

# Tribal ECEAP

Washington State

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

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) acknowledges and respects our government-to-government relationship with Tribal Sovereign Nation contractors and sub-contractors. We also acknowledge the historical trauma that Native people have experienced since colonization particularly in institutional settings.

Tribal Nations have an inherent sovereign right over how to educate their children in a culturally relevant manner. We feel great honor in supporting tribes in caring for and providing high quality learning for their youngest learners. We are committed to building strong relationships with Tribal Sovereign Nations and strive to support them in implementing high-quality early learning approaches that are reflective of each Nation's culture and values.



# ECEAP Entitlement



RCW 43.216.556:

(3) Funding shall continue to be phased in each year until full statewide implementation of the early learning program is achieved in the **2026-27** school year, at which time any eligible child is entitled to be enrolled in the program.



# Consultation Follow Up

Consultation was held November 13, 2023. This consultation was to discuss and get feedback from Washington State Tribes on the Definition of an Indian Child.

<u>Summary of Tribal Feedback</u>	<u>DCYF Summary Response</u>
<p>Concern that the verification form where the parent signs indicates if provided fraudulent information, they may have to pay back ECEAP funds. How do you determine that?</p>	<p>Historically, DCYF has not requested funds back. If someone provides false information on their form and it is discovered that they are not eligible, DCYF would stop providing that service.</p> <p>DCYF will work with ECEAP contractors to gather information and work with DCYF staff on how to support families. If it's determined that a family does not qualify, the services will end. If the situation arises part way through the year, we allow the child to continue services and then stop at the end of the year.</p>



## Proposed Definition for and Indian Child 2024-2025

### For Tribal Sovereign Nations Providing ECEAP Services

As sovereign nations, ECEAP sites run by Tribal Nations must provide a definition of an Indian child for their ECEAP programming. Tribal Nations will submit these definitions to DCYF and provide updated definitions as appropriate.

### For Non-Tribal Providers Serving Tribal Children (including Tribal Non-Profit providers)

"Indian child" is defined as any unmarried and unemancipated Indian person who is under age 18 and is, as determined by the Indian child's tribe or tribes, one of the following:

1. A member of an Indian tribe
2. Is eligible for membership into a Federally recognized tribe



# Eligible for 2023-24 Tribal Families

## Income:

- At or below 100% state median income

## Definition of an Indian Child for ECEAP (Current):

- For all Tribal sovereign nation ECEAP contractors/sites enrollment in Early Learning Management System (ELMS) children are considered tribal if they are a member of a tribe per parent report and per tribal approval.
- For all non-tribal ECEAP contractors/sites enrollment in ELMS, children are considered tribal if they are a member of a tribe per parent report.



# Eligible for 2024-25 Tribal Families

## Income:

- At or below 100% state median income

## Definition of an Indian Child for ECEAP:

- **For Tribal Nations Providing ECEAP Services:** As Tribal nations, ECEAP sites run by Tribal Nations must provide a definition of an Indian child for their ECEAP programming. Tribal Nations will submit these definitions to DCYF and provide updated definitions as appropriate.
- **For Non-Tribal Providers Serving Tribal Children (including Tribal Non-Profit providers):** "Indian child" is defined as any unmarried and unemancipated Indian person who is under age 18 and is, as determined by the Indian child's tribe or tribes, one of the following:
  1. A member of an Indian tribe; or
  2. Is eligible for membership in an Indian tribe.



# Additional qualifying factors for Tribal Families

- Have a family member who attended an Indian Boarding School
- Moved to engage in traditional cultural practices for subsistence or employment
- Involvement in tribal or state child welfare services
- Any other factors in the Priority Points Document

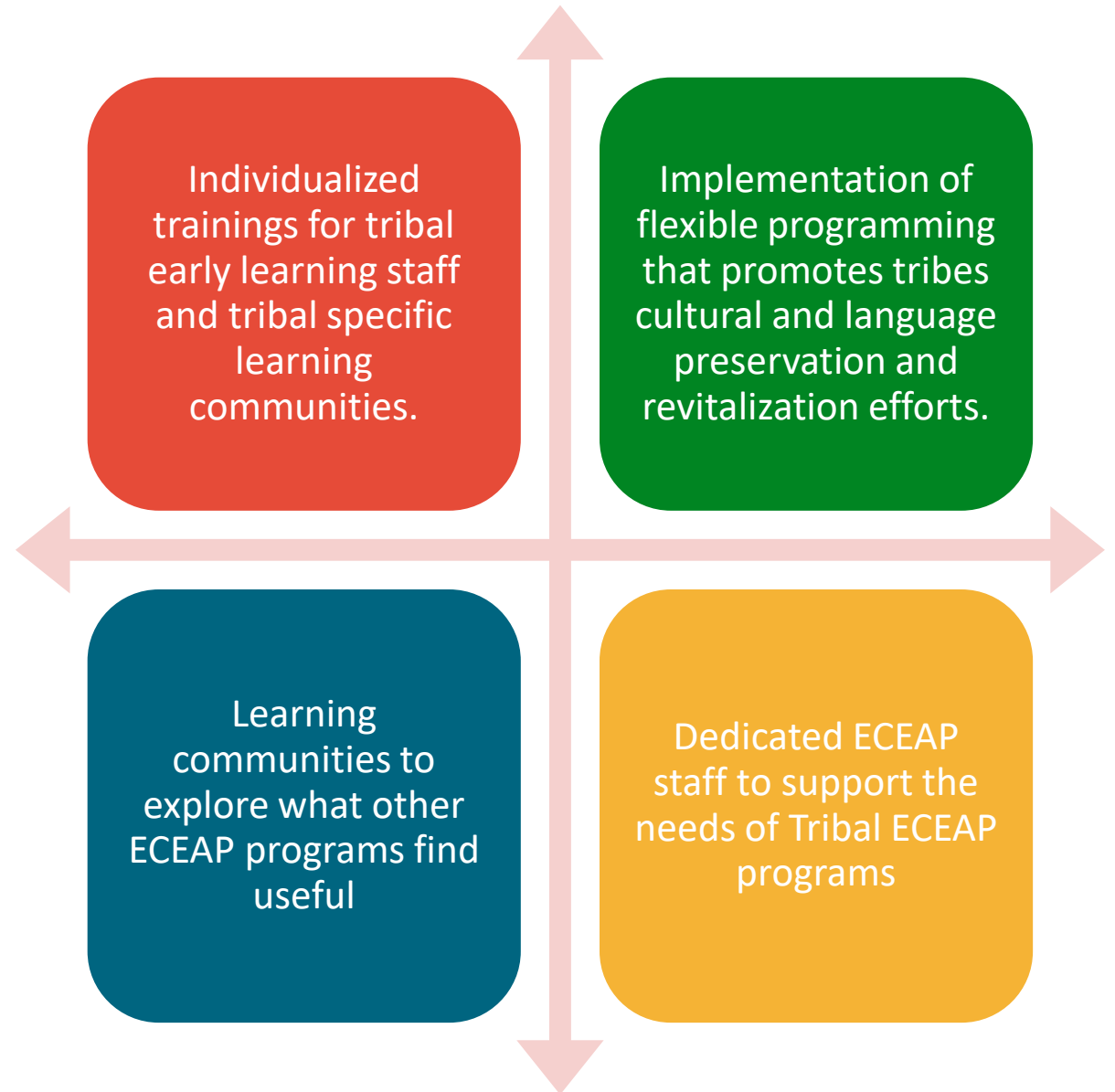




# Increasing Tribal contractors, compacts, and/or ECEAP sites

- Our team is committed to increasing the number of tribal children receiving services in ECEAP tribal early learning programs as this fits with each sovereign nation's needs
- We are working with tribes to remove barriers for contracting with DCYF ECEAP and providing ECEAP services.

# What DCYF Provides Currently



# Current Additional Funding Opportunities

## Complex Needs Funding (CNF)

- Supports children with complex needs in ECEAP classrooms, such as: staffing, materials, training, and additional curriculum

## ECLIPSE Funding

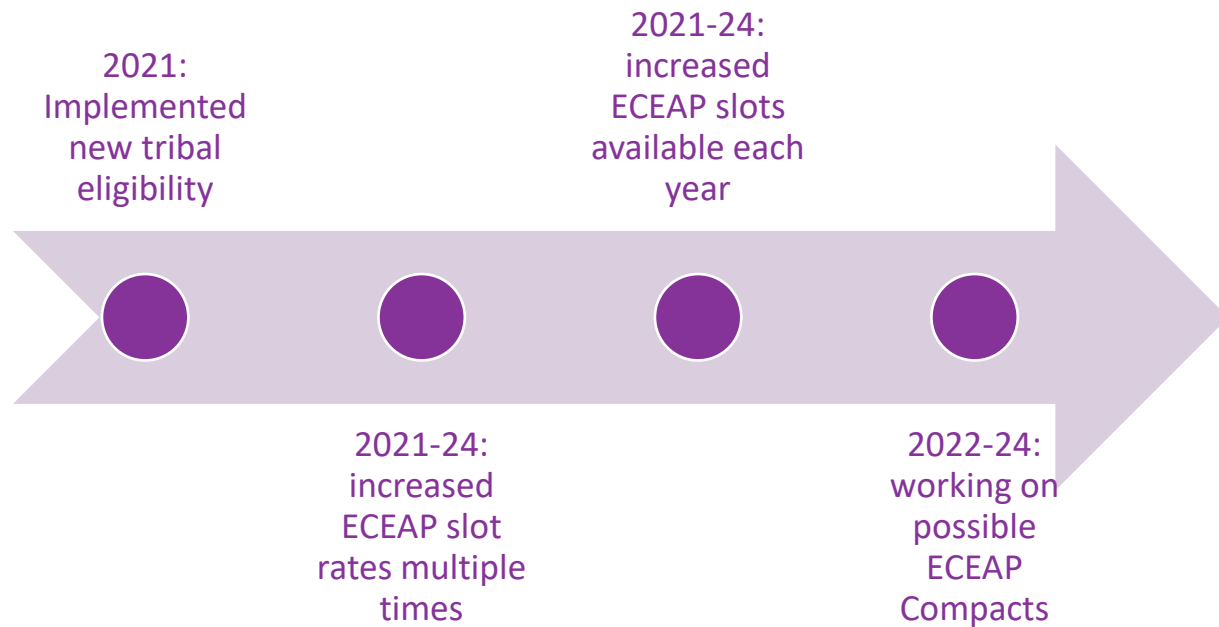
- Therapeutic services for ECEAP families and children Birth to 5 who have experienced substantial stress and/or complex trauma

## Early Learning Facilities Funds

- Reimbursement dollars for facilities built to provide ECEAP or Working Connections Child Care subsidies



# Planning for ECEAP Entitlement



March 2024: Preparing to ask the legislature for funding to support ECEAP Entitlement

# Input: What are your ideas?

- What additional funding is needed?
  - Staffing?
  - Facilities?
  - Tribal specific items: cultural demonstrations and activities, Tribal curriculum development and implementation, language exposure and immersion?
  - What else?
- What policy changes would support ECEAP expansion with Tribal Nations?
- What can DCYF provide or do to support Tribal ECEAP better?



# Thank you!

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