

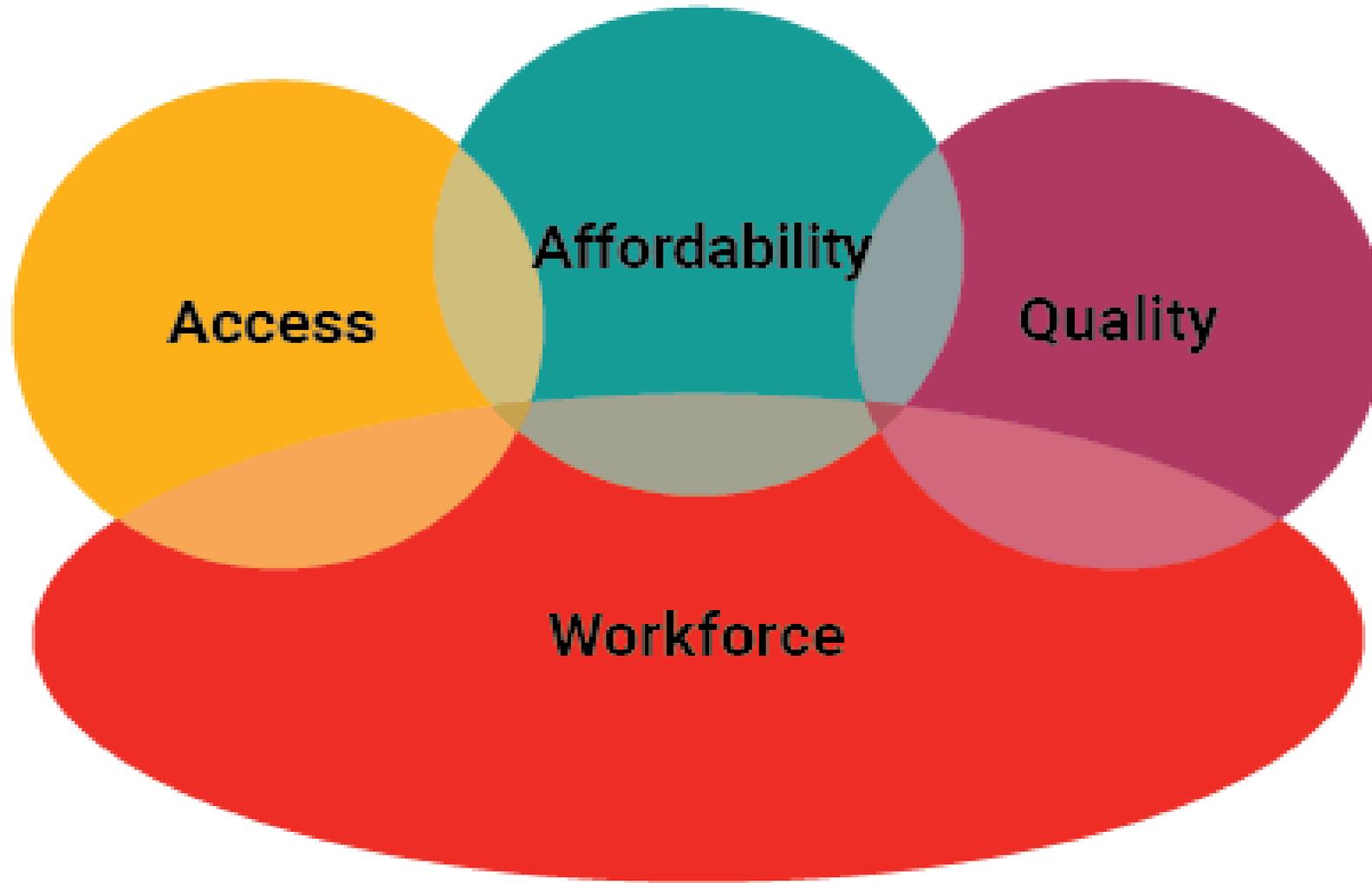
Child Care Counts: Stabilization Payment Program

November 10, 2021



Wisconsin Department of
Children and Families

Equity & Inclusion



Child Care Counts: Stabilization Payment Program Overview

- **\$351.6 million** available from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Stabilization Grant
- **Nine-month payment program** that runs November 2021-July 2022
 - Followed by an **additional nine-month** payment program; renewal application opening in August 2022
- Providers will receive **ongoing monthly payments** by continuing to meet eligibility requirements and adhering to program Terms and Conditions



Who Can Apply?

Regulated Child Care Providers

- Licensed Group Centers
- Licensed Family Providers
- Certified Providers
- Licensed Day Camps
- License-Exempt Public School Programs



Program A: Increasing Access to High Quality Care

- **Per child payments** to providers to cover **operating expenses** and **quality improvements** based on **age, part-time or full-time enrollment**, and **participation in Wisconsin Shares**
- **Allowable uses for funding:**
 - Operating expenses (mortgage, rent/space costs, utilities, insurance, and payroll/benefits)
 - COVID-19 mitigation
 - Materials/supplies for enhancing the program environment, curriculum, and childhood development supports
 - Mental health services for children and employees
 - Tuition reimbursement



Program B: Supporting Workforce Recruitment and Retention

- Designed to **enhance staff compensation** and **professional development** opportunities.
- Based on **part-time or full-time employment** and **YoungStar rating (if applicable)**
- Allowable uses for funding:
 - The **Base Per-Staff Amount** is a fixed amount that will be included in each month's Payment Letter. This amount must go entirely to the staff listed on that month's application, in the form of a wage increase, bonus, or benefits
 - Providers participating in YoungStar will receive an additional **Quality Incentive Per-Staff Amount**. This amount is tiered based on YoungStar level and can be used for a wage increase, bonus, and/or professional development for any staff



Eligibility Criteria

- Must be **regulated and in good standing** as defined by DCF during the **Count Week** and as of the last date of the Application Week and subsequent Monthly Update Weeks
- Must be **open and caring for children ages 0 through 12, or under 19** for children with disabilities, during the Count Week identified for each month
- Must **update child and staff information every month** following initial application
- Must be in compliance with **background check requirements**
- Must follow **health and safety administrative rules** for child care providers as outlined by [DCF Child Care Regulation](#) and meet the requirements of any **local orders**, and to the greatest extent possible, implement policies in line with **guidance** from the [Center for Disease Control](#) (CDC) for child care programs.
- Currently **repaying** any overpayment and/or in compliance with any Wisconsin Shares or Child Care Counts overpayments that are owed.
- **Agree** to the payment program [Terms and Conditions](#)



Timeline and Terminology

Count Week: The point in time for which child and staff information is collected for payment calculations

Application Week: The Child Care Counts application is open and available in the Child Care Provider Portal

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Week 1: 10/31-11/6	Count Week for November Application						
Week 2: 11/7 - 11/13		Application Window Opens					
Week 3: 11/14 - 11/20						Application Closes 11:59pm	
Week 4: 11/21 - 11/27		DCF Review Period					
Week 5: 11/28 - 12/4							
Week 6: 12/5 - 12/10	Count Week for December Application & Monthly Update					Payment Letters Available in Provider Portal	

Monthly Update Week: The timeframe when providers that applied and were approved in a previous month report any changes or confirm child attendance and staffing



What's New?



Monthly Payments

- Once approved for payments, providers will continue to receive **ongoing monthly payments** by continuing to meet eligibility requirements and adhering to the program Terms and Conditions
- Providers must **update the application during each Monthly Update Week** with their child and/or staff information for that month's Count Week



COVID Guidance

- Providers must be **open and caring for children** during the identified Count Week for the initial application
- In **future payment months** there will be **exceptions to this requirement** for facility closures, classroom closures, and child absences that are due to **COVID exposure**
- See the website FAQs for further details



Changes to Program A

- Program A now includes **an additional per child amount** for children who receive **Wisconsin Shares**.
- The allowable use of funds for Program A now include **relief from copayments and tuition payments** for families. Providers are encouraged to use Program A funds for this purpose, if financially possible, prioritizing families most in need of financial relief. Wisconsin Shares subsidies to families cannot be reimbursed.



Changes to Program B

- All approved providers will receive a **Base Per-Staff Amount**. This is a fixed amount that will be included in each month's Payment Letter. This amount must go entirely to the staff listed on that month's application, in the form of a wage increase, bonus, or benefits
- Providers participating in YoungStar will receive an additional **Quality Incentive Per-Staff Amount**. This amount is tiered based on YoungStar level



Required Child and Staff Records

- Certain verification documents must be **uploaded with the Child Care Counts application**. Providers cannot submit an application without uploading these documents.
- Required documents include:
 - **Program A** – Child Attendance Records
 - **Program B** – Staff Records (employment status, part/full-time status, and current wages/rate of pay), **and** Child Attendance Records (if they were not already uploaded for Program A)



Spending Timeframe

- Funds received each month under this program must be spent within **120 days** of the date of Payment Letter for the given month
- Providers should **keep records** of each monthly payment received, as well as how those funds are spent



Frequently Asked Questions



I was open and caring for children during the Count Week but am currently temporarily closed. Can I still apply?

Yes. Providers may apply if they are open and caring for children during the Count Week. If temporarily closed during the Application Week, providers must reopen within 14 days.



I applied for a previous round of Child Care Counts funding. Do I have to submit a new application?

Yes. Providers must submit new applications for this new round of funding. For providers who previously applied, much of the previous information will be copied into the current application. Please review all information that is automatically filled in on the application to make sure it is accurate and update as needed.



Do I count the children who were enrolled or only those who attended?

Enter the total number of children who **attended** at least one day during the Count Week.



I am a family provider without additional staff. Can I still apply for Program B?

Yes. Family providers can apply for both programs. Owners of family providers should be sure to enter themselves in the staff list.

Child Care Counts: Stabilization Payment Program

Staff Verification for the owner of a family provider
(licensed family or a certified provider)

Current Count Week:

Owner/Operator

Facility Name:

Hours of Operation

Schedule Worked:

Total Tuition Amount from Count Week: \$

Signature:

Date:



Questions?

