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JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

MEMORANDUM

To: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

From: Senator Alberta Darling
Representative John Nygren

Date: November 1, 2017

Re: DCF Report to JFC

Attached is a 3rd quarter 2017 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

October 23, 2017

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' 3rd 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 October 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 October 1, 2017, 3,620 programs are currently rated using the five-star rating system. Of these rated programs, 2,751 are currently serving children from families participating in the Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy program. Additionally, 203 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	6	2	0	0	10
Two Stars	522	568	378	82	32	1582
Three Stars	802	345	49	74	16	1286
Four Stars	130	78	13	5	4	230
Five Stars	432	63	1	12	4	512
TOTAL	1888	1060	443	173	56	3620

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 5,000 hours of individualized onsite coaching and mentoring, professional development support, and/or rating services to 1,091 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.

Promotion of Child Care Collaborations

An increasing number of 4K and Head Start programs are interested in collaborating with private child care programs to ensure that children receive full-day care in the same location. Additionally, programs are interested in receiving YoungStar program support services and Wisconsin Shares family support services to enhance the child care quality. Programs that only provide 4K or Head Start services are not eligible for either of these supports. YoungStar is partnering with the Department of Public Instruction to encourage 4K and Head Start programs to partner with private child care programs and improve continuity of care for children most in need.

Race to the Top Environment Kits

Funding from Race to the Top was identified to support the new learning environment quality indicator, to be included in the YoungStar rating scale in 2019. A total of 2,250 classrooms and/or family child care programs will receive an Environment Kit: a large container of new, high-quality, and developmentally appropriate learning materials to engage all of children's areas of growth. Environment kits will be provided to 2 and 3 Star rated programs to help support the state's effort to increase the supply of high-quality programs, and share the importance of interacting with children using a variety of learning materials.

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