

## Child Care Development Fund Plan

### Strategies to Increase the Supply and Improve the Quality of Care for Infants and Toddlers

**4.6.1** Has Washington conducted data analysis of existing and growing supply of needs?

Yes, describe data sources.

If no, how does the State/Territory determine most critical supply needs?

Data Source	Describe Data Sources
Child Care Aware of Washington Data Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="#">2014 Annual Data Report - NEW!</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">2014 Annual Data Report Appendices</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">2014 County Data Reports Updates</a> (February 2014)</li> <li>▪ Early Head Start PIR</li> </ul>
2008 Parent Needs Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="#">Executive Summary</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Survey Report</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Focus Group Report</a></li> </ul> <p>Consider conducting an updated needs assessment.</p>
Modeling the <a href="#">Cost of Quality in Early Achievers</a>	Shows the need for increasing subsidy rates to adequately cover the cost of quality.
Subsidy data portal	Regional and total breakdowns of subsidy recipients by age group.

**4.6.2** Describe what methods are used to increase supply and improve quality for:

A. Infants and Toddlers	Check the box? Describe.
Grants and contracts (as discussed in 4.1.3)	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEL contracts with regional agencies to provide interdisciplinary consultation to licensed child care providers to improve the quality of care for infants and toddlers.</li> <li>• Needs based grants are provided for Family Child Care Homes to provide technical assistance support surrounding environments for mixed age delivery of program</li> </ul>
Family child care networks	
Start-up funding and technical assistance support	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical assistance is provided through coaching to child care providers enrolled in the QRIS. Consultation focuses on health, infant mental health, early learning and teacher-child interactions to improve the quality of care for infants and toddlers</li> </ul>
Recruitment of providers	

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A. Infants and Toddlers	Check the box? Describe.
Tiered payment rates (as discussed in 4.4.1)	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tiered reimbursement is available for Early Achievers facilities that rate as a “Quality Level of Excellence”</li> <li>▪ The base rate for child care subsidy is scheduled to increase on July 1, 2016, which will benefit all child care providers. The tiered payment rate will also increase for eligible child care providers as a result of this change.</li> </ul>
Others?	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improve the quality of child care (center-based and family child care home) by providing comprehensive services through partnerships between child care providers and Early Head Start. The Consortium for High Quality I/T Care was established to support providers applying for the 2014 Federal Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Grant. State partners agree to contribute resources and develop policy supports that prioritize services for programs that join the Consortium. Program members agree to commit to common state quality standards and outcome measures, and to contribute to statewide learning about the resources, practices and strategies infant/toddler programs need to implement high quality care and services.</li> <li>▪ The Washington State Association for Infant Mental Health (WA-AIMH) brought the Michigan Endorsement System for Infant Mental Health. The endorsement is a way to verify that a professional has attained specific education and training and has acquired the necessary competencies to deliver high quality services to young children and their parents and caregivers. [Roxanne will add information about the Infant Mental Health consultation.]</li> </ul>

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#### 7.3 Improving the Supply and Quality of Child Care Programs and Services for Infants and Toddlers

**7.3.1** What activities are being implemented by the State/Territory to improve the supply and quality of child care programs and services for infants and toddlers? Check all that apply and describe.

Strategies	Current or Planned Activities	Measures to evaluate progress*
Establishing or expanding high-quality community or neighborhood-based family and child development centers, which may serve as resources to child care providers in order to improve the quality of early childhood services provided to infants and toddlers from low-income families and to help eligible child care providers improve their capacity to offer high-quality, age-appropriate care to infants and toddlers from low-income families.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. DEL is seeking funding to support pathways for child care providers to become ECEAP contractors. DEL would work with local partners to provide shared services, so centers and family homes that care for infant, toddler and preschool-age children will access more resources.</li> </ol>	
Establishing or expanding the operation of community or neighborhood-based family child care networks.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Early Achievers supports informal family home child care peer networks through points from participating in reflective practice meetings.</li> <li>2. Explore the possibility of providing support networks through Early Head Start Child Care Partnership grantees</li> <li>3. DEL could contract with local family child care associations/networks to provide professional development opportunities and access to resources and information. (WA State Family Child Care Association and local chapters, SEIU 925, Pierce county group?)</li> </ol>	
Providing training and professional development to promote and expand child care providers' ability to provide developmentally appropriate services for infants and toddlers.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improve the quality of child care (center-based and family child care home) by providing comprehensive services through partnerships between child care providers and Early Head Start. The Consortium for High Quality I/T Care was established to support providers applying for the 2014 Federal Early Head Start-</li> </ol>	

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Strategies	Current or Planned Activities	Measures to evaluate progress*
	<p>Child Care Partnership Grant. State partners agree to contribute resources and develop policy supports that prioritize services for programs that join the Consortium. Program members agree to commit to common state quality standards and outcome measures, and to contribute to statewide learning about the resources, practices and strategies infant/toddler programs need to implement high quality care and services.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Explore the possibility of working with Early Educator Central. DEL would need a way to verify courses taken to be recognized in MERIT. Could set up matriculation agreements or get CEUs.</li> <li>3. WA is developing a cross-sector professional development consortium.</li> </ol>	
Providing coaching and/or technical assistance on this age group’s unique needs from Statewide networks of qualified infant-toddler specialists.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Providing interdisciplinary infant/toddler coaching to licensed child care settings to improve the quality of care for infants and toddlers.</li> </ol>	
Coordinating with early intervention specialists who provide services for infants and toddlers with disabilities under part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Child care providers have been learning about developmental screening and connection to services through a variety of ways: Some local health departments have provided training; some Infant Toddler Consultation programs have provided training; some regional training centers have provided training; literature for parents provided to Early Achievers child care facilities for distribution. (Not yet systematized – not consistent around state)</li> </ol>	
Developing infant and toddler components within the State’s QRIS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. DEL is exploring how to include infant/toddler components for the next version of Early Achievers quality standards. DEL will establish a work group to explore how quality standards can be modified for the specific needs of infants and toddlers. Will base changes on UW Evaluation study, FIND data, B-3 subcommittee, Early Achievers Review Subcommittee, etc.</li> </ol>	
Developing infant and toddler components within the State’s child care	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. DEL is working with stakeholders to align licensing standards with ECEAP within the Early Achievers quality framework.</li> </ol>	

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Strategies	Current or Planned Activities	Measures to evaluate progress*
licensing regulations.	Pulling information from ITERS and I/T CLASS. Looking at EHS standards as the top tier, Caring for Our Children, licensing WACs, etc.	
Developing infant and toddler components within the early learning and development guidelines	1. Infant and toddler components are integrated within the early learning and development guidelines.	
Improving the ability of parents to access transparent and easy to understand consumer information about high quality infant and toddler care.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. DEL provides information about the quality of child care and early education programs to parents through an online search tool.</li> <li>2. DEL will create a single source of clear and easily accessible information for parents and caregivers to access details on providers' QRIS rating level, licensing history, and other indicators of quality and safety that will help parents and caregivers make informed choices.</li> <li>3. DEL provides information, support, and education to Family Friend and Neighbor providers of infants and toddlers through Play &amp; Learn groups.</li> </ol>	
Carrying out other activities determined by the State to improve the quality of infant and toddler care provided in the State, and for which there is evidence that the activities will lead to improved infant and toddler health and safety, infant and toddler cognitive and physical development, or infant and toddler well-being.	1. Piloting and expanding implementation of FIND (Filming Interactions to Nurture Development) through Infant/Toddler consultations.	
Other	1.	

\* 7.3.2 Describe the measures relevant to this activity that Washington will use to evaluate the State's progress in improving the quality of child care programs and services in the State.