

For more information:  
Jon Gould: 206.683.2674,  
[Jon.Gould@akinfamily.org](mailto:Jon.Gould@akinfamily.org)  
Janica Lockhart:  
[janica.Lockhart@akinfamily.org](mailto:janica.Lockhart@akinfamily.org)  
Kristin Wiggins (Akin lobbyist):  
206.375.6081



# Akin Legislative Agenda

## 2025 State of Washington Legislative Session

The following actions will move Washington closer to a state where all children are healthy and thriving—supported by family and community. These priorities are aligned with the services and values of Akin and will contribute to more equitable outcomes.

### LEAD ITEMS

#### Family Resource Centers (Operating Budget)

- **Community Pathways Family Resource Centers (FRCs) funding (\$7.4 million/biennium—DCYF PREVENTION DECISION PACKAGE)**  
FRCs are community-based family support entities operating throughout Washington—they are a key part of a multifaceted approach to supporting families and caregivers with children at risk of entering out-of-home care. This funding will fund five pilot FRC sites in high needs areas at \$129,000 per FRC per year. FRC family navigators will conduct basic needs assessments and create/maintain a family centered prevention plan. 1,880 families served per year.
- **Core Family Resource Center funding (\$6.5 million/biennium—COMMERCE)**  
This is core operating funding for 30 FRCs around Washington and the Washington Family Support Network. This funding will result in \$100,000/year grants for operations and resource navigation for families and \$250,000/year for the Washington Family Support Network.

#### Parents for Parents (Operating Budget)

- **Parents for Parents (\$2.5 million/biennium Policy Level in OFFICE OF PUBLIC DEFENSE)**  
The program is a peer mentor, education, professional training, and family reunification program that serves parents and their families navigating the child welfare system. Research shows significant benefits in improving engagement from parents in the dependency court process and increases the likelihood of reunification and decreases termination of parental rights. This funding will contribute to livable wages for the P4P program coordinators, quality improvement, data collection and evaluation.

#### Early Learning: Expand Access, Affordability, and Sustainability (Operating Budget—DCYF)

Families with young children, providers, and teachers are struggling because of Washington's childcare crisis. It doesn't have to be this way—Washington has an array of effective early learning programs. The following legislative actions are needed to meet the commitments of the enacted Fair Starts for Kids Act:

- Fund a 29% rate increase for the Early Childhood Education Assistance Program (ECEAP) and expansion to meet ECEAP entitlement in 2026. Providers such as Akin are paid only a portion of the cost of operating ECEAP, which is not sustainable.
- Add birth-three ECEAP slots at the full cost of care to meet unmet needs for infant/toddler childcare and family support and ensure providers can operate and sustain services.



Children's Home Society  
of Washington and  
Childhaven are now Akin.