

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: April 28, 2017

Re: DCF Report to JFC

Attached is a 1st quarter report on the YoungStar program.

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

April 7, 2017

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

APR 28 2017
J. Finance

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' 1st Quarter 2017 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 April 1, 2017.

Status of YoungStar

Supporting Families Together Association (the YoungStar contractor) continues to process applications, provide technical assistance, and conduct evaluations of programs. As of April 1, 2017, 3,664 programs are currently rated using the five-star rating system. Of these rated programs, 2,572 are currently serving children from families participating in the Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy program. Additionally, 93 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
One Star	2	8	0	0	0	10
Two Stars	561	588	410	109	31	1699
Three Stars	801	353	51	77	16	1298
Four Stars	107	74	10	4	3	198
Five Stars	389	62	1	3	4	459
TOTAL	1860	1085	472	193	54	3664

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

During the fourth quarter, local YoungStar offices provided more than 7,800 hours of individualized onsite coaching and mentoring, professional development support, and/or rating services to more than 1,500 group, family, school-age, and day camp programs. These services

enhanced the quality of programs serving children birth to age twelve in 72 of Wisconsin's counties and tribes.

Move to Every Other Year Ratings

Programs participating in YoungStar are now required to be rated every two years. This gives programs more time to improve their quality between ratings. It also allows YoungStar ratings to be more similar to accreditation rating timelines. Programs may, and will be encouraged to, receive onsite coaching support annually to continue their quality improvement efforts. Thus far, about 72% of actively participating programs that are not required to complete a rating in 2017 have requested to participate in this optional onsite consultation.

YoungStar Adjustments

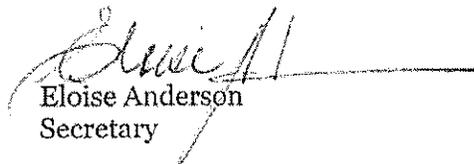
YoungStar continues to reward the highest quality programs across Wisconsin by providing a YoungStar Adjustment that is paid directly to 4 Star and 5 Star providers who have current Wisconsin Shares authorizations. This separate YoungStar adjustment, for up to 10% or 25% of current Wisconsin Shares authorization amounts, respectively, is paid directly to eligible programs' bank accounts at the beginning of each month to support quality services within the program's setting.

YoungStar Refinement Advisory Committee

This quarter, we continued to partner with the University of Wisconsin – Madison, Institute for Research on Poverty (IRP) to help refine YoungStar's rating scale into one that better predicts and supports children's outcomes. We merged policy and research expertise into two broad, concrete recommendations for improving the rating criteria and received feedback around these recommendations from an advisory group, made up of key early education stakeholders. With potential changes as early as 2019, we made modifications to the recommendations based on stakeholder feedback and reconvened the advisory group to make final recommendations to improve the rating scale. Wisconsin was selected to present this refinement process later this summer at the 2017 QRIS National Conference in Dallas.

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