

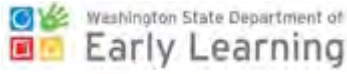
Program
Year | 2013-14



Early Learning and Family Services Annual Report



opportunity
council



United Way
of Whatcom County

UnitedWayWhatcom.org

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Our Mission

In support of the Opportunity Council's mission, the Early Learning and Family Services Department (ELAFS) ensures that all children and families have the knowledge, skills, and support for success in school and all future opportunities.

We are...

- Committed to working with families and communities to increase access to quality early learning experiences and family support.
- Strong believers in families as the best resource for children, and
- Confident that healthy, resilient, well-educated children will be successful in the changing world of the 21st Century and beyond.

Our Programs...

- Enhance the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social, and other services to enrolled children and families. They engage parents in their own children's learning and help them in making progress toward their educational, literacy and employment goals.
- Work with parents, families, child care providers and early childhood educators, businesses and community organizations to promote the availability of high quality early child care and education programs in Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom counties.
- Help parents and families find quality child care environments for their children, and assist child care providers in supporting every child's learning and development.

Division Overviews

Our programs promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families. They engage parents in their children's learning and help them in making progress toward their educational, literacy and employment goals.

Birth to Three and Health Services

Early Support for Infants and Toddlers

ESIT serves families with children birth to three years old who have special needs and need support to maximize each child's development. ESIT provides early diagnosis and intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities, including family resource coordination, screening and evaluation to determine eligibility, ongoing assessment, and therapy services. The Opportunity Council serves as the Local Lead Agency for Whatcom County.

Early Head Start

This federally funded comprehensive child development program for low-income families with infants, toddlers, and pregnant women enhances children's physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development; assists pregnant women in accessing comprehensive prenatal and postpartum care; supports parents' efforts to fulfill their parental roles; and helps parents move toward self-sufficiency. It also features individualized planning and case management for children and parents.

Single-Entry Access to Services (SEAS)

Housed at Early Learning and Family Services, this program of Whatcom Taking Action provides a centralized intake system for families and medical professionals looking for services for children and youth in Whatcom County with known or suspected special needs.

Preschool Services

Head Start/ECEAP

Our federally and state-funded comprehensive preschool programs provide free services and support to eligible children and their families. The programs promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families. We engage parents in their children's learning and help them in making progress toward their educational, literacy and employment goals. Significant emphasis is placed on the involvement of parents in the administration of the program through a Parent Policy Council and other means.

The goal of both programs is to help ensure all Washington children enter kindergarten ready to succeed. The program, which offers both part-day and full day options, includes:

- Early learning preschool
- Family support and parent involvement
- Child health coordination and nutrition

Quality Child Care and Support Services

Child Care Aware of Northwest Washington

Child Care Aware is the foundation for a variety of family and caregiver-focused programs that include providing current information to access safe, reliable child/respice care; recruiting and professional development training; on-site consultation and technical assistance; material development and dissemination; creating linkages among early care and education providers; linking providers with the broader human service community to better support families; and advocating for effective public policy on national, state and community levels.

Early Achievers

Early Achievers is Washington's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). It's designed to help parents and families find quality care environments for their children, and to assist child care providers in supporting every child's learning and development. Child Care Aware of Northwest Washington serves as Washington State's QRIS coordinator for Whatcom, Snohomish, Skagit, Island, and San Juan Counties.

Child Nutrition Programs

Promotes high quality meal service and nutrition training in the family child care setting to safeguard the health and well being of children and encourage consumption of nutritious foods. Participating providers receive meal reimbursement, on-site monitoring three times per year, and extensive nutrition education.

Emergency & Homeless Child Care Subsidies and Summer Food Program

Provides free lunch at designated sites through the summer months. Emergency and Homeless Child Care Subsidy: Provides child care vouchers to assist families in emergency/crisis, homeless or transitional living situations in choosing and paying for child care.

Collaboration for Children and Child Care Training

Education and consultation for child care providers and families regarding child development and behavior guidance, appropriate environments and required training hours for licensed child care.

Accountability

Monitoring the goals and activities of Early Learning and Family Services' programs is an ongoing process. Through the use of regular self-assessments, Federal and State Reviews, routine monitoring tools/site visits and an annual fiscal audit, ELAFS is able to maintain high quality programs and participate in continuous program improvements.

Audit Results

The Opportunity Council is the grantee for all Administration for Children and Families-Office of Head Start funds, the USDA/OSPI Child and Adult Food Program, and State of Washington financial support, for ECEAP, Child Care Aware/Early Achievers, Homeless Child Care Subsidy, Early Support for Infant and Toddlers (Part C IDEA), and more. Annually, according to the grantee's fiscal year of January to December, the Opportunity Council has a financial audit conducted by independent auditors according to OMB Circulars A-122 and A-133. The financial audit for the grantee's Fiscal Year 2013, which covers half of the Early Learning and Family Services Department's 2013-2014 contract year with ACF-OHS and State of Washington Department of Early Learning, was "unqualified" or absent of any findings.

Monitoring Reports

Key Indicators Screening

During the 2013-14 program year, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Head Start, via Danya International, conducted an on-site key indicators screening of the Opportunity Council's Head Start and Early Head Start programs. However, due to the alignment of the current monitoring system with the five year grant process, the Office of Head Start did not send or use the results of the screeners.

USDA CACFP Reviews

During the 2013-14 program year, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction conducted an audit of Early Learning and Family Services Head Start/ECEAP and Child Care Aware USDA Child and Adult Care Food Programs. Both reviews were completed without any findings.

Child Care Aware Review

During 2014, Child Care Aware of Washington conducted an on site monitoring review of the Opportunity Councils' Child Care Aware program in accordance with Child Care Aware of America's National Accreditation practices. This consisted of a fiscal review, staff interviews and written/documentation response to accreditation and contract inquiry of policies, procedures and practices. There were no findings therefore no corrective action requested.

Financial Information

Revenue and Expenditures

Birth-Three & Health Services	Total	Indirect	Direct
Infant Toddler Early Prevention Programs	\$759,520.13	\$78,195.11	\$681,325.02
Early Intervention (ESIT)	\$194,082.00	\$19,408.00	\$174,674.00
Whatcom County Intervention Services	\$53,218.67	\$5,632.04	\$47,586.63
Early Head Start	\$363,921.00	\$38,822.63	\$325,098.37
Whatcom County - SEAS	\$30,748.63	\$3,285.69	\$27,462.94
Total	\$1,370,741.80	\$142,057.78	\$1,228,684.02

Preschool Services	Total	Indirect	Direct
ECEAP (Early Childhood Education)	\$524,592.00	\$56,464.95	\$468,127.05
Head Start	\$2,262,799.43	\$239,334.20	\$2,023,465.23
Bellingham Public NFS	\$107,670.97	\$11,497.14	\$96,173.83
USDA-Lunch Program	\$122,213.42		\$122,213.42
Head Start Donations	\$9,763.20	\$1,143.06	\$8,620.14
Total	\$3,027,039.02	\$308,439.35	\$2,718,599.67

Quality Child Care and Support Services	Total	Indirect	Direct
CACFP	\$80,001.55	\$8,387.21	\$71,614.34
Fee for Service	\$12,974.21	\$1,383.49	\$11,590.72
Child Care Resource and Referral	\$717,490.92	\$76,138.92	\$641,352.00
DEL Homeless Vouchers	\$10,393.18	\$1,141.05	\$9,252.13
Early Learning Coalition Development	\$13,356.96	\$1,484.11	\$11,872.85
Infant and Toddler Childcare Consultation	\$46,696.76	\$4,849.19	\$41,847.57
United Way	\$11,142.96	\$1,200.21	\$9,942.75
Early Achievers Technical Assistance	\$1,500.00		\$1,500.00
NWESD - Love, Talk, Play	\$8,000.00	\$910.00	\$7,090.00
SEIU GED Cohort	\$10,044.37	\$1,035.97	\$9,008.40
Advancing Racial Equity	\$2,470.18	\$254.77	\$2,215.41
Class Training	\$13,217.80	\$1,339.29	\$11,878.51
Total	\$927,288.89	\$98,124.21	\$829,164.68

Other	Total
Head Start Non-Federal Share	\$764,812.81
Early Head Start Non-Federal Share	\$10,188.91
USDA Meals	54,189
Events/Private Donations	\$11,259.33

Community Reach

Birth to Three and Health Services

Early Head Start

Cumulative Enrollment:	67
Number of Funded Slots:	36
Average Monthly Enrollment:	100%
Number of Center Based Classrooms:	1
Number of Home Based Slots:	26
Number of Children w/Health Insurance at End of Enrollment:	100%
Percentage of Enrolled Children that Received Medical Exams:	84%
Percentage of Enrolled Children who are Income Eligible	91%

Early Support for Infants and Toddlers

Average Number of Children Served Per Month:	54
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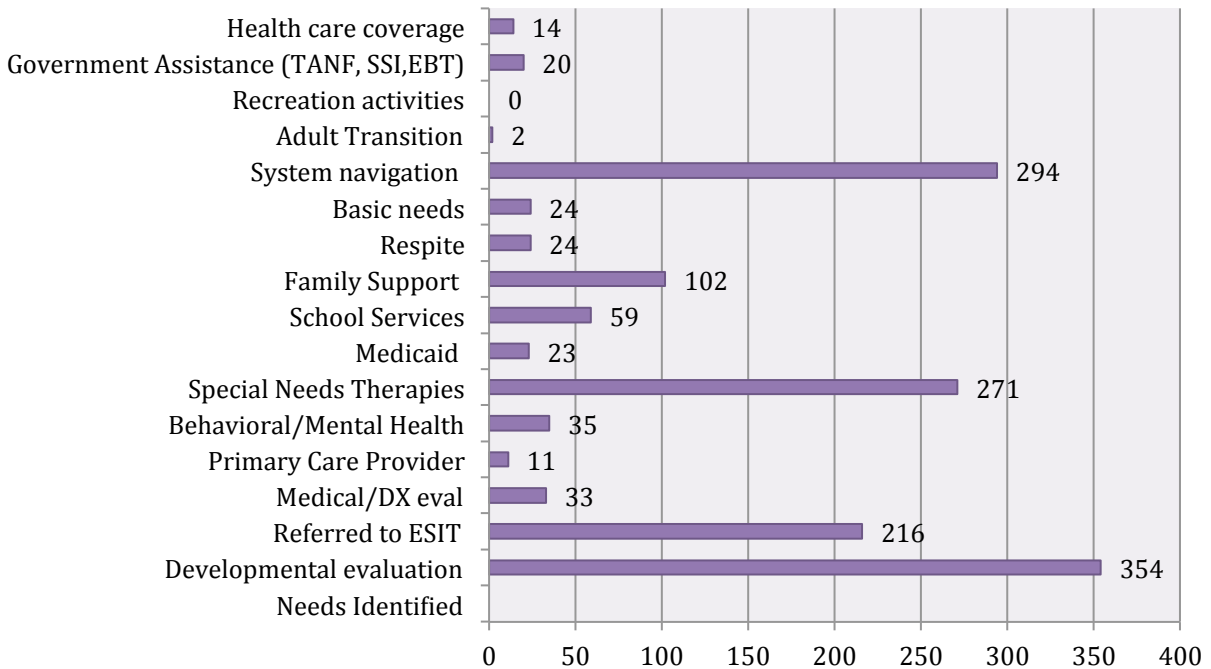
Single Entry Access to Services

Total Number of Referrals	561
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Age Range of Children Referred for Service

0-3, 71%	3-5, 19%	5-12, 6%	12-18, 1%	18-21, 1%	Unknown, 2%
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Needs Identified



Preschool Services

Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program

Cumulative Enrollment:	113
Number of Funded Slots:	72
Average Monthly Enrollment:	100%
Number of Center Based Classrooms:	7
Meal Count:	10,559
Percentage of Children w/Health Insurance at End of Enrollment:	100%
Percentage of Enrolled Children that Received Medical Exams:	99%
Percentage of Enrolled Children that Received Dental Exams:	100%
Percentage of Enrolled Children who are Income Eligible	97%

Head Start

Cumulative Enrollment:	295
Number of Funded Slots:	263
Average Monthly Enrollment:	100%
Number of Center Based Classrooms:	17
Meal Count:	43,630
Percentage of Children w/Health Insurance at End of Enrollment:	97%
Percentage of Enrolled Children that Received Medical Exams:	82%
Percentage of Enrolled Children that Received Dental Exams:	84%
Percentage of Enrolled Children who are Income Eligible:	89%

Quality Child Care and Support Services

Child Care Aware of Northwest Washington

Total number of calls for care responded to:	1364
Total number of online referrals for care:	1678
Total Referrals:	3042

Emergency & Homeless Child Care Subsidy Vouchers

Number of hours, children and families cared for by licensed professional child care providers...

Unduplicated children between the ages of birth to 13	23
Families	17
Hours of Care and Education	3,400
WA State Licensed Child Care Small Business Professionals/Teachers	9

Year 1- Child Care Aware – Early Achievers Quality Rating and Improvement System

Early Achievers Program enrolled child care providers...	
Number of Providers enrolled across the five county region	226
Number of Children in Licensed Early Achievers Programs	7,206
Child Care Centers/Family Child Care Homes	51%/49%
Number of Providers that completed all 6 Level 2 Required Trainings	110
Number of Providers that completed all 6 Level 2 Required Trainings within 6 months	100
Number of Providers with evaluation requests approved	19

Child Care Provider/Teacher

Higher Education Scholarships provided to child care teachers in the North West Region

Early Learning Professional Development Training, Coaching, and Technical Assistance Provided and Evaluated

Total Hours	421
Total Teachers	370

Child Care Nutrition Program:

Number of Reimbursed Meals:	22,012
Average Number of Children Served Per Month:	860

Quality Child Care's Community Reach Continues to Grow

- Two new offices were opened in partnership with School Districts. Everett – Everett Public Schools - Community Resource Center and Mt. Vernon – Mt. Vernon School District Administrative Building-Skagit County
- Expansion of the Early Achievers program continued with the hiring of four new highly qualified Technical Assistance Specialist -Coaching staff members with our Everett/Snohomish office as their base.
- Early Achievers child care provider enrollment/participation grew faster in our 5 county region than any of the other six Child Care Aware/Early Achiever Regions around the state.
- Child Care Aware - Kaleidoscope Play and Learn groups continued with great success in South Whidbey, Oak Harbor with Mother Mentors as lead agency for both and Ferndale School District. In the fall, Mt. Baker School District started three Kaleidoscope playgroups, one in each of their elementary school neighborhoods. Five playgroups continue through United Way of Snohomish County in our south region. Several hundred families and their children Birth to 8 are attending. Mother Mentors in Island County provides a home visiting component. This method of parenting education and appropriate child development activity supports family engagement, cultural responsiveness, age appropriate expectations and Kindergarten readiness.

Parent Engagement Activities

Parent engagement and involvement begins at the time a parent chooses to enroll their child in Early Learning and Family Services programs. ELAFS staff recognizes that parents are the first and primary teachers of their children.

Our divisions provide a variety of opportunities for parent engagement, so that they might become involved at the level to which they are able.

Opportunities for parents include:

- Welcoming parent participation in classrooms, whether as volunteers who help with daily activities or as observers.
- Working with parents to schedule home visits and socializations at a time when they are best able to fully participate.
- Participating in and/or taking leadership roles in Center Parent Committee Meetings at sites.
- Representing others at the Interagency Coordinating Council or their Parent Center Committee at the HS/ECEAP/EHS Policy Council where parents participate in policymaking and other decisions about the program.
- Attending and participating in the Health Service Advisory Committee where parents meet with community health professionals to address child and adult health issues/needs in our communities.
- Providing input in curriculum planning and activities.
- Parents are encouraged to make recommendations for menu options in collaboration with our food service staff.
- Sitting on interview panels during the hiring process.
- Enrolling in Parents as Substitutes (PASs) training as an opportunity to receive training for employment opportunities in the classroom.
- Working part-time in our administrative office as Parent Helpers providing clerical support.
- Parent events focusing on enhancing parent-child relationships include father-child activities, movement and physical activity at home, various events sponsored by Parent-to-Parent, and learning new strategies for guidance and discipline and healthy nutrition.
- Participating in various surveys on issues of interest to parents.

Together, parents and staff decide what roles parents and other community agencies will play in planning activities that are consistent with families' needs and interests.

School Readiness Efforts

ELAFS school readiness goals are based collaborative efforts with local school districts toward Preschool-3rd grade (P3) alignment efforts. The agreed upon goals include all five domains required by the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework (language and literacy development; cognition and general knowledge; approaches toward learning; physical well being and motor development; and social and emotional development).

Head Start and Early Head Start programs are required to measure and report children’s progress based on the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework. The framework was developed to guide programs in curriculum planning and ongoing assessment of children’s progress and development while enrolled in the program. It includes seven general domains, and numerous domain elements relating to children’s skills, abilities, knowledge, and behaviors. Similarly, the Washington D.E.L. has early learning guidelines that direct our work.

Our program uses Teaching Strategies Gold, a valid and reliable research based assessment, as our measuring tool. The charts below indicate the percent of children in Head Start and ECEAP programs that were found to be at or above the widely held expectations at the end of the 2013-14 Program Year.

Percent of Three and Four Year Old Children that Meet or Exceed Widely Held Expectations on Teaching Strategies Gold Fall and Spring Checkpoints

