

CME Advocacy Priorities 2025

1. Expanding Early Learning Services

Issue:

There is an urgent need to expand access to high-quality early learning and child care services, particularly in underserved communities. Current funding does not meet the demand for renovations, new facilities, and workforce sustainability.

Advocacy Points:

1. Advocate for **higher reimbursement rates** for child care providers.
2. Expand **subsidy eligibility thresholds** to include more working families.
3. Secure a **3% pay increase** for Early Achievers coaches and mental health consultants to promote workforce stability and professional development.
4. Lead efforts for **full entitlement of ECEAP and Early ECEAP** programs, ensuring universal access to these essential services.

These measures will strengthen child care infrastructure, support families in need, and foster long-term workforce sustainability in Eastern Washington.

2. Behavioral Health Clinic

Issue:

Spokane faces a critical need for expanded behavioral health services. While existing facilities address recovery services, CME stands apart with its unique wraparound services. These include care support, a deep early learning network, mental health consultants, food security options, and housing support. Funding our behavioral health clinic allows CME to integrate these unparalleled services, ensuring a holistic approach to recovery and wellness.

Advocacy Points:

- Allocate **\$750,000** to:
 1. Support additional build-out and modernization of the facility.
 2. Advance workforce development to recruit and retain qualified professionals.

These investments will enhance CME's ability to provide comprehensive, integrated care and increase access for underserved populations.