

Department of Education and Early Learning

Child Care Council Budget Actions

Presentation to the Governance & Education Committee

May 11, 2021



Agenda

- Summary of the Council Budget Actions (CBAs)
- Overview of CCAP
- Research process
- Defining the barriers
- Current policy landscape
- Approach and highlighted recommendations



CCAP and City Child Care

The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) was created in the early 1970s as part of Model Cities federal funding initiative intended to eradicate poverty.

SEATTLE

- 330 center-based/school-age licensed providers and 380 licensed family child care homes
- Unknown number of non-licensed settings (including FFN)

CCAP

- Between 2018 and 2020, CCAP served an average of 725 children a year.
- 84% of children utilizing CCAP subsidies are ages 3-12 (46% preschool age and 39% school age)
- 84% of families identify as BIPOC (42% identifying as Black, African American, or Other African).
- Since 2010, infants and toddlers made up approximately 10-20% of the CCAP program

Overview of Child Care Budget Actions

- DEEL received two Council Budget Actions (CBAs) and one Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI) in the 2019 budget cycle.
- The SLI, which focuses on labor harmony, is concluding and slated to be delivered to Council in 2021.
- Work on the CBAs were paused due to COVID-19 but resumed in summer 2020.

Two related CBAs



DEEL-3-A-2

“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.”



OSE-2-D-1

“Evaluate how the City can facilitate connecting families with childcare providers and develop strategies and models based on best, promising, or emerging practices to address the lack of affordable and accessible childcare for infant and toddler care (0-3 years of age) from other jurisdictions.”

Research Timeline



Research Partners

Education Counsel and Start Early (Washington DC)

- Improving Seattle's System of Support for Infants and Toddlers
- Case Studies
- Literature Review

Dr. Sharon Knight - Culturally Responsive Education Services (Seattle)

- Community Outreach Project for CCAP

Barriers

Family barriers:

- Lack of Access
- Prohibitive Child Care Costs
- Rising Cost of Living
- Knowledge of CCAP

Provider barriers:

- Challenging Business Model
- Inequitable Workforce Compensation
- Complex Operating Environment

System barriers:

- Collaboration
- Stakeholder engagement

Child Care Policy Landscape

*American Rescue Plan
American Jobs Plan
American Families Plan*

Federal

State

Fair Start for Kids Act

Best Starts for Kids

County

City

CCAP Expansion

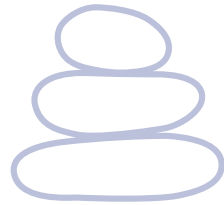
Approach and Highlighted Recommendations

2021 and 2022



Guiding Values

These guiding values are the lens through which we view research and engage in decision-making around Child Care.



Lead with anti-racism to dismantle institutionally racist practices



Center unique issues of infant and toddler care



Work alongside partners in shifting policy environment

Outcomes

1. **DEMAND:** Increase participation in CCAP among eligible Seattle families with infants and toddlers
2. **SUSTAINABILITY:** Strengthen CCAP provider business sustainability
3. **QUALITY:** Strengthen CCAP child care quality
4. **SYSTEMIC ALIGNMENT:** Contribute to a more aligned, equitable and affordable regional child care system
5. **SUPPLY:** Increase the supply of infant and toddler slots in Seattle

Phased Approach

Phase 1:

2021 Recommendations

- Implement identified 2021 recommendations in conjunction with State subsidy modifications.
- Monitor federal, state and county child care initiatives
- Review impact and uptake on City child care programs



Phase 2:

Assess Regional, State and Federal Landscape

- In 2021 and 2022, review and assess intended impacts on Seattle families from federal, state and regional child care proposals



Phase 3:

Recommendations for 2022 and Beyond

- Revise identified 2022 recommendations based on Phase 2 review
- Implement and engage in budget process (as needed)

Policy Actions - Summer 2021

CCAP Modifications

- Expand family eligibility:** Expand eligibility to parents earning master's degrees, actively searching for jobs, and those unable to work due to disability
- Voucher modifications:** Restructure and simplify how voucher amounts are calculated and paid to benefit providers and families
- Expand provider eligibility:** Recruit and contract with CCAP providers outside but immediately adjacent to city limits (e.g., White Center, Skyway) to expand available slots and increase access

Prepare for a New Approach: Summer 2021

- ❑ **Develop a cost-of-care framework:** Identify the true cost of subsidized slots that would replace our current market rate surveys for setting subsidy rates. This is a necessary first step to truly impact affordability for providers and families (particularly for infant and toddler slots).
- ❑ **Analyze policy landscape:** Closely analyze and review the policy landscape (Fair Start for Kids passage, BSK ballot measure, federal bills) will set the stage for proposing an additional set of recommendations.

Future Consideration Beyond 2021

Outcome	Policies of Interest for Further Exploration
DEMAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot slot-based contracts with CCAP providers • Cap family copayments based on family income • Strengthen culturally responsive outreach • Develop a long-term Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) City strategy
BUSINESS SUSTAINABILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen CCAP provider incentive model • Adjust subsidies to better align with true costs of care
QUALITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen professional development supports for CCAP
SYSTEMIC ALIGNMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change <u>eligibility calculation</u> to use area median income • Partner and align with Best Starts for Kids • Establish a working group (OH, OPCD, DEEL) • Establish a city and business child care task force
SUPPLY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a child care facility fund specific for Infant/Toddler facilities • Predevelopment program to all CCAP providers • Pilot a public/private subsidy model that contracts with intermediary organizations



Questions and Discussion
