

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?

- With a single-parent income, GSG significantly helped my family. During the time when my son utilized childcare, I was working two jobs and spending a lot of extra time away from the home in order to pay for childcare. Receiving GSG helped me to cut back on extra hours I was away from the home, leading to more time with my family.
- GSG has helped me and my kids in many ways. My kids are able to have a fun, structured setting when I am working. I know my kids are safe and I don't have to worry throughout the day. If it wasn't for GSG I wouldn't be able to afford childcare and I'm not sure what I would do for work. It has also allowed me to further my education which will fill the gap to better my family. I can't wait to pay it forward.
- The good start Grant has positively impacted my family. I am a single mother who works fulltime to support the household. It is crucial that my children receive child care so I am able to work and provide for the family. Being a single parent household, things can get a little tight financially. Without this grant I would be unable to afford childcare for two children alone.

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

- Being a single father with my children not being able to attend school or daycare because of a close contact or anything else results in lost hours at work which just puts me more behind.
- It's been awful. I have to leave work and pick them up. They are getting exposed all the time. It's been very stressful for us and their daycare providers. Daycare is doing the best they can to manage the situation.

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

- They go above and beyond to make sure my children are always learning and growing in every aspect of their lives. They would work with me to make sure my goals for my children were being met
- Our childcare program is always increasing the knowledge of not only our children, but ourselves. They also always ask us our routine at home to determine the best way for our children while they are at daycare.

General Comments

- Today finding great care at a reasonable rate is next to impossible! I do believe childcare providers deserve to be paid very well as they are helping raise our babies but when it comes to paying for daycare it's tough! We had to decide between being a stay at home parent or pay the high rates. GSG allowed us to pick the daycare (we think is the BEST) that we can afford, without having to quit our job to be sole care taker of our child!
- Through this program we've be able to afford quality daycare and we were also able to afford groceries and other necessities. The relief it provided me in knowing that my budget was going to carry through providing all the necessities for my children is huge. I couldn't thank them (funders) enough.
- I'm a full-time single mom and I don't receive any support. It's just me, my kids and daycare. I have relied on daycare for almost 6 years now. The friendships and relationships we have built are incomparable. I used to stress about working and making enough money to support my kids. But then I was working all the time and didn't see my kids as much as I wanted. With the GSG, I was able to cut back in OT to be there for my kids. We spend a lot of time together now. We're able to have dinner together every night at a decent time. Routines have become easier. It feels that things are finally starting to fall into place. Thank you so much to everyone who has a hand in this!
- I don't know if my story is the true success story you are looking for, but the GSG was available at an important time and allowed us to maintain stability financially in our household which also allowed us to remain upbeat and hopeful which I know made in impact on how we interacted with our child. Thank you for providing this service to those of us in need great or small!

For more information about GSG, call Childcaring (715-841-9490) or visit our website at [Childcaring.org](https://www.childcaring.org)