

2020 Seattle City Council Budget Action

Agenda

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DEEL	3	A	2

Budget Action Title: Impose a proviso on a portion of DEEL Child Care Assistance Program expansion funds to increase access to infant care

Ongoing: No Has Budget Proviso: Yes

Has CIP Amendment: No Has Attachment: No

Primary Sponsor: Lorena González

Council Members: Lisa Herbold, Kshama Sawant, Abel Pacheco, Debora Juarez, Mike O'Brien, Sally Bagshaw

Staff Analyst: Brian Goodnight

Council Bill or Resolution:

Date		Total	LH	BH	KS	AP	DJ	MO	SB	TM	LG
	Yes	0									
	No	0									
	Abstain	0									
	Absent	0									

Budget Action Description:

This budget action would impose a proviso on a portion of the appropriations in the Department of Education and Early Learning (DEEL) for the expansion of the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP).

Between January and August 2019, on average, infants made up less than three percent of the children begin served by CCAP. The Council requests that DEEL explore strategies for increasing access to infant care through CCAP or other City programs, including an evaluation of whether the subsidy amounts for families with infants can be increased, and whether a lack of access to diapers is a barrier to families using child care services. The Council requests that DEEL provide a written report to the Council no later than March 31, 2020. To ensure that these requests are fulfilled to the Council's satisfaction, this budget action imposes the following proviso:

"No more than \$4.5 million of the money appropriated in the 2020 budget for the Department of Education and Early Learning may be spent for the Child Care Assistance Program until authorized by future ordinance. Council anticipates that such authority will not be granted until the Department of Education and Early Learning provides a plan for increasing access to infant care through the Child Care Assistance Program."

Background:

In the 2020 Endorsed Budget, CCAP is supported by 8.25 FTE and appropriations of approximately \$3.1 million. The 2020 Proposed Budget includes a \$3 million expansion of the program funded with Sweetened Beverage Tax revenues. Of the \$3 million proposed increase, approximately \$1.68 million would be used to fund child care vouchers, \$800,000 would be used for professional development and financial incentives for

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child care providers, and \$525,000 would be used to support an additional 5.5 FTE.