



wisconsin department of
children + families

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Governor Scott Walker
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Secretary's Office

March 1, 2011

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

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

Dear Senator Darling and Representative Vos:

Pursuant to the Joint Finance Committee's June 23, 2010 Motion 38, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) submits its report on the outcomes of the expanded training and technical assistance efforts approved by the Committee in support of YoungStar, the Department's quality rating and improvement system.

Included in Motion 38 was the reallocation of \$1.5 million in Wisconsin Shares saving to provide immediate training and technical assistance for child care providers in specified counties. The Department contracted with a number of entities, including the Supporting Families Together Association (SFTA), the Wisconsin Early Childhood Association (WECA), and various UW campuses and technical colleges to provide this increased training and technical assistance. Some of the results of these efforts include:

- 7,325 providers participated in training to earn credit and non-credit based training in all YoungStar key areas.
 - SFTA and WECA Credit and non-credit based instruction
 - 6,372 participants statewide
 - 5,790 in the target counties
 - Wisconsin Technical College System and the UW System Campuses Credit based instruction was made available to
 - 953 participants statewide
 - 832 in the target counties
- Technical assistance:
 - On-site assistance to an additional 1,396 programs through the Child and Adult Food Care Program;
 - Intensive on-site support to 101 family and group child care programs;
 - Intensive professional development planning consulting was provided to child care programs through 68 sessions.
- Resources were made available to support the design of new online courses in key areas such as inclusion of children with disabilities.

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This reallocation of resources made a significant impact on the availability of coursework related to preparing child care programs to improve quality and become better prepared to participate in YoungStar. These dollars had a tremendous reach and resulted in the following overall outcomes:

- Quantifiable improvements in the quality of child care environments as validated by Early Childhood Environmental Rating Score increases;
- Development of program-specific quality improvement plans with clear steps identified to improve child care quality; and
- Increased knowledge as a result of training and technical assistance opportunities.

These efforts have better prepared child care providers for the implementation of YoungStar and have already enhanced the quality of child care for Wisconsin children. I appreciate your continued support of our efforts to improve Wisconsin's child care system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Eloise Anderson".

Eloise Anderson
Secretary

Attachment

cc: Michael Huebsch, Department of Administration
Bob Lang, Legislative Fiscal Bureau