

Expanding and Strengthening ECEAP

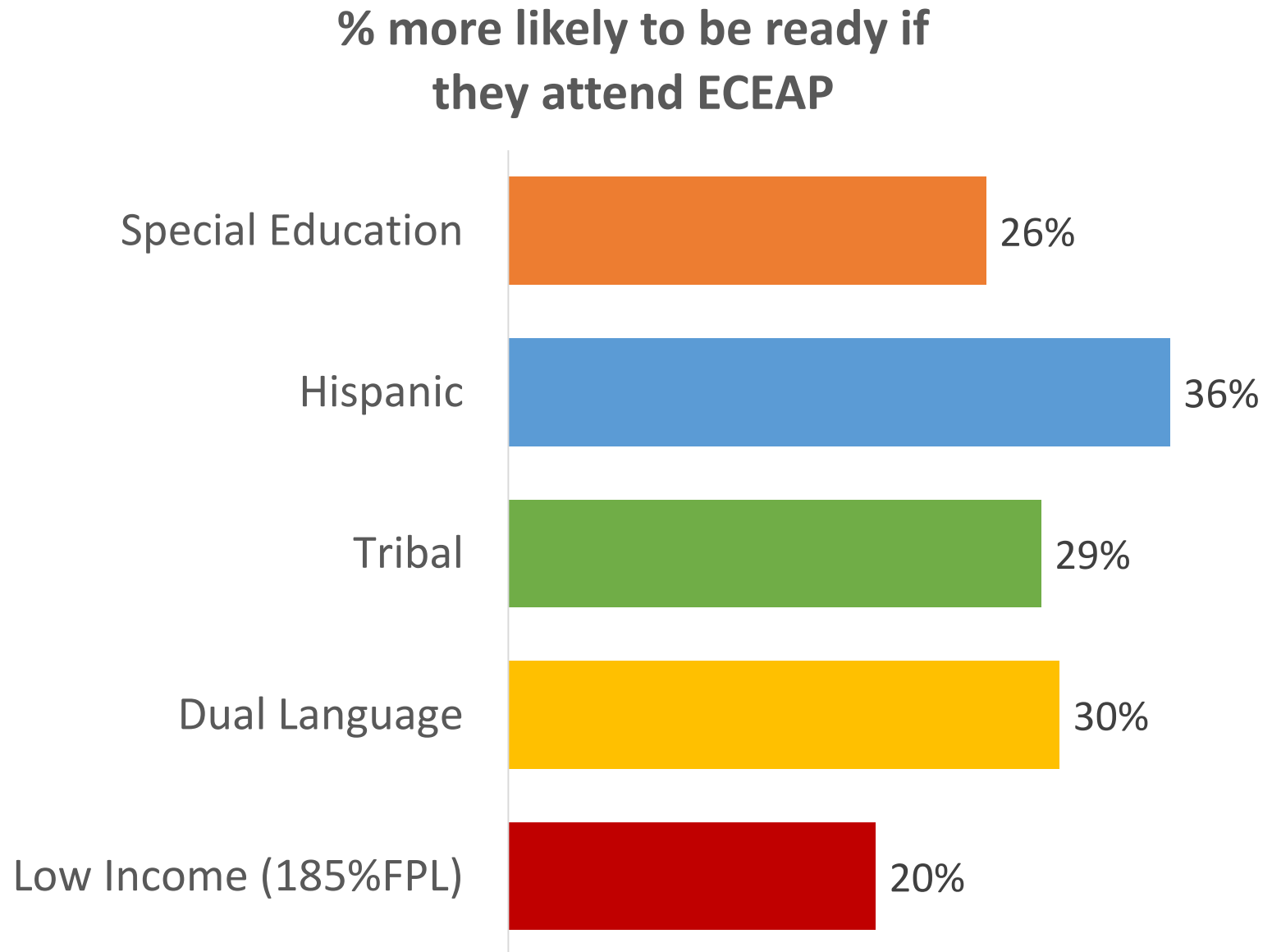
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Washington State Association of Head Start and ECEAP

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WaKIDS Kindergarten Assessment

- 31.5% low income children arrive ready vs. 59% of higher income children arrive ready.
- 26.8% of homeless kids arrive ready.
- 42% of American Indian kids of all incomes arrive ready.



Eligibility Expansion

- Expand entitlement for families who need ECEAP comprehensive services:
 - 110-130% FPL (\$32,630 for a family of 4, or 1 full time worker at \$13/hour) (Estimated 2300 new children)
 - Automatic eligibility for Homeless and Tribal families (Est. 1450 new children in annual caseload)
 - 3 year olds transitioning from ESIT & Early Head Start (Est. 500 avg, 1142 children staggered starts)
- Increase overall eligibility to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level
- Alignment with other state systems – 130% aligns with Free Lunch Program, 200% with Working Connections Child Care

#34

Washington's
Rank
Nationally in
pre-K access
for 4 year
olds

17% Per Child Rate Increase

- Programs struggle to recruit and retain high quality staff as the economy improves and our wages remain stagnant. \$34K/year is 164% of FPL for a family of 3.
- Head Start saw a **28% staff turnover** last year with similar salaries
- School District and ESD contractors are experiencing huge unfunded impacts of McCleary and SEBB legislation.
- Aligns with DCYF Decision Package

\$34K

Average Salary
of an ECEAP
Lead Teacher
with a
Bachelors'
Degree

Early ECEAP – Pilot serving 150 families

- Shortage of high-quality 0-3 services for high need families, and very little of what we have is center-based for working parents.
- Recent studies show participation in Early Head Start leads to long-term reduction in the likelihood children were involved with the child welfare system.
- When kids arrive at ECEAP, many are already far behind. Only 44% are assessed 'at or above age expectations' in literacy, 35% in math.
- Federal Preschool Development Grant funding will support planning
- Early ECEAP will utilize existing community assets – high-quality child care programs offered by local center-based providers and Early Head Start contractors

7%

Of Eligible
children in
Washington
have access to
Early Head
Start or Home
Visiting

Thank you

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2019-21 Objectives

- **Expand eligibility** to more of the children who need ECEAP's comprehensive services
- **Slot Rate Increase** to ensure we can recruit and retain quality staff and get the child outcomes shown in previous evaluations
- **More school-day and extended day slots** to reach all children who qualify and want ECEAP in 2022.
- **Facilities investment** so we can add the 450-500 classroom needed
- **Early ECEAP Pilot** to fill a gap for high need families needing center-based comprehensive 0-3 care.