



# CHILDREN'S THERAPY CENTER

*Celebrate what is. Commit to what can be.*

## Children's Therapy Center 2021 Legislative Priorities

1. **Maintain funding for neurodevelopment centers (NDC).** There are 19 NDCs in WA and CTC is one of them. CTC receives about 8% (about \$100,000) of the \$1.304M state level investment (Department of Health). This funding supports things like wages for program assistants who support direct services for children and families by creating picture boards and books for families to utilize at home to supplement therapeutic services their children that cannot be funded from other sources.
2. **Maintain funding for interpretation services.** We want the funding for interpretation services to be maintained (Healthcare Authority). Across the state, interpretation services support 96,000 children. Interpretation services are used at CTC to provide families with accurate medical information in their language of choice about their child's progress and goals during their therapy sessions. These sessions are provided in-person, via telehealth (video conference), or by phone call. For CTC, if this cut became a reality, we may need to find as much as \$400,000 to cover interpretation.

The most frequent non-English languages spoken by our families are: Spanish, Vietnamese, Somali, Amharic, and Arabic. This is based on data across our four sites. By far, Spanish and Vietnamese are the top two.

3. **We want to hold the current rates for: (a) Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) program; and (b) Medicaid / Apple Health rates for NDCs.** Neither of these rates have been proposed for cuts in decision packages and we have been in touch with the agencies (Dept. of Children, Youth, and Families for ESIT; Healthcare Authority for Medicaid / Apple Health). However, we want to ensure these current rates are preserved because 80% of the services we provide are for children ages 0-3 and the supplemental ESIT funding allows for enhanced services, such as early childhood education and family resource coordination. Also, more than 60% of the services we provide are for children with Apple Health. The reimbursement rate for Apple Health is 40% less than the average commercial insurance payment, so any reductions in Apple Health reimbursement would be significant to our program.