



Washington State Department of  
**Early Learning**

# **Race to the Top—Early Learning Challenge Overview**

## **House Education Appropriations & Oversight Committee**

*January 10, 2012*



# Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge

- ✓ U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services
- ✓ \$500 million competitive grant to:
  - Improve the quality of early learning and development programs and services
  - Close the achievement gap for children with high needs
  - Support states' efforts to increase the number of low-income and disadvantaged children in each age group of infants, toddlers and preschoolers enrolled in high-quality early learning and development programs

# Washington's RTT-ELC application process

- ✓ Early Learning Plan as foundation
- ✓ State Leadership Team
- ✓ Outreach:
  - RTT-ELC Advisory Team
  - Preschool-third grade alignment
  - Home visiting
  - Professional development
  - Advocates
  - Quality Rating and Improvement System

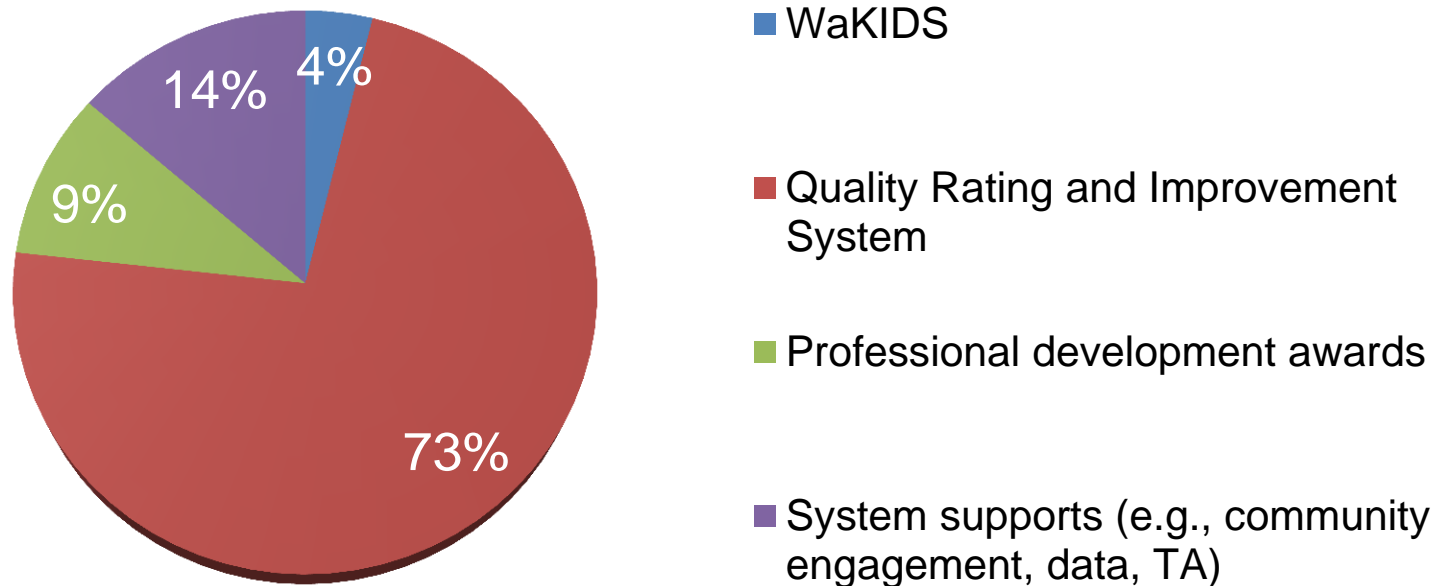
# The competition

- ✓ Washington is one of 9 states to win—  
35 states plus D.C. and Puerto Rico applied
- ✓ WA rated third in the nation in scoring and  
award amount
- ✓ Received full request of \$60 million

# What will WA do with its RTT-ELC grant?

- ✓ Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS)
  - Reach all children by 2014-15 school year
- ✓ Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)
  - At scale statewide by 2015, support quality child care improvements at all levels
- ✓ Professional development incentives
  - Reward, incentivize and support professional development
- ✓ Community and family engagement
- ✓ Strengthened data system

# What will \$60 million “buy” WA?



- ✓ Application needed to demonstrate state commitment to early learning
- ✓ Washington’s application is lean, relies most heavily on repurposing existing dollars.
- ✓ Does not require increased state funding during the grant period (1/1/2012 through 12/31/2015)
- ✓ Modest increase in state/federal/private investment projected after grant period.

# RTT-ELC budget—QRIS

## Rating & Monitoring

**\$6.3M**

Support for including all providers in the QRIS system and attaining Level II

## Coaching, Training, & TA

**\$19.4M**

Site and provider improvement activities

## Quality Improvement Awards

**\$7.75M**

Rewards for quality in levels III-V

## Training Hub Incentive Awards

**\$8.9M**

Reward to HS/ECEAP for providing access to trainings for local child cares

## Program Evaluation

**\$1.4M**

5% of program costs to improve system

# RTT-ELC budget—Other

## WaKIDS

**\$2.3M**

Scale WaKIDS by 2014-15

## Professional Development Incentives

**\$5.75M**

Encourage participation in MERIT, awards for educational attainment

## System Supports

**\$8.2M**

Community Engagement

\$600K

Information/Material Development

\$2M

Data and capital purchases

\$4.5M

Project management

\$700K

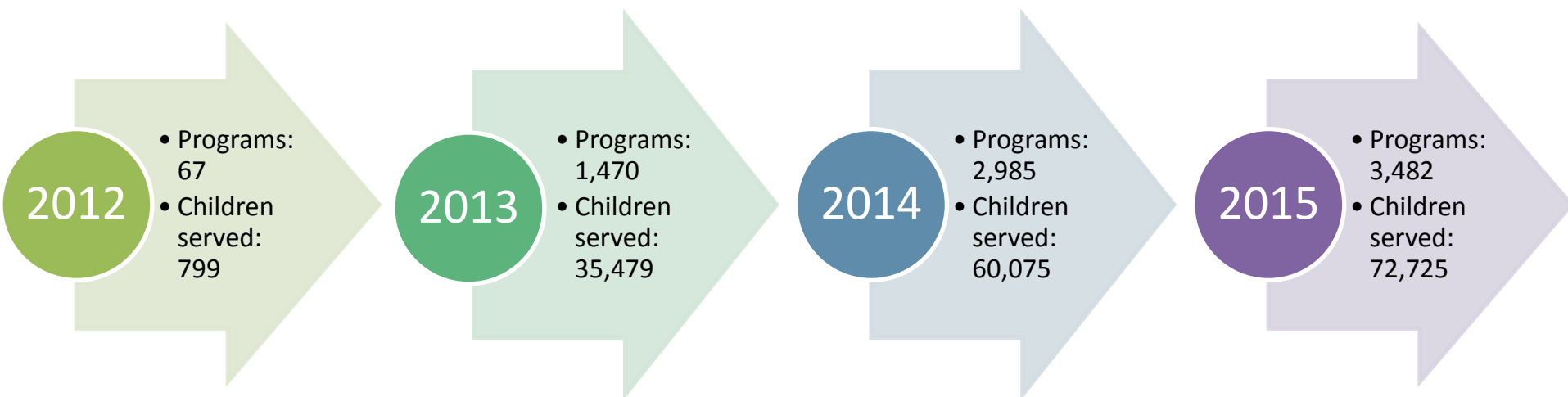
T/A (Required minimum)

\$400K

# What does success look like? QRIS

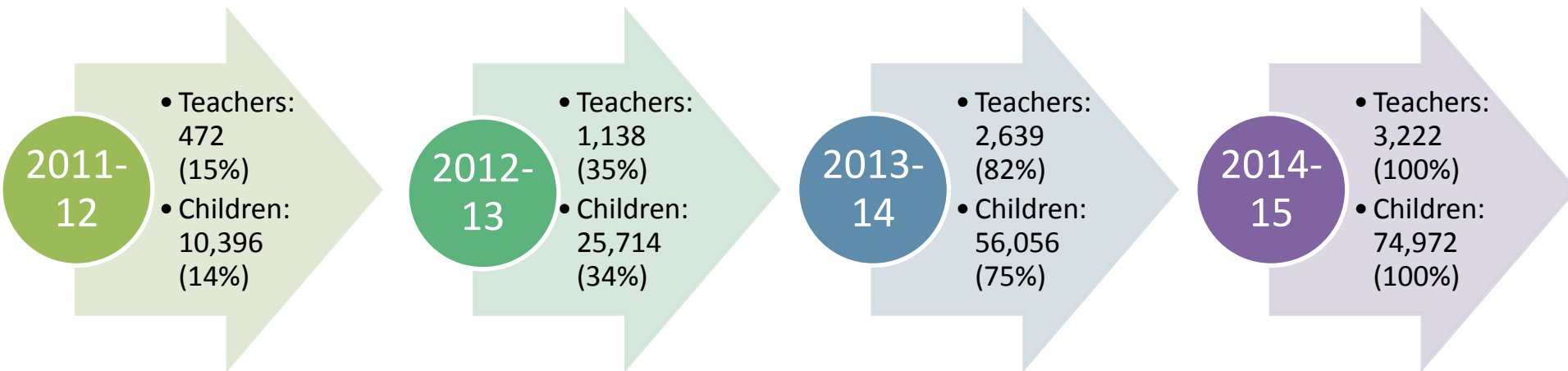
- ✓ All licensed child care, ECEAP, and Head Start eligible for QRIS (2012) at level 1
- ✓ By 2015:
  - 54% of participants in QRIS will be level II or higher (20% of participants will be levels III-V)
  - 60% of children in care will be in levels II-V
- ✓ Tiered reimbursement policy will support and incentivize quality improvement

## *Number of programs at QRIS level II-IV*



# What does success look like? WaKIDS

- ✓ By 2014-15 school year, WaKIDS will be scaled up to include all schools statewide
- ✓ In 2012-13, WaKIDS includes all FDK schools, and those funded through private P-3 efforts
- ✓ WaKIDS data linked to P-20 data system
- ✓ WaKIDS data being used to inform K-instruction, early learning instruction and statewide policy



# WaKIDS implementation timeline

School Year	Current Law	RTTT Application
2011-12	Voluntary in state-funded full-day K	Not applicable
2012-13	Required in state-funded full-day K	Administered in state and <u>district</u> funded full-day K
2013-14	Required in state-funded full-day K	Administered in state and <u>district</u> funded full-day K  Administered in ½ day Kindergarten: Teacher must administer in only one classroom
2014-15	Required in state-funded full-day K	Administered in all Kindergarten classrooms



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[www.del.wa.gov/government/racetotop](http://www.del.wa.gov/government/racetotop)