

Support Workforce Readiness and Access to Employment by Supporting Early Education/Quality Child Care

For the 2017-2019 Wisconsin Budget, the Wisconsin Child Care Administrators Association (WCCAA) and Milwaukee Child Care Alliance (MCCA) request the following in regards to child care in Wisconsin.

1

Support the \$10 million increase for the DCF budget for 4 & 5 star programs recommended by the Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council and require direct input from the WCCAA on how the money is spent.

(This ask is part of the Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Councils Smart Investment)

Doubling the number of children in high-quality child care programs requires a reliable, stable supply of 4 star and 5 star child care programs available to families. Quality Advancement Awards and Quality Sustainability Awards will support existing high-quality programs while providing resources and supports to help programs move to and maintain a higher YoungStar quality rating.

2

Increase the percentile paid for child care subsidy to 75th percentile.

The current subsidy percentile paid is between 23% and 32% and the rates have not been increased in over 10 years. This means reimbursement rates are not competitive because they are well below market rates. Wisconsin law calls for rates to be set at the 75th percentile. This is mostly federal money, not state GPR.

3

Increase the TEACH Budget by \$10 million.

This ask came from the Early Learning Coalition. While we support funding for TEACH, we also believe scholarship recipients should be required to pay back their scholarship if they leave child care within the first year after completion of the scholarship. This had been standard in the TEACH contracts but was recently dropped. We ask legislators to explore why this was changed and whether the repayment can be reinstated.

4

Increase tax credits for families and include tax credits for people who work in child care.

We would like to see tax credits for families increased to more accurately reflect the amount of money child care costs. Also, because of the low wages paid to child care workers, we would like to see a tax credit in place to provide further incentives to stay in this field.

**ACT
NOW**

We are asking ALL early care and education providers, parents, staff, and all other supporters to please contact your state representative and state senator to communicate the importance of supporting early care and education with the above budget needs.

If you don't know who your legislators are, go to the Legislature's web site, www.legis.wisconsin.gov On the home page is a "Find My Legislator" link. Type in your address and the names of your state representative and state senator will appear. Telephone numbers and email addresses will be there as well. While you should ask for a meeting directly with the representative or senator, you should accept a meeting with a staff person. Staff report directly to legislators. You can also invite them to come to your business. If you are unable to meet be sure to send them this paper with the budget asks. If you would like background information on legislators or help in setting up meetings, feel free to contact any of the individuals listed below.

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