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# DCYF 2023 Decision Package Development

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



# By the end of this discussion, the group will

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**Be able to describe the goals of decision package drafts**



**Be able to identify which DPs are for maintenance versus new developments**



**Provide two kinds of guidance:**

- 1. General system impact comments**
- 2. Actionable edits/suggestions**



# ECEAP Expansion



## **Provide a sustainable slot rate for ECEAP providers**

- Provide current and prospective ECEAP providers a more sustainable slot rate that is funded more closely to comparative programs (such as Head Start).



## **Readiness Pathway technical assistance efforts to support the various ECEAP provider types.**

- Provide prospective ECEAP providers an equitable opportunity to establish a trained workforce, administrative systems, and other standards and regulations for program implementation.





# Provide Guidance

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**Purpose:** Explore Decision Package key content areas, make suggestions for edits or note areas of unintended impact.

## Task:

In groups of 5-7 people, discuss and share:

- **What do you like about the focus area?**
- **What questions or curiosities do you have?**
- **What is missing?**





# Child Care Access and Affordability



## Infant-Toddler Access

- Expanding Early ECEAP in areas of most need
- Contracted slots to secure access for children involved in protective services
- Increase infant rate enhancement for child care subsidy




## Sustainable Subsidy Payment

- Pay licensed providers based on child enrollment



## Align Overpayment Collection with Federal Requirements

- Collect overpayments on Fraud and Intentional Program Violations
- Do not collect overpayments on administrative error or unintentional program violations



# Make Child Care Work for Families



## **Increase Family Access to Child Welfare Early Learning Navigators (CWELN)**

- Increase the number of CWELN navigators




## **Transition Child Welfare Child Care to Working Connections**

- Provide families with children in protective services 12 month eligibility
- Continue 12 month eligibility for children receiving protective services in the past 6 months.



## **Exclude Child Support as Countable Income**

- Exclude child support as countable income for ECEAP and WCCC



# Make Child Care Work for Families (Continued)



## **Allow Job Search as an Approved Activity at Application and Reapplication**

- Allow formal and informal job search as an approved activity




## **Authorize Full-Time Care for all Children**

- Allow at least full-time care for all children



## **Require Only One Parent to Participate in an Approved Activity**

- Support families applying and reapplying for child care subsidy when one parent is in an approved activity



# Make Child Care Work for Families (Continued)



## Remove 12-Month Restriction on Homeless Grace Period

- Support families experiencing homelessness with continued access to child care subsidy.



## Allow Child Participation in ECEAP and Head Start as an Approved Activity for WCCC

- Allow families with children participating in ECEAP, Early ECEAP, Head Start, Tribal Head Start, and Migrant Season Head Start the ability to continue to receive WCCC when otherwise eligible.



## Allow Family Participation in Medical Activities as an Approved Activity

- Exploring options under CCDF to allow medical activities to participate in approved activities.





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# Next Steps – DCYF will...

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**Gather feedback from multiple sources across the child care and early learning field**



**Crunch numbers and draft decision packages/ agency request legislation for submission to Governor's office in September**



**Return to stakeholders to reflect on what feedback we heard, what feedback we were able to incorporate, and what we were not able to incorporate**