

## 2017 WASHINGTON STATE BUDGET PROPOSALS – NOT GOOD FOR CHILD CARE

The Governor and both houses in the state legislature have released their 2017 – 2019 budget proposals.

### GOVERNOR

- Does not increase the Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) base rate
- Reduces Early Achievers funding
- Increases tiered reimbursement by \$13 million
- Funds the SEIU collective bargaining agreement (CBA) for family child care providers
- Provides \$26.3 million for early learning facilities

### SENATE

- Only a 1% increase in the WCCC base rate
- Reduces family access to WCCC
- Eliminates 12-month authorizations for WCCC families
- Does not fully fund the SEIU CBA
- Reduces ECE scholarships by 50%
- Reduces quality improvement awards by 33%
- Reduces needs-based grants by 50%
- Reduces early learning coaching by 40%
- Provides \$18 million for early learning facilities

### HOUSE

- Only a 2% increase in the WCCC base rate
- Increases tiered reimbursement by \$11.8 million
- Fully funds the SEIU CBA
- Requires the Department of Early Learning to work with partners to create a plan to increase child care compensation
- Expands the ECEAP Pathways pilot to allow licensed child care programs to administer ECEAP slots
- Provides \$15.5 million for early learning facilities

### Bottom line: the legislature does not support child care enough

They do not address the struggles licensed programs are facing - extremely low wages and WCCC reimbursement rates. The WCCC base rate has fallen far short of what it costs to provide quality care, leaving centers with no options other than increasing the rates of private-pay families. The two proposals to increase WCCC rates are inadequate, falling millions short of even covering the cost of the new minimum wage increase.

The Senate budget goes even further, proposing harmful restrictions to families on WCCC and big reductions in Early Achievers supports, including coaching, scholarships, awards and grants. The Senate budget would severely restrict access to child care for newly employed single mothers, and would drastically cut child care quality improvement work statewide.

If our field does not make its concerns heard **RIGHT NOW**, these harmful cuts will become reality. Please use our Advocacy Action Center at <http://wa.childcareaware.org/about-us/advocacy> to easily contact your elected officials.

Ask them to:

- Invest at least \$40 million into the WCCC base rate
- Ensure eligible families can always access WCCC as soon as they get a job, and children benefit from continuity of care with 12-month authorizations
- Require DEL to work with partners to create a plan for increasing child care wages
- Expand the ECEAP Pathways pilot so licensed programs can participate in ECEAP
- Protect Early Achievers supports

