

EXTENDING THE HOMELESS GRACE PERIOD FOR WORKING CONNECTIONS CHILD CARE

Washington currently allows a “Homeless Grace Period” (HGP) of up to four months for families experiencing homelessness to meet the full eligibility requirements of the Working Connections Child Care subsidy (WCCC). For 49% of families accessing the grace period, four months was not enough time.

Please invest \$1.4 million in the 2020 supplemental budget to extend the Homeless Grace Period and increase early learning opportunities for children experiencing homelessness.

Extending the grace period from 4 to 12 months would maintain access to the high-quality early learning environments for homeless children that are critical to childhood development, while giving their families the time needed to resolve issues related to homelessness such as housing and employment.



Children experiencing homelessness face traumas that can have long-term impacts. Quality child care provides a safe, development-focused environment that is a proven protective factor for kids and contributes to their resilience.

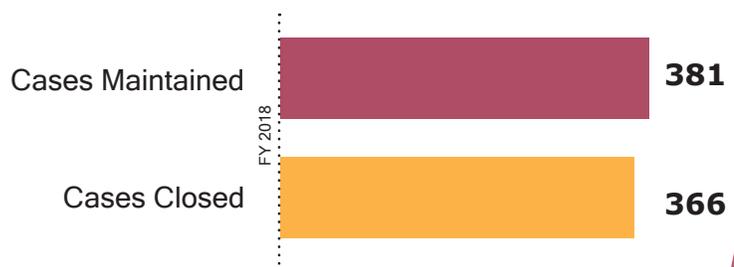
BY THE NUMBERS

Statewide data from October 2018–September 2019 indicates that children are not receiving the stable care they need while their families are experiencing crisis:

49% OF FAMILIES LOST ELIGIBILITY

for quality child care after the grace period ended. Of the 747 families approved for child care through HGP, only half remained eligible for Working Connections Child Care.

GRACE PERIOD CASES BY HOUSEHOLD



52% OF FAMILIES COULDN'T FIND CARE.

Over half of families in the HGP program were unable to use the subsidy, according to Child Care Resources program data. Given the shortage of slots system-wide and difficulty of finding providers able to take subsidy, 120 days was not long enough to find care.

This is especially difficult for families needing support with unique behavioral and health needs, care during nonstandard business hours, and access to transportation.

Sources

- Child Care Resources, Annual Report to Child Care Aware of Washington, July 2019: Helping Families Experiencing Homelessness Navigate and Access Child Care