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# DCYF 2023 and 2024 Legislative Sessions

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



# Agenda



- 2023 Biennial Budget Wrap-Up: 10 minutes
- 2024 Session Look Ahead: 25 minutes
- Discussion questions: 20 minutes



# By the end of this discussion, the group will

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Have a shared understanding how DCYF's legislative work is supporting the child care/early learning field over the next biennium

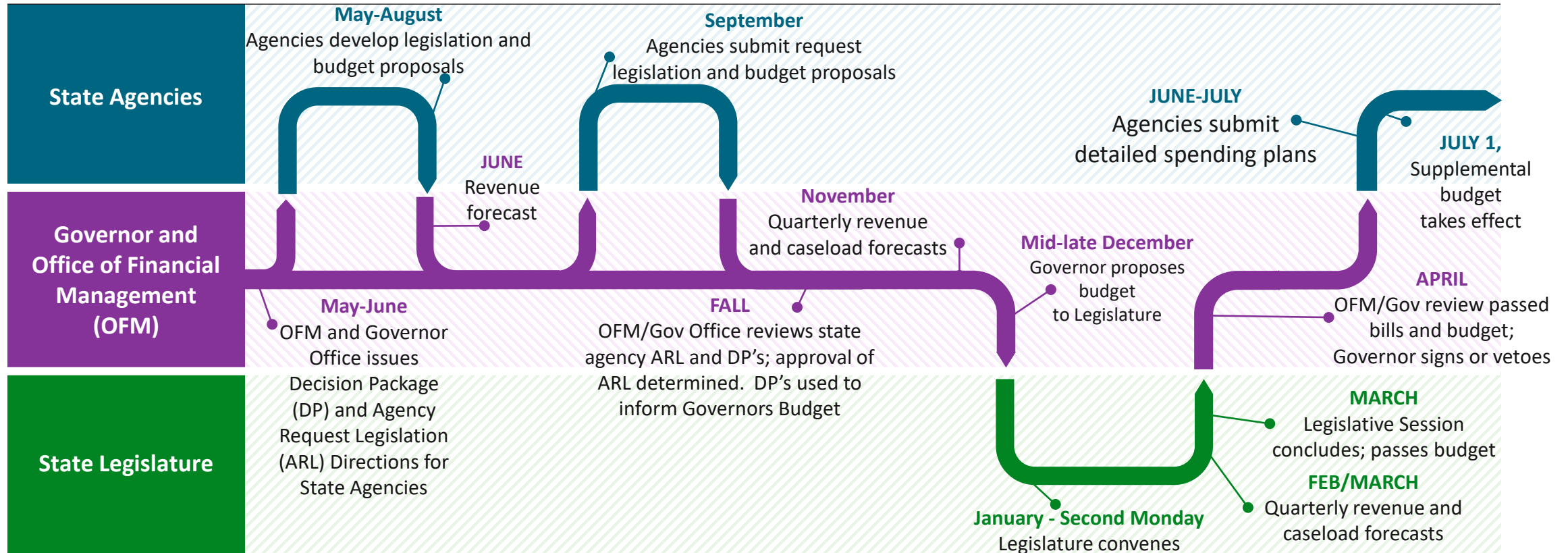


Provide additional guidance on ideas for the 2024 supplemental session



Provide initial guidance on outreach for the child care access implementation plan proviso

# Legislative Session – Supplemental Budget Timeline



# Realities for 2024

Supplemental budget year

+

DCYF implementing significant  
investments and policy changes

+

Declining revenues and slowing  
economic outlook

=

***Limited Scope for Requests Next Session***



# DCYF Major Focuses for Next Biennium

## Overarching framework:

- Support access, affordability, and quality

## Major Projects – implement existing mandates

- FSKA elements coming online
- 85<sup>th</sup> percentile rate increase
- ECEAP entitlement
- Cost of Quality Care rate model setting

# 2024 Supplemental Ideas

## Making Child Care Work for Families



**Allow participation in ECEAP, Early ECEAP, Head Start and Early Head Start as an approved activity for WCCC.**

- Approx. \$4M: Supporting access for about 165 families.



**Provide households with a child who was receiving protective services one year of WCCC eligibility following adoption or guardianship.**

- Approx. \$24M: Supporting access for about 1000 families.



**Exclude child support, Social Security, and Supplemental Security payments as countable income for Working Connections Child Care and ECEAP**

- Approx. \$12.7M: Supporting access for about 1,542 children

# 2024

## Supplemental Ideas

### Supporting Providers for Child Care Access



#### Expand Infant/Toddler Access

- Provide contracted slots for child welfare child care.
  - \$150K/year for 1 FTE to manage 100 contracted slots
- Increase infant rate enhancement to \$500/month.
  - Approx. \$12M: Supporting access for 2,500 children
- Create a toddler rate enhancement of \$200/month.
  - Approx. \$18M: Supporting access for 7,500 children
- Increase the Non-Standard Hour Bonus to \$500
  - Approx. \$13M: Supporting access for 220 children



# 2024 Supplemental Ideas

## Supporting Providers for Child Care Access



### Align Overpayment Collection with Federal Requirements

- Approx. \$215K: amount less in overpayments collected, representing about 330 overpayments not collected on



### Shared Services and Technical Assistance to Access Funding and Resources

- Approx. \$1.7M: maintain availability of both Shared Services and Technical Assistance, providing responsive and scalable services statewide
- Includes contracted supports and 3 FTE to provide culturally responsive direct service, to providers accessing various DCYF systems and business opportunities.

2024

Supplemental  
Ideas

Preparing for  
ECEAP  
Entitlement



**Rate increases**

- Slot rate increases that get us to the 43% slot rate increase for school day



**Slot increases**

- 200 additional School Day slots and 50 additional Work Day slots



**Quality infrastructure**

- Funding for DCYF ECEAP to provide classrooms with continued access to Creative Curriculum® and GOLD® Assessment and training.

# 2024 Supplemental Ideas

## TTK Coordinated Recruitment and Enrollment



### HB 1550 mandated that DCYF work with OSPI on Coordinated Recruitment and Enrollment

- Approx. \$1-1.5M will fund:
  - FTE in the CCA of WA regions
  - Communications support
  - A consultant for state level planning with OSPI and communities.

# 2024 Supplemental Ideas

## Early Supports for Infants and Toddlers



Ensure ESIT providers are adequately compensated for their services

*ESIT providers currently are not receiving reimbursement for all children served in the month, DCYF is proposing a change to the “monthly count date” to ensure all services are properly paid for.*

# Looking Ahead to the Next Biennial Budget

DCYF is always working looking out 2 sessions in the future.

2025 asks are likely to include:

- Cost of quality care rate model funding
- ECEAP entitlement
- Expanding subsidy eligibility to higher income brackets
- Eligibility alignment

# Next Steps – DCYF will...

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**Continue to gather feedback from multiple sources across the child care and early learning field**



**Send final versions of the DPs to Parent Ambassadors in September after submitting to Gov's office**



**Host a webinar after the Governor's budget is released to inform stakeholders of the DCYF elements**

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# Child Care Access and Living Wage

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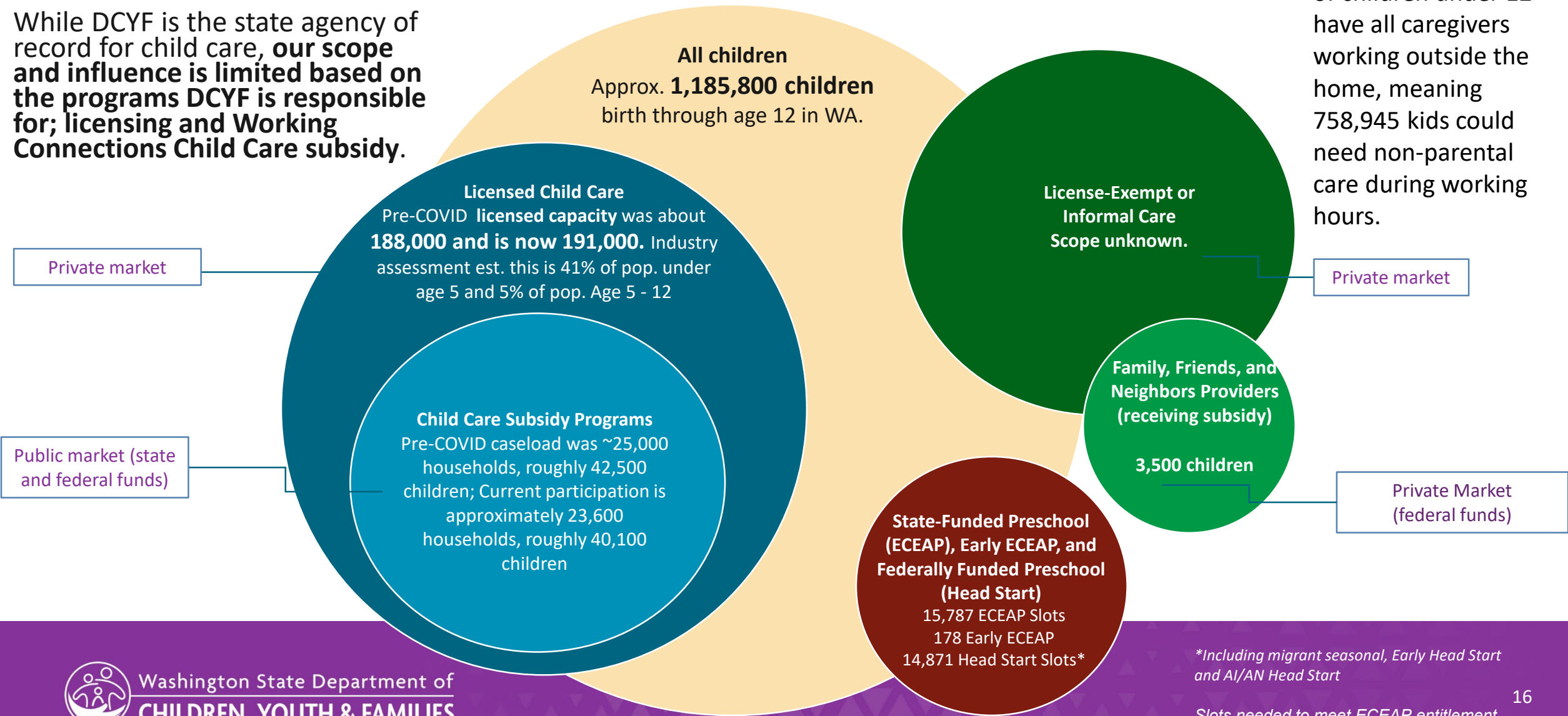
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# Universe of Early Care and Education in WA and DCYF's Role

While DCYF is the state agency of record for child care, **our scope and influence is limited based on the programs DCYF is responsible for; licensing and Working Connections Child Care subsidy.**

Its estimated that 64% of children under 12 have all caregivers working outside the home, meaning 758,945 kids could need non-parental care during working hours.



\*Including migrant seasonal, Early Head Start and AI/AN Head Start

Slots needed to meet ECEAP entitlement in 2026-27: 28,760



## Child Care Access and Living Wage

The department must submit an implementation plan to expand access to Washington's mixed delivery child care system. The plan must assume that any financial contribution by families is capped at no more than seven percent of household income and that the child care workforce are provided living wages and benefits. The plan must be submitted to the appropriate committees of the legislature by June 30, 2025, and should:

- (a) Follow the intent of chapter 199, Laws of 2021 (FSKA);
- (b) Be aligned with the cost of quality care rate model;
- (c) Include timelines, costs, and statutory changes necessary for timely and effective implementation; and
- (d) Be developed through partnership with the statewide child care resource and referral organization and the largest union representing child care providers, with consultation from families.

# Discussion and Feedback

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**Purpose:** Provide initial guidance on outreach for the child care access implementation plan proviso

**Discuss and share:**

- **How would you suggest we reach out to parents and families about this work?**
- **What questions should we be asking of parents and families to guide our planning?**



# Next Steps – DCYF will...

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**Continue to gather feedback from multiple sources across the child care and early learning field about the 2024 proposals**



**Provide updates to Parent Ambassadors on the status of the proposals as they move forward.**



**Develop a project work plan for the child care access implementation plan proviso**