

2024

Legislative Agenda



PIERCE COUNTY
EARLY CHILDHOOD
NETWORK

PCECN

DURING THE 2024 WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION, PCECN WILL FOCUS ON THE FOLLOWING PRIORITIES:

1

Accessible and Affordable Child Care

It is essential that Washington state address the growing need for affordable child care programs and raise outdated income thresholds for financial support to struggling families while also supporting child care providers.

2

Access to Postpartum Support Through Family Connects Pierce County

Continued investment in universally offered postpartum nurse support through the Family Connects program, providing critical public health prevention and intervention.

3

Enhance 2-1-1 Systems for Equitable Service in Underserved Communities

211 Family Resource Navigators provide a portal to community services and support that reduces barriers and directs families to existing resources, but face limitations due to inadequate funding and limited capacity.

4

Engage with Families to Identify and Address Barriers Limiting Access to Quality Health and Child Care Services

We call for an investment in our health care and child care providers to ensure the provision of inclusive and equitable services for families with continued investment in community-led strategies and interventions.

For more information, contact:

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Impact!

- The PCECN Diaper Bank Network **serves over 600 families and 1,000 children** with diapering supplies every month.
- Family Connects **served 880 families in Pierce County** across **14 zip codes** in 2023. 10% percent reported current or prior child welfare involvement.
- Family Connects nurses **initiated Naloxone kit distribution to individuals at risk of opioid overdose**.
- Family Connects **referred 12 families to ER/911 for life-threatening symptoms**, including severe hypertension.
- In 2023, despite limited funding and capacity, three **Family Resource Navigators at 2-1-1 managed 2,450 calls**, providing basic needs support for those facing extreme poverty and housing instability.
- Ongoing efforts of PCECN community partners contributed to the **54% reduction in children and youth entering out-of-home care** in Pierce County.



Voces de Familia

THANK YOU FOR FUNDING PCECN AND FAMILY CONNECTS!

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Family Connects Pierce County **officially certified** as the only Community Partner in Washington by Family Connects International!
- The PCECN Diaper Bank Network has **distributed over ONE MILLION diapers** to Pierce County families since June 2020!
- **Voces de Familia**, a recurring PCECN gathering, provides a safe space for Spanish-speaking families to address their concerns and connect with community resources.
- PCECN **Community Listening Sessions** are a space for families and service providers to connect, build trust, and share resources.

How You Can Support **Family Connects** and **Pierce County Early Childhood Network**:



Continued Investment in Pierce County's Early Childhood Ecosystem



Visit PCECN.org and FamilyConnectsWA.org