



2025 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Child Care for WA is a campaign to ensure that families have access to high-quality affordable care that meets their needs and early educators are fairly compensated for the essential work they do with living wages and benefits. In the 2025 legislative session, we call on Washington lawmakers to:

- Maintain the promise of the Fair Start for Kids Act – *Operating Budget*
 - Increase eligibility for Washington’s child care subsidy program, Working Connections Child Care (WCCC), to 75% of state median income.
 - Increase WCCC provider rates to the 85th percentile of the most recent market rate survey.
 - Honor the commitment to Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) expansion by investing in meaningful rate increases, adding 500 new school-day slots, and converting 250 part-day slots to school-day slots. Respond to current needs in the field by delaying full implementation of the entitlement (currently set for 2026).
- Ensure that WCCC rates reflect the true cost to provide high quality care, including living wages and benefits for early educators, by establishing in law that the state must use the Cost of Quality Care Rate model to set subsidy rates - *HB 1350 (Representative Cortes)/SB 5500 (Senator Alvarado)*
- Increase capacity for early learning by investing \$50 million in the Early Learning Facilities (ELF) Fund and \$8.6 million in the ELF Public School District Program. Additionally, pass bipartisan legislation to make the ELF Fund accessible to more early learning providers - *HB 1314 (Representatives Callan and Abbarno)/SB 5297 (Senators Trudeau and Torres).*

Read our long-term policy platform at bit.ly/our-policy-platform to learn how our 2025 priorities build toward solving the child care crisis once and for all.



Learn more about the Child Care for WA campaign at www.childcareforwa.org