



Welcome, Spring.

This quarterly newsletter from the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) is designed to keep Washington's early learning community informed of all of the great work pertaining to [Professional Development](#).

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Expanding Child Care Access During COVID-19

DCYF is implementing workforce supports in response to COVID-19. This effort is for licensed providers caring for children requesting additional staffing from the state's [substitute pool](#).

The goal is to address COVID-19 impact on child care by:

- Providing substitutes and other connections for available and interested workers to meet the needs of licensed program staffing shortages or expanded capacity (wages subsidized by the state)
- Connect programs with eligible workers for recruitment support (wages not subsidized by the state)



If you are interested in being a substitute in a licensed facility, you can reach out to the [Imagine Institute](#) at 206-492-5249 or by emailing subpool@imaginewa.org.

Emergency Child Care WACs



A series of steps including process and WAC updates have been implemented in order to support child care providers who are serving families and essential workers in need of child care services during this pandemic.

Read the full [Emergency Child Care WACs Update here](#).

Training Updates

Bill Passes for Community Based Training Pathway

The 2020 Legislative Session has ended and [SHB 2556: Providing regulatory relief for early learning providers](#) was signed on April 3 and will go into effect June 11, 2020.

This bill allows DCYF to develop a community based training as an equivalent pathway to meet the licensing education requirement for an initial and short certificate.



- **What's Happening Now?**
 - DCYF is working with our partners, including Child Care Aware of Washington, Imagine Institute, Washington Child Care Association, SEIU 925, Washington Family Child Care Association and Washington State Board of Colleges and Technical Colleges to outline the community based model and how it will be delivered.
- **What Happens Next?**
 - This non-credit bearing option will be available Summer 2021.
- **How does the bill impact the timeline for education?**
 - DCYF will extend the timeline until August 1, 2026, for providers to complete the licensing requirement of an initial or short certificate.
- **Where can I get additional information?**
 - To learn more about the education requirements, and see updates, visit our [DCYF Professional Development page](#). Visit the legislative website to read the [full bill text](#).



DCYF Suspending In-Person Training

DCYF is suspending all in-person training between now and May 31, 2020.

Measures have been taken to comply with the Governor's [Stay Home, Stay Healthy order](#) as well as the social distancing guidance from the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)).

[Read the full training update.](#)

Increasing Access to Child Care Basics

DCYF is adapting the Child Care Basics (CCB) curriculum to be offered online through DCYF's online training portal. Some key points about this new option:

- Expected to roll-out in the summer of 2020 – find options for registration in MERIT
- Available at no cost for providers
- Meets Federal training requirements
- Enhancements to content including an anti-bias mindset



To learn about the multiple ways to meet this training requirements visit [Completing Child Care Basics](#).



Relationship-Based Professional Development (RBPd)

You may have noticed the growing attention placed on RBPd from the Professional Development team.

DCYF is committed to building a diverse relationship-based professional workforce to ensure that all community-level participants are receiving individualized, responsive and effective services. This effort will move us toward the DCYF vision that all children and families have an opportunity to flourish.

[Find out more about the work being done on the RBPd system](#) or watch [April's webinar focused on RBPd \(Link\)](#).

Learning Opportunities



The Spring Webinar Series is in full swing.

March's webinar focused on the Child Care Basics training requirement and April's focused on Relationship-Based Professional Development.

If you missed March and April's webinars, they can be found on DCYF's [Newsletters and Webinars page](#).

Plan Your Career on the Career Planning Portal

- Tuesday, May 19 | 6 p.m.
- [Register for webinar](#)



Meeting the Leadership Practices Training Requirement

- Tuesday, June 16 | 6 p.m.
- [Register for the webinar](#)

Glimpse of Previous Recordings

Wondering what topics the Professional Development has covered during the webinars? A few topics include:

- [Coaching Companion](#)
- [Staff Qualifications Overview](#)
- [Navigating the Facility Site Tab in MERIT](#)
- [MERIT Basics](#)



A complete list, including the video time-markers, can be found on the [Newsletters and Webinars page](#).

New Newsletter: Growing the Workforce



Are you an individual who delivers professional learning supports?

The Growing the Workforce Newsletter is a resource for all individuals who support professional learning to the early learning workforce.

[Check out April's edition.](#)

If you would like to subscribe to this newsletter, email [Marlene White](#).

Supporting the Early Learning Workforce Through Education

Community Colleges Move Instruction Online

While social distancing guidelines remain in place, community and technical colleges in Washington are offering their Early Childhood Education courses online.

Students receiving Early Achievers Grant funding will not have their eligibility affected if their employment is altered or interrupted by coronavirus precautions. Both faculty and staff are engaging in creative solutions to better serve students remotely.



Speaking of Grants...



Are you aware that DCYF offers scholarships and grants to those employed at a program that participates in Early Achievers?

You can learn about the available grants here:

- [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Somali](#)

Early Childhood Education Stackable Certificates

The Stackable Certificates are a great way to start your career in ECE. The certificates build on one-another and are offered at community colleges throughout the state.

[Learn more or download the most up-to-date publication.](#)



Assessing WA's Early Childhood Education

In December 2019, the [State Board for Community and Technical Colleges](#) conducted a survey to assess the availability and accessibility of Early Childhood Education courses and credentials at Washington's community and technical colleges.

The Program Brief provides information about languages, classroom accessibility and grants.

Plan Your Career on the Career Planning Portal...

Don't miss out! Next month we'll be providing a live webinar focused on the [ECE Career Planning Portal](#).

The Portal can help you plan your career, learn about career pathways in early childhood education and navigate education options.

- Tuesday, May 19 | 6 p.m.
- [Register for webinar](#)



"There have been times that quitting seemed like the best option and each time I was encouraged by the teachers not to. I'm close to finishing my AA now and I am so thankful they wouldn't let me give up."

- Early Childhood Education Student and Early Achievers Grant Recipient

DCYF's Education and Scholarships

To keep updated on educational programs, resources and grants visit [DCYF's Education and Scholarships](#) page.



April is Child Abuse Prevention Month



To help raise awareness for Child Abuse Prevention Month, and to give kids something to do during the Stay Home, Stay Healthy order, our Strengthening Families team is hosting a [coloring campaign](#) and sharing our newly released downloadable [coloring/activity book](#).

Print off our coloring page to color at home, then email a scanned or snapshot photo of your coloring to strengtheningfamilies@dcyf.wa.gov.

DCYF will post them on our social media throughout the month and at the end of the month we will have a drawing for great prizes – Discover Passes for Washington State Parks and family passes to the Olympia Hands On Children’s Museum.

- [Download the coloring page](#)

You can also post your finished work in your windows to let neighbors see!

Messages from DCYF Secretary

DCYF Secretary Ross Hunter shares monthly messages to provide updates and news about the work of the agency. Read his latest messages below and [click here to subscribe](#).

- [April Newsletter](#)
- [March Newsletter](#)
- [February Newsletter](#)

If you have any questions or comments, please contact DCYF's [Office of Communications](#).



Census 2020



Don't get left out. Census Day was April 1 and by now, most households should have received at least one invitation to respond to the 2020 Census.

Responding to the census is important because it helps inform funding for key public services for your community like education programs and schools, hospitals and healthcare, roads and bridges, and emergency and disaster response.

More 2020 Census Resources:

- [What To Look For in the Mail](#)
- [Language Support Resources](#)
- [Mark Your Calendar: Important Dates](#)

Coronavirus - COVID-19 Updates



DCYF has a webpage dedicated to [Coronavirus - COVID-19 Updates](#). Questions related to COVID-19 can be sent to dcyf.covid-19@dcyf.wa.gov. This inbox is monitored daily.

Additional resources include:

- [Washington State Department of Health \(DOH\)](#)
 - [United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#).
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How Are We Doing?

Please let us know how we're doing by taking this [brief survey](#).

If you have questions, topic suggestions or want to share your program updates so they can be featured in the next PD Newsletter, reach out to [Marlene White](#).

