



YoungStar Contract – Group Center

Personal information you provide may be used for secondary purposes [Privacy Law, s. 15.04(1)(m), Wisconsin Statutes].

The YoungStar Quality Rating and Improvement System is designed to improve the overall quality of child care in Wisconsin.

Programs that receive Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy are required to participate in YoungStar. Completion of the information included within this contract is a requirement for participation in YoungStar. This contract is for a one (1) year period, which may be renewed.

Complete this form and return to your local YoungStar office as determined at:

<http://www.dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/providers.htm>

Please check applicable type of regulation of program:

- I am licensed under DCF 251
 This is a public school program and under the supervision of a public school board
 I am in the process of being licensed under DCF 251

(IF YOU ARE IN THE PROCESS OF BEING LICENSED, PLEASE SEE NOTE ON PAGE 5 OF THIS DOCUMENT)

Today's Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Program Name		Facility Number (if known)	
Provider Number (if known)		Location Number (if known)	
Name – Director		Name – Contact Person (if different from Director)	
Address – Child Care Program/Center (Street, City, Zip Code)			County/Tribe – Child Care Program/Center
Telephone Number	Cell Phone Number	Fax Number	
Email			
Number of Children Currently Enrolled	Number of Classrooms	Age Range of Children Served	

- My program receives funding from Head Start and/or from a public school to provide 3-year-old kindergarten (3-K) or 4-year-old kindergarten (4K) for some portion of my programming.

All participating regulated programs will receive a minimum of 1 Star, but in order to obtain 2 Stars or more, programs must be in compliance with licensing or certification rules or regulated by a Public School Board. Programs that demonstrate quality practices will earn more points toward a higher star rating. Child care program will have access to the following services and resources upon receipt of this completed form:

- Explanation of quality rating
- Technical assistance and / or coaching sessions to work on collaborative quality improvement change plans with defined steps for program enhancement
- YoungStar quality rating to be posted on the Department of Children and Families Regulated Child Care and YoungStar Public Search website: <http://childcarefinder.wisconsin.gov/>

- A clearly-defined process for addressing significant questions about a child care rating
- Access to research-informed materials and evidence-based practices
- Telephone and email availability to answer questions and respond to concerns
- Financial micro-grant resources, as available, to programs receiving and actively participating in technical assistance with verified and current quality improvement plans to purchase materials, resources, and professional development opportunities that have been identified to achieve quality improvement goals
- Ongoing access to training, technical assistance and support opportunities from local training and technical assistance providers including Child Care Resource and Referral agencies, Wisconsin Early Childhood Association, Cooperative Educational Services Agencies and higher education facilitated by the local YoungStar offices through collaborative efforts and regional networking opportunities

Accountability and Reporting:

Individual child care programs will work with local YoungStar offices. Local YoungStar office staff are mandatory reporters for concerns of child abuse and neglect, just as child care program staff are mandatory reporters. Any observed potential violations directly related to the health or safety of children in care may be reported to the appropriate regulatory authorities.

Child Care Program commits to the following:

- Sign this form, which constitutes a contract between the provider and the Department of Children and Families indicating that the child care program is aware of child care attendance reporting requirements, Wisconsin State Statutes and Administrative Rules and Operations Memos governing child care, and will meet and follow all Wisconsin Shares attendance reporting requirements, refrain from making any misrepresentations of his/her YoungStar rating, and ensure that attendance is reported accurately and timely
- Be willing to provide care for children for which Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program reimbursement is made
- Review of and compliance with policies laid out in Wisconsin Statutes 49.155 and DCF 201 Child Care Administration Rules
- Provide accurate and timely information on The Registry Organizational Account (also known as a Program Profile): <https://www.the-registry.org/ProgramProfile.aspx>. Up-to-date YoungStar Director, Lead Teaching staff and classroom information must be identified in The Registry Organizational Account. This information is used for accurate YoungStar rating determination. Head Start, 3K and 4K classrooms, should not be included in the Registry Organizational Account and will not be evaluated for YoungStar at this time. If the Director or Lead Teaching staff changes, the program must update the Registry Organizational Account immediately. Any changes made to educational or classroom information in the Organizational Account will automatically affect the program's YoungStar rating and the program's Wisconsin Shares reimbursement level will change accordingly. If you need help creating or maintaining your Organizational Account, see the information on the last page of this form. **Programs that want to earn star ratings higher than a 2 Star must participate in The Registry and create and maintain an Organizational Account.**
- Provide accurate information and authentic documentation of items requested for rating

Programs Receiving Technical Consultation commit to:

- Build a Quality Improvement Plan based on the technical assistance received and / or observation findings and desired areas for improvement
- Provide time for technical assistance, rating observation and / or coaching sessions including consultation with classroom teachers / director if requested. Programs must actively engage in technical consultation to be eligible for micro-grants
- Intentionally and actively participate in quality efforts to improve program quality
- Operate the regulated child care program for a minimum of one (1) year from the date the Program is rated for the first time in order to receive micro-grant resources and quality improvement technical assistance supports. The program agrees to notify their local YoungStar office within 30 days of closing and pay back the amount of all items and services purchased through the YoungStar micro-grants if the program closes within one year of being rated for the first time.

- Keep communication flowing about needs, interests, barriers, and scheduling issues when technical assistance is requested

I request the following support from the local YoungStar office (choose one of the three options below):

- A. I do not wish to have any technical assistance and do not want a Technical Consultant to come visit my program. **I understand that by selecting this option, my program CANNOT earn more than a 2 Star rating and WILL NOT be eligible for a micro-grant.**
- B. I would like a Technical Consultant to visit my program and rate it. I understand that by selecting this option, my program can earn a rating of up to 5 Stars. I agree to allow unrestricted access to all areas of the premises in which care is provided.
 - Additionally, I would like someone to provide one-on-one technical assistance to help me get ready for this rating and/or to help me improve my program.
- C. My program is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the National Accreditation Commission (NAC), the Council on Accreditation (COA), the National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA) or the City of Madison and I would like an automated rating of **4 or 5 Stars** based on this accreditation and my educational qualifications. I understand it is my responsibility to send proof of my accreditation to the Department of Children and Families on a timely basis to ensure my rating is correct. These may be faxed to 608-224-6178 or emailed to Bridget.Benson@wi.gov. A copy of the YoungStar accreditation policy can be found at: http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/pdf/accreditation_policy.pdf
 - Additionally, I would like someone to provide one-on-one technical assistance to help me improve my program.

Valid Accreditation Type	Valid Dates
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Head Start and 3-year-old kindergarten (3K) or 4-year-old kindergarten (4K) (check the box below if applicable)

- My program receives funding from Head Start and/or from a public school to provide 3-year-old kindergarten (3K) or 4-year-old kindergarten (4K) for some portion of my programming.

If you checked this box, please answer the following questions:

List the number of hours per day that are dedicated to Head Start: _____

List the number of hours per day that are dedicated to 3-K or 4-K: _____

List the average number of hours per day that are dedicated to child care: _____

If your program accepts Head Start or public school funding, but you cannot easily break out the hours above, please contact your local YoungStar office for assistance in completing this application.

NOTE: Stand-alone Head Start programs should choose the “Head Start and 3-year-old kindergarten (3K) or 4-year-old kindergarten (4K)” option. **Stand-alone Head Start programs with no deficiencies in their triennial review will receive a rating of 5 Stars and should send their YoungStar Contract to DCF YoungStar Program at 201 East Washington Avenue, Madison, WI 53708.** All other programs should return the Contract to their local YoungStar office. For programs that provide child care in combination with Head Start services or public school-funded three-year-old/four-year-old kindergarten, eligibility for technical assistance and YoungStar rating will be determined on a case-by-case basis. YoungStar does not provide services to stand-alone Head Start programs or public school-funded three-year-old/four-year-old kindergarten classrooms.

As a YoungStar program participant, I certify that my program:

- Is currently either licensed by the State of Wisconsin; certified within Wisconsin; has a current contract with a school board in the State of Wisconsin to provide care to children in the district of said school board, or is in the process of becoming licensed by the State of Wisconsin or certified within Wisconsin.
- Has received information, understands YoungStar participant responsibilities and agrees to meet all YoungStar requirements.
- Is willing to provide services for children for which Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program reimbursement is made.
- Agrees to comply with all requirements spelled out in the Child Care Authorization form, including: reporting actual hours of attendance for all authorized children in care; immediate notification that a child is no longer attending my program upon becoming aware of change in attendance; caring for no more children than regulation rules allows, including private pay and subsidized children.
- Agrees to accurately represent my YoungStar rating.

- I understand that in order to be eligible for Wisconsin Shares payments, I must comply with the one-time fingerprint-based criminal record search required by s. 48.685(2)(br), Wis. Stats.
- Agrees to comply with all laws, rules, and regulations. I understand and agree that, as the Authorized Representative for Child Care Program, I am responsible for ensuring that any person who is employed at my child care program or who has any role in the operation of my child care program will comply with all laws and regulations pertaining to child care programs, including, but not limited to, ch. 48 Children’s Code of the Wisconsin Statutes; chs. DCF 250 Family Child Care Centers, DCF 251 Group Child Care Centers, DCF 252 Day Camps, DCF 202 Child Care Certification, and DCF 201 Administration of Child Care funds of the Wisconsin Administrative Codes; and s.7 CFR 226 Child and Adult Care Food Program of the Federal Regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. I further understand and agree that, as the Authorized Representative for Child Care Program, I may be held legally responsible under any applicable laws and regulations for any actions or omissions of any person who is employed at my child care program or who has any role in the operation of my child care program. I understand and agree that failure to comply may result in an enforcement action against my child care license/certificate including, but not limited to, revocation, denial or the assessment of forfeiture.

I, _____ agree to follow all Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program attendance reporting requirements, including accurate and timely reporting, as indicated in Wisconsin State Statutes 49.155 and Administrative Rules DCF 201. I have read and agree to follow policies as indicated in the Wisconsin Shares Subsidy Policy Manual for Child Care Providers (<http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/wishares/manual.htm>). As a child care program I agree to record actual arrival and departure times and maintain these records in an accessible format for later possible review.

SIGNATURE – Authorized Representative for Child Care Program

Date Signed

PROVIDERS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING LICENSED OR CERTIFIED

If you are in the process of being licensed or certified, you should complete this Contract and return it to your local YoungStar office as soon as you know you want to care for children in the Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy program. You **CANNOT** receive Wisconsin Shares reimbursement for any care provided before this YoungStar Contract is returned to your local YoungStar office. You may return this contract to your local YoungStar office before you receive your license or certification. If you return this contract to your local YoungStar office before you receive your license or certification, you are responsible for contacting the local YoungStar office as soon as you receive your license or certification so you may begin YoungStar services and to ensure that Wisconsin Shares payments are received in a timely manner.

Additional information about Registry Organizational Account (also known as Program Profiles)

Every program that would like to earn more than 2 Stars in YoungStar must complete an Organizational Account through The Registry. Instructions for doing this are available online at <https://www.the-registry.org/ProgramProfile.aspx>

Programs must designate one YoungStar Lead Teacher for each classroom in their program. Programs must designate one Director for each program. **Do not add Lead Teachers who only teach during Head Start or publicly-funded 3 or 4K programming to your Organizational Account. Contact your local YoungStar office for additional clarification.**

Programs that need help completing or updating their Organizational Accounts may call Bridget Benson at the Child Care Information Center at 1-800-362-7353.

YoungStar Appointment Cancellation Policy

Cancellation of or habitual absenteeism from scheduled YoungStar appointments prevents quality improvements, assessment, and ratings from being completed in a timely manner. Every participant in YoungStar who would like any form of onsite technical assistance (technical assistance, Technical Rating or Formal Rating with Observation) is required to sign a Technical Consultation Participation Agreement before beginning the process. The Agreement explains the rules around good faith participation in YoungStar technical assistance. The full Appointment Cancellation Policy is available at the website below: http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/pdf/cancellation_policy.pdf

Additional Resources

Programs will be evaluated for YoungStar using the YoungStar Quality Indicators. These are available at: http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/pdf/point_detail.pdf

The Department of Children and Families created and maintains a YoungStar Frequently Asked Questions document available at: <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/pdf/faq.pdf>

Fingerprint Requirements

Beginning May 5, 2014, a fingerprint background check is required for the licensee/applicant, any adult household members and all employees in a center that wishes to be eligible to receive Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy payments. More information on the fingerprint check requirements can be found on the following website: <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/licensed/CBC.HTM>

For Local YoungStar Office Use Only

Date Received	Initials	Complete?	Date Processed	Initials