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## Strengthening Early Relationships December 2021 | [Webpage](#)

A monthly newsletter to share updates and resources in implementing Early Childhood Courts (ECC)\* in Washington State.

*\*Early Childhood Courts are therapeutic courts utilizing the Safe Babies Court Team™ (SBCT) approach in their program structure and operations. ECC reflects terminology used in [2SSB 5331](#), which became effective on July 25th, 2021. Sites may continue using “SBCT” when referring to their court programs, while this newsletter will transition to using “ECC” in reference to this work.*

Strengthening Early Relationships is a portfolio of work at the Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ). CCYJ’s mission to create better lives for generations of children and youth by reforming the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

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## Announcements

**CCYJ is hiring an Associate Director of Innovation (Associate Director of Programs) position to support our ECC work!** CCYJ seeks an Associate Director who will use a race equity lens to support the development, implementation and ongoing management of four portfolios of work: Strengthening Early Relationships, Girls Court, Project Respect, and the eQuality Project. These portfolios operate to improve our state systems to better support infants and very young children, LGBTQ+ youth, and justice system involved girls and to combat child sex trafficking. This is a full-time position. *View job description attached.*



**Spokane is hiring a Community Coordinator position.** You can learn more about the position and how to apply [here](#).

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# ECC Updates

**Clark County will soon be rolling out an Early Childhood Court Program!** Clark has convened an internal team and is in the process of incorporating the foundational structures for an ECC rollout. They expect their ECC to launch in spring-2022 and will be hosting a community informational meeting on 12/1. *Feel free to contact [shauna.mccloskey@clark.wa.gov](mailto:shauna.mccloskey@clark.wa.gov) for more information.*

**Pierce County's Best for Babies continues to work creatively to support parents and their children.** The team was recently awarded a mini-grant to create family time backpacks, with the goal of reducing the stress parents may experience during visits, allowing them to be more present for their children. Each backpack will have a book, puzzle, crayons, coloring book, bubbles, diapers, wipes, snacks and local resources.

**Since their launch on October 7, Kitsap County has begun enrolling families into their Baby Court program, and continues to strengthen their court program effectiveness and collaboration.** The team is learning more with each new enrollment and has already begun adapting the program's procedures as with the new enrollments. Kitsap is also working to convene their local Active Community Team and coordinating an educational lunch-and-learn for attorneys.

**Thurston County also sees increased families enrolling into their Safe Babies Court, and opportunities for their team to directly respond to specific family needs.** For example, the team recently provided concrete goods to a family for their medically fragile infant. Thurston continues to experience strong collaboration among their internal team, especially with problem solving and communications.

**Spokane is moving steadily in their Early Childhood Court rollout.** Their court team continues to work directly with families and identify ways to provide support, such as moving a family's visitation to in-home, or connecting parents to active safety planning regarding substance use.

**The ECC State Advisory Board convened its first meeting in early November.** Advisory Board members shared space to introduce themselves, connect on the unique expertise and value they brought to the group, and began to develop an initial list of priorities for Washington ECC efforts. If you are interested in learning more, you can find post-meeting materials including the meeting minutes and recording [on our website](#) under "Early Childhood Court State Advisory Board Meetings."

# Resource Hub

## Employment Opportunities

[The Washington Early Childhood Policy Fellowship is seeking an Executive Director position](#)

**About:** The Founding Board is seeking nominations and applications for the ECP Fellowship Executive Director to build and shape a transformative and relationship-driven effort to shift power in early childhood systems in Washington state, positively impacting generations of children and their families. This individual will bring an adaptive, resourceful, and relationship-oriented approach to the work, launching, strengthening, and sustaining a groundbreaking BIPOC fellowship in early childhood policy. This is an exciting opportunity for a relationship-driven and entrepreneurial leader who will champion the belief that effective early childhood systems must be intentionally shaped by policy leaders who are rooted in anti-racist principles and practices.



## Read

[Places for All Babies: Home-Based Child Care is an Essential Part of the Solution](#)

**About:** ZERO TO THREE's new policy brief highlights the value of increasing and strengthening family child care and family friend and neighbor child care options. We also include examples of state strategies and recommendations that policymakers can explore in building a truly robust mixed delivery system that embraces both FCC and FFN as essential components in an array of high-quality options for all families of infants and toddlers.

[Foster Care Entry Rates Grew Faster for Infants than for Children of Other Ages, 2011-2018](#)

**About:** Between 2011 and 2018, increasing numbers of infants were removed from their parents or caregivers. From 2011 to 2018 the number of infants entering foster care increased 24 percent reaching around 50,000 in 2018. This increase was nearly 13 times as much as the 1.8 percent increase in placements for other age groups. Infants accounted for more than 70 percent of the total increase in foster care entries.

## Listen

[Early Childhood Policy Matters](#)

**About:** Early Childhood Policy Matters is a podcast for early childhood professionals and strategic partners hoping to use research to inform policy and better serve children, families, and their communities. Supported by the National Technical Assistance Center for Preschool Development Grants Birth through Five, funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care.

## Watch

### [Grand Connections: A New Program to Support Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren Under 5](#)

**When:** December 15 11:00 – 12:00 pm PDT

**About:** Join us for this webinar describing the joys and challenges of grandparents caring for young grandchildren and learn about the new, one-of-a-kind curriculum we've designed to meet grandparents' needs. Seven 90-minute workshops provide a chance for grandparents to connect and learn from each other, explore the latest child-rearing advice, and develop strategies for collaborating with their adult children on childcare.

### [Foundation for All Future Development: Celebrating Highlights in Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health](#)

**When:** February 3, 2022, and March 3, 2022; 2:00 – 3:30 pm ET

**About:** This webinar series will highlight innovations and successes from SAMHSA Infant and early childhood mental health (IECMH), Project LAUNCH, and Indigenous LAUNCH grantees. Grantees from across the nation will showcase examples from their communities and share lessons learned with the broader early childhood field. Webinars include:

- Integrating IECMH into Early Childhood Delivery Systems (2/3/22)
- Strategies Supporting Service Delivery (3/3/22)



## Interested in Learning More?

For more information on the SBCT Approach and the current work expanding it to Washington State, visit our newly updated website or send us an email.

### CCYJ Website

Strengthening Early Relationships:

Implementing Early Childhood Court Programs in Washington State

<https://ccyj.org/our-work/designing-a-washington-state-safe-babies-plan/>

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