

**Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council Smart Investment #1:
Double the Number of Children in High-Quality Child Care Programs
*Implementation and Financial Commitment***

Implementation

Regulated child care capacity in Wisconsin is 179,020 slots as of January 2016, capable of serving an estimated 233,500 children each day. Up to 23%, or 54,500 of the possible 233,500, of children attending child care each day could receive care from a 4 or 5 Star provider. The Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy program assists families of 42,072 children and of those children, 23%, or 9,687, attend 4 or 5 Star programs.

Doubling the number of children in high-quality child care programs requires a reliable, stable supply of 4 Star and 5 Star child care programs available to families. Quality Advancement Awards and Quality Sustainability Awards will support existing high-quality programs while providing resources and supports to help programs move to and maintain a higher YoungStar quality rating.

- **Improve the quality rating of existing child care programs:** Increase the number of high-quality programs by providing Quality Advancement Awards to programs that move to a higher YoungStar rating (3-Star, 4-Star or 5-Star).
- **Maintain existing high-quality child care programs:** Sustain existing high-quality programs (4-Star and 5-Star rated) through annual ongoing Quality Sustainability Awards.

Programs participating in YoungStar and meeting established criteria receive a Quality Advancement Award or Quality Sustainability Award. The award amount varies based on the type of child care program,¹ the program's capacity, and the type of Award earned.

Financial Commitment

Achieving this Smart Investment requires an estimated \$10 million per year for the first two years. \$10 million is less than 4% of the annual Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy program cost.

¹ Licensed group child care centers, licensed family child care centers and certified family child care.

Cost estimates for Quality Advancement and Quality Sustainability Grants in the first two years:

	Quality Advancement Grants		Quality Sustainability Grants	
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 1	Year 2
Estimated Number of Programs	1162*	225	446	446
Overall Cost	\$3,700,000	\$1,700,000	\$6,100,000	\$8,200,000
Award by Provider Type				
Large Group Center	\$1,800,000	\$745,000	\$2,930,000	\$3,900,000
Small Group Center	\$1,100,000	\$478,000	\$1,990,000	\$1,490,000
Licensed Family	\$600,000	\$402,000	\$1,090,000	\$1,490,000
Certified Family	\$60,000	\$50,000	\$69,000	\$92,000
Public School	\$78,000	\$60,000	\$75,000	\$100,000

**Governor’s Early Childhood Advisory Council Smart Investment #2:
Double the Number of Families with Young Children Served in Family Foundations
Home Visiting Programs
*Implementation and Financial Commitment***

Implementation

Doubling the number of families with young children served by Family Foundations home visiting programs requires additional funding to expand existing programs, increase quality and the addition of new programs. The evidence-based home visiting programs will continue to target local communities and tribes with large percentages of high-risk pregnant women and vulnerable parents with children under age five.

The proposed funding supports an incremental approach to double the number of families with children served by evidence-based home visiting programs over a four-year period.

- Initial focus will provide increased funding to existing Family Foundations home visiting programs, allowing established programs to serve additional families.
- The next focus will assist non-state supported programs in meeting credentialing criteria of evidence-based models, thereby increasing quality and expanding the number of families served.
- The final phase establishes new evidence-based home visiting programs in underserved, high-need communities.

Financial Commitment

Achieving this Smart Investment requires gradually increasing base funding for home visiting by \$2.5 million annually over four years. By the fourth year, the current allocation is doubled to allow twice as many families with young children to be served.

Year	Starting Budget	Additional Funding
1	Current allocation (Year 0)	\$2,500,000
2	Year 1 allocation	\$2,500,000
3	Year 2 allocation	\$2,500,000
4	Year 3 allocation	\$2,500,000

Governor’s Early Childhood Advisory Council Smart Investment #3:
Expand Public-Private Partnership Network of Local Early Childhood Coalitions
Implementation & Financial Commitment

Implementation

- **New Grants:** Local early childhood coalitions would be able to apply for funds to assist them in building capacity to leverage community resources. Local coalitions would be able to use the funds to support the staff time and other organizational requirements necessary for targeted and comprehensive community outreach. These funds would not be used to support early childhood programs directly, but, instead, would be used by coalitions to build capacity to raise local funds.
- **Supplemental Support:** The purpose of the supplemental grants is to allow coalitions who have already received the larger initial grant to have the opportunity for continued support if they qualify. These additional grants would be for significantly lower amounts and are not intended to be part of the sustainability plan required of the initial grants. Coalitions could apply for these funds as additional support in order to bridge a gap in funding between the large grant support and a fully implemented sustainability plan. It would allow for a step-down in funding from fully grant supported to self-sustaining.
- **State Level Infrastructure:** The state would provide the tools and resources the local coalitions need to ensure that they are able to engage their communities around the importance of supporting quality in early childhood. This includes maintaining CETE Network, coordinating networking and professional development events, and managing staffing and the grants.

Financial Commitment

The Council recommends allocating \$1 million per year in new funding to support and strengthen the long-term viability of the Public-Private Network. For each of the first five years, the funds would be used as follows:

Action	Amount
Award seven new grants, averaging \$95,000 each	\$665,000
Provide \$25,000 in supplemental support to the six existing grantees	\$150,000
Infrastructure and support of hub serving each new community grantee	\$185,000
Total:	\$1,000,000