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Resources:

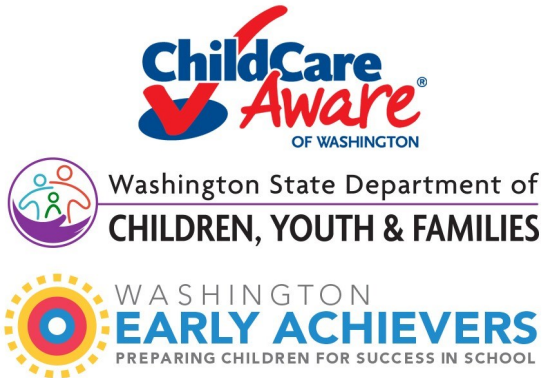
- DCYF resources for child care and early learning programs—<https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/coronavirus-covid-19/early-learning>
- Resources for child care small businesses—<https://childcareawarewa.org/2020/03/13/covid-19-what-can-child-care-providers-do/>
- Questions & Answers about COVID-19 impacts on child 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/>
- Overview of how the Fair Start for Kids Act benefits child care providers and families—<https://childcareawarewa.org/fair-start-for-kids-act-benefits/>



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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EARLY ACHIEVERS NEWS

Summer 2021

Early Achievers News

Summer 2021 will be full of positive changes for Early Achievers participants. Subsidy reimbursement increases became effective July 1, and the new early adopters program for the revisions to Early Achievers will kick off soon. We are so thankful for all Early Achievers participants and advocates for making these changes possible.

The Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families posted new, increased subsidy reimbursement base rates and new Early Achievers tiered reimbursement rates online here: <https://dcyf.wa.gov/services/earlylearning-childcare/getting-help/wccc>. These rate increases, effective July 1, were made possible by the **Fair Start for Kids Act**, signed into law by Governor Inslee on May 7. You can find a map of DCYF’s regions here: https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/EPS_0004.pdf.

Revised Early Achievers will begin with about 100 early adopters this month. We know there has been a lot of provider interest in being an early adopter—thank you for your enthusiasm. Early adopters will be selected from cohort three and will be notified by Cultivate Learning Community Liaisons.

The full launch of the Early Achievers revisions will happen this fall. DCYF, Cultivate Learning and Child Care Aware of Washington have been working alongside other Early Achievers stakeholders, including providers and Early Achievers coaches, to create a quality improvement *recognition* system that is flexible and works well for all participants. One key part of the revisions is that Early Achievers will no longer be a rigid system with “deadlines.” Instead, there are three-year rating cycles that providers can opt into. To learn more, visit DCYF’s Early Achievers revisions web page here: <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/early-learning-providers/early-achievers/cqi>.

Wondering what else is in the Fair Start for Kids Act that benefits providers and families? There are many incentives for providing a range of different child care options, including dual-language, infant and trauma-informed care. Child care subsidies will be expanded to more families starting Oct. 1, 2021 by increasing the financial eligibility threshold and tying it to the state median income instead of to the federal poverty level. You can learn more about the benefits of the Fair Start for Kids Act for providers and families online here: <https://childcareawarewa.org/fair-start-for-kids-act-benefits/>.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy summer. Thank you for all you do.

Summer 2021 News to Use

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Child Care Subsidy Family Copayments Waived July—Sept.

The WA State Department of Children, Youth, and Families is waiving Working Connections Child Care subsidy family copayments for the months of July, August and September. Copayments will resume in October and will be capped at \$115. Some families will pay less. Visit <https://dcyf.wa.gov/services/earlylearning-childcare/getting-help/wccc> for more information.

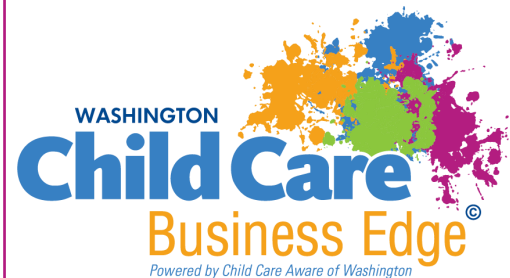
ECE Scholarships

Early Childhood Education scholarships for child care early educators and early learning coaches are available. Child Care Aware of Washington Scholarships provides scholarships for providers who want to earn bachelors degrees and for coaches who want to earn coaching certificates. Learn more online: <https://childcareawarewa.org/providers/#scholarships>.

Washington Child Care Business Edge

Child care providers don't have time or money to waste. Washington Child Care Business Edge helps providers save both. It is a free online resource full of easy-to-use budgeting tools, links to important information, free templates, printables and more.

<https://www.childcarebizedge.org>



Child Care Help for Families Experiencing Homelessness

Despite moratoriums blocking evictions during the pandemic, many families with young children are experiencing homelessness. These families can enroll their young children in quality child care programs at no cost to them for up to 12 months. Child Care Aware of WA's Family Center helps them apply for the Working Connections Child Care Homeless Grace Period program, and helps them find participating child care providers.

Children who experience homelessness often live in highly stressful, unpredictable situations that can harm their emotional, cognitive and behavioral development. Research shows that quality child care can help mitigate these negative impacts in young children because they provide nurturing, safe early learning environments, predictable routines, good nutrition and plenty of opportunities for playtime and young friendships.

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



HOLDING HOPE

Infant-Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation
Provided by Child Care Aware of Washington

Holding Hope—Infant-Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation

Child Care Aware of Washington is launching a new infant-early childhood mental health consultation (IECMHC) program for child care providers and the children and families they serve. The new program is called Holding Hope and it is available to Early Achievers participants.

What is IECMHC? It's sometimes called social and emotional health or emotional wellness. It partners mental health professionals with early childhood professionals to:

- Strengthen and support the efforts of families, child care providers and early childhood systems to promote the optimal social and emotional development of children
- Prevent, identify and reduce the impact of mental health challenges for children and families

IECMHC supports the social and emotional well-being of children and adult caregivers. Contact your coach for more information. <https://childcareawarewa.org/holding-hope/>



Provider Spotlight—Maria Oliva, Oliva's Day Care, Lacey

Sometimes going through stressful times can leave people feeling stronger and more confident afterward than they felt before. This is how Maria Oliva, home child care small business owner, feels about the pandemic.

Early on, she, like most everyone else, faced difficulties adapting to so much change happening so fast, and to finding the essential supplies she needed. She

credits her Early Achievers coach, Nattie Diaz, with helping her find ways to manage everything and keep her program open. At times she had only one child to care for, but Maria was determined to stay open so the child's parent, a healthcare professional, could work.

Keeping open was not the only thing Maria accomplished during these challenging times. She also continued with her college coursework so she could earn her second stackable certificate last month. "She really is an over-achiever," her coach Nattie said. "She is very passionate about the work she does."

"I love applying what I am learning for the children," Maria said.

The families that have attended Oliva's Day Care have benefited in many ways from her dedicated early educating and caregiving. Children receive safe, steady and nurturing care that Maria makes sure includes social-emotional and teamwork learning. The children also learn two languages—English and Spanish, giving them a head start in early language development. Even children who have very few language skills when they enter her program grow to become great speakers of both languages in just a few years. Parents even begin to learn Spanish too.

The families Maria serves often stay in touch long after their children are grown. These lasting friendships are a gift to everyone.



COVID-19 Resources

Resources continue to be available to help small businesses, including child care small businesses, get through these difficult times. Resources include grants, federal and state loan programs, help with utility bills and more. Visit <https://childcareawarewa.org/2020/03/13/covid-19-what-can-child-care-providers-do/> to see what is available.

Health Insurance for Child Care Providers

Child care providers in Washington can get free or reduced cost health insurance via a new program administered by the Washington Health Benefit Exchange, in partnership with DCYF and Yakima Neighborhood Health Services (YNHS). To learn more about how to enroll, simply call YNHS at 509-853-2377 and ask for Sandra, or email navigators@ynhs.org.

Business of Child Care

CCA of WA is helping providers learn how to run successful small businesses through our Business of Child Care course and a partnership with Brightwheel, a child care management system. Participating providers can receive a one-year paid subscription to Brightwheel's all-in-one child care management app. The app allows providers to manage attendance, billing, enrollment, parent communication and more. (Brightwheel is approved by DCYF for use by child care programs that accept child care subsidies.) Contact your coach for more information.

Stay Connected!

Follow us 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)

CCA of WA on Twitter: [@childcarewa](https://twitter.com/childcarewa)

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