

Early Learning Advisory Council

Virtual Meeting

October 1, 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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Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

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 in the chat:

- Your name,
- Where you are located
- Your role and
- What is your favorite fall beverage?



Review of Meeting Minutes

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Feedback Loop

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State Agency/Partner and Regional Coalition Updates

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Department of Health Lead in Child Care Drinking Water Update

Ashley Davies from the Department of Health (DOH)

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LEAD IN CHILD CARE DRINKING WATER PROGRAM

Environmental Public Health Sciences
Ashley Davies, Program Coordinator

Free Mail-In Water Testing for Lead and Copper

- Washington State Department of Health (DOH) provides free mail-in water testing for child care and early learning sites.
- Funded through the EPA WIIN Grant--Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation.
- Tests for lead and copper in water used for drinking, formula and food preparation.
- Testing fulfills Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) WAC Requirement [110-300-0235](tel:110-300-0235).
- Requires child care providers to test water upon licensing and every six years after.
- Overall goal: Protect youth from lead exposure.


How does it work?

- Participants complete the [online registration form](#).
- DOH mails out all needed water testing supplies.
- Child care providers collect their own water samples and send back to lab for testing.
 - Detailed water sampling and shipping instructions provided.
- The lab takes 2-3 weeks to process results.
- Official results letter is e-mailed to the participant.

Water Sampling INSTRUCTIONS


Included Materials: Sampling bottles, sample ID stickers (two per water sample), chain of custody form, plastic bag (to keep form dry).

- 1 **Only test fixtures** that are used for drinking, cooking, or making formula. Identify these water sources.
- 2 **Give each water fixture a unique name** for easy identification. Write that name on the sample bottle AND the chain of custody form. Each sample has two numbered stickers. Place one sticker directly on the bottle and the other on the chain of custody form next to the fixture's name.



Sample ID (Please sticker with number in this column)	Fixture Name (include location and type of fixture)	Comments
10001	KITCHEN SINK	
10002	INFANT SINK	
10003	WATER FOUNTAIN	

- 3 **Collect COLD water samples** from fixtures that have not been used for 8-18 hours. Collect first-draw samples in the morning after the water has been sitting still the night before. Collect the water sample immediately after turning on the faucet or valve. Do not allow any water to spill. Fill each sample bottle up to the 250ml mark on the bottle.



Sampling tips:


- **Do not** use the water fixture for 8-18 hours before taking the samples.
 - To prevent people from accidentally using the water before sampling, you can tape off the area and post "do not use" signs.
- **Do not** use the facility's restrooms, sinks, or other water-using appliances or fixtures the morning before sampling as this can disrupt the water we want to sample.
- **Water fixtures HAVE to be used regularly for accurate test results. Do not** collect a sample from a fixture that has not been used in over 18 hours. If your facility is closed on the weekend, **do not** sample on Monday, and **do not** sample on the first day after a holiday or facility closure.
- **Do not** remove aerators or clean them before sampling.

- 4 Complete the chain of custody form. **Make a copy or take a photo for your records.**

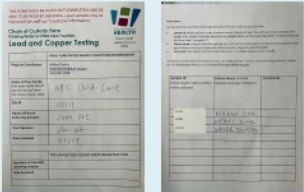
Water Shipping INSTRUCTIONS

Included Materials: Pre-filled FedEx shipping return label, box for shipping (use the same box your supplies arrived in), packing paper.


- 1 Place tightly sealed bottles in the box. Use the packing paper to keep the water samples from moving around.



- 2 **Make sure the chain of custody form is complete** and place in plastic bag. Place the bag on top of sample bottles in box. **This form must be completed and returned for the lab to test your samples.**



- 3 **Remove old mailing labels. Seal box shut with packing tape, attach the pre-filled FedEx return label on box,** and take box to the nearest FedEx location or call FedEx to have them come pick up the package: 800-463-3339 www.FedEx.com. **Keep a copy of the tracking number. Shipping labels expire after 90 days.**



- 4 **Send us an email at leadfreekids@doh.wa.gov** so that we can notify the lab that samples are the way.
- 5 **We will e-mail your water test results.** This typically takes 2-3 weeks after the lab receives your samples. Results will also be posted on our [website](#) quarterly.

Questions? Need Help? Contact leadfreekids@doh.wa.gov or 564-669-1098.

Results-What Happens Next?

- Two options:
 - **No action is needed.** All water fixtures tested below the action level.
 - **Action is needed.** At least one fixture tested at or above the action level.
- Action levels are 15 parts per billion (ppb) for lead and 1300 ppb for copper.
- These levels are set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- Per EPA grant requirements, results are posted publicly on our [webpage](#).

No Action Needed

- **The child care provider needs to:**
 - Send a copy of their results to their licensing agency.
 - Keep a copy of the results at their facility.
 - Test their water again in six years.



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCES
243 Israel Road SE • PO Box 47825 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7825
TDD Relay Service: 1-800-333-6388

DATE

NAME
CHILD CARE FACILITY
ADDRESS

Dear Child Care Provider:

In DATE, in accordance with [WAC-110-300-0235](#), you collected water samples according to Washington State Department of Health protocol from drinking water fixtures at your childcare facility. The test results for your facility are attached, and include results for both the fixtures sampled and a control sample.

The fixtures tested did not exceed the Environmental Protection Agency's action levels of 15 parts per billion (ppb) for lead and 1300 ppb for copper. No remediation or further action is required at this time.

What to do next:

1. Keep a copy of the results on file at your facility.
2. Send a copy of the test results to your licensing agency.
3. Test for lead and copper at least once every six-years.

Children are exposed to lead from a variety of sources in their environments. Exposure sources include dust from old, deteriorating lead paint, contaminated soil, take-home exposures from parents who work in certain industries, and many others. Each of these sources contributes to the amount of lead in the bodies of children that have serious health impacts. It is important to reduce exposure from every source as much as possible. Thank you for helping to reduce children's exposure to environmental lead. If you have questions regarding test results, or need additional information please reach out to leadfreekids@doh.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Ashley Davies
WIIN Program Coordinator

Action Needed

- DOH alerts participant and DCYF about actionable levels and provides a guidance document with next steps.
- Take problem fixture(s) out of use and post “do not use for drinking/cooking” signage until a long term solution is determined.
- Get more information on fixture that tested “high” and determine next steps.
- If fixture needs to be replaced or plumbing needs to be updated, DOH has grant funding to “fix” outlets that test at or above 15 ppb for lead.
- DOH provides follow up testing once remediation efforts have taken place.

Spread the Word

- Feel free to share:
 - Our flyer
 - Link to our [webpage](#) that includes the program registration link
 - Contact info
 - Ashley.Davies@doh.wa.gov
 - Leadfreekids@doh.wa.gov
- Any other promotional opportunities?

Ka baar Biyaha La Cabo ee Xaruntaada Daryeelka Carruurta Sunta Dalawandiga iyo Nuxaasta

Ma ogtahay in bixiyeyaasha daryeelka iyo waxbarashada dhalaanka looga baahan yahay inay ka baaraan macdanta maarta iyo naxaasta ku jirta biyahooda cabitaanka ka hor inta la shatiyeyn iyo lixdii sanaba mar ka dib?

Baaritaanku wuxuu buuxiyaa Shuruudaha Washington Administrative Code (WAC, Sharciga Maamulka ee Washington) **110-300-0235**

Waaxda Caafimaadka ayaa bixisa barnaamijka baaritaanka biyaha ee bilaashka ah oo lagu soo dirayo boostada. Dhammaan agabka iyo tilmaamaha loo baahan yahay ayaa la siinayaa rugaha daryeelka carruurta si ay u uruuriyaan sanbaladooda gaarka ah ee biyaha ayna ugu soo celiyaan shaybaarka si loo baaro. Waaxda Caafimaadka ayaa sidoo kale bixisa:

TALLAABOYINKA FICILKA
Si looga hortago oo hoos loogu dhigo heerarka macdanta maarta iyo naxaasta ee ku jirta cabitaanka iyo biyaha karinta.

TALO SOO JEEDINADA IYO DHIGAALADA
Loogu talagalay sixitaanka heerarka sare ee maarta.

TILMAANTA
Loogu talagalay la xiriirida qoysaska iyo xubnaha bulshada.

DABAGALKA
Muunadaynta iyo tijaabinta.

Baaritaanka biyaha ee bilaashka ah waxaa lagu maal geliyay deeqda Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN, Sharciga Hormarinta Kaabayaasha Biyaha ee Qaranka) ee Environmental Protection Agency (EPA, Wakaalada Difaaca Bii'ada). Xog baaritaanka ayaa lala wadaagaa EPA iyo dadwaynaha si waafaqsan shuruudaha deeqda

MA DOONAYSAA INAAD KA QAYBQAADATO?
Buuxi [foomkeena xiisaha](#)
MA QABTAA SU'AALO AMA MA DOONAYSAA INAAD HESHO MACLUUMAAD DHEERAAD AH?
Kala xiriir leadfreekids@doh.wa.gov ama ka baar [webseedkeena](#)

564-669-1098 • www.doh.wa.gov

DOH 311-004 August 2024
Si aad u codsato dukumiintigaan oo qaab kale ah, wac 1-800-525-0127. Macaamiisha dhagoolka ah ama kuwa maqalkoodu culus yahay, fadlan waca 711 (Washington Relay) ama iimeel udir doh.information@doh.wa.gov

Image by rawpixel.com

Washington State Department of Health

Ashley Davies, MPH, CHES

Lead in Child Care Drinking Water Program Coordinator

Office of Environmental Public Health Sciences

Washington State Department of Health

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564-669-1098



To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email civil.rights@doh.wa.gov.

Enrollment-Based Pay and Prospective Payment

DCYF Child Care Subsidy Program Administrator Jason Ramynke
and Child Care Administrator Matt Judge

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Prospective and Enrollment Based Payment for Child Care Subsidy

Matt Judge, Federal Initiatives and
Collaboration Senior Administrator
Jason Ramynke, Child Care Subsidy Program
Senior Administrator

ELAC Meeting
October 1, 2024



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Intro/Agenda Slide

- CCDF requirements
- What we know
- How to implement
- Discussion and questions



Child Care Development Fund Updates

The Federal Office of Child Care (OCC) within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) has implemented new payment requirements for the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF).

- The changes intend to align child care subsidy with the private market payment practices.
- This means that Working Connections Child Care payments will be:
 - Paid prospectively, paid prior to or at the beginning of the month of service.
 - Paid based on enrollment instead of attendance.

Specific Federal Policies

[45 CFR 98.45](#) Specifically addresses payment practices:

- **45 CFR 98.45 Section (m)**

- (1) Ensure timeliness of [payment](#) to child care [providers](#) by paying in advance of or at the beginning of the delivery of child care services to children receiving assistance under this part;
- (2) Support the fixed costs of providing child care services by delinking [provider payments](#) from a child's occasional absences by:
 - (i) Basing [payment](#) on a child's authorized enrollment; or,
 - (ii) An alternative approach...
- (3) Pay [providers](#) on a part-time or full-time basis (rather than paying for hours of service or smaller increments of time);

What We Know, Still in Process, Discussion



Assumption: DCYF will pay providers based on care authorized when children are enrolled. Enrollment and prospective based payments 45 CFR 98.45 (m)(1)(i) and (2).

What we know	Still in process	Discussion
DCYF will pay providers at Social Service Payment System deadlines prior to the month of payment.	DCYF will need new timelines for changes that impact authorization. For example, July payments will be made in June, so rate changes, rates due to different age groups, and amount of care needs will all need to be made ahead of the change to pay correctly.	See below for provider changes.
Providers will still maintain attendance records for both licensing and subsidy requirements.	Provider payment audits will be streamlined to align with new attendance requirements.	N/A
Federal funds may not be used for more than one provider for the same child and same time.	DCYF is working with Office of Child Care for clarification on provider changes.	Families will need to plan and report provider changes in advance (mid-month). How will this impact providers and families?

What We Know, Still in Process, Discussion



Assumption: The responsibility for correct payment transitions from providers to DCYF. Enrollment and prospective based payment support proper payment.

What we know	Still in process	Discussion
Providers currently follow billing policies to claim correct payment. This includes ensuring that all licensing and subsidy requirements are met, such as capacity, age, hours of operation, attendance, child enrollment, etc.	DCYF will need to verify child enrollment as well as other provider eligibility requirements, such as capacity, age, hours of operation.	What are the best ways to go about verifying enrollment? How should DCYF verify other eligibility requirements like capacity, hours of operation, age groups?
DCYF will need to stop payment when children stop attending or become disenrolled.	What is the timeframe that no attendance will lead to disenrollment?	Is one month of no attendance the right timeline? (Providers will receive two months payment)



What We Know, Still in Process, Discussion



Assumption: DCYF will simplify authorizations by standardizing full-time care. Based on 45 CFR 98.45 (m)(3) for both enrollment and prospective payment.

What we know	Still in process	Discussion
DYCF authorizes 23 full days to account for 5 days per week attendance. DCYF will standardize payment to 22 full-day units per month and 17 half-days and 5 full-days for school-age from September through June.	Should authorizations continue with daily units, or transition to a monthly unit/rate?	Preference on moving to a monthly unit?



Further Discussion

Given the CFR and operational processes:

- Are these the correct questions to take to Provider Supports?
- What are other questions we should ask?
- What other guidance does ELAC have for DCYF?

Thank You

Questions and Discussion

Break

The meeting will resume at 12:10 p.m.



Early Care and Education Access and Living Wage Proviso

DCYF Early Care and Education Access Project Manager Diana Stokes

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Early Care and Education Access and Living Wage Proviso Update

Presenter: Diana Stokes, Early Care and
Education Access Project Manager

ELAC Meeting
October 1, 2024



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Early Learning in Washington State

Our Vision

An integrated, mixed-delivery system of affordable, high-quality early care and education for ALL of Washington's children, to support child outcomes, school readiness, and family well-being.

Strategic Outcomes

- 80 percent of Washington children ready for Kindergarten
- High-quality early care and education available and affordable to all in Washington

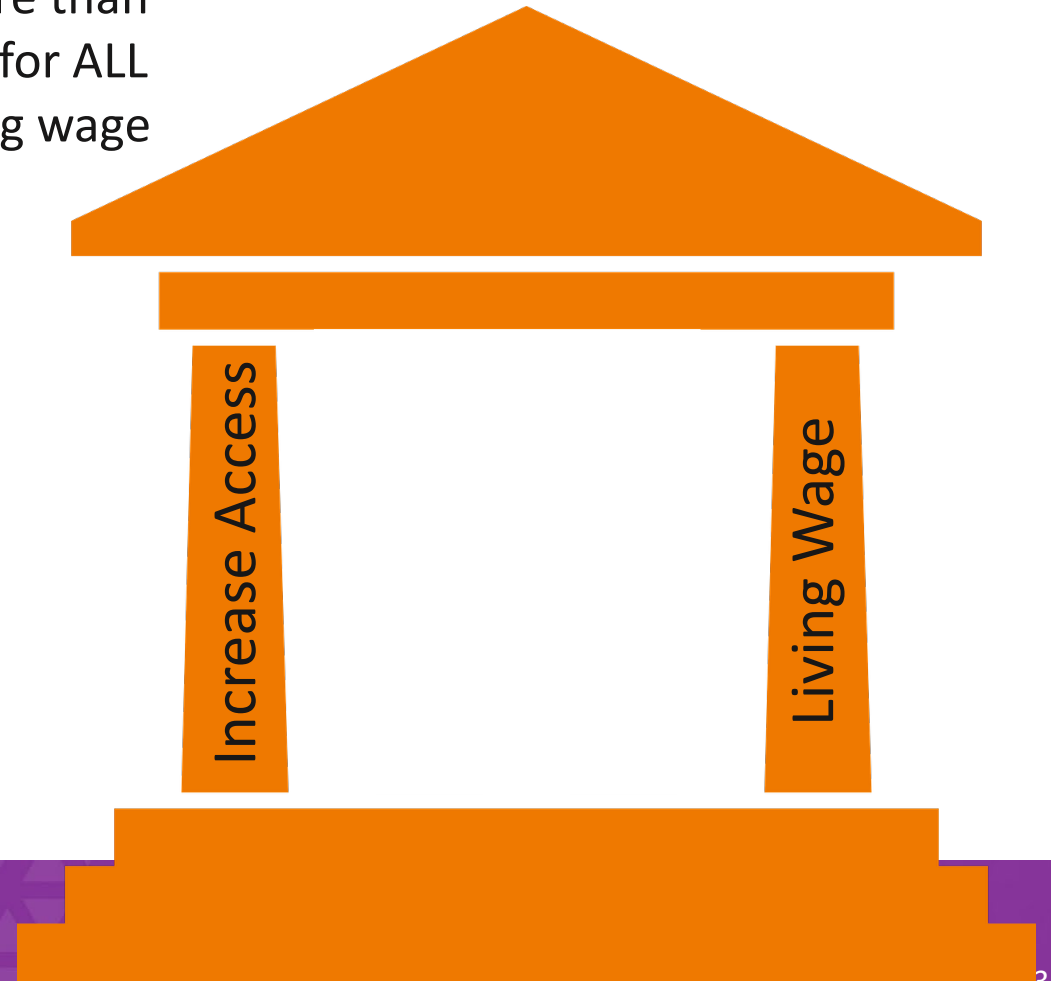
Eliminate racial disproportionality and advancing racial equity in early education



Universal Access and Living Wage:

An integrated, mixed-delivery system of affordable (no more than 7% of their income), high-quality early care and education for ALL of Washington's children and providers are provided a living wage and benefits.

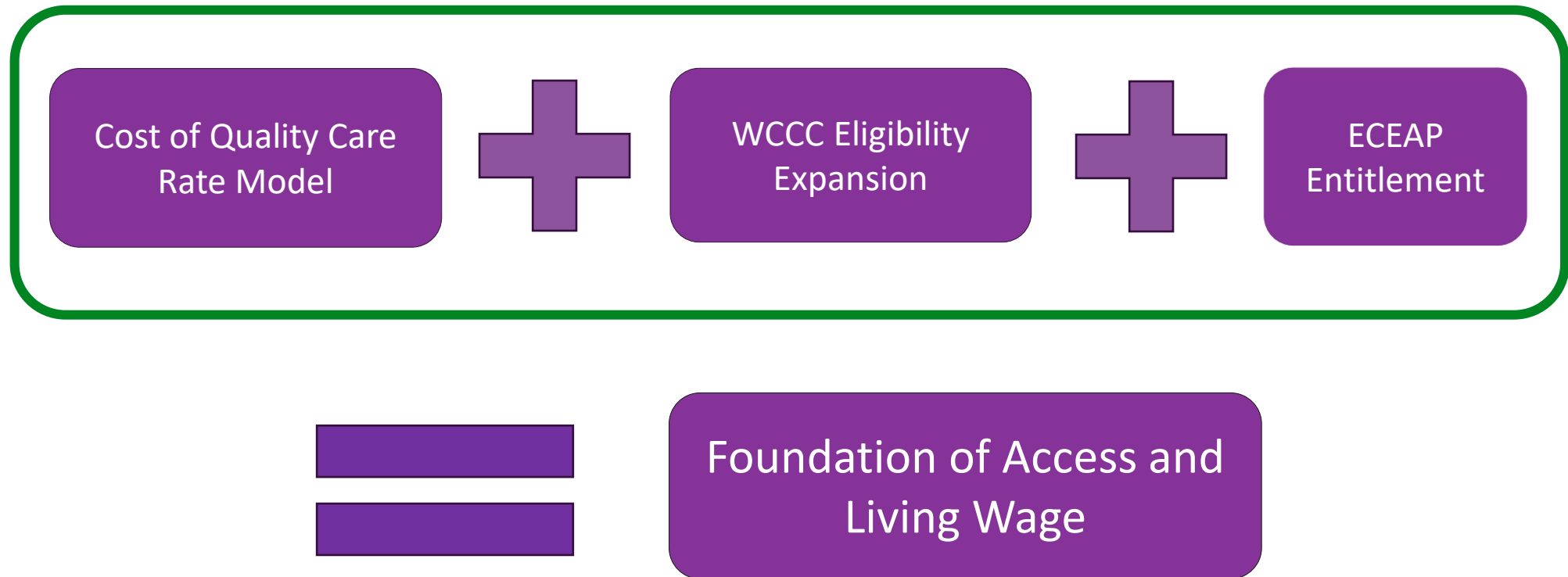
- We are building on the existing foundation to strengthen an integrated, mixed-delivery system of affordable, high-quality early care and education for ALL of Washington's children.
- We have a focus on child outcomes, school readiness, family and provider well-being and self-sufficiency.



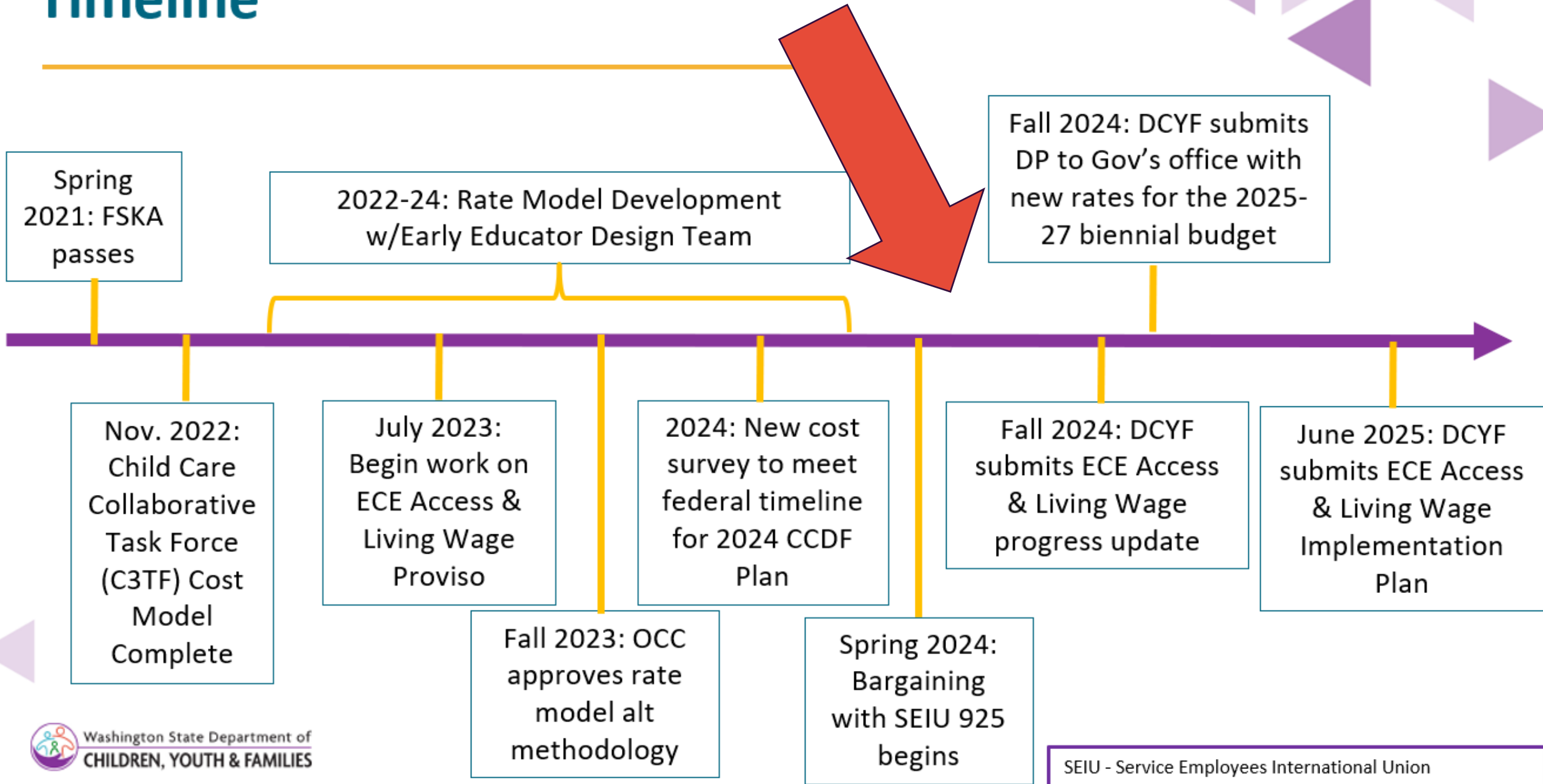
Assumptions

- We are **building on previous system development and planning efforts** and extensive community input.
- The **Cost of Quality Care Rate Model is the framework for achieving living wages and benefits**, with the intent that increased rates go towards paying workers.
- We will build upon the existing subsidy system as the mechanism for expanding access to care. **We will not create a parallel program for child care.**
- **Changes to child care licensing standards and Early Achievers standards are outside of the scope of this project.**
- A system of universal access does not reduce or replace existing care options for children birth to age 12, maintaining parent choice.

Adding it All Up for 2025-27 and Beyond



Timeline



Deliverables

Status Update – Fall 2024

- Decision Packages
- Cost of Quality Care Survey/Market Rate Survey report
- Identify Dependencies and Associated Timelines

Implementation Plan – June 2025

- Investments made in 25-27 Budget Session
- Options for distribution of living wage and benefits
- Eligibility options aligned to 7% income
- Operational needs
- Modeling
- Recommendations

In both: Cost of Quality Care Recommendations from Early Educator Design Team



Informing the Work

Access & Living Wage Implementation Plan

CCA's
Advocacy
Campaign

CCA of WA

Licensed Child Care
Centers

SEIU 925 &
Licensed Family
Homes

Early
Educator
Design
Team

DCYF Staff

IPEL

WCFC

ELAC

Provider
Supports

PAG

Partner
Roundtable
Group



Engagement Feedback

DCYF's Policy Focus for Engagement Sessions

- Ensure families have access to affordable, high-quality child care that meets their needs
- Ensure adequate facilities for expansion of the early care and education system
- Support a thriving early care and education workforce
- Leverage data and align systems to maximize equity and effectiveness



Access & Affordability for Families

- Themes:
 - Expand outreach and community engagement
 - Build relationships with trusted community members to help share information
 - Expand eligibility
 - Increase incentives for non-standard hour care
 - Increase resources and funding for infant and toddler care
 - Increase options for school-age care and summer care



Facilities

- Themes:
 - Develop resources and educational opportunities to understand funding and grants
 - Establish partnerships with experts for referrals
 - Develop family support team for non-ECEAP families
 - Expand professional development opportunities for working with infants and toddlers
 - Create a toolkit of resources to support facility expansion

Compensation and Professional Development for Providers

- Themes:
 - Pay staff a living wage
 - Provide supports and benefits for career growth
 - Increase access to trainings and education
 - Increase coaching and technical assistance (TA) supports



Integrated and Inclusive Classrooms

- Themes:
 - Collaborate with other organizations to streamline systems
 - Increase access to comprehensive screening tools
 - Increase the Special Needs subsidy rates



Considerations

Considerations for Recommendations

- Ensure families have access to affordable, high-quality child care that meets their needs
 - Goal: Increase access to affordable, high-quality care.
- Ensure adequate facilities for expansion of the early care and education system
 - Goal: Expand access and develop early care and education facilities to meet need for care.



Considerations for Recommendations

- Support a thriving early care and education workforce
 - Goal: Stabilize, support, and sustain the early care and education workforce.
- Leverage data and align systems to maximize efficiency and effectiveness
 - Goal: Integrate and streamline systems, creating inclusive environments for children, families, and providers.



Next Steps

What's Next?

- Analyze and discuss DCYF and Eco Northwest products
- Ongoing discussions with CCA of WA and SEIU 925 about Implementation Plan
- Follow up with communities and groups participating in engagement
- Prepare status update in Fall 2024

Later

- Prepare implementation plan
- Phasing implementation



QUESTIONS

Meeting Follow Up & Closing Remarks
Thank you for your participation today!

Next Meeting:

Joint ELAC and Provider Supports meeting
Tuesday, December 3, 2024

