



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

Provider Supports Subcommittee **Agency Updates** **October 9, 2024**

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

Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)

- The [FFPSA](#) team is drafting a 5-Year Family First Prevention Plan for 2025 to 2029, which will further guide the implementation of prevention services focused on keeping families together and out of the child welfare system.
- To get an overview and help inform this plan, they are hosting in-person, regional collaborative forums open to anyone with a shared interest in these efforts. [Register Today](#) or [sign up](#) to be a volunteer.
- Please send any questions to dcyf.familyfirstact@dcyf.wa.gov

MERIT Webinar Series

DCYF will host the last in a series of MERIT webinars this month. If you are new to the early learning field and could use some guidance with how to navigate the Facility/Site tab in the MERIT Workforce Registry, please join us.

October topic: Navigating the Facility/Site Tab in MERIT

- **English:** 6 to 7 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2024– [Register here](#)
- **Spanish:** 6 to 7 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2024 – [Register here](#)
- **Somali:** 10 to 11 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024– [Register here](#)

**Please note: These webinars are for informational purposes only and will not result in STARS credit.*

For additional webinar information and access to past webinars, visit the [DCYF webinar webpage](#).

If you require an alternative format for this information, need language interpretation services, or need another accommodation or modification to participate in the events listed above, please contact MERIT@dcyf.wa.gov.

DCYF Awards Nearly \$3.7M to Early Learning Programs Serving Tribal Children

Over 30 tribal-serving organizations, including 13 tribal nations, are receiving nearly \$3.7 million in funds from the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) to provide early learning, child care, prenatal, and home visiting programs to tribal children.

The awardees include 34 tribes, tribal providers, and tribal-serving organizations, for a requested total of \$3,698,869 in funds. This is the second round of Tribal Early Learning Funds (TELF) provided by DCYF in 2024; a [previous round of grant funding](#) was distributed in April for a total of \$2.4 million. You can read more about it on the [DCYF website here](#).

Rule Making Update – Permanent Rules

Licensing – Multi-Licensed Foster Care Family Home and Family Home Child Care Licenses

The DCYF Licensing Division filed [WSR 24-17-063](#) to finalize rules that 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 rules allow for continuity of care which is expected to create more stable experiences for impacted children. The permanent rules take effect September 15, 2024.

Working Connections Child Care – Eligibility

The DCYF Early Learning Division filed [WSR 24-17-059](#) to finalize rules that expand eligibility to people working in licensed child care centers and licensed family homes, specialty and therapeutic court participants, and undocumented children. This rulemaking also establishes 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 rules are currently in effect under [emergency status](#).