



QRIS SPENDING REPORT 2023-2025



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

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Approved for distribution by Nicole Rose, Assistant Secretary of Early Learning



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Overview

This report is prepared in compliance with [Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5167, Section 236\(9\)](#), which directs the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) to report to the governor and the legislature, the total amount of funds spent on the quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) and the total amount of funds spent on degree incentives, scholarships, and tuition reimbursements, on a biannual basis. This report provides the funds spent during the 2023 – 2025 biennium.

Spending Amounts

The following table provides the required spending total amounts for the QRIS, degree incentives, scholarships, and tuition reimbursements spent in the 2023 – 2025 biennium.

Spending	2023 - 2025
Total QRIS	\$91,404,939
Total Scholarship, Reimbursement & Incentives	\$17,878,200
Scholarships and Training Reimbursement	\$15,428,199
Professional Development Incentives	\$ 2,450,001

About Early Achievers

Early Achievers, Washington’s QRIS, is focused on recognizing early learning programs that offer high-quality care to support each child’s learning and development. Early Achievers is a framework designed to:

- Ensure children have high-quality early learning experiences to develop skills they need to be successful in school and life.
- Support early learning professionals by offering resources such as professional development, coaching, and financial support.
- Help families and caregivers find high-quality child care and early learning programs that fit their unique needs.

Implementation Partners

The QRIS includes contracts with QRIS implementing partners, such as Child Care Aware of Washington and the University of Washington Cultivate Learning. System implementation includes:

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- Training, quality professional development institutes, coaching and technical assistance,
- Ratings and monitoring,
- Birth to Three Quality Initiative,
- Program evaluation, and
- Incentives, such as Quality Improvement Awards, Needs-Based grants, and substitute pool.

Impact

QRIS spending directly impacts the quality of the Early Care and Education field. With the support of the Early Achievers coaches, participants use reflective practice to better understand their teaching practices. Research-based rating components focused on developmental domains, increasing kindergarten readiness. Early Achievers increases the quality of care for Washington's children. This includes licensed and certified child care, as well as the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP). These programs include family home and child care center early learning programs, Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), and Tribal programs.

DCYF contracts with Child Care Aware of Washington (CCA of WA) and the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) to support early care and education professionals with certificates and degree attainment to meet licensing staff qualifications and increase professional development.

DCYF uses training reimbursement and education awards to recognize the educational achievements of early learning professionals.

Contact Information

Please send any questions or concerns to dcyf.govaffairs@dcyf.wa.gov.