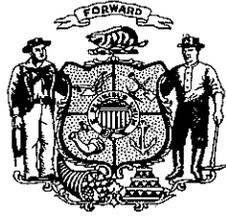


# STATE OF WISCONSIN

SENATE CHAIR  
**Alberta Darling**

317 East, State Capitol  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882  
Phone: (608) 266-5830



ASSEMBLY CHAIR  
**John Nygren**

309 East, State Capitol  
P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708-8953  
Phone: (608) 266-2343

## JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

### MEMORANDUM

To: Members  
Joint Committee on Finance

From: Senator Alberta Darling  
Representative John Nygren

Date: October 31, 2016

Re: DCF Report to JFC

Attached is a report on the YoungStar program from the Department of Children and Families.

This report is being provided for your information only. No action by the Committee is required. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Attachments

AD:JN;jm



201 East Washington Avenue, Room G200  
 P.O. Box 8916  
 Madison, WI 53708-8916  
 Telephone: 608-266-8684  
 Fax: 608-261-6972

Governor Scott Walker  
 Secretary Eloise Anderson  
 Secretary's Office

October 28, 2016

Honorable Alberta Darling, Senate Co-Chair  
 Joint Committee on Finance  
 Room 317 East, State Capitol  
 Madison, WI 53707

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Honorable John Nygren, Assembly Co-Chair  
 Joint Committee on Finance  
 Room 309 East, State Capitol  
 Madison, WI 53708

Dear Senator Darling and Representative Nygren:

This letter provides the Department of Children and Families' 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2016 report on the YoungStar program. The information below is a compilation of data requested by the Committee related to YoungStar implementation. The information is current through October 3, 2016.

**Status of YoungStar**

Supporting Families Together Association (the YoungStar contractor) continues to process applications, provide technical assistance and conduct evaluations of programs. As of October 3, 2016, 3,630 programs are currently rated using the five-star rating system. Of these rated programs, 2,822 are currently serving children who are in the Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy program. Additionally, 184 providers have applied and are in the process of being rated. A breakout of rated programs by star level is included below:

	Licensed Group	Licensed Family	Certified Family	Public School	Licensed Camp	TOTAL
<b>One Star</b>	2	10	0	0	0	12
<b>Two Stars</b>	534	625	426	116	33	1734
<b>Three Stars</b>	807	343	53	70	16	1289
<b>Four Stars</b>	101	70	9	5	4	189
<b>Five Stars</b>	340	58	1	3	4	406
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1784</b>	<b>1106</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>3630</b>

*Note: Programs that receive a 1 Star rating are not eligible to care for children in the Wisconsin Shares program.*

During the third quarter, local YoungStar offices provided more than 5,500 hours of individualized onsite coaching and mentoring, professional development support, and/or rating services to nearly 2,000 group, family, school-age, and day camp programs. These services enhanced the quality of programs serving children birth to age twelve in 74 of Wisconsin's counties and tribes.

Senator Darling and Representative Nygren  
October 28, 2016  
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### **Move to Every Other Year Ratings**

Beginning in 2017, programs participating in YoungStar will only need to be rated every two years. This will give programs more time to improve their quality between ratings. All currently participating program sites were divided between even year and odd year rating groups in July, 2016. Programs were divided through a computer generated system that took a variety of factors into consideration. Even year and odd year rating assignments were mailed to programs in August. The change to less frequent YoungStar ratings has been requested by multiple programs and early education associations in Wisconsin. It also allows YoungStar ratings to be more similar to accreditation rating timelines.

### **YoungStar Adjustments**

The Department is in the process of implementing a new electronic benefits transfer (EBT) payment system for Wisconsin. Phase I of MyWIChildCare began in eight counties on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, and Phase II will be implemented statewide in February 2017. During the transition to MyWIChildCare, the Department will pay the tiered reimbursement amount directly to the provider in a payment separate from the EBT card. We believe this is a way to make 4 and 5 star providers whole during the transition as we search for a more permanent solution to financially reward these high quality providers.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide an update on the status of the YoungStar program and look forward to working with the Committee on strengthening these important services for Wisconsin families.

Sincerely,

  
Eloise Andersen  
Secretary

cc: Scott Neitzel, Department of Administration  
Bob Lang, Legislative Fiscal Bureau