

## Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) at a glance

### *A quick guide to the federal CCDF block grant*

#### What is CCDF?

CCDF is a federal block grant that helps ensure families have access to affordable, quality child care in their communities. The Department of Early Learning (DEL) is Washington's lead agency for the CCDF block grant.



CCDF dollars are used to:

- Offer child care subsidies to low-income families while parents work, look for work or are in approved job training.
- Improve the quality of child care available to families
- Fund technical assistance from the federal Child Care Bureau to states and territories
- Fund child care research and evaluation activities at the national, state and local levels

#### How much CCDF funding is our state expecting to receive?

DEL estimates that approximately \$340 million will be available for child care services and related activities for the period from October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2013.

#### How does our state use this money?

**Child Care Subsidies:** The majority of CCDF funding (about 70 percent) goes to pay for child care subsidies through the Working Connections Child Care program, as required in the federal CCDF regulations. CCDF funding also is used for seasonal child care subsidies for families employed in the agricultural industry.

**Improving quality:** At least 4 percent of CCDF funding must go to improving the quality of child care and offering additional services to families and providers. This includes:

- ◇ Child care resource and referral services.
- ◇ Professional development and training for providers.
- ◇ Child care licensing and monitoring.
- ◇ Other activities designed to improve the quality and availability of child care.

Additional funding (beyond the 4 percent) must go to what are called *targeted quality activities*, including improving the quality of care for infants and toddlers, and improving school-age care.

#### How does our state decide where the funding is spent?

DEL is required to submit a plan every two years to the federal Child Care Bureau that outlines how our state will use CCDF dollars. We create this plan based on state and federal requirements and by gathering input from partners and stakeholders and using data from our biennial Child Care Market Rate Survey, feedback on our statewide Early Learning Plan and other research.

To learn more, visit

Department of Early Learning: [www.del.wa.gov/government/CCDF/](http://www.del.wa.gov/government/CCDF/)  
Federal Child Care Bureau: [www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/ccdf/index.htm](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/ccdf/index.htm)