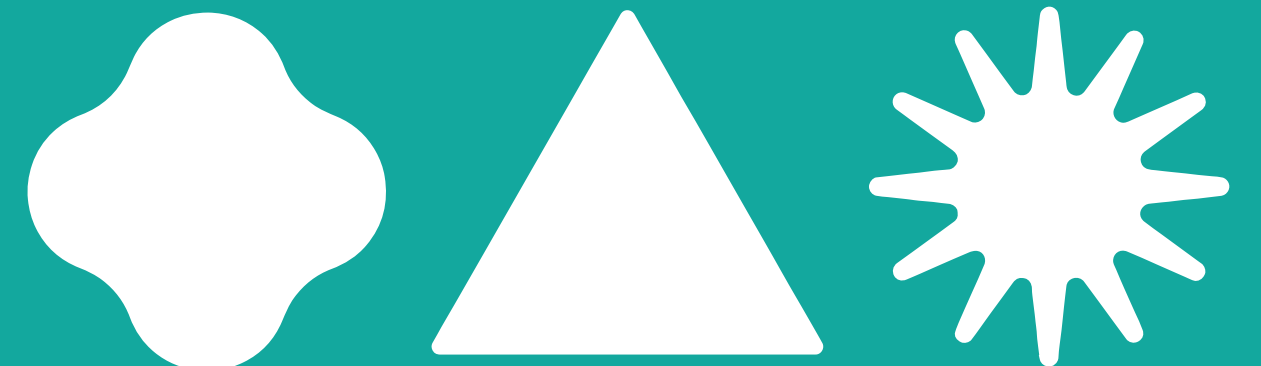


June Advocacy Pod Meeting

Team Advocacy - June 17th, 2026



Agenda



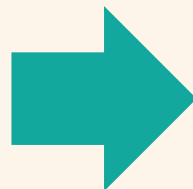
State Advocacy Updates



May Meeting Recap - County Councils & Executives



Local deep-dive - City Councils & Mayors



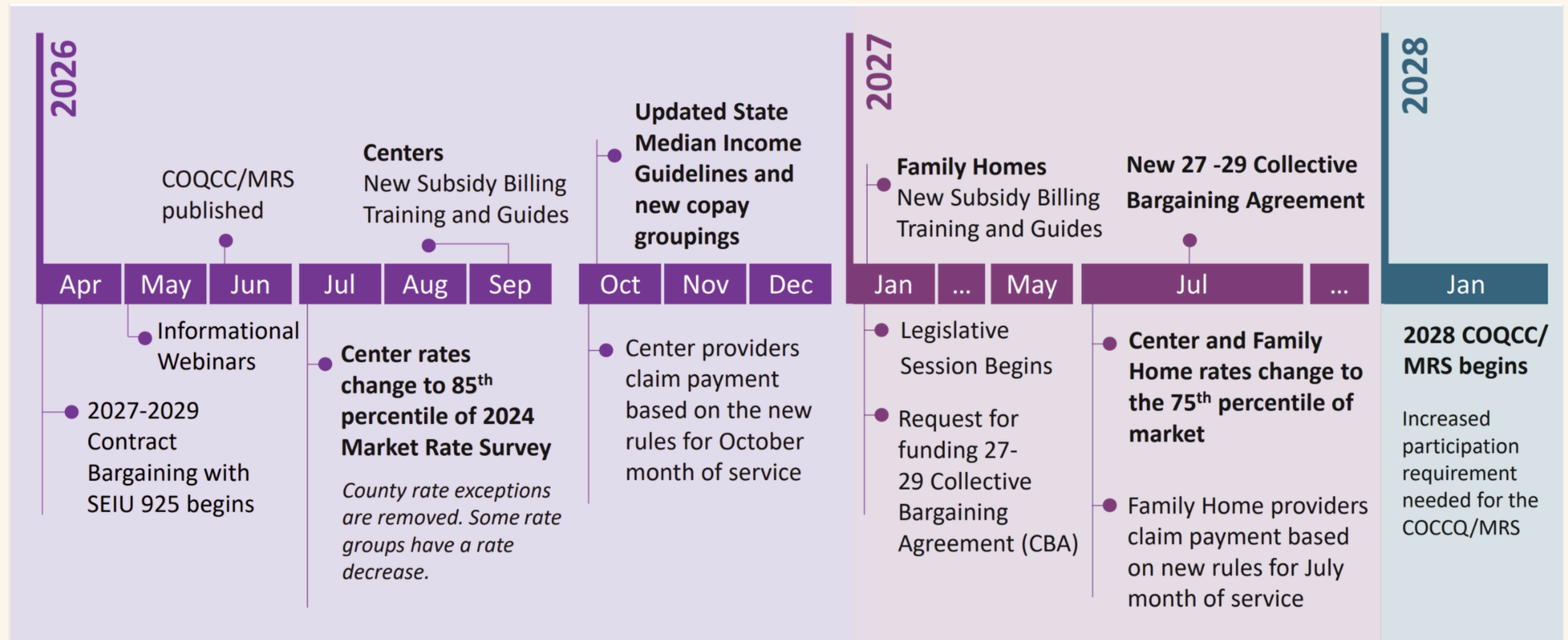
Upcoming Advocacy Opportunities



Resources and next steps

☀ State Advocacy Updates

▶ Working Connections Child Care Subsidy



☀ Want More State Updates or Deep Dives?

▶ CCA of WA Cohorts

- Monthly meetings
- Feedback loop with Child Care for WA Campaign
- Statewide impact
- Storytelling
- Professional development



JOIN ADVOCACY
Child Care for WA Campaign



Some ways to get involved!

- Meet with legislators to advocate for change
- Stay informed on child care and early learning policies
- Share your story and experiences
- Participate in phone banking
- Connect with fellow parents and providers
- Provide testimony on key issues
- Attend Advocacy Day in Olympia (stipends available)

TO JOIN CONTACT JAYMIE
Jaymie Davis
email: j.davis@childcare.org
phone: 253-514-0252



☀ State Advocacy Updates

▶ Pre-K Promise Subcommittee

- This Group will meet quarterly to guide DCYF in the expansion of ECEAP by providing external perspectives and expertise to inform decisions on expansion plans.
- **Nominations close on June 20**

▶ DCYF Strategic Plan

- DCYF is creating the 2027–2031 Strategic Plan and wants input from advisory groups and lived experts.
- **Subscribe to DCYF newsletters or follow on socials**

▶ Millionaires Tax

- Facing legal challenges in state courts and may appear on a future ballot.



May Meeting Recap: County Executives & Councils

County Executives

Elected by voters from across the county, they are entrusted with executing and enforcing all ordinances and state statutes within the county

- Oversee all the county offices - 4 year term.
- Responsible for presenting annual financial and governmental affairs statements, and proposing an annual budget to their county councils.
- Has the power to veto ordinances from Council.
- Serves as the “mayor” for unincorporated areas (designated census places) of the county.



King County - Girmay Zahilay



Pierce County - Ryan Mello

County Councils

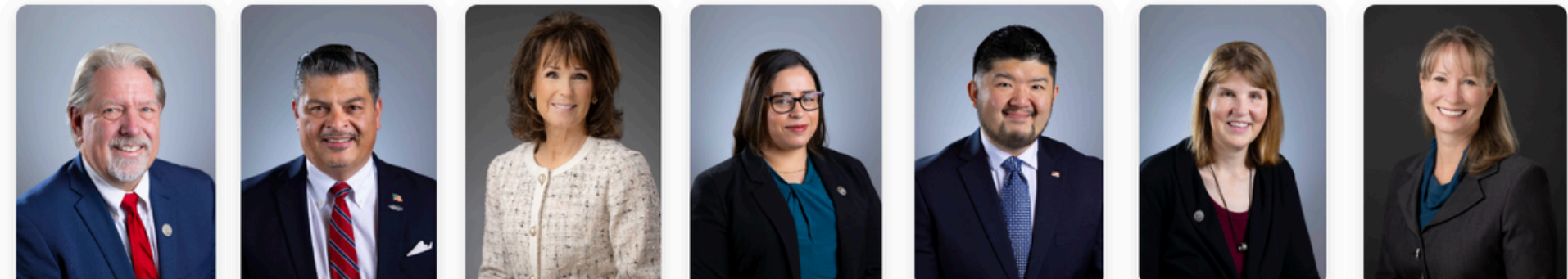
The legislative branch of the county government. Councilmembers are elected by the voters of the county based on their geographic region/district.

- County Councils set policies, enact laws, and adopt budgets that guide an array of services for county residents.
- Non-partisan offices with four-year terms.
- They are the governing body for unincorporated areas (designated census places) of the county.

King County Council



Pierce County Council



☀️ Let's Talk About Local!

The BSELS Advocacy Team is in the early stages of expanding our relationship building and advocacy with our county, city, and local school officials across King and Pierce counties - to grow understanding of and support for early learning at all levels in our communities.



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4347 9071



Local Deep Dive: Mayors & City Councils

City Government

Defining types of forms of government

- **First Class City (10 in the state):**
 - Population of 10,000+ at the time of organization or reorganization
 - Has adopted a charter ([RCW 35.01.010](#)).
- **Second Class City (5 in the state):**
 - Population over 1,500+ at the time of organization or reorganization
 - Does not have a charter and does not operate as a code city under the Optional Municipal Code ([RCW 35.01.020](#)).
- **Towns (68 in the state - no new ones legally allowed after 1994):**
 - Population of < 1,500 at the time of its organization.
 - Does not operate under the Optional Municipal Code ([RCW 35.01.040](#)).

Forms of Government

Mayor-Council

Mayor-council is the oldest and most common form of government in Washington. While most cities in Washington use the mayor-council system, the vast majority of cities that incorporated or changed form of government since 1970 adopted the council-manager system. In all but the largest cities, elected mayors and councilmembers serve on a part-time basis, leaving most of the day-to-day operations to administrative personnel.

Mayor:

- Elected at-large
- Serves as the city's chief administrative officer
- Is responsible for carrying out city policies
- Attends council meetings but does not vote, except in the case of a tie
- Has veto authority over legislation
- Must be a resident and legally registered voter of that city

Council:

- Elected either at-large or from districts
- Serves as the legislative body
- Has the authority to formulate and adopt city policies
- Can override mayor's veto depending on charter

Forms of Government

Council-Manager

Council-manager is the other common form of government in Washington, including quite a few medium-to-large cities. While it is not as common as the mayor-council form, the vast majority of cities that have incorporated or successfully changed form of government since 1970 have adopted the council-manager system.

Manager:

- Appointed by the council
- Responsible for administration
- Provides policy advice, directs daily operations of city government, handles personnel functions (including the power to appoint and remove employees) and is responsible for preparing the city budget.
- Does not need to reside in the city or be a registered voter of that city

Council:

- Elected at-large or from districts
- Responsible for policymaking
- Can remove city manager by a majority vote at any time
- Ceremonial mayor presides at council meetings and events but has no regular administrative duties

How do mayors & city councils connect with early learning?

- Funding
 - City budget
 - Human services funding
 - Family / community development
- Zoning & Permitting
 - siting
 - parking
- Education Departments & Staff
- Collaboration with schools
 - Before / after care
 - Preschool / TTK
- Transportation

Pierce County Cities

Phase 1 Cities

- Tacoma - "City of Destiny"
- Lakewood - "Build Your Better Here"
- Puyallup - "Working to be Your Community of Choice"
- Gig Harbor - "The Maritime City"
- Bonney Lake - "United in Service"
- Fife - "Industrious by Nature"

Why these cities?

- Largest cities in Pierce County
- Variety of rural and urban child care needs
- Identifying the unique communities within Pierce County
- Cities who are growing due to the high-cost of living in King as well as around JBLM
- MultiCultural Child and Family Hope Center opening July 1st providing more infant/toddler slots, additional ECEAP slots, and community space in Tacoma

King County Cities

Phase 1 Cities

- Seattle - "The Emerald City", "The City of Flowers" & "The City of Goodwill"
- Renton - "Ahead of the Curve"
- Bellevue - "City in a Park"
- Kent - "Bringing the World Home"

Why these cities?

- Four of the largest cities in King County
- Cities with the largest number of children not in identified care
- Cities with high percentage of their zip codes having the lowest median incomes in the county
- Currently or in the past have dedicated city funding to early learning supports
- Largest percentage of calls from these cities to the BSELS call center



Let's Chat

What city are you in?

Questions / Discussion



Next Month

- Our county coalitions
- County / city budget planning
- Diving into our largest cities
- Local advocacy opportunities

Thank you!

