

Implementation & Budget Details
2020 ECAC Recommendation to Governor Evers

Recommendation Name:

Investing in Early Childhood Educators

Recommendation:

Wisconsin’s early education providers struggle to recruit and retain qualified staff, which significantly impacts the availability and quality of early education, particularly for infants and toddlers. We recommend the governor dedicate \$30 million annually in the state budget to support recruitment and retention of early childhood educators in order to maintain and expand access to high-quality early education programs.

Implementation Details:

Regulated early education providers would be eligible to apply for these funds that would primarily be used to supplement compensation for their educators. Providers also could use the funds for other recruitment and retention efforts. Funds would be distributed with a particular emphasis on supporting infant and toddler educators.

The \$30 million fund would be administered using the current Child Care Counts: COVID-19 Emergency Payment Program system created by the Department of Children and Families to distribute CARES Act federal assistance. Wisconsin has been a national leader in getting support directly out to the industry. The infrastructure already exists to administer this funding.

Financial Commitment: We recommend that the Governor include an additional \$30,000,000 annually in state General Purpose Revenue (GPR) to support the workforce which provides early care and education for infants and toddlers in his 2021-2023 state budget proposal.

Initiative	Amount
Support early childhood educator compensation, recruitment, and retention efforts, with an emphasis on infant and toddler educators.	\$30,000,000 annually