



Washington's most trusted child care resource



ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2015 - JUNE 2016

Who We Are



Since 1989 Child Care Aware of Washington has made a real difference for young children and families in Washington.

We are a statewide non-profit organization with six child care resource and referral programs across WA that provide local services to child care providers, including training and coaching. Our Family Center provides free child care referral information to families seeking child care, and our Washington Scholarships for Child Care Professionals program provides scholarships to child care and early learning professionals.

With our six regional partners, we help implement Early Achievers, Washington's Quality Rating and Improvement System, as well as provide support to family, friend and neighbor caregivers. Our regional partners provide the on-the-ground support WA's child care providers need to improve the quality of care they offer. Our network office serves as an information hub for the child care and early learning field, providing data on child care trends and advocacy for young children and child care providers on both the state and national levels.

Data

Child Care Aware of Washington's data on child care supply, demand, costs and trends is frequently used by government agencies, lawmakers, our early learning partners, researchers from around the country, the media and others who want a clear understanding of the state of child care in Washington.

<http://wa.childcareaware.org/about-us/data>



Advocacy

2016 saw the implementation and the initial results of the 2015 passage of the historic Early Start Act. Child Care Aware of Washington worked with our partner organizations to implement the law and help child care providers participate and succeed in Early Achievers. We also shifted our message to the state legislature with a more targeted emphasis on the importance of fair compensation and workforce stability in providing high-quality child care and early learning programs to WA's children and families.

Primary areas of focus were encouraging provider enrollment in Early Achievers, preventing a waitlist for Working Connections Child Care, WA's child care assistance program, and advocating for reimbursement rates and compensation that actually cover the cost of quality care. We also helped lay a strong foundation for the critically important 2017 state legislative session.

<http://wa.childcareaware.org/about-us/advocacy>

Letter from the Board of Trustees

As our state's early learning system grows and refines, so does Child Care Aware of Washington.

Last year, we began the important work of charting a strategic road map for our future, defining and enhancing our unique contributions to the system. Our goal, however, remains the same: high-quality care for every child in Washington who needs child care.

Our organization continued its valuable role in recruiting child care providers across the state to enroll in Early Achievers before the Aug. 1, 2016 Early Start Act milestone. CCA of WA's professional mix of coaches, trainers, technical assistants, field and network staff worked effectively to help child care providers succeed in Early Achievers while reaching their personal goals for quality improvement. For some child care professionals, this meant earning degrees or certificates in early childhood education. Our Washington Scholarships for Child Care Professionals team supported more scholars than ever before.

As importantly, we connected thousands of families around our state with quality child care options in their communities through our Family Center. We also began preparations for our new statewide early learning conference for early childhood leaders, the 2016 Elevate Early Learning Conference. Our goal for Elevate is to inspire every provider and reach every child.

As we look to the future, we are always reminded that everything we do is in service to Washington's children, our collective future.

Hilary Loeb
BOT President

Robin Lester
Chief Executive Officer

Early Achievers

Early Achievers, Washington's Quality Rating and Improvement System, is a research-based framework that is leading the way for Washington's child care providers to be among the best of the best. Designed, administered and implemented by the Washington State Department of Early Learning, the University of Washington and Child Care Aware of Washington, Early Achievers is now serving more than 75,000 young children. At the end of FY16, 63% of WA's licensed child care providers were participating in Early Achievers.



Providers Enrolled



Children Served



These numbers do not include providers that allocate 75% or more of their capacity to Head Start or ECEAP slots, because CCA of WA does not serve these sites. School-age only providers are not eligible for Early Achievers at this time.

Training – Professional Development Academy

Child Care Aware of Washington's Professional Development Academy provides continuing education on a variety of early learning topics. We are dedicated to building new knowledge and skills through a collaborative and interactive approach to learning. Our expert trainers offer participants research-based information and practical tools they need to stay informed of best practices, overcome challenges and better serve children and families.

13,019 Early Achievers trainings completed

10,551 Non-Early Achievers trainings completed



The Early Achievers Impact

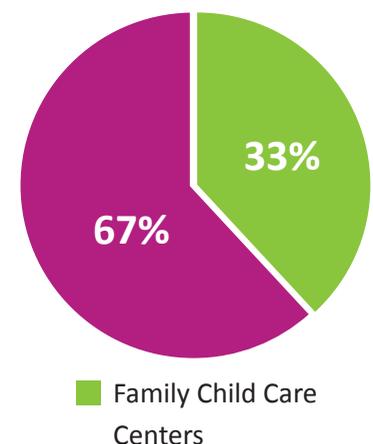
Chris Simpson is a family child care provider in Tenino, WA. She has been a child care provider for over 30 years. When she first heard about Early Achievers she was reluctant to enroll as she has seen many efforts come and go over the years. She changed her mind when she read some of the Early Achievers information shared with her at an orientation.

Not long after joining, Chris saw the importance and relevance of the Early Achievers Quality Standards and began to make improvements to her home-based program. Soon, the behavior of the children in her care improved, and the parents of the children were remarking how their children seemed to be learning more and behaving better at home.

As Chris continued learning and growing as a child care professional, she was rated an Early Achievers Quality Level of Excellence, and now helps the local school district with incoming kindergarten placement.

"I think because of what I learned through Early Achievers I know now how to better communicate with the kids, they learned how to communicate better with me. They question more, they use better vocabulary...and they just seem to have a lot more fun playing and using their imaginations...Now I can hold my head up high."

Early Achievers Participants by Type - FY16

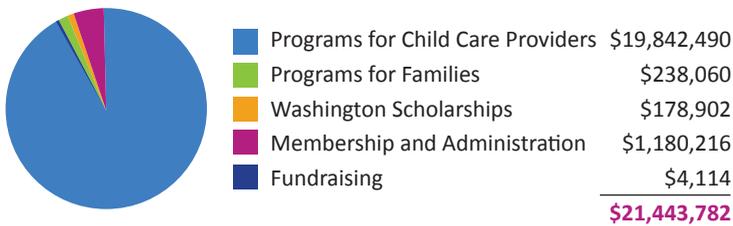


Child Care Aware of Washington is a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring that every child in Washington has access to high-quality child care and early learning programs. As a statewide organization we influence child care and early learning policies while also delivering the means to make a positive difference for all children, including those furthest from opportunity.

Revenue



Expenses



WA Scholarships for Child Care Professionals FY16

Washington Scholarships for Child Care Professionals offers scholarships to early learning professionals to enrich their expertise. Our goal is to advance the early learning field by increasing educational achievement and helping child care and early learning professionals achieve their goals.

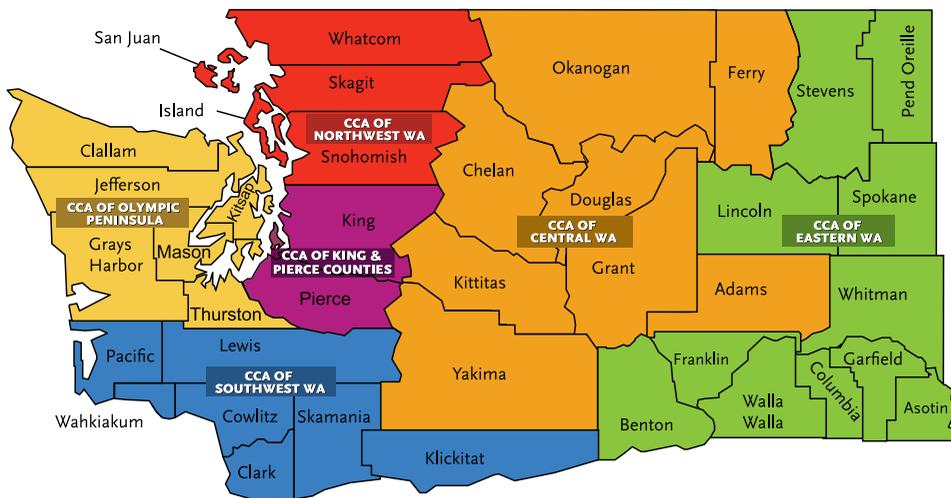
Not all of our scholarships are for college credits. Some are for professional certificates and assessments.



1,086
number of scholars



8,964
college credits



Child Care Aware of Washington Family Center

Connecting families to high-quality child care for over 27 years



16,683
families seeking care



23,951
children needing care



23,080
referral searches

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