

Working
Connections
Child Care
(WCCC)

SFY

2019

Helps low-income families pay for child care while parents are working or participating in DSHS-approved work, training, or education activities.

ESA Briefing
Book

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The Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) Program Overview

Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) is a subsidy program that helps eligible low-income families pay for child care. At application, parents must be working or participating in DSHS-approved work, training or education activities and household income must not exceed 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL). The state's Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF)¹ establishes policies for child care subsidy programs and DSHS determines family eligibility and pays child care providers for authorized services. Due to the recent transfer of the WCCC program from DSHS to DCYF (transferred effective 7/1/2019), subsequent editions of the ESA Briefing Book will not present WCCC data.

Additional information for this program, including the eligibility criteria, funding sources, and services/benefits provided, is available [here](#).

Highlights

In SFY 2019, the program served a monthly average of 27,267 families, an 8.8% decrease from SFY 2018 (29,913). TANF families averaged 3,591 or 13.2% of the WCCC caseload per month in SFY 2019, a decrease of 5.3% from the monthly average of 3,790 in SFY 2018.

The monthly number of children served by the program was 47,261 in SFY 2019, an 8.4% decrease from 51,598 in SFY 2018. Of these, a monthly average of 5,708 (12.1%) were TANF children.

Beginning in SFY 2017, a family's eligibility for WCCC continues for a full twelve months, regardless of change in employment or other approved activity, and of most changes in household income. Beginning in October 2016, households that are above 200% but below 220% FPL when they reapply for benefits remain eligible for WCCC for three additional months (in October 2018, the period of additional eligibility expands to 12 months).

Beginning in SFY 2018, families experiencing homelessness may be approved for WCCC subsidy with a four-month grace period during which the requirement to work or participate in another approved activity does not apply and the co-payment is waived.

TECHNICAL NOTES:

DATA SOURCES: Data for this chapter was provided by the OFM Forecasting Division based on the DSHS Social Service Payment System (SSPS) files supplied by the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF)

DATA NOTE:

- The majority of the data presented in this chapter is based on the WCCC household file supplied by the OFM Forecasting Division as of September 2019. TANF cases are identified by matching the DCYF WCCC household payment data with ACES client data. The TANF caseload includes TANF child-only households. Data for more recent months may change as more child care payments are made following the publication of the Briefing Book.

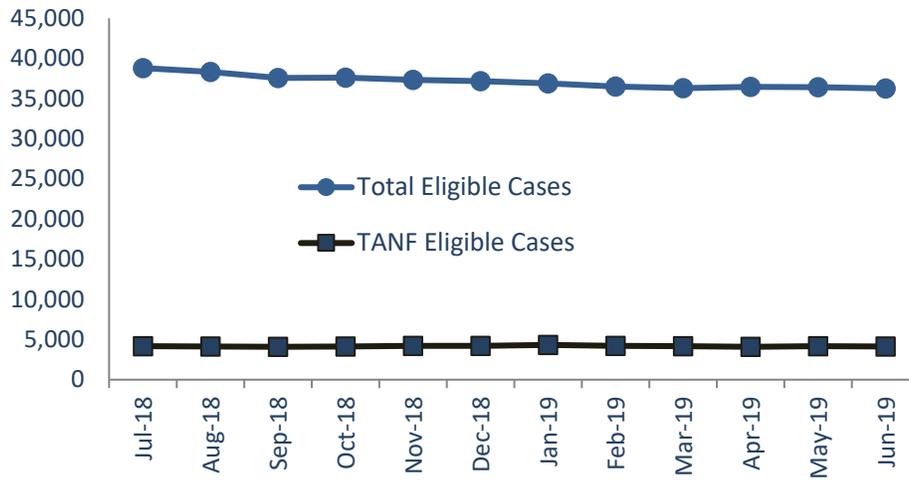
¹ **Second Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1661 (2E2SHB 1661, Chapter 6, Laws of 2017), Creating the Department of Children, Youth and Families**, took effect on October 19, 2017. This bill allows for the creation of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) by merging Department of Early Learning (DEL) with the Department of Social and Health Services' (DSHS) Children's Administration (CA) effective July 1, 2018, and DSHS Juvenile Rehabilitation (JRA) effective July 1, 2019.

Selected WCCC Program Overview, SFY 2018 and SFY 2019

	SFY 2018 (July 2017-June 2018)	SFY 2019 (July 2018-June 2019)	Change
Average Number of Eligible Cases Per Month (Range)	40,785 (39,307 - 42,066)	37,134 (36,260 - 38,805)	-9.0% (Decrease) ↓
Average Number of Cases Per Month (Range)	29,913 (29,580 - 30,125)	27,267 (26,543 - 28,495)	-8.8% (Decrease) ↓
Average Number of WCCC TANF Cases Per Month (Range)	3,790 (3,679 - 3,862)	3,591 (3,356 - 3,732)	-5.3% (Decrease) ↓
Average Number of Children Per Month (Range)	51,598 (50,758 - 53,271)	47,261 (45,621 - 50,421)	-8.4% (Decrease) ↓
State's Population Under 13²	1,210,615	1,220,753	0.8% (Increase) ↑
Recipients as a Percent of State's Population Under 13	4.3%	3.9%	-0.4% Point (Decrease) ↓
Average Monthly Payment Per Case (Range)	\$884.25 (\$801.96 - \$1,018.14)	\$953.72 (\$809.52 - \$1,061.59)	7.9% (Increase) ↑

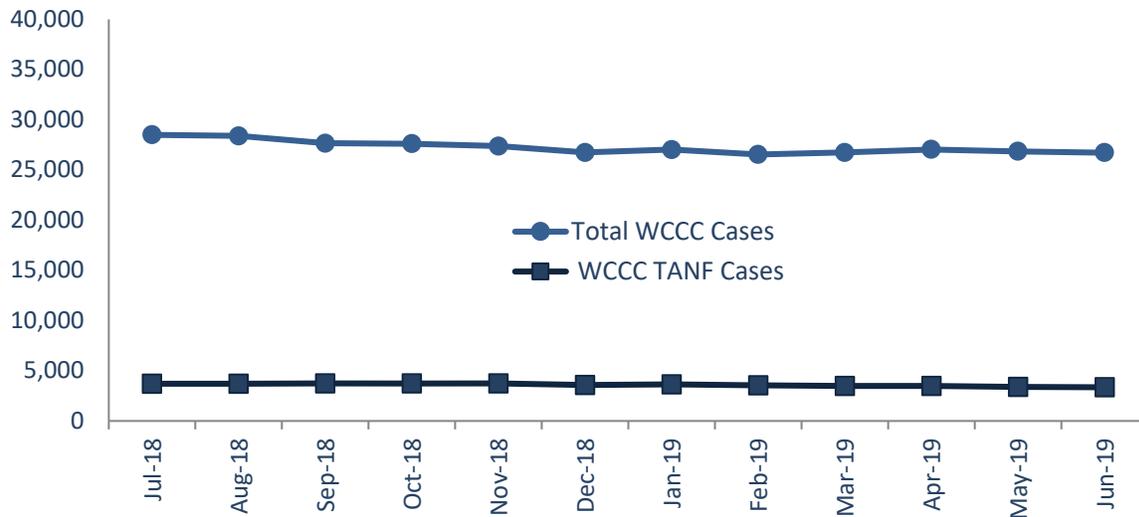
² Source: Office of Financial Management (OFM) population estimates

Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) Eligible Cases by Month, SFY 2019



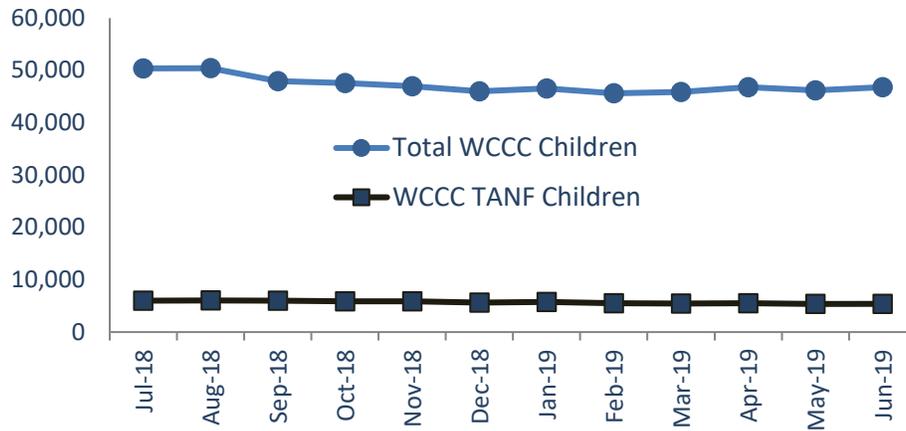
SFY 2019	Total WCCC Eligible Cases	WCCC TANF Eligible Cases
July	38,805	4,156
August	38,327	4,122
September	37,571	4,092
October	37,591	4,127
November	37,330	4,202
December	37,164	4,228
January	36,897	4,325
February	36,496	4,194
March	36,317	4,167
April	36,443	4,107
May	36,405	4,189
June	36,260	4,138
Monthly Average	37,134	4,171

Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) Caseload by Month, SFY 2019



SFY 2019	Total WCCC Cases	WCCC TANF Cases	% of WCCC Households using TANF
July	28,495	3,707	13.0%
August	28,389	3,703	13.0%
September	27,669	3,729	13.5%
October	27,610	3,732	13.5%
November	27,376	3,729	13.6%
December	26,741	3,577	13.4%
January	27,027	3,647	13.5%
February	26,543	3,555	13.4%
March	26,735	3,480	13.0%
April	27,050	3,475	12.8%
May	26,852	3,396	12.6%
June	26,722	3,356	12.6%
Mo. Avg.	27,267	3,591	13.2%

Children Receiving Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) by Month, SFY 2019



SFY 2019	Total WCCC Children	WCCC TANF Children	% of WCCC Children using TANF
July	50,391	6,025	12.0%
August	50,421	6,037	12.0%
September	47,957	5,984	12.5%
October	47,566	5,875	12.4%
November	46,992	5,869	12.5%
December	45,999	5,661	12.3%
January	46,551	5,776	12.4%
February	45,621	5,542	12.1%
March	45,914	5,439	11.8%
April	46,787	5,502	11.8%
May	46,160	5,371	11.6%
June	46,777	5,417	11.6%
Mo. Avg.	47,261	5,708	12.1%

Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) Payments by Month, SFY 2019

SFY 2019	Total WCCC Payments	WCCC TANF Payments	% of WCCC TANF Payments
July	\$29,558,185	\$3,745,517	12.7%
August	\$30,082,809	\$3,820,049	12.7%
September	\$22,398,585	\$3,031,270	13.5%
October	\$25,180,295	\$3,449,971	13.7%
November	\$24,041,725	\$3,280,985	13.6%
December	\$22,899,557	\$3,074,805	13.4%
January	\$24,859,982	\$3,342,826	13.4%
February	\$23,986,517	\$3,216,747	13.4%
March	\$26,171,940	\$3,419,431	13.1%
April	\$27,719,840	\$3,586,332	12.9%
May	\$28,505,778	\$3,642,767	12.8%
June	\$26,661,200	\$3,325,213	12.5%
Mo. Avg.	\$26,005,534	\$3,411,326	13.1%