



Memorandum

TO: WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
FROM: Sarah Simpson, Child and Family Programs Supervisor
DATE: 5.29.26
RE: WHATCOM KIDS FIRST CHILD CARE SUBSIDY BUDGET DISCUSSION

The final proposed budget for the Whatcom Kids First Subsidy program will be presented during this presentation. Since the development of the initial budget framework, the early learning and child care landscape has shifted significantly as a result of recent state budget decisions and policy changes.

These changes have created both new challenges and emerging needs for local families and child care providers. In response, staff have developed recommendations intended to help accommodate and stabilize some of these impacts while continuing to align with the goals of the Whatcom Kids First initiative.

This presentation will provide Council with an overview of the updated early learning landscape, the implications of state-level decisions on our local system, and the proposed budget recommendations designed to ensure continued support for access, affordability, and stability within Whatcom County's child care sector.

I appreciate the opportunity to share this work with Council and look forward to the discussion.

Please contact Sarah Simpson, Child and Families Program Supervisor with questions.

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