

Supporting Providers to Increase Child Care Access

2024 Decision Package

Access to high-quality child care for families can be limited by financial and administrative constraints on providers. This is especially true for providers serving children on Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) and those specifically serving infants and toddlers. The Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) proposes to increase WCCC access by increasing child care subsidies and simplifying administrative processes to reduce the burden to providers who participate in subsidy programs. The goal of making it feasible for providers to better serve specific populations of children is to increase child care capacity in Washington, reduce racial disproportionality and disparities, and to move closer to a viable and economically-sound child care market.



EXPAND INFANT ACCESS COMPONENTS

- ✓ Increase access for infants who receive subsidy.
- ✓ Provides contracted slots to ensure access for infants involved in protective services.
- ✓ Increases the infant rate enhancement for child care subsidy to \$500/month (currently \$90/month for a proposed increase of \$410/month).

NON-STANDARD HOURS BONUS

- ✓ Increases the bonus for children receiving subsidy to \$500/month (currently \$135/month for a proposed increase of \$365/month) to help expand the supply of critically needed after-hour care to meet the needs of parents and caregivers in a 24-hour economy or non-standard workweek.

ALIGN OVERPAYMENT COLLECTION WITH FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ Continues to collect overpayments on fraud and intentional program violations.
- ✓ Removes administrative and unintentional errors from overpayment collections.

SHARED SERVICES AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ACCESS FUNDING AND RESOURCES

- ✓ Expands shared service contracts that provide scalable and responsive services.
- ✓ Includes 3 FTEs to provide culturally responsive direct services to providers.

DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

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

TOTAL COST

\$23,758,000

Contact:

DCYF Office of Public Relations
Melissa.Cheesman@dcyf.wa.gov

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