

## Washington State Department of Early Learning Budget Fact Sheet

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What the Department of Early Learning does:

- Oversees the state-funded preschool program for at-risk 3- and 4-year-olds (the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program, or ECEAP).
- Licenses and monitors more than 7,400 licensed child care facilities in the state serving about 174,000 children and their families.
- Sets the rules for Working Connections Child Care, a subsidy program that provides money to child care providers and relatives who care for children while parents work, look for work or are in approved training. We also oversee subsidy programs for families who are homeless or employed in the seasonal agricultural industry.
- Invests in and supports other initiatives to help ensure children in Washington grow up safe, healthy and ready to succeed in school.

|                          | State           | Other         | Federal         | Total           |
|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 2007-09 Operating Budget | \$131.5 million | \$1.6 million | \$200.7 million | \$333.8 million |
| Maintenance Level        | \$133.4 million | \$2.0 million | \$220.2 million | \$355.6 million |
| 2009-11 Operating Budget | \$121.3 million | 0             | \$244.9 million | \$366.2 million |

Reductions and actions we are taking:

- Reducing ECEAP by 2.1 percent (173 slots).
- Reducing the number of orientation sessions held in the state for those interested in becoming a licensed child care provider, and exploring ways to offer orientation online.
- Reducing agency administration.

Programs and services we will continue to deliver:

- Child care licensing and monitoring.

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- Administration of ECEAP and monitoring of ECEAP contractors around the state to ensure quality.
- Serving as state lead for the federal Child Care and Development Fund grant, which funds subsidies and other initiatives to improve child care quality and accessibility.
- Partnering with Thrive by Five Washington to test our state's quality rating and improvement system.
- Providing subsidies for homeless and seasonal child care.
- Managing the Career & Wage Ladder program.
- Providing child care resource & referral services.

For more information, visit <http://www.del.wa.gov/government/legislature/budget.aspx> or contact:

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