
DCYF 2025 Legislative Proposals - Update

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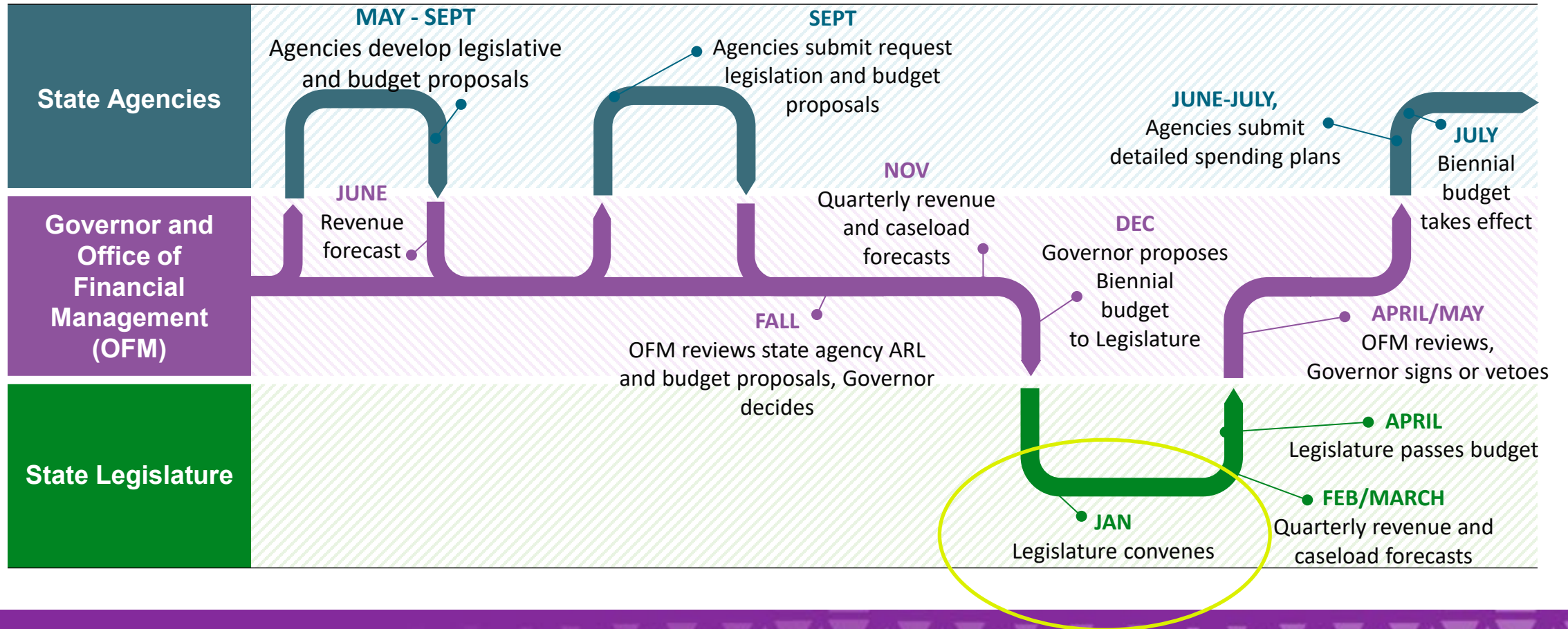
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Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES



Preparing for Legislative Session



Realities

- Year one of biennial session, budget setting session, long session
- New administration; significant lawmaker changes
- Current programs are outpacing revenue growth



DCYF Priorities for 2025



**Stabilize
Juvenile
Rehabilitation**



**Prevention
Services**



**Adolescent
Service
Enhancement**



**Legally
Required
Early
Learning
Expansions**



**Effective &
Efficient
Government**



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

WCCC Eligibility 75% SMI & Dual Language

Decision Package

Request: \$256.925M

Funded: \$5.136M

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- 80 percent of Washington children ready for Kindergarten
- Eliminate racial disproportionalities and advance racial equity
- High-quality early learning available and affordable to all in Washington

What?

Increase Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) eligibility to 75 percent of the State Median Income (SMI) effective July 1, 2025, as required under [RCW 43.216.802\(3\)](#), and to increase dual language rates to adjust for inflation under [RCW 43.216.775](#).

Why?

- Expanding income eligibility provides families with increased and equitable access to high quality child care, which is essential to family self-sufficiency and positive child outcomes.
- High quality child care supports child development and kindergarten readiness.

Components Include:

- ~~Increase Working Connections Child Care eligibility to 75 percent SMI~~
 - 75 percent eligibility expansion delayed until FY30
- Increase Dual Language Rates using the U.S. Implicit Price Deflator
- Increased funding for outreach, resource and referral to inform families who are eligible and who have not been eligible historically

Child Care Subsidy Base Rates

*Decision Package w/
Caseload updates*

Request: \$284.897M

Funded: \$284.897M

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- Support the early learning workforce
- Prevention goals connected to early learning

What?

✓ Fully Funded

Maintain child care center subsidy base rates at the 85th percentile of the most current market for child care centers as required by [RCW 43.216.828](#), resulting in a rate increase based on the 2024 Market Rate Survey (MRS).

Why?

- Requested funding will support family access and child care providers in meeting the needs of children served based on the 2024 MRS.
- Requested funding needed to comply with the [Fair Start for Kids Act](#) (2021) and [RCW 43.216.828](#).
- The increase in subsidy base rates was also included in the bargained subsidy rates for licensed family homes in the Collective Bargaining Agreement with SEIU 925. Parity will be maintained if the bargained subsidy rates and this request are funded.

Components Include:

- Increase subsidy base rates beginning July 1, 2025
- *Note: DP includes center-based care rate increase. FCC rate increase is in the collective bargaining agreement between DCYF and family child care providers.*

Comply with New CCDF Requirements

Decision Package

Request: \$94.914M

Funded: \$88.019M

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What?

Comply with the 2024 Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Final Rule change that became effective April 2024.

Why?

- Requested funding needed to comply with federal requirements.
- Funding will increase access and affordability to high quality child care.

Components Include:

- Supports eligible children and families with a full 12 months of WCCC benefit authorization beginning July 1, 2025.
- Align child care subsidy payment practices with the private market by July 2026:
 - Pay providers prospectively (instead of retrospectively), and
 - Pay based on enrollment (instead of by attendance)
- Only require overpayment collection for families approved under presumptive eligibility when federally required
- One-time costs for an outreach and communication contract and training support for providers who participate in child care subsidy programs

ECEAP Entitlement

Decision Package

Request: \$451.416M

Funded: \$65.076M

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What?

Prepare for the Early Childhood Education Assistance Program (ECEAP) to meet entitlement per [RCW 43.216.556](#).

Why?

- High quality early learning/prekindergarten supports school readiness and success and increases high school graduation rates.
- ECEAP's family self-reliance model helps families set and achieve goals related to health, wellbeing, and family self-sufficiency.

Components Include:

- Sustainable ECEAP slot rates, ~~representing a 29 percent slot rate increase~~
 - ~~representing an 18 percent slot rate increase in FY26~~
- ~~Slot expansion for an additional 6,515 slots to meet entitlement~~
 - ECEAP Entitlement delayed until 2030-31 school year
- Slot conversion of Part Day slots to School day slots ~~(7,592) and Working day slots (18)~~
 - *Convert 250 Part Day slots to Full Day slots and add 500 Full Day slots in FY27*
- ~~Quality supports for curriculum and ongoing assessments for classrooms and children and increased funding for scholarships and ratings~~

THANK YOU

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Thank you

One Pager Overviews 2025-27 Biennial Budget Decision Packages & Agency Request Legislation

- Decision Packages are currently posted on DCYF's [Government Affairs webpage](#).
- One-page summaries of DCYF's budget requests and agency request legislation for the 2025 Legislative Session will be linked on the DCYF Government Affairs webpage.
- Please reach out if you would like more details on any proposal.



Unfunded Agency Requests

DCYF agency request legislation and proposed decision packages that were not approved or funded in the Governor's Budget at any level are included in the following slides for reference.

Licensing Complaint Unit

Decision Package
\$5.605M

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What?

Create a child care complaint investigations unit within the Licensing Division to address the licensing complexities for all child care licensed providers and support provider compliance.

Why?

- Child care licensors administer all aspects of licensing oversight, both compliance and complaint investigations. This unit would create separation of duties, which would reduce risk of bias and conflict of interest.
- A child care complaint investigation unit will improve the quality and intention of licensing practice, improve quality and availability of provider services statewide equitably.
- Enable staff to meet timelines and support licensed providers holistically.

Components Include:

- Requests 20.0 full-time equivalents to create the Complaint Investigations Unit.