

**Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council Smart Investment #1:
Double the Number of Children in High-Quality Child Care Programs
*Implementation and Financial Commitment***

Implementation

Regulated child care capacity in Wisconsin is 179,020 slots as of January 2016, capable of serving an estimated 233,500 children each day. Up to 23%, or 54,500 of the possible 233,500, of children attending child care each day could receive care from a 4 or 5 Star provider. The Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy program assists families of 42,072 children and of those children, 23%, or 9,687, attend 4 or 5 Star programs.

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.

- **Improve the quality rating of existing child care programs:** Increase the number of high-quality programs by providing Quality Advancement Awards to programs that move to a higher YoungStar rating (3-Star, 4-Star or 5-Star).
- **Maintain existing high-quality child care programs:** Sustain existing high-quality programs (4-Star and 5-Star rated) through annual ongoing Quality Sustainability Awards.

Programs participating in YoungStar and meeting established criteria receive a Quality Advancement Award or Quality Sustainability Award. The award amount varies based on the type of child care program,¹ the program's capacity, and the type of Award earned.

Financial Commitment

Achieving this Smart Investment requires an estimated \$10 million per year for the first two years. \$10 million is less than 4% of the annual Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy program cost.

¹ Licensed group child care centers, licensed family child care centers and certified family child care.

Cost estimates for Quality Advancement and Quality Sustainability Grants in the first two years:

	Quality Advancement Grants		Quality Sustainability Grants	
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 1	Year 2
Estimated Number of Programs	1162*	225	446	446
Overall Cost	\$3,700,000	\$1,700,000	\$6,100,000	\$8,200,000
Award by Provider Type				
Large Group Center	\$1,800,000	\$745,000	\$2,930,000	\$3,900,000
Small Group Center	\$1,100,000	\$478,000	\$1,990,000	\$1,490,000
Licensed Family	\$600,000	\$402,000	\$1,090,000	\$1,490,000
Certified Family	\$60,000	\$50,000	\$69,000	\$92,000
Public School	\$78,000	\$60,000	\$75,000	\$100,000