

Serving ●●● Adams, Clark, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Marquette, Portage, Taylor, Waushara, and Wood County

Good Start Grants provides financial assistance for eligible families in Marathon County to ensure they have access to quality, affordable child care. An annual survey to families has collected impactful stories.

How has GSG helped your family? If GSG were not available, how would that affect your current child care situation?

- This program has made my life much better providing the support no other person or agency has. I do not qualify for any state aid and yet do not have enough to provide for myself and my child without help from my family. It is a very difficult, frustrating place to be. I am very grateful for this opportunity.
- GSG has helped me and my son tremendously. I am a single mother and work full time. It is important to have a reliable daycare and GSG has been able to help me afford that for my son. I know he is in good care while I am at work which is a great feeling. He is also getting to learn, do fun projects and socialize with other kids! Without the help from GSG I would've never been able to afford to put my son in daycare full time and possibly could've lost my job if I had nowhere for him to go during the day. I am very grateful for the Good Start Grant!

What type of impact has Covid-19 had on your family and/or your child's care

- COVID-19 has impacted my family's emotional health. Having the choice to still enroll my child in daycare and school has helped tremendously and still give them a safe and social environment. GSG plays a roll I'm that by still providing financial assistance to families in need.

Do you feel your child care program increases your knowledge and supports you as a parent?

- Our daughter's daycare program is very knowledgeable about toddler developmental processes, and has worked with her within her capabilities, challenging her and helping her grow. She also gets an opportunity to learn to socialize with other children her age. Our daycare provider is also very upfront and communicative about our daughter's progress

General Comments

- I am a single mother to a 2 1/2-year-old boy. For 8 months, I did not receive ANY financial support from his father. It was during that time that I grabbed the GSG brochure on the counter at the Woodson YMCA. Qualifying for this grant has made such a difference financially for my family of 2. Not having to stress about affording the cost of daycare allows me to have less stress in general, making me a much more patient and focused parent. My son and I are so grateful for this grant and cannot thank you enough. It has made such a difference in our lives.
- Our family has now received GSG for over one year. Before GSG we were able to make our child care payments. When our family received a raise in income, is when things changed for us. We now no longer qualified for the market place health insurance. It was determined that my husband and I had to take out my work insurance. With that, it was an added cost that was unexpected. After receiving GSG, it has offset the added cost of our health insurance to be able to afford both. I am very grateful for being able to receive GSG money as there is less of a financial burden on our family.
- At the height of our childcare needs, we had four children in daycare—without GSG, our monthly costs would have easily topped \$2000—there is no way we could have afforded that...but we couldn't afford one of us not to work either. GSG allows us both to continue working, further our careers, and our children to get the socialization and learning benefits of being in daycare.
- I can't thank GSG enough for helping our family. With this program, we're able to build our family and provide for our children. We're able to feed our children and pay for our bills. If it wasn't for this program we simply wouldn't be where we are today. I'd have to be working second or third shift or I'd be unemployed. There simply isn't enough words for how eternally grateful we are for this amazing program. I thank God every day for being able to find this program to help our family. Nothing makes me happier than being able to provide groceries and food for my children and to finally, for the first time in my adult life, not be living completely so paycheck to paycheck. Thank you for all you do.

For more information about GSG, call Childcaring (715-841-9490) or visit our website at Childcaring.org