

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Quality Early Care & Education Benefits Everyone *Early Childhood Professionals Needed – Contact Childcaring*

Quality early care and education promotes: healthy brain development in children, support for working families, economic impact, school readiness, lifelong skills and more. However, a steady decline in child care providers is making it challenging for children to get the care they need. Childcaring, your local child care resource and referral, offers supports and programs for those interested in providing child care.

Child care providers are needed. Over the past 10 years, the central Wisconsin area has lost over 400 regulated child care providers. “We have heard from parents that they may lose their job or may need to quit if they don’t find child care. Parents are sometimes put on waiting lists that can be out a year or longer,” Childcaring Executive Director Kelly Borchardt said. Increasing the number of child care providers in central WI is important work.

Childcaring offers supports and programs to start a child care business.

Childcaring is offering a FREE Virtual Information Session on Child Care Start Up, facilitated by Childcaring Certifier/Pre-licensing Technical Consultant Gayle Schiszik.

- Thursday, May 12 from 12:30-2:30pm (Register by Thursday, May 5)

Do you have questions like:

- How many children can I legally care for?
- What are the benefits to becoming regulated?
- What classes or training do I need to get started?
- What would I charge the families?

Attend a virtual information session to get your questions answered. To achieve optimal experience, you must have a reliable internet connection and technology that supports video and audio. A link to log into the session will be sent via email prior to the session.

Start-Up Grants are Available!

The grants are intended to assist individuals with start-up costs associated with opening and providing regulated care. Eligible providers have used startup grant funding to purchase equipment, materials and classes required to obtain regulation (i.e. - safety gates, developmentally appropriate materials for a variety of age groups, smoke detectors, etc.). A regulated child care provider said, “This grant helped me to get new stuff for the children that will last. Also gates and covers to keep them safe.” If you became regulated within the past three months you may still be eligible to apply.

Child Care Counts: Stabilization Payment Program

To support Wisconsin’s early care and education community, The Department of Children and Families (DCF) has launched an updated **Child Care Counts: Stabilization Payment Program**. Regulated child care providers are 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. A total of \$351 million in funds is being distributed through two programs targeting the challenges early care and education providers are facing. More information about this

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program can be found at: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/childcare/payments>

- Note: **Payment amounts are subject to change based on available funding and applications received.**

If you are excited about committing to a career that includes making a difference in the lives of young children and families, child care could be your next career path. “Running an in-home child care business has many benefits,” said Mariah, a licensed family child care provider. “I enjoy being able to be with my children every day, while watching them develop friendships with the other children in my care. I love seeing each child’s different personality and helping them learn and grow. I have a steady income and I get to work from my home.”

“We appreciate the work and care that child care providers give to help families and children,” said Childcaring Executive Director Kelly Borchardt. Please join Childcaring in celebrating and thanking child care providers every day, but especially on Provider Appreciation Day Friday, May 6th. Visit the Childcaring Facebook page for some fun ways to celebrate.

To learn more about providing child care or to register for a free session contact Childcaring, your local child care resource and referral at: 1-800-628-8534 or visit: www.childcaring.org for more information.

About Childcaring

Childcaring’s mission is to enhance and support a quality early childhood education system by providing resource and referral services to families, child care programs, and communities in Adams, Clark, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Marquette, Portage, Taylor, Waushara, and Wood counties. To learn more about Childcaring visit: www.childcaring.org and like us on Facebook @ChildcaringInc