

## 2025-27 Governor Inslee Budget Proposal Highlights

The full budget proposal can be found here: <https://ofm.wa.gov/budget/state-budgets/gov-inslees-proposed-2025-27-budgets>

<b>Partners for Our Children Priorities</b>				
<b>Budget item</b>	<b>Funding request</b>	<b>State agency</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Governor's Budget (state funds)</b>
Conserve federal benefits for children in care of DCYF	\$11,737,000	DCYF	Funding is needed to backfill lost revenue in order to discontinue DCYF's practice of retaining SSI and other federal benefits entitled to children in its care due to a disability or the death of a parent.	Not included
Kinship Care legal aid	\$567,000	OCLA	Funding is needed to address staffing capacity gaps in the Legal Advice and Referral for Kinship (LAARK) program so that kinship caregivers get the support they need to keep children safe, explore guardianship, and keep children out of the formal dependency system.	Included
Child welfare housing assistance program	\$2,400,000	DCYF	Funding is needed to address the current and anticipated waitlist for families who need housing to reunite or avoid separation.	Not included
Rising Strong	\$4,853,438	DCYF	Rising Strong provides family-centered drug treatment and housing for families experiencing substance use disorder. Additional state funding is needed for the Rising Strong program to continue.	Included at \$4,702,000
Home Visiting rates and slots	\$7,800,000 for rate	DCYF	Additional funding is needed for the home visiting rate to meet the true cost of providing the service.	Not included

DCYF- Department of Children, Youth, and Families  
 JR- Juvenile Rehabilitation  
 DSHS- Department of Social and Health Services  
 ESA- Economic Services Administration

OSPI- Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction  
 AOC- Administrative Office of the Courts  
 OPD- Office of Public Defense  
 OCLA- Office of Civil Legal Aid

	increase; \$3,500,000 for slots		Ongoing funding is needed to continue the contracted home visiting slots established through SB 6109 in 2024.	
Community-based Family Reconciliation Services (FRS)	\$15,012,000	DCYF	Funding is needed to implement a community-based, culturally appropriate approach to delivering FRS to families experiencing conflict.	Not included
Family Preservation Services (FPS)	\$3,500,000	DCYF	FPS is part of combined in-home services and among the most highly accessed service lines by families in the child welfare system. Funding is needed to maintain existing service capacity by making the 2024 one-time rate increase ongoing.	Included
Housing for youth in Extended Foster Care	TBD	DCYF	13 percent (141) of young people in Extended Foster Care experienced homelessness in SFY 2024. Housing support is available through the federal Foster Youth to Independence program but does not allow youth to be enrolled in EFC, forcing young people to choose between housing and their other basic needs. A state-funded housing program would provide housing stability alongside financial support to youth in EFC.	Not included

DCYF- Department of Children, Youth, and Families  
 JR- Juvenile Rehabilitation  
 DSHS- Department of Social and Health Services  
 ESA- Economic Services Administration

OSPI- Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction  
 AOC- Administrative Office of the Courts  
 OPD- Office of Public Defense  
 OCLA- Office of Civil Legal Aid

## Other Budget Highlights

Child Welfare			
Budget item	State agency	Description	Governor's Budget (state funds)
Basic Foster Care Rate	DCYF	Funding is provided to phase-in an increase to the basic foster care rate over four years, implementing half the cost of full care in the first fiscal year and getting to full cost of care in fiscal year 2029.	\$7,362,000
Rising Strong	DCYF	Rising Strong provides family-centered drug treatment and housing for families experiencing substance use disorder. Additional state funding is needed for the Rising Strong program to continue.	\$4,702,000
D.S Compliance	DCYF	A class action lawsuit was settled regarding youth experiencing placement instability through night-to-night placements in hotels and overnight stays in DCYF offices. Funding is provided for improvements to the Adolescent Transitional Living Program, Hub Homes, Exceptional Placements, Receiving Care, and plaintiff legal fees.	\$19,911,000
Independent Living	DCYF	The enacted 2023-25 biennial budget issued a one-time rate increase for independent living services. Funding is provided to make this rate increase ongoing to maintain service capacity.	\$1,500,000
Family Preservation Services (FPS)	DCYF	FPS is part of combined in-home services and among the most highly accessed service lines by families in the child welfare system. Funding is needed to	\$3,500,000

DCYF- Department of Children, Youth, and Families  
 JR- Juvenile Rehabilitation  
 DSHS- Department of Social and Health Services  
 ESA- Economic Services Administration

OSPI- Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction  
 AOC- Administrative Office of the Courts  
 OPD- Office of Public Defense  
 OCLA- Office of Civil Legal Aid

		maintain existing service capacity by making the 2024 one-time rate increase ongoing.	
LifeSet	DCYF	LifeSet is a comprehensive, community-based intervention model designed to serve young people 17-22 years old who have been involved in the foster care, juvenile justice, and mental health systems or who find themselves without the necessary skills and resources to make a successful transition to adulthood. Funding is provided to expand to an additional two sites for a statewide total of six LifeSet sites.	\$1,416,000
Intercept	DCYF	Intercept is an evidence-based, comprehensive in-home services model that works to prevent or limit out-of-home placement for youth from birth to age 18 who are involved in child welfare, children's mental health, and/or juvenile justice systems. Funding is provided to maintain the existing two sites through the biennium.	\$872,000
Plan of Safe Care (POSC)	DCYF	A POSC is a family-centered prevention plan designed to promote the safety and well-being of birthing parents and their infants with prenatal substance exposure. DCYF currently supports POSC for pregnant women in nine counties and substance-exposed infants in some birthing hospitals. Funding is provided to expand POSC for substance-exposed infants to all birthing hospitals and for pregnant women in three additional counties.	\$1,220,000

DCYF- Department of Children, Youth, and Families  
JR- Juvenile Rehabilitation  
DSHS- Department of Social and Health Services  
ESA- Economic Services Administration

OSPI- Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction  
AOC- Administrative Office of the Courts  
OPD- Office of Public Defense  
OCLA- Office of Civil Legal Aid

Continue prevention pilot	DCYF	Funding is provided for DCYF to continue its contract with a countywide nonprofit organization with early childhood expertise in Pierce County for a project to prevent child abuse and neglect using nationally recognized models. The project includes a countywide resource and referral linkage system for families of children who are prenatal through age five and a voluntary, brief newborn home visiting program.	\$2,500,000
Positive Indian Parenting (PIP)	DCYF	PIP is an evidence-based program that is used to help Tribal families reunite with their children. Funding and staffing is provided to implement PIP in three locations underserved by culturally responsive programming, which includes a Western and Eastern Washington location.	\$777,000
Risk mitigation	DCYF	The number of critical incident reviews has increased in recent years. Critical incident reviews result in improvements in DCYF practice and policy that enhance safety for children and families involved in the child welfare system. Funding is provided for an additional critical incident review staff member.	\$243,000
Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS)	DCYF	The Department currently uses a child welfare case management system, FamLink, which is Washington state's Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System. FamLink's complexity limits DCYF's ability to make system changes resulting from federal rule changes, streamline functionality to support day-to-day case management work, and ensure interoperability with other state IT systems.	\$33,093,000

DCYF- Department of Children, Youth, and Families  
JR- Juvenile Rehabilitation  
DSHS- Department of Social and Health Services  
ESA- Economic Services Administration

OSPI- Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction  
AOC- Administrative Office of the Courts  
OPD- Office of Public Defense  
OCLA- Office of Civil Legal Aid

		DCYF can also claim additional federal funds once the CCWIS is complete. Funding and staffing are provided for the next phase, which includes starting the design, development, and implementation phase, completing procurement, and beginning organizational change management.	
Combined In Home Services Underspend	DCYF	Savings are captured to reflect underspending in combined in home services.	(\$2,914,000)
Commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) and missing tribal youth	DCYF	SSSB 6006 requires DCYF to use a validated screening tool to screen children and youth for commercial sexual abuse and integrate labor trafficking into its definitions. In addition, DCYF has a unit to locate dependent children missing from care, which is difficult in the case of Tribal dependent children due to jurisdictional limitations. Funding is provided for two screeners to fill a need in the remaining regions so CSEC screening can take place statewide, a position to integrate labor trafficking into DCYF practices, and a missing Tribal youth locator position.	\$1,129,000
CSEC receiving centers	DCYF	There is funding in the enacted budget for DCYF to contract for receiving centers for CSEC. However, this funding is far too low to enter into a contract for such services and consequently, remains unexpended. This underspend is captured as savings.	(\$2,000,000)

DCYF- Department of Children, Youth, and Families  
 JR- Juvenile Rehabilitation  
 DSHS- Department of Social and Health Services  
 ESA- Economic Services Administration

OSPI- Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction  
 AOC- Administrative Office of the Courts  
 OPD- Office of Public Defense  
 OCLA- Office of Civil Legal Aid

<b>Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR)</b>			
<b>Budget item</b>	<b>State agency</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Governor's Budget (state funds)</b>
Stafford Creek	DCYF	With this funding, DCYF will open a 48-bed unit on the campus of the Stafford Creek Corrections Center to add capacity for youth sentenced to JR. This is intended to address the overcrowding that has occurred at Green Hill School.	\$31,272,000
Opioid use disorder (OUD) intervention contract	DCYF	This funding continues a contract with Seattle Children's Hospital for a team of opioid use interventionists and education focused on youth just before and after their release from JR.	\$2,096,000
Classification specialists	DCYF	This funding provides three specialists to create and run a formal classification process to provide more frequent individualized security-level reviews, ensuring the youth are in the most appropriate placement during their sentence.	\$798,000
Infractions specialists	DCYF	This funding supports two positions to create and implement an infractions policy at Echo Glen and Green Hill to better respond to incidents of violence or harmful behaviors to promote a more rehabilitative environment	\$518,000

DCYF- Department of Children, Youth, and Families  
 JR- Juvenile Rehabilitation  
 DSHS- Department of Social and Health Services  
 ESA- Economic Services Administration

OSPI- Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction  
 AOC- Administrative Office of the Courts  
 OPD- Office of Public Defense  
 OCLA- Office of Civil Legal Aid

		and be more consistent when making referrals to law enforcement.	
EG perimeter security	DCYF	The Echo Glen campus does not currently have a perimeter fence to deter and prevent youth escapes. DCYF is in the process of building a full fence and is using this funding in the interim to have private security forces patrol the perimeter of the facility 24 hours a day, seven days a week.	\$3,494,000
Surveillance records system	DCYF	This funding will implement a new system for video recording and storage of critical incidents that occur on JR campuses, allowing DCYF to respond in a timely way to incidents and video records requests.	\$3,976,000
Naselle warm closure costs	DCYF	DCYF discontinued housing youth at the Naselle Youth Camp in 2022, but has a small team on campus to maintain security and basic operations. This funding will continue to cover those 'warm closure' costs as the state works with partners and community to determine the next use of the facility.	\$1,418,000

DCYF- Department of Children, Youth, and Families  
 JR- Juvenile Rehabilitation  
 DSHS- Department of Social and Health Services  
 ESA- Economic Services Administration

OSPI- Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction  
 AOC- Administrative Office of the Courts  
 OPD- Office of Public Defense  
 OCLA- Office of Civil Legal Aid

Early Learning			
Budget item	State agency	Description	Governor's Budget (state funds)
Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) entitlement date	DCYF	ECEAP was scheduled to become an entitlement by the 2026-27 school year. The date is delayed until the 2030-31 school year.	(\$145,894,000)
ECEAP rate increase	DCYF	An 18% rate increase on school-day slots is provided in fiscal year 2026 to stabilize and encourage growth among ECEAP providers to continue to make progress toward entitlement.	\$55,683,000
ECEAP slot conversion/expansion	DCYF	Funding is provided in fiscal year 2027 to convert 250 part-day slots to school-day slots and add another 500 school-day slots.	\$9,393,000
ECEAP underspend	DCYF	Part-day slots are in low demand by providers and families and do not offer the dosage of preschool hours that children need. 845 unfilled part-day slots are reduced and captured as savings.	(\$17,040,000)
Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) 75% SMI expansion date	DCYF	The Fair Start for Kids Act requires the WCCC program to expand to 75% of state median income (SMI) in fiscal year 2026. Expansion is delayed until fiscal year 2031.	(\$119,503,000)
WCCC outreach	DCYF	The WCCC program is available to families who are 60% state median income or below but is currently underutilized. Funding is provided for subsidy benefit outreach,	\$4,800,000

DCYF- Department of Children, Youth, and Families  
 JR- Juvenile Rehabilitation  
 DSHS- Department of Social and Health Services  
 ESA- Economic Services Administration

OSPI- Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction  
 AOC- Administrative Office of the Courts  
 OPD- Office of Public Defense  
 OCLA- Office of Civil Legal Aid

		including two FTEs to increase utilization of the WCCC program.	
Consolidate seasonal childcare	DCYF	The seasonal childcare program is unused, and this population is now captured in the WCCC forecast, making this proviso redundant. This step captures unutilized funding as savings.	(\$3,120,000)
Family childcare collective bargaining agreement (CBA)	DCYF	Consistent with the 2025-27 CBA, funding is provided for a Family, Friends, and Neighbors per hour rate increase from \$4.00 to \$4.50 beginning in fiscal year 2026; a cost of care rate enhancement increase for licensed providers from \$2,100 to \$2,200 per month beginning in fiscal year 2026; and a monthly health care contribution increase from \$646,000 to \$878,500 in fiscal year 2026 and \$925,000 in fiscal year 2027.	\$183,539,000
Transitional Kindergarten TA	OSPI	Funding is provided for the office of superintendent of public instruction to distribute grants, in collaboration with DCYF to support school districts in implementing blended early childhood education and assistance program and transition to kindergarten classrooms	\$2,000,000

DCYF- Department of Children, Youth, and Families  
JR- Juvenile Rehabilitation  
DSHS- Department of Social and Health Services  
ESA- Economic Services Administration

OSPI- Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction  
AOC- Administrative Office of the Courts  
OPD- Office of Public Defense  
OCLA- Office of Civil Legal Aid

<b>Human Services</b>			
<b>Budget item</b>	<b>State agency</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Governor's Budget</b>
Eliminate ABD recoveries	DSHS/ESA	This eliminates DSHS's garnishment of a portion of the Social Security Income (SSI) lump-sum payment received by recipients of the ABD program, effective October 1, 2025. Recipients will no longer have to pay back ABD cash benefits received during months in which they also received a backdated SSI payment.	\$66,322,000
Supports for unaccompanied children	DSHS/ESA	One-time funding is provided for supports for unaccompanied immigrant children and their sponsors.	\$500,000
Legal aid for low-income immigrants	Commerce	This funding provides legal aid for asylum seekers, undocumented immigrants, and refugees. It is part of a cross-agency approach in which DSHS funds short-term legal services and Commerce funds the highest risk, most legally complex cases. Maintaining at current funding level will continue full representation of 5,000 cases and partial representation and consultation for 9,000 clients.	\$14,000,000
Continue Office of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance (ORIA) support services	DSHS/ESA	Funding and staffing are provided to ORIA to offer expanded support services for individuals newly arriving to the United States who do not qualify for federal refugee resettlement program services. Supports	\$25,000,000

DCYF- Department of Children, Youth, and Families  
 JR- Juvenile Rehabilitation  
 DSHS- Department of Social and Health Services  
 ESA- Economic Services Administration

OSPI- Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction  
 AOC- Administrative Office of the Courts  
 OPD- Office of Public Defense  
 OCLA- Office of Civil Legal Aid

		include, but are not limited to, housing, immigration-related legal services, case management, and navigation assistance.	
Support for victims of crime	Commerce	Federal funding for services for victims of crime is volatile and insufficient to meet community needs. This funding will supplement federal funds so that victims of assault, abuse, harassment, and similar offenses can receive services including emergency shelter and safety, therapy, legal aid, forensic exams and interviews, support groups, therapy, and more.	\$20,000,000
Supporting SNAP tribal expansion	DSHS/ESA	Funding is provided for staffing, system enhancements, and other Tribal costs associated with the expansion of SNAP Tribal Eligibility Determination Project to an additional five Tribes. This project allows participating Tribes the ability to design and operate appropriate, culturally relevant programs directly to their Tribal members with the intent of increasing access to food assistance within their communities.	\$355,000
WorkFirst services underspend	DSHS/ESA	Funding is reduced to align with projected under expenditures of WorkFirst services	(\$4,000,000)

DCYF- Department of Children, Youth, and Families  
 JR- Juvenile Rehabilitation  
 DSHS- Department of Social and Health Services  
 ESA- Economic Services Administration

OSPI- Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction  
 AOC- Administrative Office of the Courts  
 OPD- Office of Public Defense  
 OCLA- Office of Civil Legal Aid

<b>Housing</b>			
<b>Budget item</b>	<b>State agency</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Governor's Budget</b>
Foreclosure prevention services	Commerce	Commerce administers homeowner foreclosure prevention services through interagency agreements with the Housing Finance Commission, the Attorney General's Office, Office of Civil Legal Aid, and the Washington Homeownership Resource Center. The fee-funded Foreclosure Fairness Account is dedicated to support these services, but it has never been sufficient to meet demand. This funding will maintain service levels.	\$4,239,000
Home and Hope housing	Commerce	This item continues contracts to increase housing supply and equitable housing outcomes.	\$1,700,000
Housing account adjustments	Commerce	Revenues that support homelessness and housing programs are insufficient to keep current service levels. This funding will continue grants to communities for shelter, eviction interventions, housing options for youth, homelessness prevention services, landlord mitigation programs, and maintaining permanent supportive housing units.	\$31,459,000 (this funding comes from non-general state sources)
Balance encampment resolution program	Commerce	The encampment resolution program is a joint activity between the Department of	(\$13,500,000)

DCYF- Department of Children, Youth, and Families  
 JR- Juvenile Rehabilitation  
 DSHS- Department of Social and Health Services  
 ESA- Economic Services Administration

OSPI- Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction  
 AOC- Administrative Office of the Courts  
 OPD- Office of Public Defense  
 OCLA- Office of Civil Legal Aid

		Commerce and Department of Transportation. Reducing Commerce's funding will ensure the total program funding level is balanced across these departments, leaving enough for each agency to maintain existing service levels.	
--	--	--	--

<b>Legal Aid</b>			
<b>Budget item</b>	<b>State agency</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Governor's Budget</b>
Kinship Care legal aid	OCLA	Funding is needed to address staffing capacity gaps in the Legal Advice and Referral for Kinship (LAARK) program so that kinship caregivers get the support they need to keep children safe, explore guardianship, and keep children out of the formal dependency system.	\$567,000
Extend court self-help centers	AOC	Trial courts serve a significant number of litigants without legal representation, mainly in the areas of family law, protection orders, landlord-tenant disputes, and minor guardianships. Pilot programs in Grays Harbor and Spokane counties funded self-help centers to assist unrepresented litigants. This item continues funding for self-help centers.	\$2,080,000
Stabilize interpreter reimbursement program	AOC	Funding is provided for greater interpreter access to the court system and language services to court customers in the 125 contracted courts. Increasing the use of	\$1,800,000

DCYF- Department of Children, Youth, and Families  
 JR- Juvenile Rehabilitation  
 DSHS- Department of Social and Health Services  
 ESA- Economic Services Administration

OSPI- Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction  
 AOC- Administrative Office of the Courts  
 OPD- Office of Public Defense  
 OCLA- Office of Civil Legal Aid

		credentialed court interpreters and translating materials increases access to justice for court users who are not proficient in English or who are deaf or hard of hearing.	
Improve family law and DV research	AOC	This item funds a family law and domestic violence researcher position. Significant data and information gaps in the areas of family law and domestic violence in the justice system will be filled, allowing researchers, the courts, and the public to better understand access to justice issues, disparities, needs and trends	\$418,000
Enhance behavioral health program	AOC	Funding is provided to operate the Behavioral Health Program which will establish a central location for therapeutic court data and hire a Sequential Intercept Model Coordinator. Additional data is needed to address education, technical assistance, and support for therapeutic courts.	\$780,000
Tenant right to counsel	OCLA	The Low-Income Tenant Appointed Counsel Program provides legal representation to indigent tenants in unlawful detainer cases. This funding addresses a substantial increase in eviction filings, the increased need in King County, and a vendor rate adjustment to maintain current service levels and meet rising operating costs.	\$8,874,000
Client emergency fund	OPD	Funding to respond to emergency safety issues and other urgent needs that arise for	\$80,000

DCYF- Department of Children, Youth, and Families  
 JR- Juvenile Rehabilitation  
 DSHS- Department of Social and Health Services  
 ESA- Economic Services Administration

OSPI- Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction  
 AOC- Administrative Office of the Courts  
 OPD- Office of Public Defense  
 OCLA- Office of Civil Legal Aid

		indigent clients served by the Parents Representation Program is provided. Examples include securing short-term safety for parent clients experiencing domestic violence, and covering emergency moving services, utility bills, transportation, and food assistance. Failure to timely address these needs can adversely impact a client's dependency case.	
Parents for Parents statewide operations	OPD	This item funds the Parents for Parents (P4P) peer mentoring program and stabilizes statewide operations. OPD contracts with nonprofit Akin to engage community host organizations and county coordinators and serves as the P4P statewide technical administrator.	\$2,500,000
Service capacity for incarcerated parents	OPD	Funding is provided to expand the capacity of the Incarcerated Parents Project (IPP) that helps incarcerated parents maintain and strengthen family connections. The nonprofit Washington Defender Association hosts the IPP and will hire a paralegal to assist the IPP resource attorney who currently implements the project without support staff.	\$220,000

DCYF- Department of Children, Youth, and Families  
 JR- Juvenile Rehabilitation  
 DSHS- Department of Social and Health Services  
 ESA- Economic Services Administration

OSPI- Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction  
 AOC- Administrative Office of the Courts  
 OPD- Office of Public Defense  
 OCLA- Office of Civil Legal Aid