

Access to Quality Early Learning Can Reduce Crime

Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP)

The Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), Washington's voluntary, high-quality preschool program, serves the most vulnerable three- and four-year olds. Children are eligible for ECEAP if their family income is **below 110% of the federal poverty level** (\$26,235 for a family of four), they have special needs or their family has risk factors such as homelessness or domestic violence. ECEAP is offered as part-day (2.5 hours), full-day (5.5 to 6.5 hours) or extended day (at least 10 hours).

We must increase ECEAP slots, fund quality and address infrastructure

Slot Expansion. The Early Start Act of 2015 extended the deadline to serve all eligible children to the 2020-21 school year. Estimates indicate this need will equal 19,000 children. ECEAP currently serves 11,600 children, leaving a **gap of 7400**.

2017-19 Budget Request:

1. Expand ECEAP slots
2. Increase reimbursement rate
3. Address facility shortage



90%
of all children should be kindergarten-ready by 2020 (40% currently)

—The Department of Early Learning

Fund Quality by Increasing Reimbursement Rate. Average reimbursement for ECEAP varies from \$7331 a slot for part-day, \$9960 for full-day to \$15,391 for extended-day. These reimbursement levels do not adequately fund quality or reflect the true cost of rising standards.

Facility Needs. There is also a need for more facilities to house ECEAP. Full-day kindergarten and class size reduction have led to facility shortages on school sites.

ECEAP helps insure school readiness and can even help cut crime

A 2014 Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) report found ECEAP students had significantly higher math and reading scores in 3rd, 4th and 5th grades compared to peers who did not attend ECEAP.¹

Two longitudinal studies of other high-quality preschool programs have followed children for nearly 40 years. In one study children who did not attend a high quality preschool were **five times more likely to be chronic offenders by age 27.**² In the other study, those who did not attend were **70 percent more likely to be arrested for a violent crime by age 18.**³

¹ http://www.wsipp.wa.gov/ReportFile/1576/Wsipp_Outcome-Evaluation-of-Washington-States-Early-Childhood-Education-and-Assistance-Program_Report.pdf

² http://www.highscope.org/file/research/perryproject/specialsummary_rev2011_02_2.pdf

³ <http://www.cehd.umn.edu/icd/research/cls/cbaexecsum4.html>

ECEAP Serves the Most Vulnerable Children

64%
live in homes with incomes less than 80% of the federal poverty level

42%
live in single parent homes

11%
were homeless at some point in the year

9.5%
have chronic health conditions

9.8%
have Individualized Education Plans

For additional information contact
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Fight Crime: Invest in Kids

Thousands of police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors and violence survivors protecting public safety by promoting solutions that steer kids away from crime

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