

Jim Doyle
Governor

Reggie Bicha
Secretary



State of Wisconsin
Department of Children and Families

201 East Washington Avenue, Room G200
P.O. Box 8916
Madison, WI 53708-8916

Telephone: 608-266-8684
Fax: 608-261-6972
dcf.wisconsin.gov

November 22, 2010

Honorable Mark Miller
Senate Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Finance
Room 317 East, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Honorable Mark Pocan
Assembly Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Finance
Room 309 East, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Senator Miller and Representative Pocan:

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) requests the release of \$4,001,500 FED from the Joint Finance Committee's federal funds general program supplementation appropriation under s. 20.865(4)(m) to DCF to fund continued implementation of YoungStar, the Department's child care quality rating and improvement system (QRIS). Of the amount transferred, \$3,726,000 would be deposited in the appropriation under 20.437(2)(md) Federal block grant aids, and \$275,500 would be deposited in the appropriation under 20.437(2)(mc) Federal block grant operations.

As part of the JFC action on June 23, 2010 related to YoungStar, the Committee approved a total of \$5,616,900 in funding to begin implementation of the program, including \$616,900 for state administrative costs, \$500,000 for additional scholarships and stipends for child care professionals, \$1,500,000 for immediate training and technical assistance for providers in 12 counties, and \$3,000,000 for initial data collection and assessment activities in six regions. The Committee further reserved an additional \$4,429,900 FED and specified that the Department may request its release at the same time the Department seeks approval for its five-year plan under a 14-day passive review process.

The additional funding would allow for the continued rating of child care providers, provide additional training and technical assistance, and allow micro-grants be issued to providers to help them improve their facilities. In addition, the funds would be used to begin the communications campaign to make providers and parents aware of the YoungStar program and to begin initial implementation of the YoungStar evaluation.

Senator Mark Miller
Representative Mark Pocan
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I appreciate your continued commitment to the YoungStar program and look forward to ongoing communication on our progress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Reggie Bicha".

Reggie Bicha
Secretary

cc: Dan Schooff, Department of Administration
Bob Lang, Legislative Fiscal Bureau