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JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

MEMORANDUM

To: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

From: Senator Alberta Darling
Representative John Nygren

Date: August 24, 2015

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



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Governor Scott Walker
 Secretary Eloise Anderson
 Secretary's Office

August 5, 2015



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

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' 2nd Quarter 2015 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 July 6, 2015.

Status of YoungStar

The Consortium (the YoungStar contractor) continues to process applications, provide technical assistance and conduct evaluations of programs. As of July 7, 2015, 4,004 programs are currently rated using the five-star rating system. Of these rated programs, 2,838 are currently serving children who are in the Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy program. Additionally, 166 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	4	7	2	0	13
Two Stars	607	782	633	127	2149
Three Stars	824	342	46	63	1275
Four Stars	113	65	9	7	194
Five Stars	320	51	0	2	373
TOTAL	1868	1247	690	199	4004

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

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During the second 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, 2,784 Technical Assistance (coaching, mentoring, and support) visits were completed and 539 visits to rate programs were completed during the second quarter of 2015. In the same quarter, \$494,250 in micro-grants were given to programs to support quality improvement goals. Additionally, the Consortium provided nearly 700 hours of professional development counseling and assistance during the quarter.

Validation of 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 findings on the first validity question, about whether YoungStar ratings predict observed classroom quality.

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