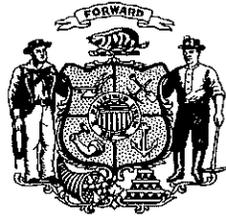


STATE OF WISCONSIN

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JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

MEMORANDUM

To: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

From: Senator Alberta Darling
Representative John Nygren

Date: February 2, 2015

Re: DCF Report to JFC

Attached is a report on the 4th Quarter 2014 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
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Governor Scott Walker
 Secretary Eloise Anderson
 Secretary's Office

January 27, 2015

RECEIVED
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BY: J. FINANCE

Honorable Alberta Darling, Senate Co-Chair
 Joint Committee on Finance
 Room 317 East, State Capitol
 Madison, WI 53702

Honorable John Nygren, Assembly Co-Chair
 Joint Committee on Finance
 Room 309 East, State Capitol
 Madison, WI 53702

Dear Senator Darling and Representative Nygren:

This letter provides the Department of Children and Families' 4th Quarter 2014 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 January 7m 2015.

Status of YoungStar

The Consortium (the YoungStar contractor) continues to process applications, provide technical assistance and conduct evaluations of programs. As of January 7, 2015, 4,165 programs had been rated using the five-star rating system. Of these rated programs, 3,134 are currently serving children who are in the Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy program. Additionally, 174 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 Programs	TOTAL
One Star	9	1	4	0	14
Two Stars	629	844	720	137	2330
Three Stars	812	338	53	61	1264
Four Stars	111	65	9	2	187
Five Stars	317	50	2	1	370
TOTAL	1878	1298	788	201	4165

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

During the third quarter, the Consortium provided on-site coaching, mentoring and rating services to school-age programs, day camps, as well as programs serving children birth to age 12. As a result, 2,448 Technical Assistance (coaching, mentoring, and support) visits were completed and 473 visits to rate programs were completed during the fourth quarter of 2014. In the same quarter, \$463,750 in micro-grants was given to programs to support quality improvement goals. Additionally, the Consortium provided over 710 hours of professional development counseling and assistance during the quarter.

Evaluation on YoungStar

The department has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with UW-Madison to conduct a validation of YoungStar. Dr. Katherine Magnuson, an expert in early childhood policy and programs, is conducting an independent quality rating system validation study. The validation study is designed to examine whether programs with higher ratings are better able to provide higher quality child care and whether children in higher rated programs learn more over the course of a school year than programs in lower rated programs. Dr. Magnuson's team has presented DCF with preliminary information and will have further information to share publicly in the later part of 2015.

Tiered Reimbursement

The final group to roll into the tiered reimbursement system, licensed day camp programs, began applying to YoungStar on March 1, 2014. Currently, there are 55 participating day camps. These programs were notified of this requirement and had to apply to YoungStar before June 1, 2014. If they did not apply before June 1, the programs were no longer eligible to receive Wisconsin Shares subsidy reimbursement. Tiered reimbursement for these day camp programs began June 29, 2014.

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 Anderson
Secretary

cc: Mike Huebsch, Department of Administration
Bob Lang, Legislative Fiscal Bureau