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JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

MEMORANDUM

To: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

From: Senator Alberta Darling
Representative John Nygren

Date: February 14, 2018

Re: DCF Report to JFC

Attached is a report on the YoungStar program for the 4th quarter of 2017 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

February 7, 2018

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' 4th 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 December 31, 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 December 31, 2017, 3,591 programs were rated using the five-star rating system. Of these rated programs, 2,708 are currently serving children from families participating in the Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy program. Additionally, 180 newly participating 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	5	2	0	0	9
Two Stars	540	540	379	82	34	1575
Three Stars	778	348	52	72	16	1266
Four Stars	133	79	12	4	5	233
Five Stars	437	62	1	5	3	508
TOTAL	1890	1034	446	163	58	3591

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

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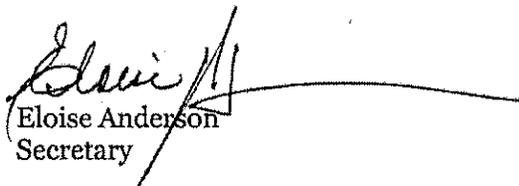
During the fourth quarter, local YoungStar offices provided more than 6,000 hours of individualized onsite coaching and mentoring, professional development support, and/or rating services to 1,147 group, family, school-age, and day camp programs. These services enhanced the quality of programs serving children birth to age twelve in 63 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 conducting a survey to measure the status of these collaborations statewide, and is partnering with the Department of Public Instruction to encourage 4K and Head Start programs to work together with private child care programs to improve continuity of care for children most in need.

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