

Results from 2011 WAEYC Public Policy Survey

108 individuals responded to this survey provided at the 2011 Annual Conference Thursday keynote (320 registered for Thursday)

WAEYC champions, validates and advances high-quality education and care leading to improved outcomes and success for young children in Washington. Help us do a better job. What are you seeing? What are your public policy priorities? What are you willing to do to further these goals?

Questions	EHS, HS or ECEAP Director or Teacher	Child Care Center Teacher/Provider	All Respondents
1. Programs that benefit young children and their families have suffered dramatic losses in recent years related to the economic recession and state budget cuts. How have the families and children you serve been affected? How have your services been affected? <i>Mark all that apply.</i>			
<input type="radio"/> Families lost child care assistance because of changes to Working Connections Child Care.	19/26 (73.1%)	24/39 (61.5%)	57/108 (52.8%)
<input type="radio"/> Parents lost jobs and pulled children out of child care.	21/26 (80.8%)	31/39 (79.5%)	83/108 (76.9%)
<input type="radio"/> Parents have had difficulty paying for basic necessities like rent, food or utilities.	22/26 (84.6%)	24/39 (61.5%)	73/108 (67.6%)
<input type="radio"/> Parents haven't been able to pay child care fees/co-pays.	19/26 (73.1%)	24/39 (61.5%)	60/108 (55.6%)
<input type="radio"/> Children have had increased behavioral issues due to stress.	21/26 (80.8%)	23/39 (59.0%)	61/108 (56.5%)
<input type="radio"/> Fewer resources are available to me for professional development and learning with others.	12/26 (46.2%)	19/39 (48.7%)	49/108 (45.4%)
<input type="radio"/> Community programs have been reduced.	15/26 (57.7%)	14/39 (35.9%)	43/108 (39.8%)
<input type="radio"/> I have struggled to keep my early learning program open.	4/26 (15.3%)	9/39 (23.1%)	20/108 (18.5%)
<i>Other impacts: lack of services; lack of substitutes; own family struggling; college fees sky high; low enrollment (3); come colleges eliminating coop preschools, parent education; parental stress and expectations; higher enrollment of low income families</i>			
2. Which of the following should WAEYC prioritize in 2012? Mark two.			
<input type="radio"/> On-site technical assistance and supports for improving program quality.	5/26 (19.2%)	8/39 (20.5%)	19/108 (17.6%)
<input type="radio"/> Scholarships for training and education.	6/26 (23.1%)	18/39 (46.2%)	45/108 (41.7%)
<input type="radio"/> Increased compensation aligned with credential and degree requirements.	10/26 (38.5%)	11/39 (28.2%)	32/108 (29.6%)
<input type="radio"/> Improvements to Working Connections Child Care subsidy program.	14/26 (53.9%)	18/39 (46.2%)	43/108 (39.8%)
<input type="radio"/> Expansion of programs for 3- and 4-year olds.	11/26 (42.3%)	10/39 (25.6%)	36/108 (33.3%)
<input type="radio"/> Expansion of home visiting and other programs for infants and toddlers.	5/26 (19.2%)	3/39 (7.7%)	12/108 (11.1%)
<input type="radio"/> Improving transitions to kindergarten for children and families.	13/26 (50%)	13/39 (33.3%)	36/108 (33.3%)
<i>Other: health care; organize with union; WCCC need to reflect true cost of quality care; scholarships for half-day preschools; WAEYC conference too expensive, staff can't afford to attend; coop preschools (2); parent education.</i>			

3. What would you like policy makers to do in order to lessen the impact of the recession on kids? Mark all that apply.			
<input type="radio"/> Take a balanced budget approach; consider revenue in addition to spending cuts. *62% of members agree	21/26 (80.8%)	17/39 (56.7%)	62/108 (57.4%)
<input type="radio"/> Prioritize children's programs in budget decisions.	22/26 (84.6%)	31/39 (79.5%)	88/108 (81.5%)
<input type="radio"/> Make policy changes that benefit children.	24/26 (92.3%)	25/39 (64.1%)	80/108 (74.1%)
<i>Other:</i> prioritize services in our state; revenue bonding; prioritize parent education; higher state subsidy rates.			
4. What are you willing to do to advocate for policies that prioritize children and families and the programs that serve them? Mark all that apply.			
<input type="radio"/> Send a message to my legislators and other policy makers.	21/26 (80.8%)	24/39 (61.5%)	81/108 (75%)
<input type="radio"/> Meet with a legislator in my community.	11/26 (42.3%)	5/39 (12.8%)	25/108 (23.2%)
<input type="radio"/> Invite my legislator to visit my child care center or home.	9/26 (34.6%)	18/39 (46.2%)	35/108 (32.4%)
<input type="radio"/> Join the WAEYC public policy committee.	3/26 (11.5%)	3/39 (7.7%)	8/108 (7.4%)
5. I am a/an (mark all that apply):			
<input type="radio"/> AEYC member	9/26 (34.6%)	10/39 (25.6%)	45/108 (41.7%)
<input type="radio"/> Family child care teacher/provider			4/108 (3.7%)
<input type="radio"/> Child care center teacher/provider			39/108 (36.1%)
<input type="radio"/> Early Head Start, Head Start or ECEAP director or teacher			26/108 (24.1%)
<input type="radio"/> Relative or friend who provides care for children			4/108 (3.7%)
<input type="radio"/> K-12 teacher or staff			5/108 (4.6%)
<input type="radio"/> Staff member of a child-serving organization or business			26/108 (24.1%)
<input type="radio"/> Health care professional			0
<input type="radio"/> Parent			35/108 (32.4%)
<i>Other:</i> higher education (7); faith-based preschool (5); director/teacher (6); private preschool (3); private school (2); EHS mentor, home visitor (2); coop teacher (3); grandparent (1); concerned citizen (1); CCR&R (1); CAP Agency (1); consultant (1); former foster parent (1); student (1).			