

Essentials for Childhood

Our vision: All children in Washington state thrive in safe, stable, and nurturing relationships and environments



Building on Our Successes

Essentials for Childhood is part of a comprehensive child abuse and neglect prevention effort across several states supported by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) and other funders. In August 2018 the CDC approved our proposal for an additional five years of Essentials for Childhood. This allows us to continue convening partners for coordination and collaboration, to align systems, strategies, and policies to improve how families experience supports, reduce stress and increase resilience. We will revisit and strategically update the current partnership structure to maximize impact.

We will continue to bring a strong, intentional equity and racial justice lens to Essentials. A child's race, ethnicity, family income, or neighborhood should not predict their future success and well-being.

We will elevate and empower communities, focusing particularly on those furthest from opportunity, to contribute to statewide policy, systems, and programs and address their specific challenges.



We will continue to build a statewide network of people working to build resilient communities, address and prevent adverse childhood experiences, adverse community environments, and other forms of trauma, and to create communities where all children thrive in safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments.

We will continue to build a statewide Help Me Grow (HMG) system. The system will ensure families can connect to the services and resources they need when, where, and how they need them. Systems will align and enable family-centered and culturally relevant services and build protective factors to mitigate the impact of trauma and ACEs and contribute to dismantling historical, structural racism.

GOALS

Current status:

47%

(2017/2018)

Kindergarten Readiness

Goal: 90% of all children in Washington state enter kindergarten demonstrating readiness on all six domains of WAKids by 2020.

www.k12.wa.us/WAKids/data/default.aspx

Current status:

91%

(2018)

Child Health Status

Goal: 90% of all children have excellent or very good health as reported on the National Survey of Children's Health.

childhealthdata.org/learn/nsch

Current status:

18%

(2011)

Adverse Experiences

Goal: No more than 10% of children have two or more adverse experiences as reported by the National Survey of Children's Health.



Focus on protective factors:

Empowering communities to support positive parenting

For our state and communities to flourish, we all need to flourish. When parents and caregivers have supports and connections to services they can raise successful, healthy children. By providing knowledge of child development we offer a protective factor.

Promoting policy and system changes to strengthen family economic security

Family economic security is a protective factor against abuse and neglect. Essentials for Childhood will strengthen, share, and increase support for aligned efforts, including the Governor's Work Group on Poverty Reduction, bringing community voice to implementation.

In five years

- More communities, initiatives, and agencies will establish intentional strategies to reduce the opportunity gap.
- Empowerment will support families, recognizing that parents and caregivers need supports and connections to services to raise successful, healthy children.
- Improved family-friendly systems will connect families to services and resources to build protective factors, reduce risk factors for child

abuse and neglect, and start all children on a solid foundation toward optimal lifelong health and well-being.

- Common metrics and targets across state agencies and initiatives will support sustained coordination toward common goals across multi-sector statewide and community partners, during and beyond the funding period.
- Policies that increase family economic security will be implemented as part of a strategy to improve the context for families.

Next steps

- Develop detailed work plan and evaluation plan
- Conduct landscape assessment of prevention activities
- Identify and assess equity tools
- Strengthen connection and collaboration with aligned statewide efforts
- Deepen partnership and networks and strengthen the statewide ACEs and Resilience Community of Practice

How to get involved

Contact:

Marilyn Gisser, MSHA,
Essentials for Childhood Coordinator
Washington State Department of Health
(360) 236-3503
marilyn.gisser@doh.wa.gov
www.doh.wa.gov/efc



DOH 970-213 October 2018

For persons with disabilities, this document is available on request in other formats. To submit a request, please call 1-800-525-0127 (TDD/TTY 711).

