

Dept. of Children and Families: Announces additional \$194 million investment in early care and education

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MADISON – The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) announced plans for additional programs aimed at supporting Wisconsin’s early care and education (ECE) industry and the families it serves. The programs, which are funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), will run until 2024 and focus on increasing access to high-quality, affordable child care and supporting the ECE workforce.

“We appreciate the commitment of the Governor and the Joint Committee on Finance to address the challenges facing child care providers and families. Wisconsin has made an unprecedented investment in the early care and education industry, which has stabilized it to almost pre-pandemic levels,” said DCF Secretary Emilie Amundson. “These additional programs will help us continue to build upon that momentum and build a stronger ECE system that supports all Wisconsin families.”

DCF submitted a [formal request](#) to the Joint Committee on Finance (JFC) on December 3, 2021, outlining its proposed programs and received an amended approval on February 9, 2022, which includes:

- **\$112.3 million** to extend the monthly [Child Care Counts](#) payment program through the end of 2023
- **\$30.6 million** to expand the [T.E.A.C.H.](#) and [REWARD](#) programs
- **\$15.9 million** to pilot a child care assistance program aimed at connecting

- families receiving Birth-to-3 services with high-quality, affordable child care
- **\$10 million** to build an employer supported child care program where employers can receive funding to secure local child care slots
 - **\$8.4 million** to continue and enhance the [Wisconsin Early Education Shared Services Network](#) (WEESN)
 - **\$5 million** to build a statewide Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation program to assist early care and education providers in addressing challenging behaviors and reduce program expulsions
 - **\$4.8 million** to expand early childhood related services provided by [Family Resource Centers](#)
 - **\$2.5 million** to design a new grant program to assist child care providers in becoming regulated
 - **\$906,760** to implement an ECE workforce employee assistance program
 - **\$480,000** to support healthy child development through evidence-based social emotional tools

With the addition of these programs, the Evers Administration has invested over \$824 million in federal relief funds to stabilize and grow the ECE community. This historic investment has helped significantly reduce the number of permanent and temporary closures of licensed child care providers.

Early care and education providers who are interested in learning more about current and upcoming funding opportunities and programs are encouraged to subscribe to DCF's [Child Care Listserv](#).

To learn more about DCF, visit www.dcf.wisconsin.gov and follow @WisDCF on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).