



SHARING THE NEWS

Volume 5, Issue 1, Spring , 2011

This newsletter is for child care providers caring for children in the Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program, a program which helps low-income families pay for regulated child care while participating in work activities.

- YoungStar in Action
- Regulated Care and Young Star Public Search Website
- Qualified Employers
- Program Integrity Update
- Milwaukee County Going to "Confirmation" Status

YOUNGSTAR IN ACTION

YoungStar continues to receive new applications! So far, over 2,300 Child Care Providers have submitted their YoungStar application. Many of these providers are now receiving Technical Assistance to help them reach higher levels of quality of care.

If you have not applied, please check out our updated website, at <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar>. Here, you will find information about your fellow Child Care Provider's experience with YoungStar, and quick and easy links on how to submit your application!

Remember, you must participate in Young Start in order to be eligible to receive Wisconsin Shares payment.

Check out our Rising Stars Providers across Wisconsin as part of Provider Appreciation Day!



Regulated Child Care Website Expansion

The Department of Children and Families launched the Wisconsin Licensed Child Care Search website in June of 2008. In keeping with the goal of ensuring families have access to quality early care and education, the department will be expanding the website to include both certified family child care and certified school-age programs effective June 6, 2011.

The new website will be called the **Regulated Child Care and YoungStar Public Search**. This newly expanded website will include provider location information, regulatory compliance information and YoungStar rating details on all regulated child care providers in the State of Wisconsin. Information obtained from the website will continue to help consumers locate and learn more about *all* regulated child care programs in their area. Consumers can search for regulated child care by county, city, zip code, provider name, ages served, YoungStar rating, etc.

In addition, the Regulated Child Care and YoungStar Public Search website will display the results of monitoring by the certifying agency and/or licensing specialist. The website will show compliance information for licensed providers for the previous two years. For certified providers, the compliance information will be displayed from 6/6/11 forward. The compliance history will also show results when no rule violations were observed.

For licensed providers, the website will include the noncompliance statements and the provider's correction plans so that visitors can review specific detail regarding the violations that were cited and the provider's plan for addressing the violations. Certifying agencies will post either the noncompliance statements and correction plans or a phone number where consumers may call to obtain this information.

Please visit the existing Licensed Child Care Search website <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/licensed/search.HTM>

What is a “Qualified Employer” in the Wisconsin Shares Program?

Child care providers are often concerned about the length of time it takes for a parent to have their eligibility determined, and an authorization issued. One delay for eligibility and authorizations has to do with proving employment.

To qualify for Wisconsin Shares, a parent must have an **approved activity**. For most parents, the approved activity is a job. Employment, like other eligibility factors, must be verified. In some situations, it is enough to have the employer’s name, tax ID number, and proof of schedule and pay. The tax ID number is our proof that the employer exists. At other times, more proof is needed to show that the employer is a legitimate Wisconsin employer following Wisconsin employment laws.

Generally, more proof is needed when the employer is a child care provider or controlled by a provider, there is a close relationship between the parent and employer, either the parent or employer has a history of fraud or similar program issues, or basic information on the employment raises questions.

Program Integrity Update: No Authorizations During Certain Appeals

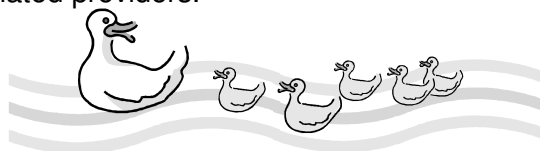
In December of 2010, the Department updated its policy for situations where a licensed child care provider has had their license revoked, suspended or denied. Previously, the DCF had allowed existing authorizations to continue while a provider appealed a revocation, suspension or denial.

The Department determined that the old policy was not appropriate since some providers with serious problems were continuing to receive public dollars during what could be a lengthy appeal process.

Under the new policy, Wisconsin Shares agencies must end authorizations to a provider when they are notified that the provider’s license is being revoked, suspended, or denied. Authorizations are ended the Saturday of the week that the agency

receives the notification. Both parents and provider receive notices that the authorizations are ended.

The new policy will help assure that Wisconsin Shares funds are spent on care given by properly regulated providers.



News From MECA (Milwaukee Early Care Administration)

MECA Goes on the Road for SUMMER Child Care Authorizations:

To help you and your child care families get your summer child care authorizations, MECA is putting staff into neighborhood locations according to the following schedule. The last session is listed below. Parents who need new authorizations for the summer may find it easier to get them at:

William T. Sherman Multicultural Arts School
5110 W. Locust Street
Milwaukee, WI 53210
Thursday, June 9, 2011
3:00p-5:00pm

Milwaukee Becoming a Confirmation County

Soon Milwaukee County will become a confirmation county for providers that enter attendance on-line. What does this mean? This means that Milwaukee County will require agency workers to verify attendance that has been entered by Milwaukee County providers via CCPI before payment will be made for the entered attendance. Before implementation, MECA will send a mailing to all providers that are impacted explaining the details of the change, time lines and other related information to ensure a smooth transition.

Think
Spring !!!



If you need this information in an alternate format, need it translated to another language, or have questions/suggestions about the content of this newsletter, please e-mail ChildCare@Wisconsin.gov or contact your local child care coordinator or Milwaukee County vendor liaison. For civil rights questions, call (608) 266-5335 or (866) 864-4585 TTY (Toll Free). Previous issues of this newsletter are located at <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/wishares/newsletter.htm>.