

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: July 17, 2017

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

July 11, 2017

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

JUL 17 2017
J. Finance

Dear Senator Darling and Representative Nygren:

This letter provides the Department of Children and Families' 2nd 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 July 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 July 1, 2017, 3,649 programs are currently rated using the five-star rating system. Of these rated programs, 2,820 are currently serving children from families participating in the Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy program. Additionally, 127 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	5	3	1	0	0	9
Two Stars	536	579	394	109	31	1649
Three Stars	807	352	52	75	15	1301
Four Stars	122	77	11	5	4	219
Five Stars	399	63	1	4	4	471
TOTAL	1869	1074	459	193	54	3649

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

During the second quarter, local YoungStar offices provided more than 6,500 hours of individualized onsite coaching and mentoring, professional development support, and/or rating services to 1,300 group, family, school-age, and day camp programs. These services

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enhanced the quality of programs serving children birth to age twelve in 74 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.

Race to the Top Challenge Awards

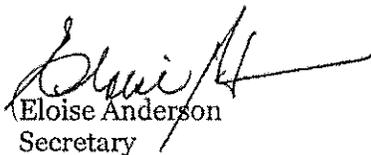
Funding from Race to the Top was identified to support the final round of Challenge Awards for child care programs that increased their YoungStar rating in 2016. A total of 182 child care programs were recognized with a Challenge Award this quarter. The monetary amounts of the Challenge Awards vary based on the child care program size and YoungStar rating. The total amount of \$132,200 was awarded, with individual programs receiving award amounts between \$300 and \$1,300. Awards were directly deposited for each child care program during the week of May 8, which coincided with Provider Appreciation week.

YoungStar Refinement

This quarter, we finalized plans to refine YoungStar's rating scale into one that better predicts and supports children's outcomes. Beginning in 2019, some educational requirements will be lowered while specific learning environment standards will be enhanced. Wisconsin presented these plans, along with our overall refinement process, last month at the 2017 Quality Rating and Improvement System (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