



wisconsin department of
children & families

201 East Washington Avenue, Room E200

P.O. Box 8916

Madison, WI 53708-8916

Governor Scott Walker
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Division of Early Care and Education
Bureau of Quality Improvement

April 2, 2013

Mary Madsen
President
Wisconsin Child Care Administrators Association
P O Box 263
Gresham, WI 54128
madsen5@charter.net

Patricia Dischler
NAFCC President
WFCCA Accreditation Project Coordinator
S11280 Fox Road
Sauk City, WI 53583
pdischler@wildblue.net

Bobbi Hibbard
Board President
Wisconsin Family Child Care Association
20 N State St
Chippewa Falls, WI, 54729-2618
bmhibbard@yahoo.com

Dear Patricia, Bobbi and Mary:

I am pleased to provide you and your memberships with information on accreditation. I applaud your members that have become accredited and those members that are in the process of becoming accredited.

First of all, I wanted to clarify that the Department of Children and Families continues to accept accreditation as a YoungStar pathway to a 4 or 5 - Star rating. I have attached the DCF policy to this letter. In addition, the YoungStar Policy Guide that describes policies on accreditation can be found at: http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/pdf/policy_guide.pdf

YoungStar accepts the following accreditations as equivalent to a 5 Star rating:

- National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
- National Accreditation Commission (NAC)
- City of Madison Group and School-Age Accreditation

YoungStar accepts the following accreditations as equivalent to a 4 Star rating:

F 608.267.2200 dcf.wi.gov

- Council on Accreditation (COA)
- National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)
- Satellite Family Child Care Accreditation (in the City of Madison)

(If a program is accredited by COA, NAFCC or Satellite AND the program meets the educational requirements of a 5 Star program in their respective YoungStar rating track, that program would be eligible for a 5 Star rating.)

YoungStar accepts the following accreditation as equivalent to a 4 Star or a 5 Star rating if corresponding educational minimum requirements are met:

- National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA) – If the program has Registry verified educational qualifications for lead teaching staff and the director that meet 4 or 5-Star education requirements

Secondly, we have received some questions regarding YoungStar requirements for accreditation and eligibility for micro-grants.

Rating with no Micro-grant

If an accredited program requests an automated 4 or 5 star rating based on their accreditation status, and they do **not** want to receive a micro-grant, they simply return their YoungStar contract or renewal form in a timely manner and their rating will be automatically generated. In this case, the program **does not need** to complete a Self-Assessment (SA) or a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP). Note: City of Madison Accredited programs **MUST** choose this option, as they are not eligible for any YoungStar services, including a micro-grant.

If an accredited program (other than a City of Madison Accredited program) requests an automated 4 or 5 star rating based on their accreditation status, and they **do** want to receive a micro-grant, there are two options for the program:

1. Rating with Technical Consultation and a Micro-Grant

The program can choose to receive technical consultation along with their automated 4 or 5 star rating. The program will work with a technical consultant on a variety of co-identified quality improvement efforts, and must complete a Self-Assessment (SA) and Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) in addition to their micro-grant purchase plan(s). All requested micro-grant purchases must match a goal on the program's QIP.

2. Rating with Micro-grant and no Technical Consultation

The program can choose **not** to have technical consultation but still receive a micro-grant. In this case, the program must submit a recent (within the past year) Self-Assessment (SA) and Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) along with their micro-grant purchase plan(s) to their local YoungStar office to have it reviewed by a Technical Consultant. A Technical Consultant will then determine if the program has completed these materials appropriately and approve the micro-grant. All micro-grant purchases must match a goal on the program's QIP. Note: Satellite accredited family child care programs **MUST** choose this option if they would like to receive a micro-grant. Satellite accredited programs are not eligible for technical consultation, but they are eligible for a micro-grant. The local YoungStar Regional Office can be found at:
<http://def.wi.gov/youngstar/map/default.htm>.

I also want to emphasize that YoungStar providers that receive micro-grants can use the grant to purchase accreditation materials and fees.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding policy in the future, I would appreciate it if you would direct the inquiries to me. We have appreciated your support of the YoungStar program and commend your desire to improve the lives of Wisconsin children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Saterfield".

Laura Saterfield
Bureau Director

Cc
Judy Norman-Nunnery, Administrator
Kath McGurk, Section Chief
YoungStar Consortium Leadership