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Resources:

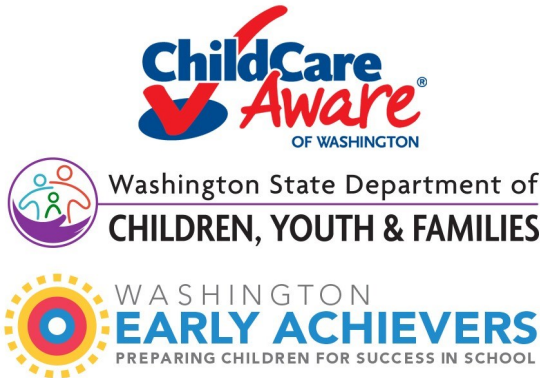
- Resources for Back-to-School During COVID-19—<https://childcareawarewa.org/back-to-school-during-covid-19/>
- DCYF resources for child care and early learning programs—<https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/coronavirus-covid-19/early-learning>
- Resources for child care small businesses—<https://childcareawarewa.org/2020/03/13/covid-19-what-can-child-care-providers-do/>
- Questions & Answers about COVID-19 impacts on child care, licensing, subsidies and more—<https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/coronavirus-covid-19>
- Multiple state resources and links—<https://coronavirus.wa.gov/>
- Resources for talking with children about racism—<https://childcareawarewa.org/resources-for-talking-with-children-about-racism/>



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Contact us for more
information about Early
Achievers: [https://
childcareawarewa.org](https://childcareawarewa.org)
1-866-416-4321

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Volume 5, Issue 3

EARLY ACHIEVERS NEWS

Fall 2020

As we begin the eighth month of the pandemic we acknowledge that many are feeling “pandemic fatigue” as we continue to serve children and families in the midst of so much uncertainty. Thank you for your persistence and commitment.

This fall, one of the biggest changes the child care field is experiencing is providing full-day care for school-age children whose schools are offering remote learning and whose parents work. Thank you to all of the providers providing this much-needed service. We have heard from some of you about the creative ways you are making remote-learning in child care work. See page two for some great ideas providers have shared.

There is good news for providers and families needing help to make ends meet during these financially difficult times. The Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) will soon release an additional \$78 million in relief funds to providers and families. The investments are:

- \$30 million in grants to licensed providers to help with COVID-19 costs, re-opening child care and to stabilize the system
- Working Connections co-pays will be waived October - December 2020 and then will be capped at \$115 January 2021 through June of 2021
- Funding for increased costs for full-day care while schools offer distance/remote learning or hybrid models
- Additional support for families caring for foster children

Your Child Care Aware of Washington coach can help you keep track of these options.

There is additional good news for licensed family home child care programs—a one-time Standards Alignment Incentive of \$1,259.81 for eligible programs that provided care to children whose families use subsidies during March or April 2020, and claimed a subsidy payment for that care by July 31, 2020. DCYF notified eligible providers last month. If you have questions regarding this incentive, please contact the Child Care Provider Line at 1-800-394-4571 or email providerhelp@dcyf.wa.gov.

Additional financial support may soon be available for providers who want to expand to serve more families, or to make facility and/or equipment upgrades to support social distancing and COVID-19 prevention strategies. Enterprise Community Partners is conducting research to determine provider needs. The potential grants would fund specific capital needs such as, expanding/remodeling outdoor space, installing classroom dividers, adding bathrooms, or installing heating/cooling air filtration systems that are needed because of the pandemic/recession/wildfire crises. If your program is in need of adapting physical space to increase or preserve enrollment, and/or avoid closing, please ask your CCA of WA coach to reach out to Enterprise Community Partners soon.

Fall 2020 News to Use Volume 5, Issue 3

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Food Banks at Colleges

Many providers who participate in Early Achievers benefit from higher education scholarships. During these challenging times we recognize that many people need help affording the basics like housing and food.

In Washington, people can dial 211 or visit <https://wa211.org/> for free resources nearby. Also, we've compiled a list of food banks at the colleges our scholars attend. You can find it online: English—<https://childcareawarewa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Food-Pantry-List-FINAL.pdf> Spanish—<https://childcareawarewa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Food-Pantry-List-Spanish-FINAL-1.pdf>

Child Care Help for Families Experiencing Homelessness

This is an especially hard time to experience homelessness. Child Care Aware of Washington's Family Center helps families with young children who are experiencing homelessness find child care at no cost to them for up to one year.

Children who experience homelessness frequently live in unpredictable, chaotic circumstances, with disruptions in their environments and relationships. These experiences can impair their emotional, cognitive and behavioral development. Research shows quality child care can act as a buffer for young children against the harmful effects of toxic stress.

For more information, please visit us at <https://childcareawarewa.org/services-for-families-experiencing-homelessness/> or call 1-800-446-1114.

School-age Child Care Ideas & Tips from Providers



We asked child care providers to share their ideas and tips for providing child care to school-age children who are learning remotely. Table dividers of all sizes and colors seem to be working well, especially dividers decorated for each child, as are bigger tables and chairs. Another great tip is to get some new and novel activities for the younger children to help keep them busy when the older children are on their school Zoom calls.

Another great tip is creating a school/Zoom schedule for each school-ager, and asking parents to connect them with each child's teacher so they can communicate if necessary to support student learning. Parents can sign a form allowing providers and teachers to work together.



Noise-cancelling headphones or ear buds are very helpful as well, as is storing each child's belongings on separate trays or in separate baskets.

We have also heard that making sure school-agers have recess time is

important too. During stressful times, physical activity is essential.

For more tips and ideas on caring for school-agers, visit our Back-to-School During COVID-19 web page. <https://childcareawarewa.org/back-to-school-during-covid-19/>



New Farm to ECE Training

Join Farm to ECE leaders for a free training Oct. 24 from 9 am—1 pm on how to incorporate Farm to ECE into child care. Specific strategies and resources for Farm to ECE activities during COVID will be covered. Attendees who complete a pre- and post-evaluation will receive a set of Harvest for Healthy Kids picture cards in either English or Spanish.

This training provides four hours of STARS credits. Register here: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwrdeGrpzkrEtC3w6ke-XpM64mqhx88Dnlt>. If you have questions, email Chris Mornick at the Washington State Department of Health at chris.mornick@doh.wa.gov.



Provider Spotlight — Berta Artiga, Family Home Child Care, Pasco

Berta Artiga has mastered the art of time management, one of the keys to her success as a small business owner, child care provider, union negotiator, recent college graduate and professional mentor. Despite all these activities, she assured us she does manage to find time to sleep.

Berta has owned her in-home program for 19 years, and worked in a child care center for seven years before she opened her own business. She is an active member of the SEIU 925 union, and is a negotiator and a past vice president. She also works with Imagine Institute as a child care mentor, helping new providers get licensed. "I like it a lot because

that program is focusing on helping the monolingual community."

Berta's Child Care Aware of WA coach describes Berta as one of the Early Achievers "pioneers" because she joined right when the program started in 2011. She has been rated a "Quality Level of Excellence" twice and is hoping to rate Level 4 when she rates again. She credits Early Achievers with helping her to learn how to be "more professional."

Recently Berta has both overcome a difficult challenge and experienced great joy. The challenge was when she was diagnosed with COVID-19 and had to close her program for six weeks. Thankfully she had mild illness and did not have to be hospitalized. None of the children or families in her care became ill.

The joy was when one of "her" children who is now in college visited lately and shared that she is currently enrolled in a nursing program. She credits Berta with inspiring her to become a nurse. She remembers a particular circle time when Berta asked her if she wanted to be a nurse because she frequently played with the toy doctor's kit. She is now on her way to making her dream come true and helping others.

Meanwhile, Berta has fully recovered and is back caring for children and families. She knows she is essential and wants to be there for her families.

Advocacy Is A Great Way to Make Your Voice Heard

When child care providers and families advocate for increased funding for child care and early learning programs, they can make a real difference. Our partner organization Child Care Resources in King and Pierce counties recently produced a video about how providers can advocate.

English—<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pi2VD-dwaPU&feature=youtu.be> Spanish—<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5tDPAh37yyU&feature=youtu.be> Arabic—<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5M1HjftTR4&feature=youtu.be> Russian—<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Q0CVDi67c&feature=youtu.be>

Washington Child Care Business Edge Is Better Than Ever

Washington Child Care Business Edge, the free online resource to help Early Achievers providers streamline their small business tasks, is new and improved. We've recently added some budgeting tools to help you determine your best financial path forward and new templates for updating your parent handbooks. Plus, Edge still provides great discounts on things like cleaning and office supplies.

Visit Edge any time to make it easier to manage the business side of your child care small business. <https://www.childcarebizedge.org>



Stay Connected!

Follow us on social media to stay on top of all of the latest Early Achievers news.

CCA of WA on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Child-Care-Aware-of-Washington-149636987661/>

CCA of WA on Instagram at [wachildcarematters](https://www.instagram.com/wachildcarematters)

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