

Access to High-Quality Preschool: A National Security Imperative

Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP)

69 percent of today's young adults in Washington State cannot join the military

As military leaders look ahead, they are increasingly concerned that there are not enough qualified candidates to defend our nation. This concern stems from problems including education, obesity, crime and drug abuse that render many young adults ineligible for military service.¹

If we do not address such problems early on in children's lives, the nation risks a shortage of qualified recruits—one that will leave the country vulnerable for years to come and threaten the strength of the future military.

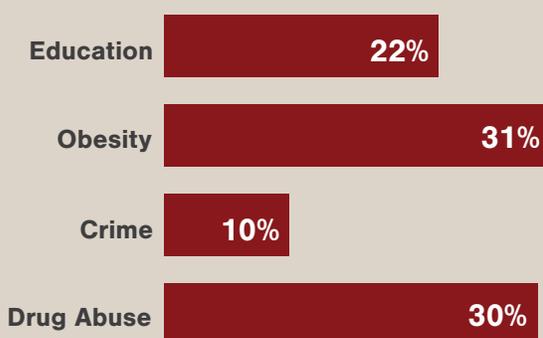
Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) can help children succeed

In Washington, only 44 percent of students are entering kindergarten ready to learn.² Research shows that high-quality pre-K, including instruction in literacy and math, helps children:

Do well in school: More than 90 percent of students who participate in two years of ECEAP were ready for kindergarten in five of six developmental domains.³ ECEAP students also scored significantly higher in math and

Common Barriers to Military Service

US Population of Young Adults Ages 17-24



Note: Young Adults can be counted in more than one category.

reading in third to fifth grade compared to their peers who did not participate in ECEAP.⁴

Achieve a healthy weight: Pre-K programs that emphasize healthy eating, physical activity and parent engagement can help lower child obesity rates by five to 24 percent.⁵

Stay on the right side of the law: Studies of two high-quality pre-K programs found that participating children were less likely to have criminal records as adults.⁶

2017-2019 Budget Request for ECEAP

- 1. Invest in quality** by increasing the per child reimbursement. The current reimbursement rate does not reflect the true cost of services.
- 2. Serve more children** by funding more slots. The unmet need—eligible children without available slots—is 7,400.
- 3. Create more learning space.** Providers need assistance—such as in the form of grant programs and technical assistance—with acquiring, renovating and building new classroom space.

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children in ECEAP have a parent who is or was recently in the military⁷

For additional information contact Mission: Readiness Washington Director Kristin Wiggins, kwiggins@missionreadiness.org, (206) 375-6081

¹ 2013 Qualified Military Available (QMA), personal communication with the Accession Policy and Joint Advertising, Market Research and Studies teams at the Department of Defense, July 2014.

² <http://www.k12.wa.us/WaKIDS/Data/WaKIDS-2015-data-summary.pdf>

³ https://del-public-files.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/ECEAP_Outcomes_2015-16.pdf

⁴ http://www.wsipp.wa.gov/ReportFile/1576/Wsipp_Outcome-Evaluation-of-Washington-States-Early-Childhood-Education-and-Assistance-Program_Report.pdf

⁵ http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/cdp/cdp_pan_staff-home.shtml; <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6049a1.htm>; www.rwjf.org/healthpolicy; http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2012/12_0118.htm; http://www.southernobesitysummit.org/uploads/1/4/5/7/14570646/jerome_kolbo.pdf

⁶ jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/193816 ; <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ed366433>

⁷ Washington State Association of Head Start and ECEAP

Mission: Readiness

Retired admirals and generals strengthening national security by ensuring kids stay in school, stay fit, and stay out of trouble

Council for a Strong America is a national, bipartisan nonprofit that unites five organizations comprised of law enforcement leaders, retired admirals and generals, business executives, pastors, and prominent coaches and athletes who promote solutions that ensure our next generation of Americans will be citizen-ready.

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