

Child Welfare Early Learning Navigator Project



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

CWELN connects every identified family to community early learning and family support programs to achieve equitable outcomes and reduce the likelihood of future child welfare involvement.

**October-December
2021**

Pilot to Date: Project Impact

CHILDREN ASSESSED FOR EARLY LEARNING NEEDS



Project Growth

In 2021, the success of the CWELN project led to expansion and the hiring of **three additional navigators**. This includes a tribal-focused navigator to serve the Kelso region, and additional navigators in Region 2 (Yakima) and Region 4 (King County-South).

Annual & Quarterly: Early Learning Opportunities

2021: NEEDS MET BY RESOURCE

735

Children whose
Early Learning
Needs were
met by CWELN
this Quarter



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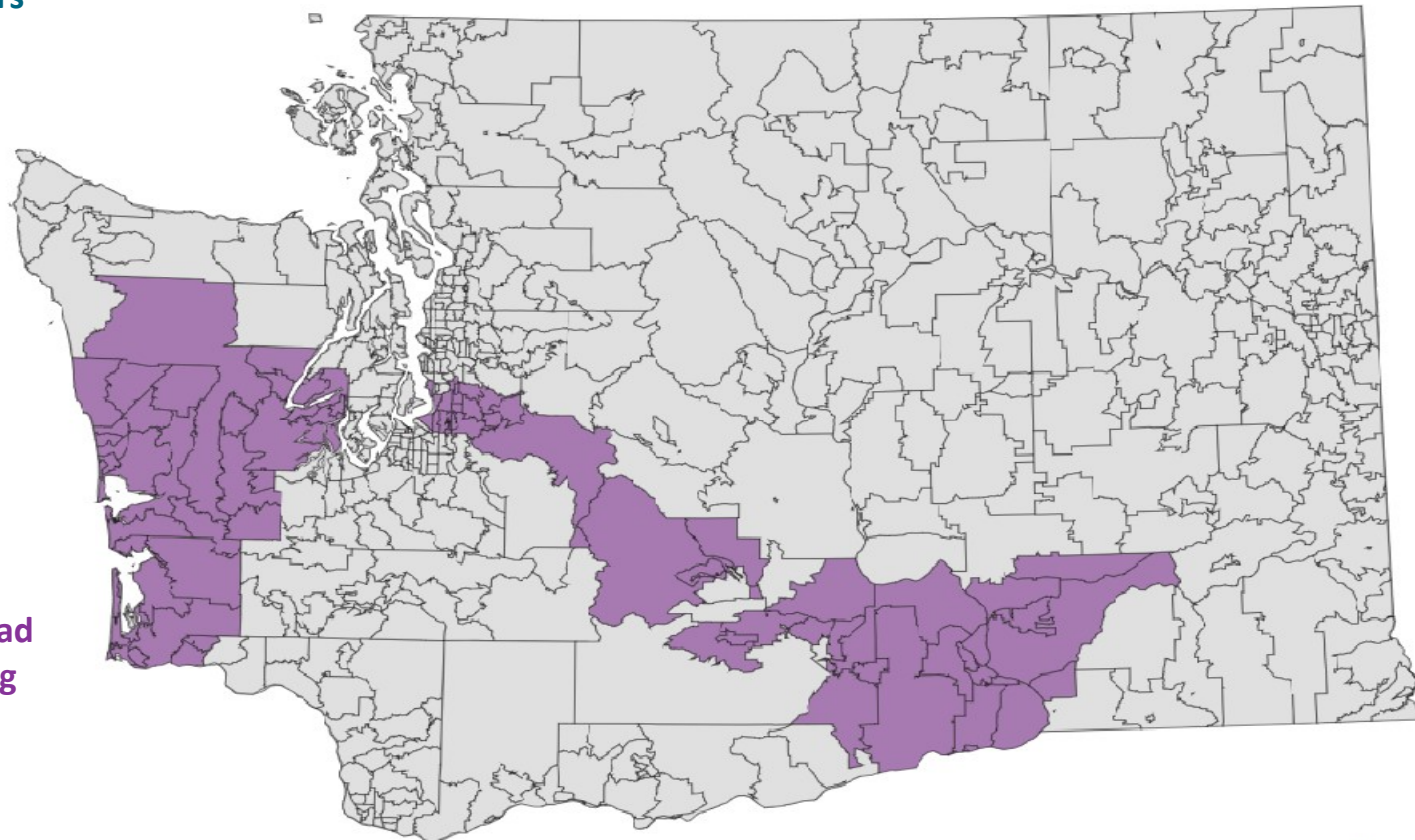
Annual: Project Coverage and Impact

In 2021, the Child Welfare Early Learning Navigators conducted

4762 needs assessments.

Of those, 44% of child welfare involved families had their early learning needs met.

REGIONS SERVED BY THE CHILD WELFARE EARLY LEARNING NAVIGATORS



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Summary Dashboard Explanation

Identified families

Any family in the CWELN pilot regions with an open child protective services case (FAR, Investigations, Family Voluntary Services) which includes one or more children under six years of age. These families will undergo an initial CWELN assessment after being identified. Following the navigator's initial assessment, families will not receive an early learning referral if the case is transferred to CFWS or CHET, families moved or had cases reassigned to out-of-pilot offices, children are elementary age (with no additional demonstrated need), appropriate resources are not locally available, referrals are declined by families, families are unable to be contacted, and/or significant legal or medical reasons present a barrier to referrals.

Children Assessed for Early Learning Needs

Children and families are identified for CWELN support through an initial assessment. "Children assessed for early learning needs" is a count of all families who were identified and had their early learning needs met while involved in an open child welfare case. Navigators work to meet any early learning, childcare, mental health, or social emotional needs expressed by the family. When a need is identified, navigators move forward with appropriate referrals to services. Inconsistencies between quarterly initial assessments are reflective of cases which may not be counted as complete by the close of the quarter. The cumulative total line may serve as a more consistent estimate of project growth and capacity over time. In this graph, children and families may be counted multiple times if involved in multiple, open child welfare cases. The graph depicts children assessed for early learning needs from January 2019 to date and includes duplicates.

Early Learning Needs Met in Child Welfare Cases

Prior to the pilot, early learning referrals were made by case workers assigned to child welfare cases. These referrals were made in addition to the requirements of case management. In 2019, the CWELN pilot signaled dedicated navigator roles in three regions: Olympic, South King County, and Yakima. The CWELN navigator is primarily focused on providing eligible families with referrals to early learning services. "Early learning needs met" represents assessments which lead to a completed referral, a child already engaged in early learning, no assessed need, or a worker determining a referral was not appropriate at the time of assessment. The figures depict January 2019 to date.

Needs Met by Resource

CWELN early learning referrals are provided for: childcare subsidy, developmental preschool, Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT), ECEAP, Head Start, Help Me Grow, mental health services, other, Play and Learn groups, public health services, and home visiting. Referrals vary by family need, program availability, and program capacity. At this time, there is no reliable tool to collect follow-up data regarding early learning enrollment. The graph depicts representation from the beginning of the calendar year to date.

Children whose Early Learning Needs were met by CWELN this Quarter

The number of quarterly assessments which lead to a completed referral, a child already engaged in early learning, no assessed need, or a worker determining a referral was not appropriate at the time of assessment. The quarter of focus is denoted in the upper right corner of the visual dashboard.

CWELN Early Learning Needs Assessments by Region

Child Welfare Early Learning Navigators receive an automated report with for all families with recent child welfare intakes for children aged birth to five years. This map represents the intakes which underwent an initial screening. Initial screenings are impacted by population, density, and available resources.