

Experiences and Needs of Underserved Groups in Wisconsin Early Care and Education

Read the full report in the [PDG Sandbox](#).

Latinx

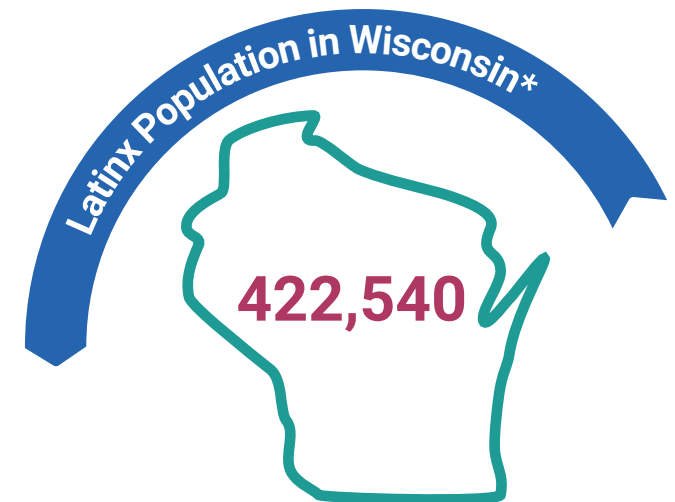
As part of the Statewide Needs Assessment for the Preschool Development Grant (PDG), the University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for Community and Nonprofit Studies interviewed families (e.g. parents, grandparents, foster parents) and child care providers from Wisconsin's underserved populations. The interviews were conducted to better understand the specific context, needs, and challenges families and providers face when navigating Wisconsin's early childhood system.

Key Takeaways From the Interviews



- »» Child care is unaffordable for families, but child care tuition is not enough to support child care providers.
- »» Families needing financial assistance with child care often don't access it because they aren't aware of available resources.
- »» Extended family caring for children is a significant source of child care, however some Latinx families experience isolation from family and community that limits their ability to turn to others for informal care.
- »» Latinx child care providers who bring bilingual and bicultural skills to their care are undervalued and undercompensated.

9 Interviews Conducted with Latinx Community Members



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*2019 Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH) Data Query System



Wisconsin Department of Children and Families



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Latinx Family and Provider Perspectives

Equity and inclusion are central to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) framework for evaluating and transforming early care and education. Questions were developed based on this framework and the core areas of access, affordability, quality, and workforce. Here is a summary of Latinx family and provider experiences and perceptions related to each of the four areas. For more information, visit [DCF's webpage](#).

» The lack of Spanish-speaking resource staff and Spanish-language information limits access to child care options and subsidies for some families.

» In-home and family child care providers cannot afford to take time off and typically do not have access to substitute child care providers.

» The cost of child care is prohibitive.

» Child care providers are undervalued and under-compensated for their bilingual, bicultural skills and approaches to care.

"Es más alto la babysitting que lo que gana uno." ["Babysitting costs more than what I earn."]

"Can't afford to take children to daycare... if it wasn't costly, parents would consider it as an option."



"We are applying quality care because we are following the licensure guidelines. We are also providing a good education because we offer a bilingual education—we attend to the needs of each child in terms of their culture, their language, their health, and their safety."

» Care provided in Spanish or bilingually is important to families, but is not always available.

» Child care providers experience a lot of pressure to keep their businesses afloat.

"I only have two weeks of vacation, and we don't have sick days... I have to be present because I am the one with the license."

» Culturally-relevant care is considered to be an important aspect of quality. High-quality care is a holistic approach that includes nutrition, education, and social-emotional aspects of a child's environment.

» COVID-19 has made the financial situation of child care providers worse as enrollment numbers drop and new regulations are required.