

Provider Supports Subcommittee Virtual Meeting August 14, 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.



Introductions

Please share:

- Your name,
- Where you are located,
- Name of Center/Agency
- In one word, share the best thing you've done this Summer

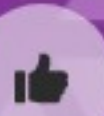


Review of Meeting Materials

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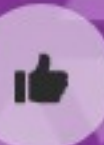
DEVELOP Update

DCYF Assistant Secretary of Early Learning Nicole Rose

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DEVELOP Updates

Nicole Rose, Assistant
Secretary, Early Learning

Provider Supports Subcommittee Meeting
August 14, 2024



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DEVELOP Updates

- DCYF had anticipated DEVELOP would be ready for use beginning summer 2024, and it was planned to be the new and improved learning management system (LMS) for early learning and school-age providers.
- DCYF has made the decision not to move forward with DEVELOP.

Rationale

- An analysis of DEVELOP was done after DCYF received interest in DEVELOP from other programs across the agency, which broadened the scope and timeline for the project.
- A potential expansion of DEVELOP at DCYF necessitated an analysis of the initial 2018 needs, current project scope, and feedback from the people involved across the project.

How this will affect Providers

- Early Learning providers and other professionals can continue to search for trainings in [MERIT](#).
- Early Learning providers and other professionals can continue to find and complete required trainings in [DCYF's Online Training Portal](#).



MERIT will continue to be the place where:

- Employment, training, and educational accomplishments get recorded for the Early Learning workforce;
- Employee records for a facility or site are managed;
- Portable Background Check applications are completed; and
- Licensors view records and conduct monitoring processes.

QUESTIONS?

training@dcyf.wa.gov

Early Learning Licensing WAC Revisions

DCYF Child Care Policy and Change Management Specialist Brett Skinner and
Policy and Change Management Program Supervisor Ann Radcliffe

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Child Care WAC Updates

Provider Supports Subcommittee Meeting

August 14, 2024

Ann Radcliffe (Licensing Division Policy, Communications and
Change Management Administrator)

Brett Skinner (Child Care Policy Program Manager)

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Our goals today

- Follow up on questions from June 11th meeting
- Preview the list of child care WAC categories up for revision
- Outline next steps



Follow up questions from June meeting

110-300-0106, 110-301-0106 (extending the time allowed for first-aid and CPR training to 3 months after hire)

QUESTION	ANSWER
<p>Why wasn't this change allowed in the 110-302 chapter (Outdoor Nature-Based Programs)?</p>	<p>ONB programs pose an increased risk; groups of children can be very spread out and if something tragic happens, it may take all qualified staff to respond to the emergency. Exposure to weather extremes, wildlife issues, water hazards, etc.</p>
<p>Why must we have one staff person trained in first-aid/CPR in order to count in ratio for school-age?</p>	<p>School-age programs operate with a 1:15 ratio and group size of 30. Every grouping should have a staff trained in first-aid/CPR as they may even be separated from each other, e.g., one group inside and one group outside</p>
<p>Can the bloodborne pathogens training be extended to every 2 years?</p>	<p>BBP is an L & I requirement with specified timeframes. After the initial BBP is completed, there is an annual review (per L & I) and this review can be met in a variety of ways, including on site training by the director or licensee. The BBP is also a CCDF requirement.</p>
<p>Where can we obtain these trainings?</p>	<p>The trainings need to be certified by the American Red Cross, American Heart Association, the Health and Safety Institute, or other national recognized programs. Please search locally online to find them; but they do need to be certified.</p>



Follow up questions from June meeting

110-300-0358 (Family Home Capacity Waiver, limiting to 16 per SBC rules)

QUESTION	ANSWER
Regarding the emergency lights: can they be battery operated?	Please check with your local building code rules. It may vary.
For those family home providers currently holding a capacity waiver, can they be grandfathered in?	No, but we have been notifying those providers and will give them some time to come into compliance. We will work with them to give them time to transition their enrollment, easing families and children into alternate locations.



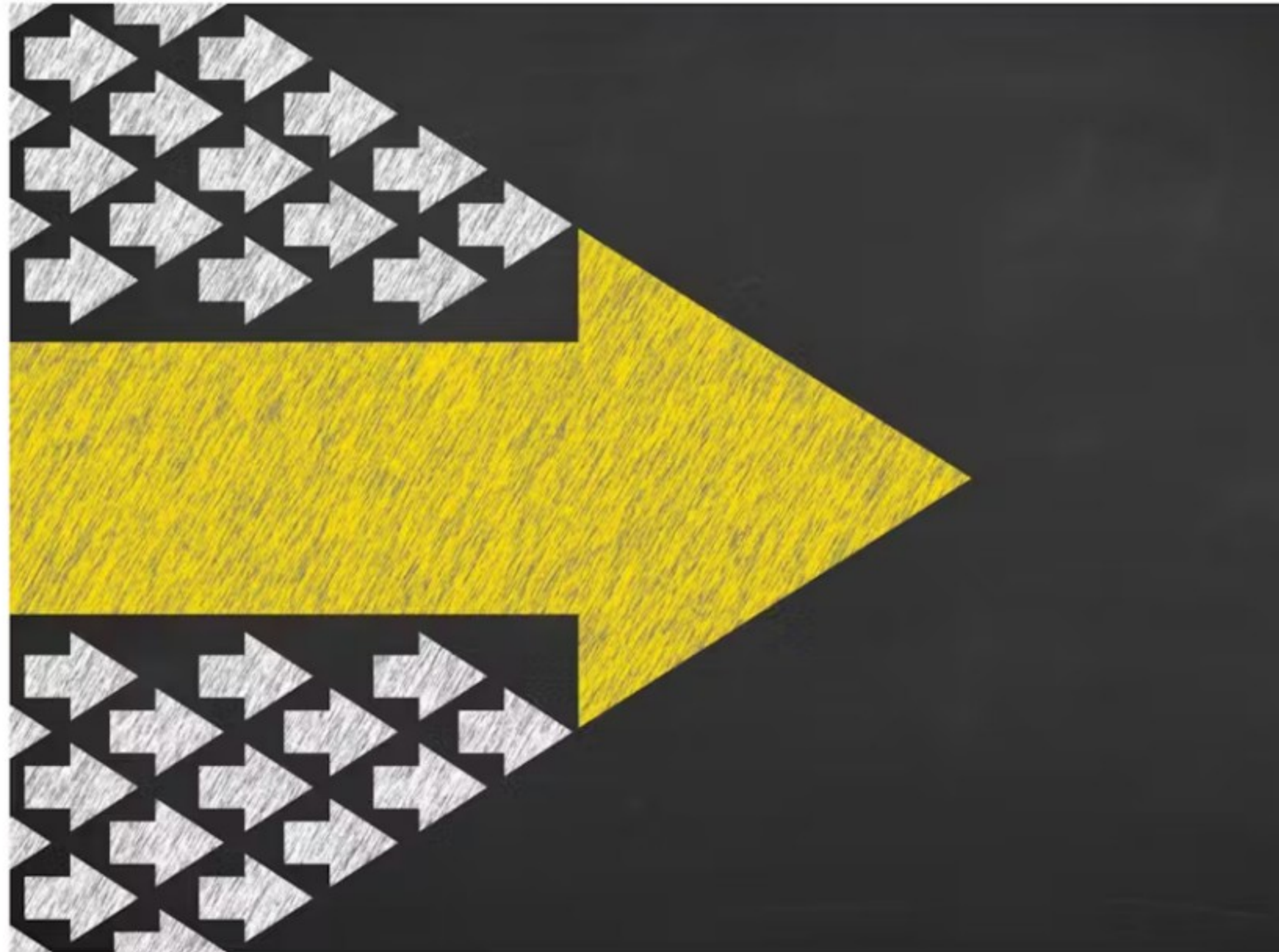
Follow up questions from June meeting

110-300-0331; 110-301-0331; 110-302-0331 (Prohibited behavior)

QUESTION	ANSWER
<p>What about negative behavior exhibited by parents when on-site at child care facilities?</p>	<p>This can be included in the parent policies. You can also look at WAC 110-300-0485, Termination of services policy. “Expectations and requirements of the program may include unpaid bills, continual late arrivals, or a parent, guardian or family member's inappropriate or unsafe behavior in or near early learning program space.”</p>
<p>Suggest rewording the title of the section of the WAC to make it clearer.</p>	<p>Yes, we agree that the title of this section should be reworded to “Prohibited behavior and discipline, and physical separation of children.”</p>



What's up next for child care WAC revisions?



- Limited number will be revised, only 12 or 13 subsections in each of the three child care WAC chapters
- Based on the “serious” or “immediate” risk levels on the checklists
- Many are very minor changes to clarify requirements or to simplify the language

WAC subsections and short summary: Why are we revising them?

Section and title (using 110-300 as example)	FH & Centers	School-Age	ONB	Summary/reason for change
110-300-0100 General staff qualifications	X	X	X	Clarifies requirement dates for certificates; clarifies what regular, ongoing volunteers must complete (e.g., background check)
110-300-0166 Emergency preparation and exiting	X	X	X	Requires “exit pathways” not be partially or entirely blocked.
110-300-0186; -0190; -0300 Food allergies, Parent or guardian provided food and written food plans; Individual care plan	X	X	X	Simplifies these three WAC sections. Eliminates duplication of rules and possible double-citing.



WAC subsections and short summary, cont.

Section and title (using 110-300 as example)	FH & Centers	School-Age	ONB	Summary/reason for change
110-300-0196 Food sources	X	X	X	Aligns compliance with Department of Health food service and establishes rules to protect traditional foods used by tribes.
110-300-0215 Medication	X	X		Eliminates the word <u>nonmedical</u> (confusing). Clarifies aerosol sunscreen is prohibited.
110-300-0221 Diaper changing areas, privacy, and disposal	X			Eliminates statement about leaving a child unattended. This is already covered in 110-300-0345, Supervising children

WAC subsections and short summary, cont.

Section and title (using 110-300 as example)	FH & Centers	School-Age	ONB	Summary/reason for change
110-300-260 Storage of hazardous and maintenance supplies	X			Eliminates requirement for locking doors. (“inaccessible” covers this)
110-300-0345 Supervising children	X	X	X	Clarifies supervision requirement to not allow children in unlicensed space during business hours. Clarifies staff “undertaking other activities allowed for temporary time periods”.
110-300-0400 Application materials	X	X	X	Allows an exception for retaking orientation if applicant has already attended and has continuously worked in child care. Clarifies smelter plume requirement to those areas identified on WA Department of Ecology website.

WAC subsections and short summary, cont.

Section and title (using 110-300 as example)	FH & Centers	School-Age	ONB	Summary/reason for change
110-300-0410 Licensing and program location	X	X	X	Clarifies smelter plume requirement to those areas identified on the WA Department of Ecology website. Clarifies the need for provider to contact Department of Ecology for those areas identified.
110-300-0415 Zoning, codes, and ordinances	X	X	X	Clarifies the intent of WAC for zoning, codes and ordinances to be met prior to licensing and while licensed .
110-300-0425 Initial, nonexpiring, dual licenses, and license modifications	X	X	X	Provides clarification for DCYF and licensed providers on maintaining opened licenses that do not provide care for extended periods of time.
110-300-0465 Retaining facility and program records	X	X	X	Clarifies the smelter plume areas (keeping the inspection records available, if applicable)



Next steps

- Beginning stages of revisions
- Connect with tribal partners for input
- Work with our DCYF Policy and Rules Office (PRO)
- Schedule webinars for NRM process and gather input from providers and other stakeholders
- Estimated effective date: no earlier than January 2025





Thank you!

- **Contact:**
- Ann.Radcliffe@dcyf.wa.gov
- Brett.Skinner@dcyf.wa.gov



Legislative Update/Early Learning Decision Packages

DCYF Senior Policy Advisor Melissa Cheesman

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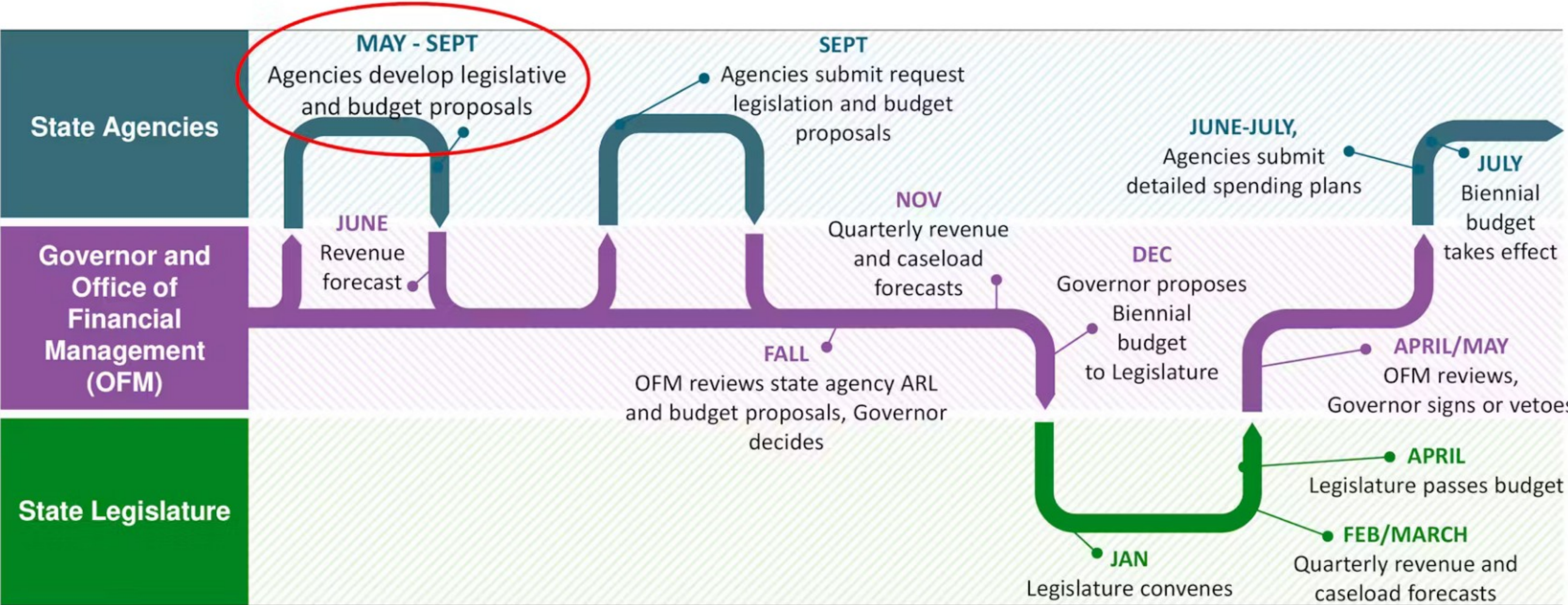
DCYF: 2024 Early Learning and Care DP/ARL Proposal



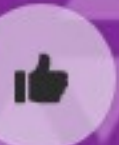
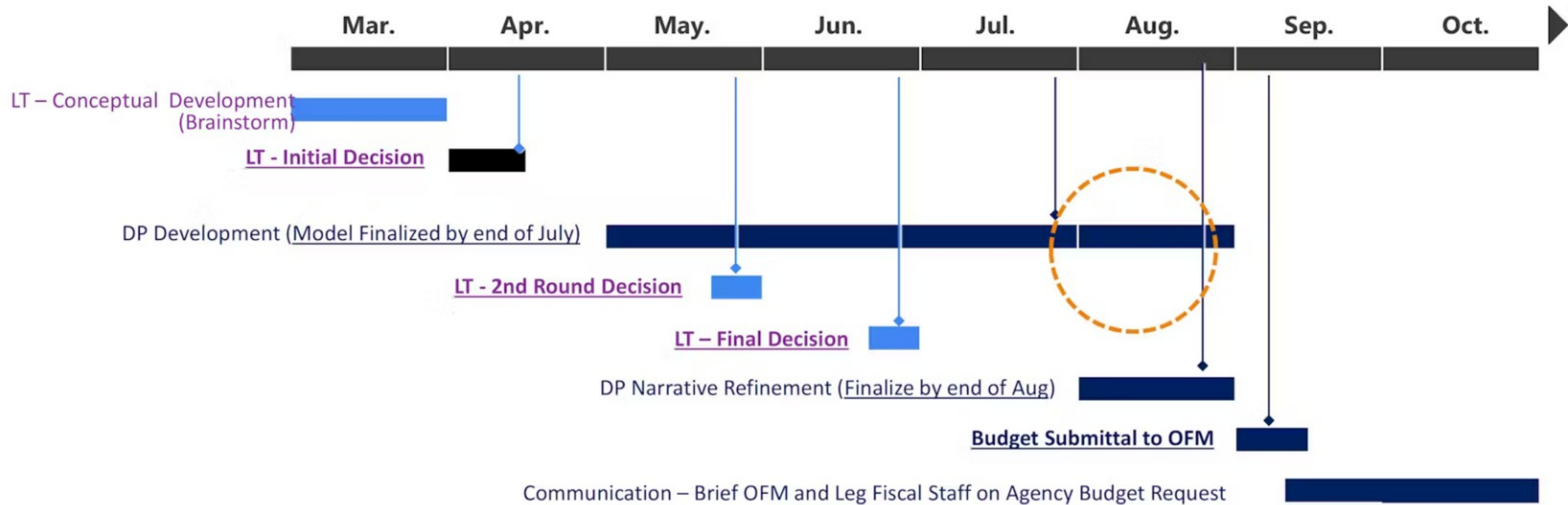
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Preparing for Legislative Session



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.





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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 (85th 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 85th 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



Break

The meeting will resume at 11:45 a.m.



Complex Needs Fund Updates and Feedback for Refinement

DCYF Child Care Grants Manager Kelsey Boyce and
Child Care Grants Coordinator Melinda Waite

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DCYF Complex Needs Funds

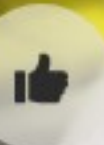
Kelsey Boyce, Child Care Grants Manager

Melinda Waite, Child Care Grant Coordinator

August 14, 2024



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Overview

- Ongoing Funding
- Grants awarded in 2024
- ECEAP Complex Needs Fund
- Child Care Complex Needs Fund
- Technical Assistance
- Feedback for Refinement



Ongoing Funding: 2023-25 and beyond

ECEAP Complex Needs Fund:

- The legislature added a one-time increase in funding for the ECEAP Complex Needs Fund for the 2023-25 biennium. This is a one-time increase of \$5,787,000.
- \$4.6M in funding is for maintenance for each fiscal year.
- The total amount of ECEAP Complex Needs Fund for 2023-25 is \$7.1M for FY24 and \$7.9M for FY25, totaling \$15 million.

Child Care Complex Needs Fund:

- The legislature has increased the maintenance level funding for the Child Care Complex Needs Fund by \$15,396,000.
- The total amount of Child Care Complex Needs Fund for the 2023-25 biennium is \$19,799,392.

2025-2027 Biennium:

- The total amount of ongoing funding for the ECEAP Complex Needs Fund is \$9.2M (\$4.6M each fiscal year).
- The total amount of ongoing funding for the Child Care Complex Needs Fund is \$19.8M (\$9.9M each fiscal year).
- Any additional budget information for the 2025-27 biennium will be determined by the legislative session in 2025.

**Complex
Needs Funds
Awarded in
2024:
\$17.7 million**



\$9.9 million

in Child Care Complex Needs Funds.



\$7.8 million

in ECEAP Complex Needs Funds.



Complex Needs Fund Awards 23-25 Biennium

Complex Needs Fund	# of Applications	# of Awardees	Provider Type Awarded	Total Amount Awarded To Date
ECEAP	2023-24: 47 2024-25: 49	2023-24: 47 2024-25: 48	ECEAP/Early ECEAP Contractors	2023-24: \$6,964,943 2024-25: \$7,807,000
Child Care	2023-24: 852 2024-25: Opening Fall 2024	2023-24: 162	2023-24: 86 Centers, 69 LFH, 5 FFN, 2 Tribal	2023-24: \$9,991,296

Complex Needs Fund Awards in the 23-25 biennium supported adding staff or increasing staff hours; therapeutic services; facility improvements to comply with ADA accessibility or behavioral needs; and supportive and adaptive materials and equipment. Staffing remains the most requested funding category.



ECEAP Complex Needs Fund

Promotes inclusive, least-restrictive environments, and to support ECEAP Contractors serving children who have developmental delays, disabilities, behavioral needs, and/or other unique needs.



“We now have a solid foundation of knowledge, skills, materials, and expertise that we can continue to build upon. We are thoughtful and intentional in using CNF to layer knowledge and embed strategies across our program. These funds are not just a one-time injection of resources, but are spent in ways that will continue to strengthen our system.”

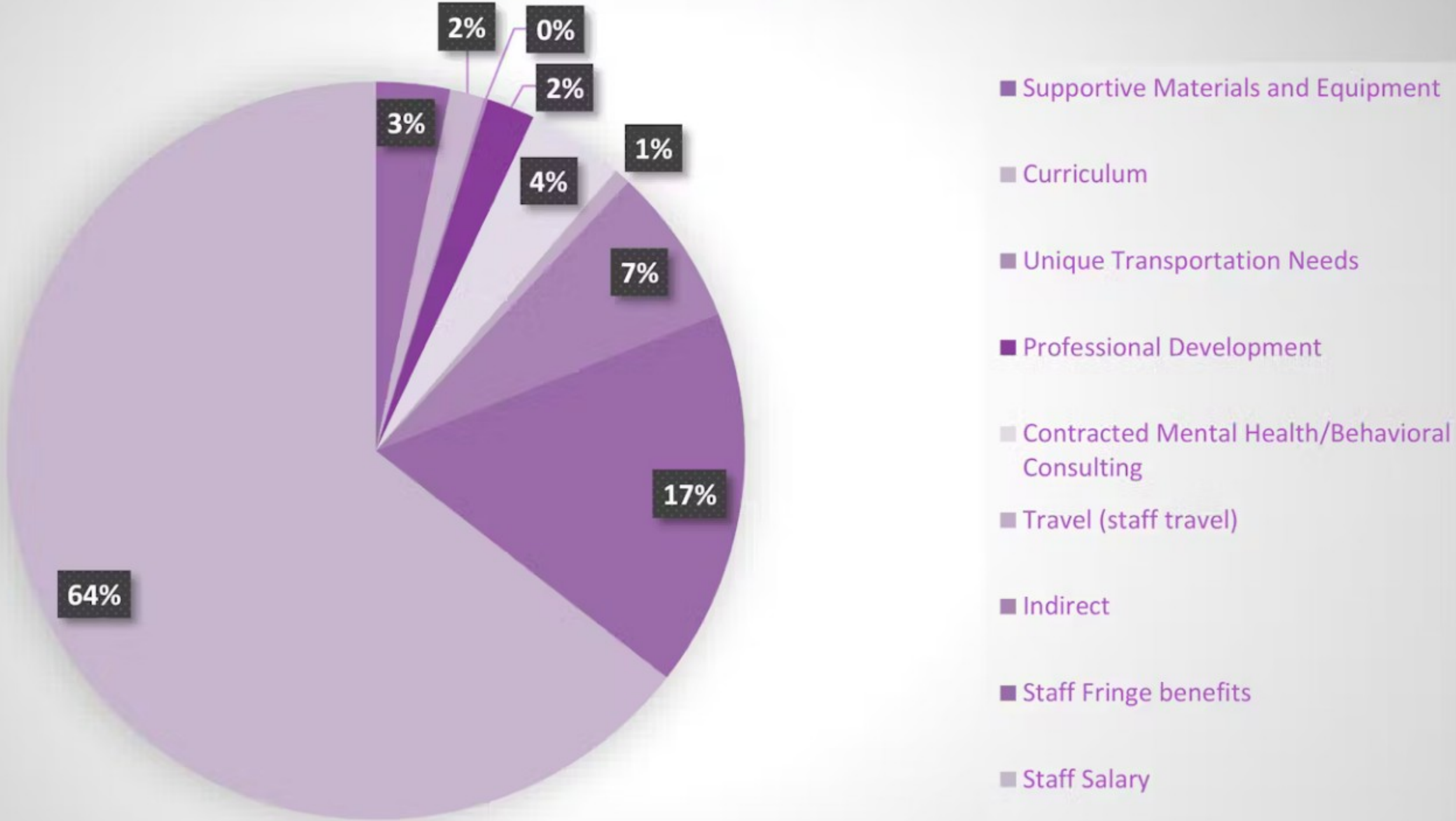
– ECEAP Contractor

ECEAP Complex Needs Fund

For Fiscal Year 2025

- DCYF awarded \$7.8 million in funding for 48 ECEAP Contractors
- According to application data, this funding will support 733 classrooms in 295 sites, reaching 10,026 children.
- Total funding requests for Fiscal Year 2025 totaled \$16.6 million, more than double the amount DCYF had available.

ECEAP CNF FY 25 Funding Allocation



Child Care Complex Needs Fund

Promotes inclusive, least-restrictive environments, and to support child care providers serving children who have developmental delays, disabilities, behavioral needs, and/or other unique needs.





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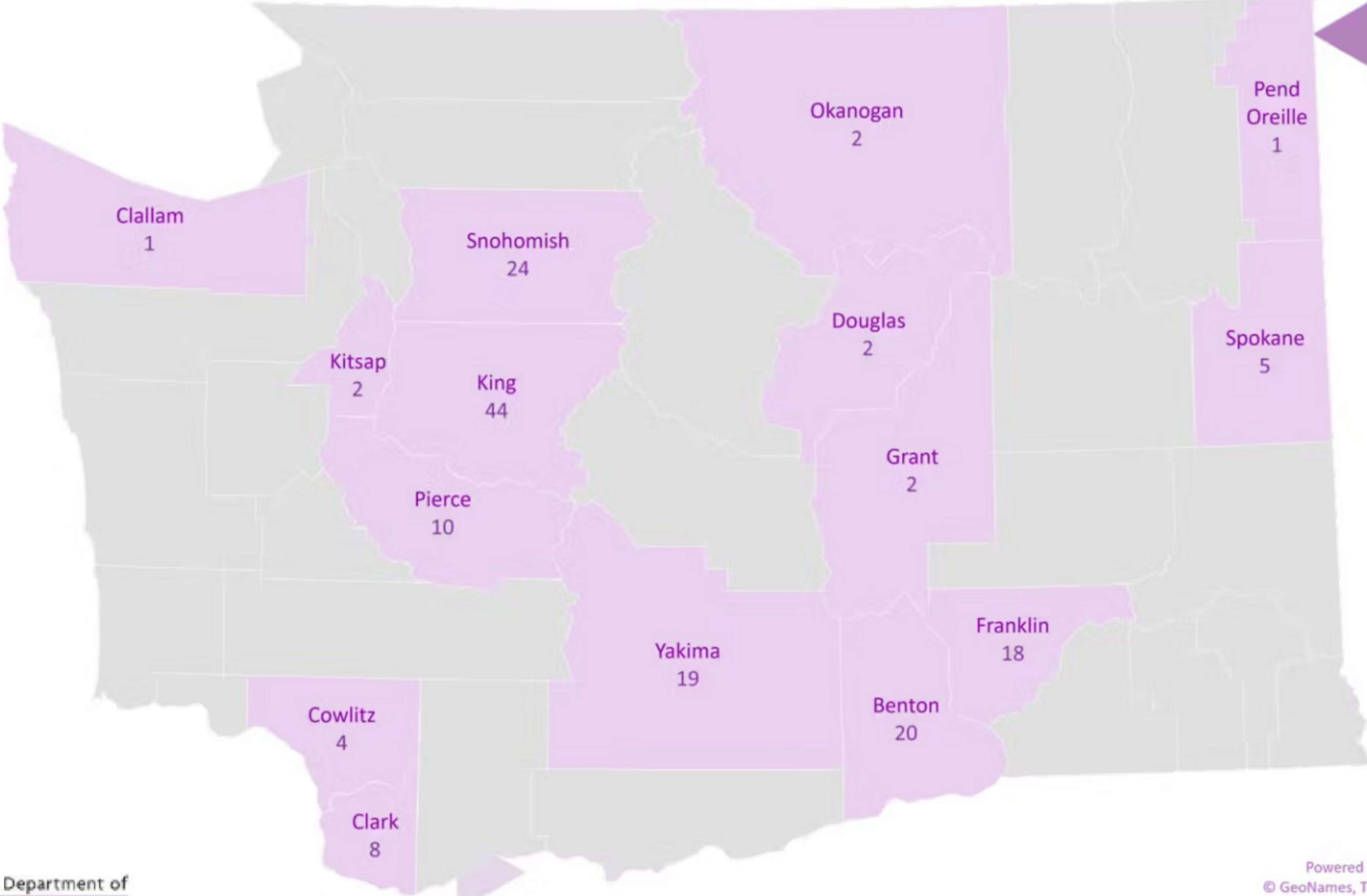
“We have had enormous success with all our new learning tools and toys. We have children who could not express what they are feeling, that have now found ways to do so with our "Feelings" charts. We have children who would not interact with friends their age that have now found common ground to initiate play with others, and accept invitations to join the group. Our "XYZ area" aka 'quiet cave' has become a favorite place for some of our busiest friends to decompress and snuggle. Watching the growth and joy our kids have found in all our new activities has been so exciting to watch.” –Child Care Provider

Child Care Complex Needs Fund

In Fiscal Year 2024

- DCYF received 852 applications requesting more than \$78 million in funding.
- DCYF awarded \$9.9 million in funding for 162 applications
- The funding increase received from the legislature allowed DCYF to fund 61 more applications than the previous year!
- 19% of applications were funded, an increase from only 8.7% in Fiscal Year 2023.

2023-24 Child Care Complex Needs Fund Awards



Complex Needs Fund

What's Working

- 98% of Quarterly Surveys reported a positive experience receiving Child Care Complex Needs Fund awards.
- 47% of Quarterly Surveys listed specific positive outcomes achieved for children with complex needs.
- Technical Assistance support through Imagine Institute.
- DCYF instituting more pre-award and post-award support.
- ECEAP CNF Funds reaching more contractors each year.

Complex Needs Fund

What Could be Refined

- Clarity around Licensed ECEAP and how to access the funds
- We've learned it is difficult to recruit, hire, and retain staffing that directly support children with complex needs
- More providers want an opportunity to receive an award
- Refine policy around spend categories, eligible/ineligible expenses
- Streamline ECEAP Complex Needs Fund Application

Technical Assistance

DCYF Contracted with The Imagine Institute to provide technical assistance and language access to child care providers applying for and accessing grants

- Comprehensive support
- Assistance applying
- Language Access
- Receipt and documentation assistance
- Questions on eligible/ineligible costs
- Group TA sessions, including Q&A
- Pre-Award guidance
- Quarterly Survey support and outreach



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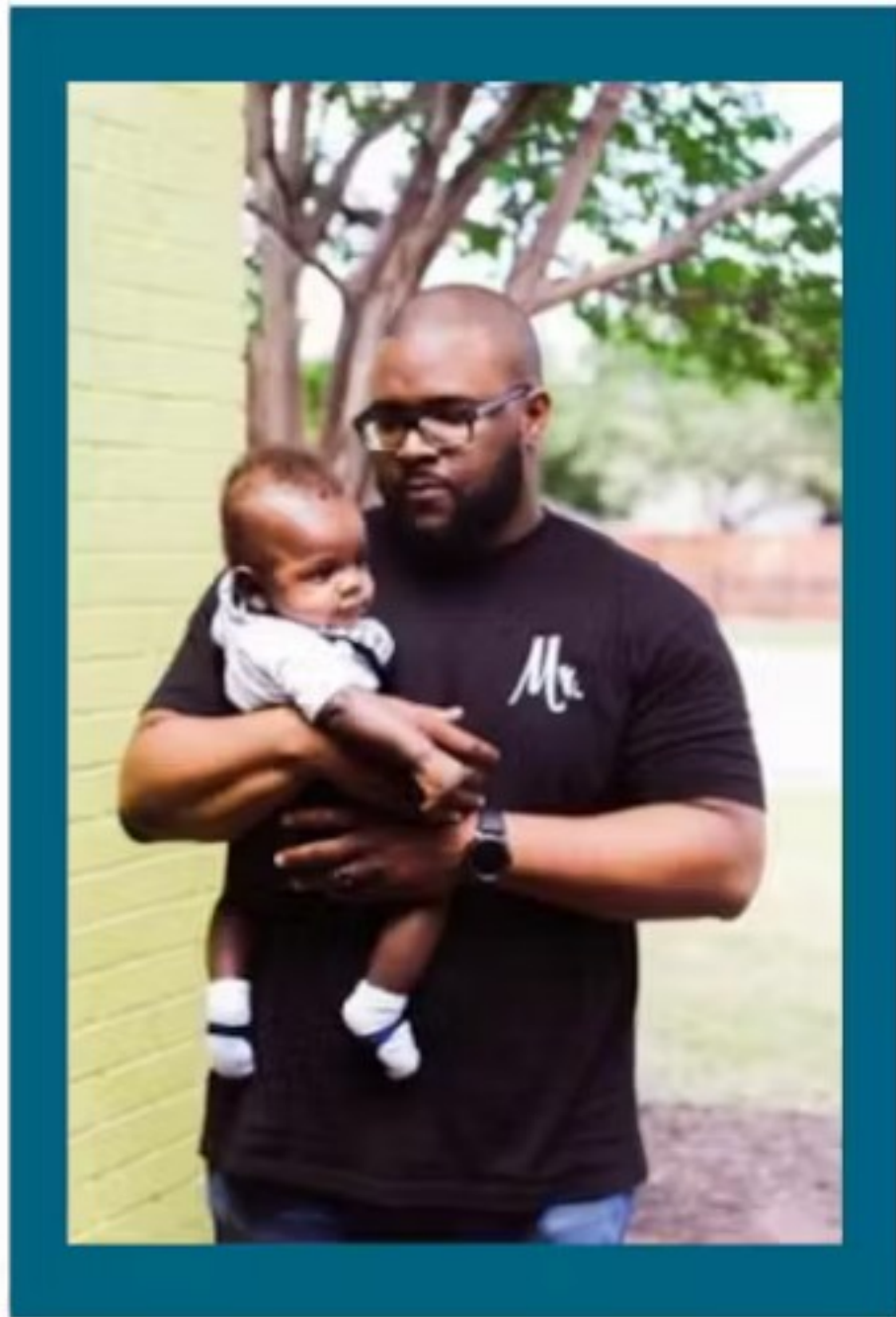
Feedback to Support Refinement



Pre-Award Technical Assistance Sessions

What other information should DCYF include in the pre-award sessions, to help set providers up for success in managing their award and carrying out their grant activities?

Feedback to Support Refinement



Licensed ECEAP Access

DCYF would love your feedback and suggestions on a more equitable approach - how can DCYF administer two Complex Needs Funds in a way that works better for licensed ECEAP, while still staying in line with state auditing requirements (ensuring no 'double dipping')?

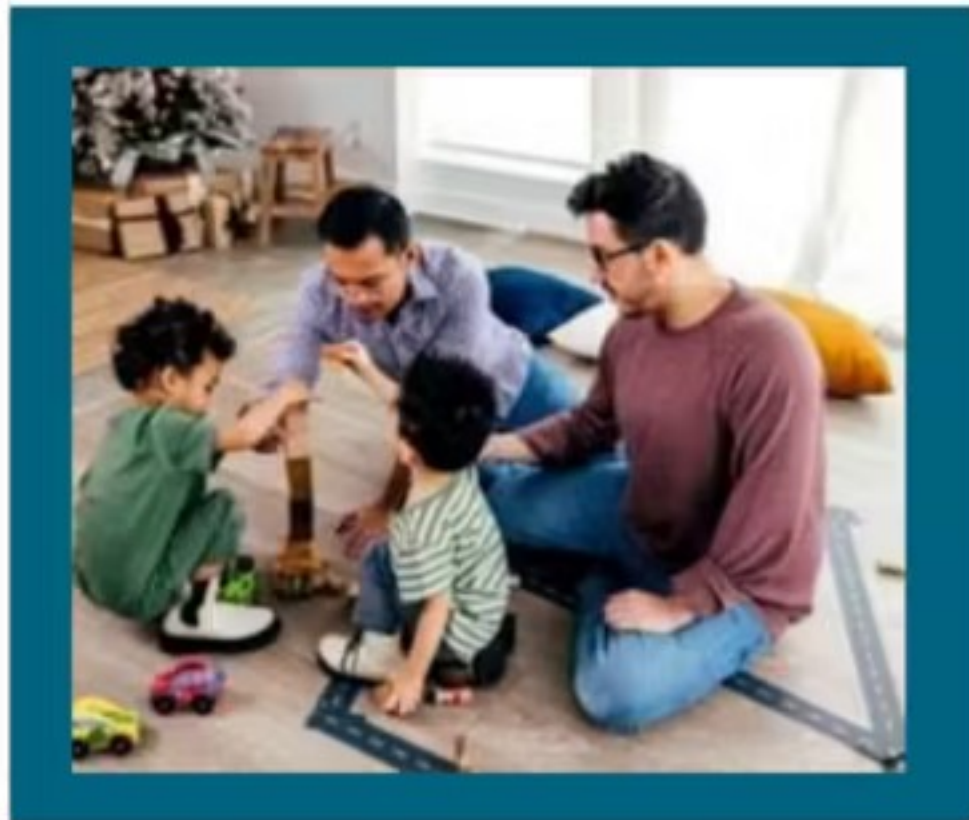
Feedback to Support Refinement



Staffing Challenges

We'd love to hear your feedback on ways we can address this. For example, would it be better to move away from using grant funds for adding staff, and award more funds for true one-time costs such as equipment and accessibility improvements? Or focus the staffing category on recruitment efforts and hiring bonuses for new complex needs staff, instead of their salary?

Feedback to Support Refinement



Increasing Number of Awards by Decreasing Maximum Amount

What strikes a good balance between offering meaningful amounts and maximizing the number of providers and children we can reach with these dollars?

- With a \$50,000 cap, DCYF could fund 200+ grants per fiscal year
- With a \$20,000 cap, DCYF could fund 500+ grants per fiscal year

Feedback to Support Refinement



New vs Continuing Funding Requests

Should we adjust the grant to allow funding requests to maintain existing supports?

If we do, how should we balance/prioritize requests for new funding and requests for continued funding?

Feedback to Support Refinement



Lump Sum versus Incremental Reimbursements as the Award is Spent

Should the Child Care Complex Needs Fund be available as a reimbursement-style payment, where awardees claim funds as they are spent throughout the year? Are there benefits and impacts to this?

THANK YOU!

dcyf.childcaregrants@dcyf.wa.gov

Meeting Follow Up & Closing Remarks

Thank you for your participation today!

Next Meeting:
Wednesday, October 9, 2024

