

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

November 10, 2021

Subject: All regulated child care programs are encouraged to apply to receive monthly payments through the Child Care Counts Payment Program. **Applications Due: Nov. 19**

Early Childhood Professionals:

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) is launching an updated **Child Care Counts: Stabilization Payment Program** to support Wisconsin's early care and education community. Regulated child care providers will be eligible to receive **monthly payments** through 2023, providing the financial stability they need to stay open, to recruit and retain qualified staff, and to continue providing high-quality care for children.

Applications for the new program opened on Monday, November 8, 2021 and close on Friday, November 19, 2021 at 11:59 p.m., with opportunities for new programs to apply for in future months. A total of \$351 million in funds will be available over the next 18 months and will be **distributed through these two programs** targeting the challenges early care and education providers are facing:

Payment Program A – Increasing Access to High-Quality Care: This payment program is intended to ensure high-quality care is available across the state by supporting the costs to remain in regulatory compliance, enhance health and safety practices, and promote continuous quality improvement with engagement in the YoungStar Quality Rating and Improvement System.

Payment Program B – Funding Workforce Recruitment and Retention: This payment program is intended to support the costs associated with recruiting and retaining high-quality early care and education staff through funding to increase compensation and provide professional development opportunities.

Submit Your Application Through the Child Care Provider Portal

If you are unable to gain access to the Provider Portal, or need any assistance, you may submit your application over the phone with a DCF representative. **Please email:** DCFDECECOVID19CCPayments@wisconsin.gov and include your name, facility name, provider number, and the best time to reach you. If you are unable to email, you may call and leave your details. **Child Care Counts Call Center: 608-535-3650. Please note – email is recommended for a faster response.**

For the most up to date information and resources about these programs scan the **WI DCF Child Care Counts: Stabilization Payment Program** QR code at the top of this letter or visit: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/childcare/payments> or contact Childcaring for more information.



Using your smartphone camera app, scan this QR code to access the DCF Child Care Counts: Stabilization Payment Program Website.

Reach out to your YoungStar Quality Coach for more assistance if needed. If you're interested in working one-on-one with a Quality Coach, give us a call and ask for more info about YoungStar.