

PRENATAL THROUGH 5 RELATIONAL HEALTH SUBGROUP (P5RHS)

A SUBGROUP OF THE WASHINGTON CHILDREN & YOUTH
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORK GROUP (CYBHWG)

This P5RHS budget recommendation is included in the CYBHWG's 2023 report.

**2023
RECOMMENDATION:
INFANT AND EARLY
CHILDHOOD MENTAL
HEALTH
CONSULTATION**

IECMH-C



Increase investment in IECMH-C by \$2M annually (ongoing) to address unmet need and increase equitable access to IECMH-C for WA's children, families, and adult caregivers in child care.



IECMH-C is an evidence-based, prevention-oriented, multi-level intervention that results in improved caregiver social-emotional support for young children and improved social-emotional well being for children.. IECMH-C is an effective tool for interrupting racial and other bias and has been shown to decrease rates of school expulsion.

A 2022 survey of all licensed child care providers statewide showed that:



- 67% of providers reported an increase in social/emotional challenges with children, with 40% of providers indicating that the majority of children in their care were in need of additional support with behavioral or social emotional needs.
- 59% of providers reported that they do not have sufficient access to a child care health or mental health consultant to support children's health, development, or behavioral concerns.



These funds would be used to hire 13 additional mental health consultants to:

- Provide IECMH-C services by linguistically and culturally matched consultants;
- Attend to the wait list by offering "one-to-many" types of supports;
- Expand individualized mental health consultation services; and
- Maintain quality and access to a variety of services.

P5RHS has a diverse, statewide membership that includes more than 140 parents, community leaders, practitioners and advocates. We work to center the voices of parents and those with lived experience, proposing recommendations that advance equity and help to build, sustain, or transform foundational prenatal through five systems.

