

Background Check and Licensing Fees and Schedules

2023-25 Agency Request
Legislation and Decision Package

This proposal seeks investment in and RCW changes to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families' (DCYF) background check and licensing systems that will support providers and kin to move successfully through the licensing process. This will support DCYF's goal of dramatically reducing the number of children in non-relative foster care, promote a culture of supporting kinship in placement and permanency across the child welfare system, and improve access to high-quality child care for families by bringing more staff on board at child care programs.



Overview:

WAIVE BACKGROUND CHECKS FEES \$3,161,000

- ✔ Eliminating these fees ensures equitable opportunity for individuals and providers to offer culturally representative and responsive services to children and youth and removes the unintended consequence of discouraging a qualified individual from applying who cannot afford to pay.
- ✔ DCYF proposes to permanently remove the fee for background checks that individuals who provide licensed child care or early learning services, contracted services, work at a group care facility, or as a child placing agency must pay.

FINGERPRINT VENDOR CAPACITY \$1,385,000

- ✔ This will ensure timely fingerprinting and faster background check turnaround times. This will also allow DCYF applicants the potential to complete their background check application and fingerprints at the same time.
- ✔ DCYF requests funding to create capacity for the agency to do fingerprints for background checks at DCYF offices. The request is to add 11.75 FTE spread across DCYF offices statewide.



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

WAIVE CHILD CARE LICENSING FEES - \$3,357,000

- ✓ This will reduce the financial strain on the small businesses and non-profits that make up the majority of the child care industry.
- ✓ Permanently remove fees providers pay to obtain and maintain their child care license (SB 5151 in 2021 temporarily removed these fees for the biennium).

FOSTER CARE INITIAL LICENSES - \$8,692,000

- ✓ This will ensure that kinship providers have access to crucial financial resources at a time when they have unexpectedly begun caring for a child in their home, and will ensure they do not experience sudden loss of funds while pursuing licensing.
- ✓ DCYF proposes to extend the timeframe that kin are eligible for initial licenses from 90 days to up to six months, with an option to renew for up to two years. This timeframe matches the eligibility for agencies and facilities in statute (RCW 74.15.120).

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Eliminate racial disproportionalities and advance racial equity
- Create a high-quality integrated B-8 system
- Improve quality and availability of provider services

COST:

2023-25 Biennium – \$16,595,000

Contact:

DCYF Office of Public Affairs
genevieve.stokes@dcyf.wa.gov



DCYF does not discriminate and provides equal access to its programs and services for all persons without regard to race, color, gender, religion, creed, marital status, national origin, sexual orientation, age, veteran's status, or presence of any physical, sensory, or mental disability.

If you would like free copies of this publication in an alternative format or language, please contact DCYF Constituent Relations at 1-800-723-4831 or email communications@dcyf.wa.gov.

DCYF PUBLICATION GC_0039 (11-2022)