

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**HOUSE BILL 2111**

68th Legislature  
2024 Regular Session

Passed by the House January 29, 2024  
Yeas 96 Nays 0

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**Speaker of the House of  
Representatives**

Passed by the Senate February 22,  
2024  
Yeas 48 Nays 0

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**President of the Senate**

Approved

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **HOUSE BILL 2111** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

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**Chief Clerk**

FILED

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**HOUSE BILL 2111**

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Passed Legislature - 2024 Regular Session

**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2024 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Nance, Senn, Simmons, Callan, Tharinger, Lekanoff, Wylie, and Reeves

Prefiled 01/03/24. Read first time 01/08/24. Referred to Committee on Human Services, Youth, & Early Learning.

1 AN ACT Relating to clarifying requirements for subsidized child  
2 care; amending RCW 43.216.1368, 43.216.1364, and 43.216.145;  
3 reenacting and amending RCW 43.216.136; adding new sections to  
4 chapter 43.216 RCW; recodifying RCW 43.216.136, 43.216.1364,  
5 43.216.1368, 43.216.139, 43.216.141, 43.216.143, 43.216.145,  
6 43.216.730, and 43.216.749; and repealing RCW 43.216.725 and  
7 43.216.137.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

9 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.216.136 and 2023 c 294 s 1 and 2023 c 222 s 3 are  
10 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

11 GENERAL POLICIES. (1) The department shall establish and  
12 implement policies in the working connections child care program to  
13 promote stability and quality of care for children from low-income  
14 households. These policies shall focus on supporting school readiness  
15 for young learners. Policies for the expenditure of funds  
16 constituting the working connections child care program must be  
17 consistent with the outcome measures established by the department  
18 and the standards established in this section intended to promote  
19 stability, quality, and continuity of early care and education  
20 programming.

1 (2) As recommended by P.L. 113-186, authorizations for the  
2 working connections child care subsidy are effective for 12 months  
3 (~~beginning July 1, 2016~~).

4 (a) A household's 12-month authorization begins on the date that  
5 child care is expected to begin.

6 (b) If a newly eligible household does not begin care within 12  
7 months of being determined eligible by the department, the household  
8 must reapply in order to qualify for subsidy.

9 ~~(3) ((a) The department shall establish and implement policies in  
10 the working connections child care program to allow eligibility for  
11 families with children who:~~

12 ~~(i) In the last six months have:~~

13 ~~(A) Received child protective services as defined and used by  
14 chapters 26.44 and 74.13 RCW;~~

15 ~~(B) Received child welfare services as defined and used by  
16 chapter 74.13 RCW;~~

17 ~~(C) Received services through a family assessment response as  
18 defined and used by chapter 26.44 RCW; or~~

19 ~~(D) A parent or guardian participating in a specialty court or  
20 therapeutic court or who is a listed victim in a case in a specialty  
21 court or therapeutic court;~~

22 ~~(ii) Have been referred for child care as part of the family's  
23 case management as defined by RCW 74.13.020 or as part of the  
24 specialty court or therapeutic court's proceedings; and~~

25 ~~(iii) Are residing with a biological parent or guardian.~~

26 ~~(b) Families who are eligible for working connections child care  
27 pursuant to this subsection do not have to keep receiving services or  
28 keep participating in a specialty court or therapeutic court  
29 identified in this subsection to maintain 12-month authorization.~~

30 ~~(4) (a) Beginning July 1, 2021, and subject to the availability of  
31 amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the department may  
32 not require an applicant or consumer to meet work requirements as a  
33 condition of receiving working connections child care benefits when  
34 the applicant or consumer is in a state registered apprenticeship  
35 program or is a full-time student of a community, technical, or  
36 tribal college and is enrolled in:~~

37 ~~(i) A vocational education program that leads to a degree or  
38 certificate in a specific occupation; or~~

39 ~~(ii) An associate degree program.~~

1 ~~(b) An applicant or consumer is a full-time student for the~~  
2 ~~purposes of this subsection if the applicant or consumer meets the~~  
3 ~~college's definition of a full-time student.~~

4 ~~(c) Nothing in this subsection is intended to change how~~  
5 ~~applicants or consumers are prioritized when applicants or consumers~~  
6 ~~are placed on a waitlist for working connections child care benefits.~~

7 ~~(d) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this~~  
8 ~~specific purpose, the department may extend the provisions of this~~  
9 ~~subsection (4) to full-time students who are enrolled in a bachelor's~~  
10 ~~degree program or applied baccalaureate degree program.~~

11 ~~(5) The department may not consider the immigration status of an~~  
12 ~~applicant or consumer's child when determining eligibility for~~  
13 ~~working connections child care benefits.~~

14 ~~(6) (a) An applicant or consumer is eligible to receive working~~  
15 ~~connections child care benefits for the care of one or more eligible~~  
16 ~~children for the first 12 months of the applicant's or consumer's~~  
17 ~~enrollment in a state registered apprenticeship program under chapter~~  
18 ~~49.04 RCW when:~~

19 ~~(i) The applicant or consumer's household annual income adjusted~~  
20 ~~for family size does not exceed 75 percent of the state median income~~  
21 ~~at the time of application, or, beginning July 1, 2027, does not~~  
22 ~~exceed 85 percent of the state median income if funds are~~  
23 ~~appropriated for the purpose of RCW 43.216.1368(4);~~

24 ~~(ii) The child receiving care is: (A) Less than 13 years of age;~~  
25 ~~or (B) less than 19 years of age and either has a verified special~~  
26 ~~need according to department rule or is under court supervision; and~~

27 ~~(iii) The household meets all other program eligibility~~  
28 ~~requirements.~~

29 ~~(b) The department must adopt a copayment model for benefits~~  
30 ~~granted under this subsection, which must align with any copayment~~  
31 ~~identified or adopted for households with the same income level under~~  
32 ~~RCW 43.216.1368.~~

33 ~~(7)) (a) The department must extend the homeless grace period, as~~  
34 ~~adopted in department rule as of January 1, 2020, from a four-month~~  
35 ~~grace period to a 12-month grace period.~~

36 ~~(b) For the purposes of this ((section)) subsection, "homeless"~~  
37 ~~means being without a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime~~  
38 ~~residence as described in the federal McKinney-Vento homeless~~  
39 ~~assistance act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 11434a) as it existed on January 1,~~  
40 ~~2020.~~

1        ~~((8))~~ (4) For purposes of this section, "authorization" means a  
2 transaction created by the department that allows a child care  
3 provider to claim payment for care. The department may adjust an  
4 authorization based on a household's eligibility status.

5        **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.216.1368 and 2023 c 222 s 4 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7        GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS. (1) It is the intent of the  
8 legislature to increase working families' access to affordable, high  
9 quality child care and to support the expansion of the workforce to  
10 support businesses and the statewide economy.

11        (2) ~~((Beginning October 1, 2021, a))~~ A family is eligible for  
12 working connections child care when the household's annual income is  
13 at or below 60 percent of the state median income adjusted for family  
14 size and:

15        (a) The child receiving care is: (i) Less than 13 years of age;  
16 or (ii) less than 19 years of age and has a verified special need  
17 according to department rule or is under court supervision; and

18        (b) The household meets all other program eligibility  
19 requirements established in this chapter or in rule by the department  
20 as authorized by RCW 43.216.055 or 43.216.065 or any other authority  
21 granted by this chapter.

22        (3) Beginning July 1, 2025, a family is eligible for working  
23 connections child care when the household's annual income is above 60  
24 percent and at or below 75 percent of the state median income  
25 adjusted for family size and:

26        (a) The child receiving care is: (i) Less than 13 years of age;  
27 or (ii) less than 19 years of age and has a verified special need  
28 according to department rule or is under court supervision; and

29        (b) The household meets all other program eligibility  
30 requirements established in this chapter or in rule by the department  
31 as authorized by RCW 43.216.055 or 43.216.065 or any other authority  
32 granted by this chapter.

33        (4) Beginning July 1, 2027, and subject to the availability of  
34 amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, a family is eligible  
35 for working connections child care when the household's annual income  
36 is above 75 percent of the state median income and is at or below 85  
37 percent of the state median income adjusted for family size and:

1 (a) The child receiving care is: (i) Less than 13 years of age;  
2 or (ii) less than 19 years of age and has a verified special need  
3 according to department rule or is under court supervision; and

4 (b) The household meets all other program eligibility  
5 requirements established in this chapter or in rule by the department  
6 as authorized by RCW 43.216.055 or 43.216.065 or any other authority  
7 granted by this chapter.

8 ~~(5) ((a) Beginning October 1, 2021, through June 30, 2023, the~~  
9 ~~department must calculate a monthly copayment according to the~~  
10 ~~following schedule:~~

If the household's income is:	Then the household's maximum monthly copayment is:
At or below 20 percent of the state median income	Waived to the extent allowable under federal law; otherwise, a maximum of \$15
Above 20 percent and at or below 36 percent of the state median income	\$65
Above 36 percent and at or below 50 percent of the state median income	\$115 until December 31, 2021, and \$90 beginning January 1, 2022
Above 50 percent and at or below 60 percent of the state median income	\$115

20 ~~(b) Beginning July 1, 2023, the department must calculate a~~  
21 ~~monthly copayment according to the following schedule:~~

If the household's income is:	Then the household's maximum monthly copayment is:
At or below 20 percent of the state median income	Waived to the extent allowable under federal law; otherwise, a maximum of \$15
Above 20 percent and at or below 36 percent of the state median income	\$65
Above 36 percent and at or below 50 percent of the state median income	\$90
Above 50 percent and at or below 60 percent of the state median income	\$165

31 ~~(c) Beginning July 1, 2025, the department must calculate a~~  
32 ~~maximum monthly copayment of \$215 for households with incomes above~~  
33 ~~60 percent and at or below 75 percent of the state median income.~~

34 ~~(d) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this~~  
35 ~~specific purpose, the department shall adopt a copayment model for~~  
36 ~~households with annual incomes above 75 percent of the state median~~

1 income and at or below 85 percent of the state median income. The  
2 model must calculate a copayment for each household that is no  
3 greater than seven percent of the household's countable income within  
4 this income range.

5 ~~(e) The department may adjust the copayment schedule to comply~~  
6 ~~with federal law.~~

7 ~~(6))~~ The department must adopt rules to implement this section,  
8 including an income phase-out eligibility period.

9 ~~((7) This section does not apply to households eligible for the~~  
10 ~~working connections child care program under RCW 43.216.145 and~~  
11 ~~43.216.1364))~~ (6) The department may not consider the citizenship  
12 status of an applicant or consumer's child when determining  
13 eligibility for working connections child care benefits.

14 (7) The income eligibility requirements in subsections (2)  
15 through (4) of this section do not apply to households eligible for  
16 the working connections child care program under sections 5 and 6 of  
17 this act, RCW 43.216.145 (as recodified by this act), and 43.216.1364  
18 (as recodified by this act).

19 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. COPAYMENTS. (1) Effective until July 1,  
20 2025, the department must calculate a monthly copayment according to  
21 the following schedule:

If the household's income is:	Then the household's maximum monthly copayment is:
At or below 20 percent of the state median income	Waived to the extent allowable under federal law; otherwise, a maximum of \$15
Above 20 percent and at or below 36 percent of the state median income	\$65
Above 36 percent and at or below 50 percent of the state median income	\$90
Above 50 percent and at or below 60 percent of the state median income	\$165

31 (2) Beginning July 1, 2025, the department must calculate a  
32 monthly copayment according to the following schedule:

If the household's income is:	Then the household's maximum monthly copayment is:
At or below 20 percent of the state median income	Waived to the extent allowable under federal law; otherwise, a maximum of \$15

1	Above 20 percent and at or below 36 percent of the state median income	\$65
2		
3	Above 36 percent and at or below 50 percent of the state median income	\$90
4		
5	Above 50 percent and at or below 60 percent of the state median income	\$165
6		
7	Above 60 percent and at or below 75 percent of the state median income	\$215
8		

9 (3) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
10 specific purpose, the department shall adopt a copayment model for  
11 households with annual incomes above 75 percent of the state median  
12 income and at or below 85 percent of the state median income. The  
13 model must calculate a copayment for each household that is no  
14 greater than seven percent of the household's countable income within  
15 this income range.

16 (4) The department may adjust the copayment schedule to comply  
17 with federal law.

18 (5) The department must adopt rules to implement this section.

19 (6) This section does not apply to households eligible for the  
20 working connections child care program under section 5 of this act,  
21 RCW 43.216.145 (as recodified by this act), and 43.216.1364 (as  
22 recodified by this act).

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** EXCEPTIONS TO APPROVED ACTIVITY  
24 REQUIREMENTS. (1)(a) Subject to the availability of amounts  
25 appropriated for this specific purpose, the department may not  
26 require an applicant or consumer to meet work requirements as a  
27 condition of receiving working connections child care benefits when  
28 the applicant or consumer is in a state registered apprenticeship  
29 program or is a full-time student of a community, technical, or  
30 tribal college and is enrolled in:

31 (i) A vocational education program that leads to a degree or  
32 certificate in a specific occupation; or

33 (ii) An associate degree program.

34 (b) An applicant or consumer is a full-time student for the  
35 purposes of this subsection if the applicant or consumer meets the  
36 college's definition of a full-time student.



1 (2) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
2 specific purpose, the department may extend the provisions of this  
3 section to full-time students who are enrolled in a bachelor's degree  
4 program or applied baccalaureate degree program.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** CATEGORICAL ELIGIBILITY—CHILD PROTECTIVE,  
6 CHILD WELFARE, OR FAMILY ASSESSMENT RESPONSE SERVICES AND  
7 PARTICIPATION IN SPECIALTY COURTS. (1) The department shall establish  
8 and implement policies in the working connections child care program  
9 to allow eligibility for families with children who:

10 (a) In the last six months have:

11 (i) Received child protective services as defined and used by  
12 chapters 26.44 and 74.13 RCW;

13 (ii) Received child welfare services as defined and used by  
14 chapter 74.13 RCW;

15 (iii) Received services through a family assessment response as  
16 defined and used by chapter 26.44 RCW; or

17 (iv) A parent or guardian participating in a specialty court or  
18 therapeutic court or who is a listed victim in a case in a specialty  
19 court or therapeutic court;

20 (b) Have been referred for child care as part of the family's  
21 case management as defined by RCW 74.13.020 or as part of the  
22 specialty court or therapeutic court's proceedings; and

23 (c) Are residing with a biological parent or guardian.

24 (2) Families who are eligible for working connections child care  
25 pursuant to this subsection do not have to keep receiving services or  
26 keep participating in a specialty court or therapeutic court  
27 identified in this subsection to maintain 12-month authorization as  
28 defined in RCW 43.216.136 (as recodified by this act) and have no  
29 copayment.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY—REGISTERED  
31 APPRENTICESHIPS. (1) An applicant or consumer is eligible to receive  
32 working connections child care benefits for the care of one or more  
33 eligible children for the first 12 months of the applicant's or  
34 consumer's enrollment in a state registered apprenticeship program  
35 under chapter 49.04 RCW when:

36 (a) The applicant or consumer's household annual income adjusted  
37 for family size does not exceed 75 percent of the state median income  
38 at the time of application, or, beginning July 1, 2027, does not

1 exceed 85 percent of the state median income if funds are  
2 appropriated for the purpose of RCW 43.216.1368(4) (as recodified by  
3 this act);

4 (b) The child receiving care is: (i) Less than 13 years of age;  
5 or (ii) less than 19 years of age and either has a verified special  
6 need according to department rule or is under court supervision; and

7 (c) The household meets all other program eligibility  
8 requirements established in this chapter or in rule by the department  
9 in accordance with RCW 43.216.055, 43.216.065, and 43.216.136 (as  
10 recodified by this act).

11 (2) The department must adopt a copayment model for benefits  
12 granted under this subsection, which must align with any copayment  
13 identified or adopted for households with the same income level under  
14 section 3 of this act.

15 **Sec. 7.** RCW 43.216.1364 and 2023 c 222 s 2 are each amended to  
16 read as follows:

17 EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY—CHILD CARE EMPLOYEES. (1) (~~Beginning~~  
18 ~~October 1, 2023, a~~) A family is eligible for working connections  
19 child care when the household's annual income is at or below 85  
20 percent of the state median income adjusted for family size and:

21 (a) The child receiving care is: (i) Less than 13 years of age;  
22 or (ii) less than 19 years of age and has a verified special need  
23 according to department rule or is under court supervision;

24 (b) The applicant or consumer is employed in a licensed child  
25 care center or family home provider, as verified in the agency's  
26 electronic workforce registry; and

27 (c) The household meets all other program eligibility  
28 requirements established in this chapter or in rule by the department  
29 as authorized by RCW 43.216.055 or 43.216.065 or any other authority  
30 granted by this chapter.

31 (2) The department must waive the copayment to the extent  
32 allowable under federal law; otherwise, a maximum of \$15 for any  
33 applicant or consumer that meets the requirements under this section.

34 **Sec. 8.** RCW 43.216.145 and 2020 c 339 s 1 are each amended to  
35 read as follows:

36 EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY—HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS OR STUDENTS WORKING  
37 TOWARD A HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY CERTIFICATE. (1) A parent who is

1 attending high school is eligible to receive working connections  
2 child care.

3 (2) A parent age (~~(twenty-one)~~) 21 years or younger who is  
4 working toward completing a high school equivalency certificate is  
5 eligible to receive working connections child care.

6 (3) When determining consumer eligibility and copayment under  
7 this section, the department:

8 (a) Must, within existing resources, authorize full-day  
9 subsidized child care during the school year in cases where:

10 (i) The parent is participating in (~~(one hundred ten)~~) 110 hours  
11 of approved activities per month;

12 (ii) The household income of the parent does not exceed (~~(eighty-~~  
13 ~~five)~~) 85 percent of the state median income at the time of  
14 application; and

15 (iii) The parent meets all other program eligibility requirements  
16 established in this chapter or in rule by the department as  
17 authorized by RCW 43.216.055 or 43.216.065 or any other authority  
18 granted by this chapter;

19 (b) May not consider the availability of the other biological  
20 parent when authorizing care; and

21 (c) May not require a copayment.

22 NEW SECTION. Sec. 9. Sections 3 through 6 of this act are each  
23 added to chapter 43.216 RCW and codified under the subchapter heading  
24 of "subsidized child care."

25 NEW SECTION. Sec. 10. RCW 43.216.136, 43.216.1364, 43.216.1368,  
26 43.216.139, 43.216.141, 43.216.143, 43.216.145, 43.216.730, and  
27 43.216.749 are each recodified as sections in chapter 43.216 RCW to  
28 be added under the subchapter heading of "subsidized child care."

29 NEW SECTION. Sec. 11. The following acts or parts of acts are  
30 each repealed:

31 (1) RCW 43.216.725 (Subsidized child care report and assessment)  
32 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 42 s 12; and

33 (2) RCW 43.216.137 (Working connections child care program—  
34 Unemployment compensation) and 2011 c 4 s 17.

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