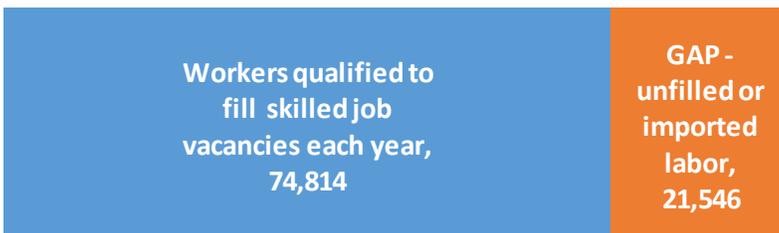


# ECEAP FOCUS ON . . .

## *A Strong Economy*

### Washington's Future in Jeopardy

Our economy requires that 80% of workers obtain post-high school education of some kind. This leads to large gaps in supply of qualified workers. Research shows high quality pre-k improves graduation rates, college attendance, and the 'soft skills' that employers value.

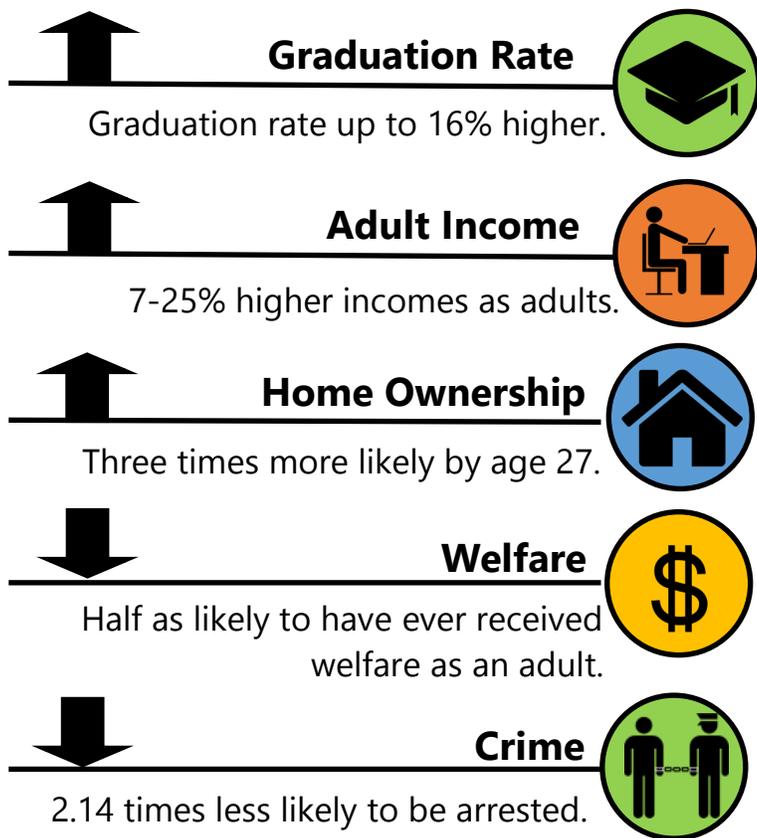


*Of the 96K annual vacancies requiring more than high school diploma, one in five can't be filled by home-grown Washingtonians.*

### The Need for Expansion

- ✓ Washington has one of the most respected and high quality pre-k programs in the US, but we are **#32 in access for 4 year olds.**
- ✓ **70% of Washington children** in low income homes **don't get any pre-k.** Less than half of eligible children are unserved by ECEAP.
- ✓ Only **31% of low income children are fully ready** for kindergarten.
- ✓ 2014 study shows **ECEAP compares to the best Pre-k in the US** – it gets kids ready and it lasts.

### Pre-K Economic Benefits



### 2017-19 ECEAP Expansion

High Quality Pre-K is Washington's best strategy for better school and life outcomes. To ensure our children aren't left behind, we need 3 things this year:

- ◆ Funding for **2708 new children** in full & extended day classrooms
- ◆ **16.7% increase in the per-child rate** so programs can recruit and retain staff and meet high quality standards
- ◆ **\$26 million for a facilities bond fund** to enable programs to expand and reach more children.

For more information please contact:

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