



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) Meeting
December 3, 2024

**Regional Coalition & Washington Communities for
Children (WCFC) Updates**

Regional Coalition Update

Inland Northwest Early Learning Alliance, Northeast

For more information, please contact: Colleen Condon, colleen@lilaccityelc.com

No updates to share at this time.

Investing in Children Coalition: Central

For more information, please contact: Lindsay Bowsell, lindsayb@yakimavalleycf.org

No updates to share at this time.

King County

For more information, please contact: Logan Endres or Tristen Hall, kcelc@childcare.org

KCELC and BrightSpark Early Learning Services are planning to convene a roundtable discussion with businesses in King County the first week of December. All businesses are invited to share and learn about how childcare impacts their employees, their business, and what solutions are on the table for 2025's legislative session. Businesses that attend our roundtable discussion will be compensated \$30 per person. Please help us spread the word and let us know if you are interested at kcelc@childcare.org.

North Central

For more information please contact: Nancy Spurgeon, nspurgeon49@gmail.com

11/1- Met with community member who engaged in the EL profession and interested in Advocacy work surrounding the field. Invited to join in our NCELC meeting.

11/5 Engage in meeting with CHI representatives from Grant County to discuss future collaboration with community partners in that area.

11/7 Join WA STEM Summit Luncheon & Child Care Champions Session, at Microsoft Washington STEM and Ready Nation discuss new research on the economic impacts of childcare as well as learnings from recent listening sessions with business communities across the state. Business leaders and employers are invited to share strategies and concerns and learn how they can join advocacy

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efforts to support access to childcare. Honoring **Jay Inslee and Alex Ybarra** for their work supporting early learning and education.

11/7 Attend Zoom with WCFC Advocacy Network (Roadmap to Legislative Session) Topic: Childcare Voice Network (Roadmap to Legislative Session) attended by Representatives for the Human services, youth, and early learning committee, **Carlyn Eslick, Tom Dent, Clair Wilson, and Tana Senn**. Discussion around budget shortfalls and how to best support early learning.

11/8 Join Community Health Initiative on wellbeing, in Wenatchee, to lead a table talk around Children's mental health and behavior supports with community members, health and business partners. Plan listening session on wellbeing with community partners and cohort members to gain insight on how they are feeling.

11/8 CCA of WA regional check in on election results.

11/12 Outreach email/phone call to provider / parent Cohorts to engage in story bank and share opportunities for engagement happening this month. CCA of WA cohort online seminar to support cohorts with additional information on advocacy work.

11/13 Birth workers community gathering at Chelan Douglas Health district. Conversation with Midwives, dials, educators, and Nurse family partnerships around the need from education and support for parents around early care.

11/14 Civic Design Team (DL + MVOR) Monthly Meeting to discuss the Civic leadership progress and partnerships with cohort members for Community projects.

11/14 Share out CCA of WA media wrap with Cohorts.

11/15 Attending the Grant County Latinx Workforce Summit in Grant County.

11/18 NCELC meeting around advocacy sharing CCA of WA presentation and update on our policy priorities for the upcoming legislative session.

11/19 ELAC Report Development Meeting.

11/19 Attend Grant County health district meeting to share information with family providers on advocacy in the region.

11/19 Advocacy Building Blocks: An Introduction to Advocacy for Nonprofits. The Panel group with **State senator Brad Hawkins**, Rural Peoples voice and CHI representative from Okanogan County and Thriving Together Lobbyist.

11/20 Join conversation with **Senator Noel Frame (36th Legislative District)** and **Reid Saaris (founder of Equal Opportunity Schools)**. Together with Children's Alliance Executive Director, Dr.

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Stephan Blanford, they will discuss potential policies to get our kids the behavioral health support they need and sources of progressive revenue that could help fund these solutions.

Northwest

For more information please contact: Breana Ramos, breana@nwelcoalition.org

Current focus areas of [Northwest Early Learning Coalition](#), a regional coalition uniting early learning coalitions across Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom counties:

WA STEM Early Learning Catalyst Project: In collaboration with our STEM Networks, our region is in the final stages of developing a strategic plan to advance equitable access to high-quality early learning, in alignment with the Early Learning Coordination Plan. A pivotal moment in this process came during a recent event at the Microsoft Conference Center, where we heard directly from influential leaders, including members of the Senate, STEM advocates, and our Governor. Their perspectives provided invaluable guidance on shaping our approach to early learning and workforce development. Our efforts are centered on three key priorities: 1) co-developing a regional strategy to ensure equitable access to early learning, 2) expanding the Family Friendly Workplace Business Champions initiative through cross-sector collaboration, and 3) crafting a policy agenda and advocacy campaign that aligns with both regional and state priorities. As we wrap up discussions with key partners, we are synthesizing their feedback to finalize the strategic plan, ensuring it addresses the diverse needs of our communities while staying in sync with broader state goals.

Role Transitions: As the NWEL Coalition transitions to the appointment of a new Regional Lead, this period of change presents an invaluable opportunity to reflect on our past achievements, assess our current strategies, and explore new avenues for growth. Leadership transitions are inherently transformative, fostering the potential for reinvigoration and forward-thinking.

In my new role as Regional Lead, I am committed to maintaining the Coalition's momentum while bringing a renewed focus to our strategic priorities and operational objectives. This is an exciting time for our organization, one that will enable us to build on the strong foundation established by our team and partners. I look forward to collaborating closely with all stakeholders to continue strengthening our region's capacity to support families and communities effectively.

Vroom Update: Vroom continues to be a vital resource for families, offering simple, science-based tips to support early brain development. Materials are available free of charge and can be ordered through the WCFC webpage. Partnerships with libraries and community organizations, such as the Whatcom County Library, are expanding opportunities for parents to access and engage with Vroom resources, fostering meaningful interactions that boost children's growth and learning.

County Coalition Highlights:

- **Skagit County:** Hosting a twice-annual *Help Me Grow* outreach event on the first Saturday in November in partnership with Full Steam Ahead. Jennifer is focusing on newborn outreach, with an emphasis on connecting with diverse communities.
- **Whatcom County:** Awarded *Help Me Grow* funding for a strategic newborn outreach

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program in collaboration with Skagit County. Initiatives include sponsoring the *Make a Circle* documentary at Pickford Cinema and expanding family engagement efforts through BTC's partnership with Whatcom County Library.

- **Snohomish County:** Launched the Sno Co Leadership Council, comprising leaders from various sectors, to enhance county capacity and address challenges in early learning. The council's initial task is to draft a comprehensive early learning report with recommendations and funding pathways.
- **Island County:** Finalizing outreach bags for families delivering at Anacortes hospital and collaborating with Pediatric Associates of Island County on a streamlined resource referral form. *Help Me Grow* updates include working with WithinReach to refine the Island County resource directory.
- **San Juan County:** Leveraging *Help Me Grow* funds to provide technical support for licensure and strengthen provider connections, with a focus on Lopez Island. Efforts also include promoting immunization and hiring a Public Health Nurse with maternal-child health expertise.

Peninsula Early Learning Coalition

For more information, please contact: Elisia Anderson, elisiaf_fstep@olypen.com

No updates to share at this time.

Pierce County Early Childhood Network

For more information please contact: Ruba Ayub, rubaa@first5fundamentals.org

No updates to share at this time.

Southeast (SEELC)

For more information, please contact: Brittany Hartikainen, brittany@bh-consulting.org

No updates to share at this time.

Southwest Washington Early Learning (SWEL)

For more information please contact: Debbie Ham, Debbie.ham@selfwa.org

We are excited for year two of our ECCS cohort. We have new regional partners working with us this year and we are documenting and identifying new resources essential to families living in Skamania & Klickitat counties and adding them to our Air table. These resources are missing from the existing databases such as 211 and Within Reach.

Our recent Regional Coalition meeting was a great success, and actionable items were identified. We are actively recruiting and seeking members within our rural areas to ensure a strong collaborative process in our region.

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Visions for Early Learning, West Central

For more information, please contact: Sheila Kavanaugh, kav.consulting231@gmail.com

No updates to share at this time.

WCFC Updates – For more information please contact: info@washingtncfc.org

WCFC State Updates

For more information please contact: Rachel Hall, WCFC State Lead,
rachelh@first5fundamentals.org

WCFC 2025 Budget Request

WCFC is heading into the 2025 Washington state legislative session with a budget proviso request. This upcoming 2025 Washington state legislative session, Washington Communities for Children (WCFC) requests \$4 million to maintain and strengthen the WCFC network infrastructure across Washington state. The WCFC Network is a critical component of our state's early childhood system because of our coordination of cross-sector partnerships at the state, regional, and community level. [Here is a link](#) to a one-pager detailing our ask.

WCFC Workgroups

WCFC hosts a bi-monthly Diaper Bank conversation on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. The next meeting is January 15, 2025. Ongoing topics of interest include sharing current best thinking/best practices, funding opportunities, sustainability, accessing discounted or free supplies, and diaper bank operations. [Contact Rachel Hall](#) to join - all are welcome!

WCFC hosts a monthly conversation regarding the Washington State Early Learning Coordination Plan on the 4th Thursday of the month from 2:00 – 3:00pm. The purpose of this space is to provide strategy to crosswalk the WCFC Network with the Goals and Strategies of the ELCP, and support local communities aligning their work with the ELCP. [Contact Rachel Hall](#) to join - all are welcome!

Stay in Touch!

Want to learn more about WCFC, be the first to hear updates, or get connected with your local early childhood coalition? Get in touch with us!

- Website: washingtncfc.org
- Facebook: WashingtonCFC
- Instagram: Washington_cfc