are over their 60 months of TANF cash assistance may qualify for an additional time-limit extension. The infant, toddler or postpartum time-limit extension is for parents with children in their home under the age of 2 who have exhausted their 60 months of TANF and continue to need aid. The parent must qualify for the infant, toddler or postpartum WorkFirst participation exemption to be eligible for this new time-limit-extension category. Please see the attached partner letter for more information.

For more information, please contact Christian Carvajal at [Christian.carvajal@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:Christian.carvajal@dshs.wa.gov).