Chapter 170-100 WAC
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

(Formerly chapter 365-170 WAC)

WAC

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WAC 170-100-010 Authority. These rules are adopted under the authority of chapter 28A.215 RCW.

[06-18-085, recodified as § 170-100-010, filed 9/5/06, effective 9/5/06. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28A.215 RCW. 06-13-046, § 365-170-010, filed 6/16/06, effective 7/17/06. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.34A.060. 88-18-039 (Order 88-04), § 365-170-010, filed 8/31/88. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.63A.060. 87-04-007 (Order 87-02), § 365-170-010, filed 1/23/87.]

WAC 170-100-020 Purpose. The early childhood education and assistance program (ECEAP) provides preschool education, family support, and health and nutrition services to low-income three- and four-year-old children to promote school success.

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WAC 170-100-030 Definitions. (1) "Contractor" means a nonsectarian public or private organization that contracts with the department of early learning to provide local early childhood education and assistance services.

(2) "Department" means the department of early learning.

(3) "Director" means the director of the department of early learning.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 43.215 RCW. 07-20-034, § 170-100-030, filed 9/25/07, effective 10/26/07. 06-18-085, recodified as § 170-100-030, filed 9/5/06, effective 9/5/06. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28A.215 RCW. 06-13-046, § 365-170-030, filed 6/16/06, effective 7/17/06. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.63A.060. 99-19-176, § 365-170-030, filed 9/22/99, effective 10/23/99. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.34A.060. 88-18-039 (Order 88-04), § 365-170-030, filed 8/31/88. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.63A.060. 87-04-007 (Order 87-02), § 365-170-030, filed 1/23/87.]

WAC 170-100-040 Process for allocating or awarding funds. (1) Public or private nonsectarian organizations are eligible to apply for funding as early childhood education and assistance programs.

(2) Funds shall be awarded on a competitive basis or allocated by the department, consistent with the amount allocated by the legislature.

(3) An applicant must use the application procedures established by the department.

(4) Successful applicants will be awarded a contract with the department. This contract must be signed by an official with authority to bind the recipient.

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WAC 170-100-050 Use of funds. (1) Contracting agencies must provide comprehensive early education and family support services free of charge to enrolled families.

(2) Early childhood education and assistance program funds must be used as dollars of last resort for medical, dental, nutrition, and mental health services.

(3) Administrative costs funded under this program are limited to fifteen percent of the total award.

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WAC 170-100-060 Comprehensive service delivery. (1) Contractors must conduct a community assessment, and must plan and deliver the following comprehensive services to enrolled children:

(a) Early childhood education;

(b) Family support;

(c) Parent involvement including options for participation in their child's classroom, program policy decisions, service delivery system development, and parent education and training; and

(d) Health screening, information, and referral, including medical, dental, nutrition, and mental health.

(2) Contractors must comply with the early childhood education and assistance program contract, performance standards, and policy memos in the delivery of all services.

(3) Contractors may request exceptions to rules, performance standards, or policies. Contractors must receive written approval from the department before implementing exceptions.

[06-18-085, recodified as § 170-100-060, filed 9/5/06, effective 9/5/06. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28A.215 RCW. 06-13-046, § 365-170-07005, filed 6/16/06, effective 7/17/06.]

WAC 170-100-070 Nondiscrimination. Contractors must not deny service to, or discriminate against, any person

who meets the eligibility criteria for the early childhood education and assistance program on the basis of gender, race, color, religion, age, national origin, citizenship, ancestry, physical or mental disability, family configuration, sexual orientation, culture, or public assistance recipient status.

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WAC 170-100-080 Eligibility for services. (1) Contractors must write and follow a recruitment procedure, including active recruitment of age-eligible homeless children, children in the foster care system, and children with disabilities.

(2) Children are eligible for ECEAP if they are at least three years old, but not yet five years old, by August 31st of the school year and one of the following:

(a) Returning to the same ECEAP contractor from the previous school year.

(b) Qualified by their school district for special education services under RCW 28A.155.020. All children on a school district individualized education program (IEP) meet this requirement.

(c) From a family with income at or below one hundred ten percent of the federal poverty guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

(d) From a family that is not income-eligible but is impacted by either:

(i) Developmental risk factors, such as developmental delay or disability, but not on an IEP.

(ii) Environmental risk factors that could affect school success such as domestic violence, chemical dependency, homelessness, parental incarceration, or child protective services involvement.

Each contractor's maximum percentage of over-income children is in their ECEAP client services contract.

(3) Children cannot be simultaneously enrolled in Head Start and ECEAP. Children served by school district special education may be simultaneously enrolled in ECEAP.

(4) Contractors must write and follow a procedure for prioritizing enrollment of the eligible children who are most in need of ECEAP services. From the pool of eligible children, contractors must prioritize children who are:

(a) Four years old by August 31st of the school year.

(b) From families with the lowest incomes.

(c) Homeless, as defined by the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

(d) In the foster care system.

(e) From families with multiple needs.

(5) Contractors may determine additional prioritization categories to best meet the needs of their community, such as:

(a) English language learners.

(b) Refugee status.

(c) Transferring from other ECEAP or Head Start sites.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.215.020, 43.215.070, and 2010 c 231. 10-20-059, § 170-100-080, filed 9/27/10, effective 10/28/10. 06-18-085, recodified as § 170-100-080, filed 9/5/06, effective 9/5/06. Statutory Authority: Chapter 28A.215 RCW. 06-13-046, § 365-170-080, filed 6/16/06, effective 7/17/06. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.63A.060. 99-19-176, § 365-170-080, filed 9/22/99, effective 10/23/99. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.34A.060. 88-18-039 (Order 88-04), § 365-170-080, filed 8/31/88. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.63A.060. 87-04-007 (Order 87-02), § 365-170-080, filed 1/23/87.]

WAC 170-100-090 Staff qualifications. (1) Contractors must provide adequate staff to comply with all ECEAP performance standards. Contractors must have written policies and procedures for recruitment and selection of staff, including procedures for advertising all position openings to the public.

(2) All persons serving in the role of lead teacher must meet one of the following qualifications:

(a) An associate or higher degree with the equivalent of thirty college quarter credits of early childhood education. These thirty credits may be included in the degree or in addition to the degree; or

(b) A valid Washington state teaching certificate with an endorsement in early childhood education (pre-K - grade 3) or early childhood special education.

(3) All persons serving in the role of assistant teacher must meet one of the following qualifications:

(a) Employment as an early childhood education and assistance program assistant teacher in the same agency before July 1, 1999;

(b) The equivalent of twelve college quarter credits in early childhood education; or

(c) A Child Development Associate (CDA) credential awarded by the Council for Early Childhood Professional Recognition.

(4) All persons serving in the role of family support specialist must meet one of the following qualifications:

(a) Employment as an early childhood education and assistance program family service worker in the same agency before July 1, 1999; or

(b) An associate's or higher degree with the equivalent of thirty college quarter credits of adult education, human development, human services, family support, social work, early childhood education, child development, psychology, or another field directly related to their job responsibilities. These thirty credits may be included in the degree or in addition to the degree.

(5) All persons serving in the role of family support aide or health aide must meet one of the following qualifications:

(a) Employment as an early childhood education and assistance program family support aide or health aide in the same agency before July 1, 1999; or

(b) The equivalent of twelve college quarter credits in family support, public health, health education, nursing, or another field directly related to their job responsibilities.

(6) The early childhood education and assistance program health professional must meet one of the following qualifications:

(a) Licensed in Washington state as a registered nurse; or

(b) A bachelor's or higher degree in public health, nursing, health education, or related field.

(7) The early childhood education and assistance program dietitian must meet all of the following qualifications:

(a) A bachelor's or higher degree in nutrition science, public health nutrition, dietetics, or other related field; and

(b) Registered dietitian with the American Dietetic Association or certified as a dietitian under chapter 18.138 RCW.

(8) The early childhood education and assistance program mental health professional must meet one of the following qualifications:

(a) Licensed by the Washington state department of health as a mental health counselor, marriage and family therapist, social worker, psychologist, psychiatrist, or psychiatric nurse; or

(b) Credentialed by the Washington state office of the superintendent of public instruction as a school counselor, social worker, or psychologist.

(9) Contractors may provisionally hire lead teachers, assistant teachers, family service workers, family service aides, or health aides who do not fully meet the qualifications for the position if all of the following conditions are met:

(a) Contractors have attempted to recruit and hire fully qualified staff and are unable to because of a documented labor pool shortage;

(b) Contractors are able to recruit a person competent to fulfill the role and implement all related performance standards; and

(c) Contractors write a professional development plan describing how the provisional hire will obtain full qualifications within five years of appointment.

(10) Equivalent degrees and certificates from other states and countries are accepted for ECEAP staff qualifications.

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