

Department of Children and Families (Child Care Development Fund Plan)

Public Hearing: On Monday, May 11, 2009 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM, the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF), will hold a Public Hearing on Wisconsin's Plan for Providing Child Care Services under the 2009–2011 Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Draft Plan. The Public Hearing will take place in Conference Room D203 at the GEF 1 State Office Building, 201 East Washington Avenue, Madison, WI 53703. Visitors to GEF 1 must use the main entrance at 201 East Washington Avenue and register at the customer service desk in the lobby.

Background: The purpose of the Public Hearing is to solicit verbal or written comments from the public on Wisconsin's proposed plan for the use of federal CCDF dollars for the period of 10/01/09 through 09/30/11.

Wisconsin expects to receive approximately \$85 million annually of Child Care and Development Funds and additional funds under the American Recovery and Investment Act. Funds will be used to help low income families, working or preparing for work, to pay for child care under the Wisconsin Works (W-2) program, and to provide grants to improve the quality of child care programs and services. In addition, funding will be used to pay for scholarships and support for child care workers, to pay for licensing staff, to support child care resource and referral services, to support technical assistance for child care providers, and to develop and implement a quality rating system. In Wisconsin, the legislative process provides direction and decisions for the use of this fund, and the DCF/Division of Early Care and Education (DECE) Bureau of Early Childhood Education is responsible for its administration.

Opportunity for Public Comment: After April 16, interested parties can access the 2009-2011 CCDF Draft Plan on the Department of Children and Families Child Care web page under the heading, Other Child Care Resources, at

<http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/default.htm>

Individuals who plan to testify about the CCDF Draft Plan on May 11 should submit a copy of the text of their comments to ensure clarity in the recording of comments.

Staff will also receive other written comments at the hearing or through the mail for inclusion in the public comment summary document. Written comments will receive equal consideration to the testimony given at the hearing.

Contact Person: Please send your comments about the 2009-2011 State CCDF Draft Plan or any questions about the web page location to Gabe Blood by e-mail at gabrielle.blood@wi.gov or contact her at: Bureau of Early Childhood Education, Division of Early Care and Education, Department of Children and Families, PO Box 8916, Madison, WI 53708-8916, 608.267.2081. All comments must be received no later than 5/11/09. Specific accommodation requests for the Public Hearing must be made to Gabe Blood prior to 5/1/09. Text phone users can contact Ms. Blood through WTRS (dial 711).