

The LOVIT Way Program Evaluation Process

Updates for IPEL



FALL HIGHLIGHTS

This fall marked a major milestone as we began conducting in-person LOVIT Way Program Evaluation Process (PEP) sessions. This was a significant moment in our journey, as it represents the first step in working directly with Tribal Nations to implement the PEP in Early Achievers. We're excited to continue learning from their experience, identifying both the successes and the challenges that arise during the process. Below is an overview of successes and challenges we have identified so far. We welcome your questions, comments, or input! Please email Charlotte.Campbell@dcyf.wa.gov.

Progress and Success

- All early adopter processes (as detailed in the LOVIT way addendum to the [operating guidelines](#)) have been working smoothly so far, and participants have been eager and engaged. One key factor contributing to this success is the opportunity to visit the program site on the first day and become familiar with the program before launching the LOVIT Way PEP. This initial engagement has proven crucial in setting a solid foundation for facilitating the PEP effectively.
- We were thrilled to provide direct support to our Tribal partners by connecting them to The LOVIT Way training in British Columbia. Two Tribal early learning leaders were able to take advantage of that opportunity, which will allow them to better support their programs' use of The LOVIT Way. We will continue to bring this opportunity to our Tribal partners when trainings are offered.
- The word is getting out about The LOVIT Way! As new Tribal programs are opening, we are able to support education directors to learn more about the resources and support offered by the state, including The LOVIT Way PEP Tribal pathway for quality recognition.
- We have also been invited to present at several local and national conferences. We have highlighted how Quality Recognition and Improvement Systems (QRIS), which are federally required for states to receive child care funding, often fail to accommodate the cultural needs of Tribal communities and shared about the powerful partnership between the Aboriginal Head Start Association of British Columbia (AHSABC), Washington State Tribes, Cultivate Learning, and the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families. This partnership has been instrumental in creating the nation's first Tribal pathway for quality recognition in early learning—a collaboration that will benefit children, families and programs. The presentations sparked considerable interest from attendees, particularly from other states seeking to strengthen partnerships with Tribal Nations. By sharing our process and the innovative Tribal pathway, we hope to inspire other states to create more culturally responsive and flexible QRIS models that honor the sovereignty and distinct needs of Tribal Nations.



The LOVIT Way Program Evaluation Process

Updates for IPEL



Challenges, Changes, and Opportunities

- We have noticed that due to the high turnover rate in child care and early learning, there may be limited to no knowledge of The LOVIT Way PEP amongst staff and directors. To address this, we propose creating additional informational materials for programs. We propose developing a brief overview of The LOVIT Way and the program evaluation process to be shared with all staff at the beginning of each LOVIT Way in-person program evaluation. There may also be an opportunity to work with child care program leadership to provide LOVIT Way resources as part of new staff onboarding.
- Tribal programs have been waiting for quite a while for this alternative pathway and choice to complete The LOVIT Way PEP. Some have already planned out their entire program year prior to being reached out to schedule. It is for this reason that one program chose not to proceed with scheduling The LOVIT Way PEP and opted for the other quality recognition pathway. To address this, we propose changing our outreach efforts to focus on late spring and early summer, as directors are planning their staff training days for the following year.
- Tribal programs here in Washington range in size from a single classroom or family home to many classrooms (up to 21). To accommodate all programs, we have to develop creative and flexible ways to complete the PEP within a reasonable timeframe. This includes virtual conversations to provide more detail about what to expect, as well as scheduling multiple visits to complete The LOVIT Way PEP. We have received positive feedback both on being flexible in meeting their needs and The LOVIT Way PEP and look forward to other ideas on how to accommodate the specific needs of each program.

Participant Summary

Phase	Number of Programs	Program Type	Region
The LOVIT Way PEP <i>in process of scheduling</i>	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Center• Center• Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Northwest• King/Pierce• Northwest
The LOVIT Way PEP <i>scheduled</i>	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Center• Center• Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Olympic Peninsula• Northwest• Central
The LOVIT Way PEP <i>completed</i>	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Center• Center• Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eastern• Olympic Peninsula• Eastern