

2SHB 1525 - S COMM AMD
By Committee on Ways & Means

ADOPTED 04/08/2023

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 **"Sec. 1.** RCW 43.216.136 and 2021 c 199 s 202 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (1) The department shall establish and implement policies in the
6 working connections child care program to promote stability and
7 quality of care for children from low-income households. These
8 policies shall focus on supporting school readiness for young
9 learners. Policies for the expenditure of funds constituting the
10 working connections child care program must be consistent with the
11 outcome measures established by the department and the standards
12 established in this section intended to promote stability, quality,
13 and continuity of early care and education programming.

14 (2) As recommended by P.L. 113-186, authorizations for the
15 working connections child care subsidy are effective for twelve
16 months beginning July 1, 2016.

17 (a) A household's 12-month authorization begins on the date that
18 child care is expected to begin.

19 (b) If a newly eligible household does not begin care within 12
20 months of being determined eligible by the department, the household
21 must reapply in order to qualify for subsidy.

22 (3)(a) The department shall establish and implement policies in
23 the working connections child care program to allow eligibility for
24 families with children who:

25 (i) In the last six months have:

26 (A) Received child protective services as defined and used by
27 chapters 26.44 and 74.13 RCW;

28 (B) Received child welfare services as defined and used by
29 chapter 74.13 RCW; or

30 (C) Received services through a family assessment response as
31 defined and used by chapter 26.44 RCW;

1 (ii) Have been referred for child care as part of the family's
2 case management as defined by RCW 74.13.020; and

3 (iii) Are residing with a biological parent or guardian.

4 (b) Families who are eligible for working connections child care
5 pursuant to this subsection do not have to keep receiving services
6 identified in this subsection to maintain twelve-month authorization.

7 (4) (a) Beginning July 1, 2021, and subject to the availability of
8 amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the department may
9 not require an applicant or consumer to meet work requirements as a
10 condition of receiving working connections child care benefits when
11 the applicant or consumer is in a state registered apprenticeship
12 program or is a full-time student of a community, technical, or
13 tribal college and is enrolled in:

14 (i) A vocational education program that leads to a degree or
15 certificate in a specific occupation; or

16 (ii) An associate degree program (~~or~~

17 ~~(iii) A registered apprenticeship program~~).

18 (b) An applicant or consumer is a full-time student for the
19 purposes of this subsection if (~~he or she~~) the applicant or
20 consumer meets the college's definition of a full-time student.

21 (c) Nothing in this subsection is intended to change how
22 applicants or consumers are prioritized when applicants or consumers
23 are placed on a waitlist for working connections child care benefits.

24 (d) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
25 specific purpose, the department may extend the provisions of this
26 subsection (4) to full-time students who are enrolled in a bachelor's
27 degree program or applied baccalaureate degree program.

28 (5) (a) An applicant or consumer is eligible to receive working
29 connections child care benefits for the care of one or more eligible
30 children for the first 12 months of the applicant's or consumer's
31 enrollment in a state registered apprenticeship program under chapter
32 49.04 RCW when:

33 (i) The applicant or consumer's household annual income adjusted
34 for family size does not exceed 75 percent of the state median income
35 at the time of application, or, beginning July 1, 2027, does not
36 exceed 85 percent of the state median income if funds are
37 appropriated for the purpose of RCW 43.216.1368(4);

38 (ii) The child receiving care is: (A) Less than 13 years of age;
39 or (B) less than 19 years of age and either has a verified special
40 need according to department rule or is under court supervision; and

1 (iii) The household meets all other program eligibility
2 requirements.

3 (b) The department must adopt a copayment model for benefits
4 granted under this subsection, which must align with any copayment
5 identified or adopted for households with the same income level under
6 RCW 43.216.1368.

7 (6)(a) The department must extend the homeless grace period, as
8 adopted in department rule as of January 1, 2020, from a four-month
9 grace period to a twelve-month grace period.

10 (b) For the purposes of this section, "homeless" means being
11 without a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence as
12 described in the federal McKinney-Vento homeless assistance act (42
13 U.S.C. Sec. 11434a) as it existed on January 1, 2020.

14 ~~((+6))~~ (7) For purposes of this section, "authorization" means a
15 transaction created by the department that allows a child care
16 provider to claim payment for care. The department may adjust an
17 authorization based on a household's eligibility status.

18 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. If specific funding for the purposes of
19 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not
20 provided by June 30, 2023, in the omnibus appropriations act, this
21 act is null and void."

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22 On page 1, line 3 of the title, after "apprenticeships;" strike
23 the remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 43.216.136; and
24 creating a new section."

EFFECT: (1) Removes the date of July 1, 2023, for when the first-
phase of the policy begins, so that the policy takes effect 90 days
after adjournment of session.

(2) Continues to waive work requirements as a condition for
receiving Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) benefits for
applicants or consumers participating in a state registered
apprenticeship program but no longer requires these applicants or
consumers to be full-time students of a community, technical, or
tribal college.

(3) Modifies the state median income threshold beginning July 1,
2027, to mirror the threshold in current state law, RCW
43.216.1368(4).

(4) Requires children to be a certain age and that the household meets all other program eligibility requirements, which mirrors the requirements in current state law, RCW 43.216.1368.

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