DCYF Technical Assistance to Support Facility Development

This document provides an overview of the technical assistance supports provided by DCYF in the 2022-2023 award cycle for the Early Learning Facilities (ELF) grant. This grant is administered by the Department of Commerce.

DCYF is the lead state agency with the duties and authority to create and implement early learning programs and policy. DCYF collaborates with the [Department of Commerce](#) to support increased capacity and access to high quality early learning for income-eligible children and their families by administering and reporting on the [early learning facilities grant and program](#) (ELF program).

The ELF grant and loan program was created in 2017 by Substitute House Bill 1777. The program's intent is to help meet the critical need for high-quality early learning opportunities for children from income-eligible households through the expansion of early learning classrooms. The 2023-25 Capital Budget allocated up to four percent ELF appropriation to provide technical assistance to early learning providers interested in applying for the ELF grant and loan program.

This work is grounded in the state's commitment to affordable high-quality early learning and care as a foundation to a flourishing economy. The legislature has found that an affordable, accessible system of high-quality child care is necessary to the health of Washington's economy. The legislature has also found that there is significant and critical need for additional early learning facilities to meet the state and DCYF's commitment to providing high-quality early learning opportunities for income eligible children.

To learn more about this partnership, contact the DCYF Government Affairs Team at dcyf.govaffairs@dcyf.wa.gov.

Early Learning Facility Technical Assistance

DCYF provides technical assistance directly and via contracted services. This funding is critical to ELF grantees' success in developing and constructing a feasible project that will meet licensing requirements at completion.
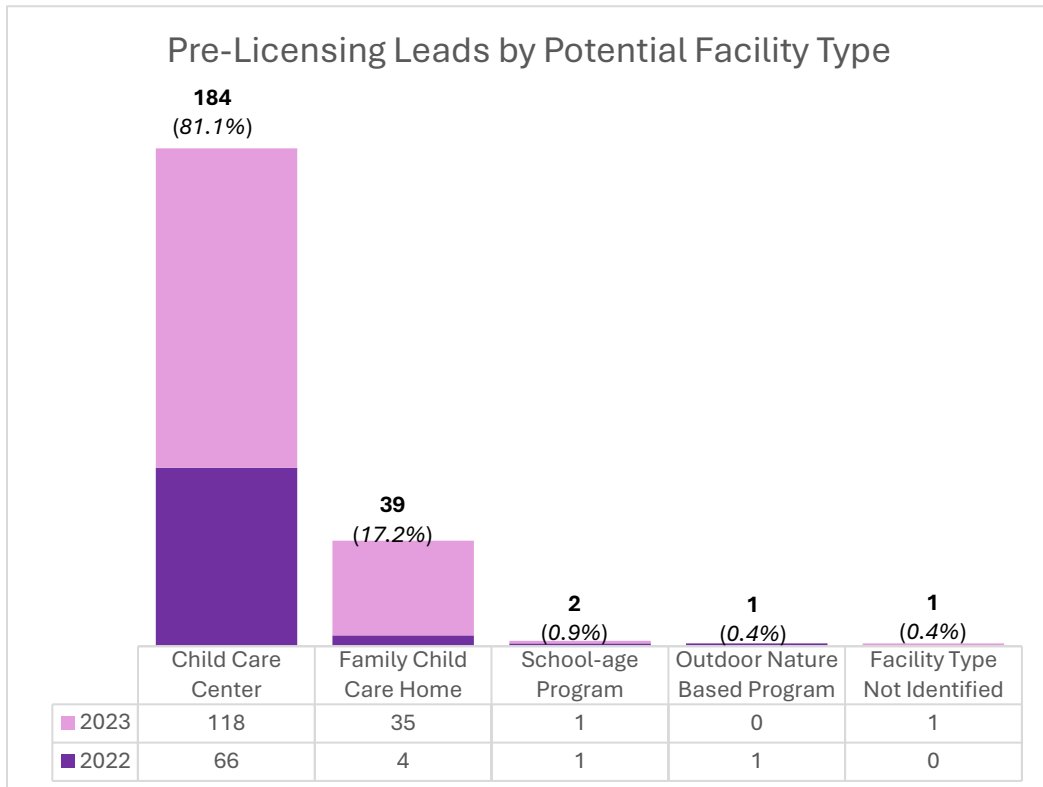
Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES
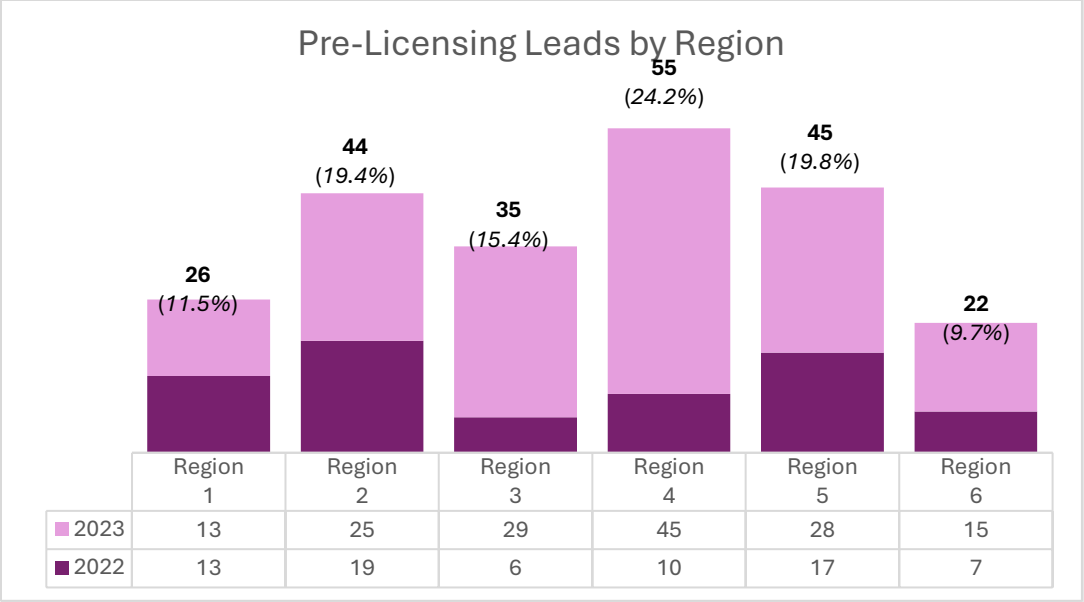
DCYF Pre-Licensing Unity Stats:

Leads by Facility Type (2022 and 2023)

This graph reflects the landscape of DCYF's Pre-Licensing services by facility type; child care center, family home child care, school-age programs, outdoor-nature based program, and facility not identified, respectively. The graph demonstrates the type of facility the applicant is applying to expand or create. This information is provided by the applicant to DCYF during the Pre-Licensing process.

Pre-Licensing Leads by Potential Facility Type

	Child Care Center	Family Child Care Home	School-age Program	Outdoor Nature Based Program	Facility Type Not Identified
2023	118	35	1	0	1
2022	66	4	1	1	0

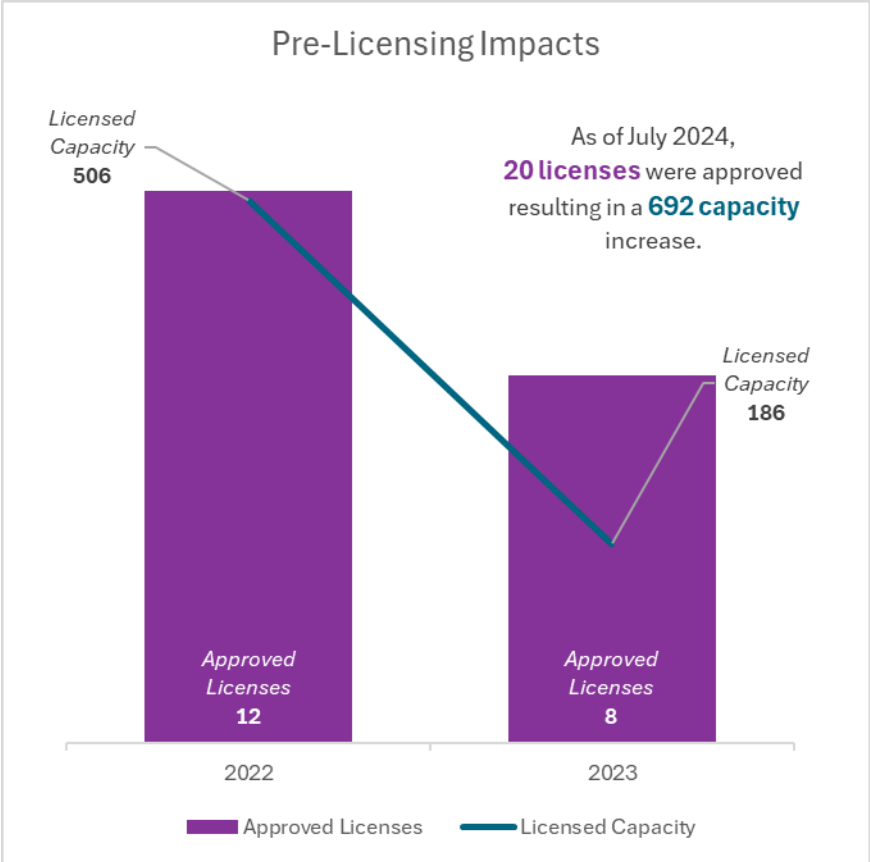Totals shown above the bars: 184 (81.1%), 39 (17.2%), 2 (0.9%), 1 (0.4%), 1 (0.4%)

Leads by Region (2022 and 2023)

This graph reflects the landscape of DCYF's Pre-Licensing services by region.

Pre-Licensing Leads by Region

	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6
■ 2023	13	25	29	45	28	15
■ 2022	13	19	6	10	17	7

Region totals (with percentages): Region 1: 26 (11.5%), Region 2: 44 (19.4%), Region 3: 35 (15.4%), Region 4: 55 (24.2%), Region 5: 45 (19.8%), Region 6: 22 (9.7%)

Licensed Leads (2022 and 2023)

As of July 2024, 20 licenses were approved with the added capacity of 692 slots. This is due to the direct technical assistance of Pre-Licensing services.

Pre-Licensing Impacts

As of July 2024, **20 licenses** were approved resulting in a **692 capacity** increase.

Licensed Capacity 506 (2022); Licensed Capacity 186 (2023)

Approved Licenses 12 (2022); Approved Licenses 8 (2023)

Legend: Approved Licenses | Licensed Capacity

Grant Assistance via the Imagine Institute

The Imagine Institute delivered 574 grant support sessions during the open application period for Commerce Early Learning Facility (ELF) grants for the 2020-22 and 2023-25 bienniums. Technical Assistance services were delivered to 214 licensed family home and 20 center providers. The Imagine Institute supported applicants and awardees in 14 languages and assisted providers in 14 counties. Roughly half of those providers were in rural counties.

Delivered Services: Fiscal Year 2023 July 1, 2022- June 30, 2023

Pre-Contract Support

- 309 Technical Assistance sessions delivered to 86 ELF Small Renovations Grant awardees.
- Sessions in 4 languages: Amharic, English, Somali, and Spanish.
- Session topics varied based on individual needs.
- Grant Awardees attendance: 43% attended 1 session, 48% attended 2-10 sessions, and 8% attended 10 or more sessions.