

WASHINGTON STATE ADVOCACY SUMMIT

2018 WASHINGTON STATE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION POLICY PRIORITIES

Home Visiting

- **Expand Access to Home Visiting**

SCAN supports increasing state funding for home visiting by at least \$4.9 million, as requested by the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF). Home visiting is a proven investment for strengthening families. When children receive home-based support, they are better prepared for school. Home visiting programs also assist parents, who are children's first and most important teachers. Investing in these voluntary programs will build a stronger foundation for Washington State's most vulnerable children and families.

Preschool

- **Improve Access to the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP)**

SCAN supports an increase in state funding for the ECEAP program so the program can meet the existing need within the state. ECEAP is proven to help kids thrive by providing high-quality pre-K and tools to support kids and families facing barriers. ECEAP is supposed to serve every eligible child, but currently 5,600 children who are eligible and interested in services can't access programs due to a lack of slots.

Child Care

- **Protect Access to Affordable, High-Quality Child Care**

SCAN supports a \$76 million increase for Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) so hard-working, high-quality early childhood providers can continue to serve their communities. Due to projected rising costs within the state, many providers will soon be unable to make enough money through WCCC reimbursements to compensate staff. As a result, they will be forced to stop accepting families paying with WCCC subsidies. In some low-income areas, providers may be forced to close, because the majority of families pay with subsidies.

- **Prevent a Waitlist to Working Connections Child Care**

SCAN supports additional funding for WCCC to prevent a waitlist. WCCC is capped at serving a maximum of 33,000 families per month. Current projects for 2018 show the need for subsidies could exceed the current cap, creating a waitlist for the program.

- **Ensure Child Care Providers Have the Necessary Resources to Improve Quality**

SCAN supports restoring the funding for professional development that was eliminated from Early Achievers in 2017. Early Achievers provides coaching, professional development and support for child care providers.