**MISSION**

Child Care Aware of Washington is our state’s most thorough and accessible source of information and support in early care and education (birth to 12 years). We work alongside families, child care providers, caregivers, and communities to meet the diverse and specialized learning needs of every child in our state. We use data and story to influence policy makers, system leaders and our partners to ensure every child in Washington has equitable access to quality learning experiences.

**VISION**

All Washington children experience high quality, racially equitable early care and education opportunities that empower them to dream and flourish.

**RACIAL EQUITY POLICY**

Racism harms all children, mostly and inequitably children of color, particularly black and indigenous children. Child Care Aware of Washington stands with, and supports, all families of color who encounter the long-lingering impacts of racism and all families who oppose white supremacy in all its forms. As an organization, we envision a world where children and families, especially those who are marginalized, discriminated against, or otherwise ostracized because of systemic racism, have access to equitable, quality child care and early learning programs that lead families to thrive economically while closing the opportunity gap. For more information, visit childcareawarewa.org.
We are uniquely positioned to witness the impacts of policies and practices on families and providers and we make connections that create equitable learning opportunities for all children.

We advocate for inclusion of the voices least heard in decisions that impact those communities. We advocate for change that results in better outcomes for children and families.

We impact child development for children ages birth to 12 and family well-being in multiple ways.

We are advocates and resources for child care providers through our continuous focus on high quality practices.

We are the largest connector of families seeking care to those who care for children.

We are a listening system. We collect data that reflects the experiences of the communities we serve to inform and improve early care and education policies and practices.

Child Care Aware of Washington, through a strong implementation system provided by our regional partners, provides our state’s most thorough and accessible source of information and support in early care and education. We are committed to building racially equitable and anti-biased early learning experiences for all children.

**STRATEGIC BIG QUESTION**

How can CCA of WA amplify our influence and impact on early care and education policies (birth to 12 years), practices and decision making?

What are the areas of focus that CCA of WA will undertake to “answer” the Big Question:

**A**

Build on the momentum coming out of the COVID crisis capitalizing on our ability to influence stakeholders at all levels

i. Be the expert – place people go for accurate and timely information

ii. Purposefully add many more voices

iii. Support and Mobilize community voice

**B**

Identify opportunities to bring new investment of funding into the system and build a model for a sustainable financial future

i. Build relationships that inspire confidence

ii. Secure funding for our work

iii. Increase our value

**C**

Implement promising practice and innovation

i. Adapt programs and services to ensure they reflect our focus on racial equity

ii. Expand to a new care model and infrastructure to connect our FFN and School Age work beyond licensed care

We are uniquely positioned to witness the impacts of policies and practices on families and providers and we make connections that create equitable learning opportunities for all children.