



WACAP Legislative Preview

How advocates can get involved
in the 2022 legislative session

Introduction

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2022 Legislative Schedule

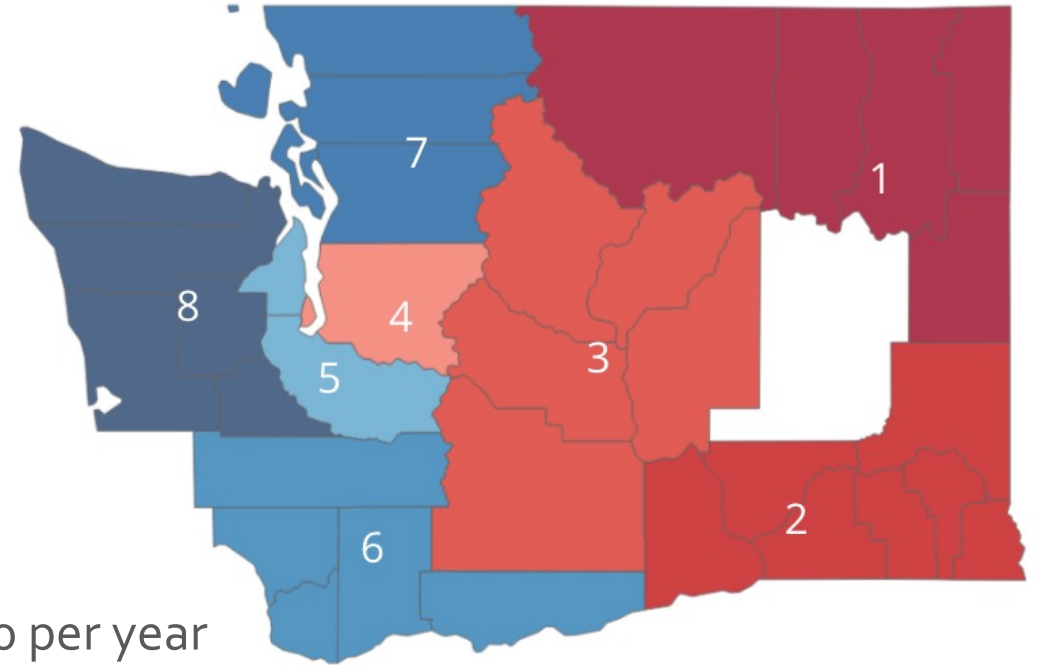
- 2022 is a “Short Session” – only 60 days (compared to 105)
- 2022 is also a “Supplemental” budget session.
 - State on a two-year budget cycle, this is the half-way through point
- Calendar:
 - mid-November - Committee Assembly Days
 - Jan 10th – Session start date
 - Feb 4th – Committee Cutoff
 - Feb 11 – Fiscal Cutoff
 - Feb 16 – House of Origin Cutoff
 - Feb 25 – Opposite Committee Cutoff
 - Feb 28 – Opposite Fiscal Cutoff
 - Mar 3 – Opposite Policy Cutoff
 - March 11 – Last day of session

WACAP Funding requests

- The Court has approved (!!!) two budget requests to move forward and present to the legislature
 - **Regional Program Attorneys**
 - **AmeriCorps funding for volunteer Recruitment**
- Next step is the Governor's Budget – released in mid-December

WACAP Funding requests

Regional Program Attorneys \$1.484 million



- 10 attorneys @ \$140,000 per year
 - 8 through out the state
 - 1 ICWA/tribal specialist
 - 1 “managing attorney” employed by WACAP
 - Other 9 will be all-inclusive contracts

WACAP Funding requests

Regional Program Attorneys

- What will they do?
 - 8 Regional Attorneys
 - Each county will get a ballpark allotment of hours based on their size/caseload
 - Assist with filing and preparing motions
 - Trial prep (FFs and terms)
 - Training
 - General program consultation
 - ICWA Attorney
 - Same as above, except for our 5 tribal court programs
 - Be available to assist ICWA applicable children in state court as well
 - 1 Managing Attorney
 - Oversee the work of the other 9 attorneys
 - Coordinate appellate responses

WACAP Funding requests

AmeriCorps Volunteer Recruitment

\$266,000

- State Funding would offset the “local” portion required by federal grant (~24%)
- Goal is to get 20 AmeriCorps “members” to assist local programs recruit and on-board new volunteers locally.
 - Each member would be asked to recruit at least 5 new volunteers per quarter total of 400 new advocates / year.
- Project overseen by WACAP coordinator

WACAP Funding requests

Next Steps

- Both requests have been submitted and approved to be included in the Court's budget.
- Next step – Governor's budget, due out mid-December
- Then on to the state legislature – where we really could use your help!

Engaging with the legislative process

Legislative Partners!

- While many/most legislators will meet with those outside of their district (like me!) – they really want to hear from their constituents.
- That's you!
- Find your legislative district: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/districtfinder/>
- And add to this sheet (or put in chat!)

Engaging with the legislative process

Legislative Partners!

- Which legislators are important?
 - House:
 - Children, Youth and Families (policy)
 - Appropriations (\$\$)
 - Senate:
 - Human Services, Reentry and Rehabilitation (policy)
 - Ways and Means (\$\$)
 - [2022 Legislators](#)

Engaging with the legislative process

Communicating with Legislators

- Communicating with legislators:
 - Off-Session: Best.
 - More time, less competing priorities, more relaxed
 - During Session:
 - 15 minute blocks. Short. Hectic. Less successful.

In order of effectiveness:

- In person (coffee, local office, etc)
- Zoom
- Phone
- Email
- Not, and then complaining about it afterwards



Engaging with the legislative process

Legislative Partners!

- Meet (almost) every Friday during session @ 2:00
- Weekly legislative updates (policy and fiscal)
- Need to get permission of your program!

- [Sign up form](#)

Other Stuff

DCYF Budget Requests

- **ICWA – 20.1 million**
 - 30 more SWs + 9 “active efforts” specialists
 - +AGO legal costs
 - Culturally appropriate services
- **Placements – 28.5 million**
 - More Children’s Long-term Inpatient Program (CLIP) – \$15 million
 - BRS rate increase, FTDM management, treatment foster homes, emergency adolescent housing program – \$23.5 million
- **Combined in-home services**
 - rate increase and stabilization - \$??
- **Visitation – 28 million**
 - Increase hourly rate
 - Mileage reimbursement
 - Quality Service delivery

Other Stuff

DCYF Budget Requests

- **Kinship Care – 1.85 million**
 - Expand Caregiver Engagement pilot statewide (ass't w/ getting relatives licensed)
- **Repeal Parent Pay – 1.9 million**
 - Eliminates parents having to pay for their child's incarceration and treatment
- **Combined in-home services**
 - rate increase and stabilization - \$??
- **Visitation – 28 million**
 - Increase hourly rate
 - Mileage reimbursement
 - Quality Service delivery

Thank You!

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