



Whatcom Healthy Children's Fund



County Council
Resolution for childcare provider
rate augmentation and family
subsidy program
12.3.24
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Strategy #3

Improve access to early learning and care through subsidies that reduce the cost of programs from families which are cost-burdened.

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- Create Child Care Rate Augmentation and Family Tuition Subsidy programs.
- Focus on subsidies for families earning up to 85% SMI with focused support for underserved families
- Endorses an outreach campaign to increase participation in the WCCC program.



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- Implement a rate augmentation of \$300/month for licensed WCCC providers who serve infants and toddlers (0-3 yrs)
- Authorize funding for initial start up and ongoing admin costs for 3rd party program administrators of the subsidy and rate augmentation programs
- Subsidy program aligns with WA state legislature efforts



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- Staff will develop other options and supports for other childcare providers in Whatcom County and will look to Council for feedback and recommendations
- Whatcom County will monitor the impact of the subsidy and rate augmentation ensuring reduction in financial barriers for those earning less an 85% SMI



Subsidy Program Budget



Activity	Year One Cost	Year Two Cost
Tuition Discount to families at \$300 per month children age 0-5 at 75%-85% SMI	\$1,366,000.00 *includes 6 months of 65%-75% SMI families*	\$772,200 *includes 10% increase*
Rate Augmentation to providers at \$300 per month for each enrolled WCCC child age 0-3	\$1,465,200.00	\$1,611,720.00 *includes 10% increase*
Subsidy and Rate Aug. Administration	\$300,000 *set up and admin*	\$240,000 *10% of funds distributed*
WCCC Campaign to increase state subsidy enrollment	\$200,000.00	\$50,000.00
TOTAL	\$3,331,200	\$2,673,920

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Questions?