

2SSB 5820 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Human Services & Early Learning

**NOT CONSIDERED 12/23/2019**

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

3 "Sec. 1. RCW 43.216.135 and 2018 c 52 s 6 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 Public Law 113-186, authorizations for the  
15 working connections child care subsidy shall be effective for twelve  
16 months beginning July 1, 2016, unless an earlier date is provided in  
17 the omnibus appropriations act.

18 (3) Existing child care providers serving nonschool-age children  
19 and receiving state subsidy payments must complete the following  
20 requirements to be eligible for a state subsidy under this section:

21 (a) Enroll in the early achievers program by August 1, 2016;

22 (b) Complete level 2 activities in the early achievers program by  
23 August 1, 2017; and

24 (c) Rate at a level 3 or higher in the early achievers program by  
25 December 31, 2019. If a child care provider rates below a level 3 by  
26 December 31, 2019, the provider must complete remedial activities  
27 with the department, and rate at a level 3 or higher no later than  
28 June 30, 2020.

29 (4) Effective July 1, 2016, a new child care provider serving  
30 nonschool-age children and receiving state subsidy payments must

1 complete the following activities to be eligible to receive a state  
2 subsidy under this section:

3 (a) Enroll in the early achievers program within thirty days of  
4 receiving the initial state subsidy payment;

5 (b) Complete level 2 activities in the early achievers program  
6 within twelve months of enrollment; and

7 (c) Rate at a level 3 or higher in the early achievers program  
8 within thirty months of enrollment. If a child care provider rates  
9 below a level 3 within thirty months from enrollment into the early  
10 achievers program, the provider must complete remedial activities  
11 with the department, and rate at a level 3 or higher within six  
12 months of beginning remedial activities.

13 (5) If a child care provider does not rate at a level 3 or higher  
14 following the remedial period, the provider is no longer eligible to  
15 receive state subsidy under this section.

16 (6) If a child care provider serving nonschool-age children and  
17 receiving state subsidy payments has successfully completed all level  
18 2 activities and is waiting to be rated by the deadline provided in  
19 this section, the provider may continue to receive a state subsidy  
20 pending the successful completion of the level 3 rating activity.

21 (7) The department shall implement tiered reimbursement for early  
22 achievers program participants in the working connections child care  
23 program rating at level 3, 4, or 5.

24 (8) The department shall account for a child care copayment  
25 collected by the provider from the family for each contracted slot  
26 and establish the copayment fee by rule.

27 (9)(a) The department shall establish and implement policies in  
28 the working connections child care program to allow eligibility for  
29 families with children who:

30 (i) In the last six months have:

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

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

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

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

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

1 (b) Children who are eligible for working connections child care  
2 pursuant to this subsection do not have to keep receiving services  
3 identified in this subsection to maintain twelve-month authorization.  
4 The department of social and health services' involvement with the  
5 family referred for working connections child care ends when the  
6 family's child protective services, child welfare services, or family  
7 assessment response case is closed.

8 (10)(a) The department shall establish and implement policies in  
9 the working connections child care program to allow eligibility for  
10 homeless families with household incomes at or below eighty-five  
11 percent of the state median income. Families who are eligible for  
12 working connections child care under this subsection must be allowed  
13 a twelve-month grace period in which to provide verification of:

14 (i) Employment or participation in approved program activities;  
15 and

16 (ii) Payment or payment plan arrangements for any outstanding  
17 copayment.

18 (b) In order to qualify for the twelve-month grace period under  
19 this subsection, an eligible family may not have received a grace-  
20 period authorization under this subsection in the twelve calendar  
21 months prior to the month of application or reapplication.

22 (c) For the purposes of this subsection, "homeless" means without  
23 a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence as set forth in  
24 the federal McKinney-Vento homeless assistance act, P.L. 100-77, July  
25 22, 1987, 101 Stat. 482, and runaway and homeless youth act, P.L. 93-  
26 415, Title III, September 7, 1974, 88 Stat. 1129.

27 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 43.216  
28 RCW to read as follows:

29 (1) The department shall establish and implement policies in the  
30 working connections child care program to allow eligibility for a  
31 parent who is under eighteen years of age and is attending high  
32 school or is working toward completing a general educational  
33 development certificate when the minor parent:

34 (a) Has an income at or below eighty-five percent of the state  
35 median income at the time of application. For the purpose of  
36 determining household income, the department must treat the minor  
37 parent as his or her own household; and

38 (b) Meets all other program eligibility requirements.

1 (2) When authorizing twelve months of care under this section,  
2 the department may not:

3 (a) Consider the availability of the other biological parent; or

4 (b) Require a copayment that is greater than the minimum  
5 copayment established by the department in rule.

6 (3) If necessary to implement this section, the department may  
7 designate children of minor parents as a vulnerable population in  
8 need of protective services under 45 C.F.R. Sec. 98.20 as it existed  
9 on March 1, 2019.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Section 2 of this act takes effect October  
11 1, 2019."

12 Correct the title.

EFFECT: (1) Removes the requirement for the Department of  
Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) to designate homeless children  
as a vulnerable population pursuant to federal Child Care and  
Development Fund (CCDF) rules.

(2) Allows Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) eligibility for  
homeless families with household incomes at or below 85% of the state  
median income.

(3) Requires the DCYF to allow homeless families a 12-month grace  
period in which to provide verification of employment or  
participation in approved program activities, or payment or payment  
plan arrangements for any outstanding copayment.

(4) Limits families receiving a homeless grace period  
authorization to those who have not received such an authorization in  
the 12 months prior to the month of application or reapplication.

(5) Requires, effective October 1, 2019, authorizations for WCCC  
for a minor parent meeting education requirements who has a household  
income at or below 85% of the state median income. The minor parent  
must be considered his or her own household for this purpose.

(6) Prohibits the DCYF from considering the availability of the  
other biological parent when authorizing care for minor parents or  
from requiring a copayment from a minor parent greater than the  
minimum copayment established in rule.

(7) Allows the DCYF to designate children of minor parents as a  
vulnerable population pursuant to federal CCDF rules if necessary.

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