



**Governor's Early Childhood
Advisory Council (ECAC)
Full Council Meeting**

March 15, 2023

Lieutenant Governor Sara Rodriguez



Welcome!

Reminders:

- Please ensure your Zoom name is accurate for attendance purposes and to help the Council to determine quorum.
- If unable to change your name, please enter your name in the chat feature.
- We will have a public comment portion at the end of the meeting.



ECAC Meeting Agenda

- **Call to Order, Agenda Review, Approval of Minutes**
- **Co-Chair Welcome and Updates**
- **ECAC Budget Recommendations & Connection to Governor's 2023-2025 Biennial Budget**
- **Additional Early Childhood Budget Highlights**
- **Budget: Member Updates**
- **ECAC Executive Order Re-Grounding**
- **ECAC Feedback**
- **Public Comment**
- **Next Steps and Closing Remarks**



Member Introductions



Co-Chair Welcome & Updates



DCF Secretary Emilie Amundson



State Superintendent Dr. Jill Underly



ECAC Budget Recommendations



ECAC Budget Recommendation: \$323,790,000

ECE Workforce

- Child Care Counts: \$300,000,000

Health and Well-Being of Families

- Children's Mental Health: \$8,790,000
- Family Foundations Home Visiting: \$10,000,000
- Extension of Medicaid Postpartum Coverage: N/A

Family Support Services

- Family Resource Centers: \$5,000,000



Investing in Early Childhood Workforce \$300,000,000

Wisconsin's early education providers have faced significant obstacles during the COVID-19 pandemic, yet continue to provide high-quality care for families, in part due to the investment of federal COVID-19 Relief funding known as Child Care Counts. This temporary investment has provided financial stability for providers to stay open, recruit, and retain qualified staff. Yet this investment is set to end in January 2024 and a state investment is urgently needed to continue the positive benefits that have helped over 275,000 children remain in care and 48,000 staff remain employed.

We recommend the governor dedicate \$300 million in the biennial state budget to support recruitment and retention of early childhood educators to maintain and expand access to high-quality early education programs and avoid a "fiscal cliff" that would have devastating effects and likely lead to educator shortages, fewer available classrooms, closed child care centers, and more families without access to high-quality care.



Health and Well-Being of Families \$18,790,000

We recommend investing in a package of supports that includes greater access to early mental health supports for children and coaching for caregivers, as well as funding to expand Family Foundations Home Visiting programs that provide critical parent and family resources. We also recommend extending Medicaid coverage for postpartum care from the current 90-day policy to twelve months after birth.

- This funding would provide sustainability of services such as social-emotional training, technical assistance and consultation that would otherwise expire in June 2024 without state investment. These services equip providers to utilize culturally-responsive, equitable, and evidence-based practices that promote child development.
- This funding would expand Family Foundations Home Visiting programs that provide critical parent and family resources such as prenatal care, postpartum care, health services, etc., to additional counties and tribes.
- This recommendation would ensure families who utilize Medicaid for postpartum services have extended coverage beyond the current 90-day policy, providing greater stability of care.



Family Support Services \$5,000,000

Family Resource Centers (FRCs) are critical to the health and well-being of Wisconsin's children and families. They serve as community hubs for family support, offer programs and services that reduce risk factors for child abuse and neglect, improve outcomes such as school readiness and child well-being, and provide referrals to families for more targeted services and supports. To ensure families have access to supports and resources, we recommend the governor recognize and advocate for the essential role of FRCs. We further recommend investing to stabilize family support services in local communities, as well as increasing those investments to make the services of FRCs available to more families throughout Wisconsin.



2022 ECAC Report

- Report is now available on the ECAC webpage: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/ecac>
- Includes links to budget papers providing greater detail for each investment.

1

Investing in Early Care and Education Workforce through Child Care Counts

Wisconsin's early education providers have faced significant obstacles during the COVID-19 pandemic, yet continue to provide high-quality care for families, due, in part, to the investment of federal COVID-19 relief funding known as Child Care Counts. The ECAC recommends the Governor dedicate \$300 million in the biennial state budget to support recruitment and retention of early childhood educators to maintain and expand access to high-quality early education programs, and avoid a "fiscal cliff" that would have devastating effects and likely lead to educator shortages, fewer available classrooms, closed child care centers, and more families without access to high-quality care and unable to participate in the workforce.

2

Investing in the Health and Well-Being of Families

The ECAC recommends investing \$18.79 million in a health and well-being package that includes greater access to early mental health supports for children and coaching for caregivers, as well as funding to expand Family Foundations Home Visiting programs that provide critical parent and family resources. Further, we recommend advocating for extending Medicaid coverage for postpartum care from the current 90-day policy to twelve months after birth to ensure birthing parents have stable access to high-quality care.

3

Expanding Access to Family Support Services through Family Resource Centers

The ECAC recommends an investment of \$5 million to support the expansion of Family Resource Centers throughout the state that offer programs and services which reduce risk factors for child abuse and neglect and improve outcomes such as school readiness and child well-being.



Connections to the Governor's 2023-2025 Biennial Budget



2023-2025 Biennial Budget Recommendation: \$391,204,900

ECE Workforce

- Child Care Counts: \$340,000,000

Health and Well-Being of Families

- Children's Mental Health: \$3,291,000
- Family Foundations Home Visiting: \$5,200,000
- Extension of Medicaid Postpartum Coverage:
Recommendation to extend coverage to 12 months and
\$34,413,900

Family Support Services

- Family Resource Centers: \$8,300,000



2023-2025 Biennial Budget Connections:

ECE Workforce

- Child Care Counts: \$340,000,000 recommended, including: \$100,000,000, SFY24 (GPR and CCDBG) and \$240,000,000, SFY25 (GPR and CCDBG)

Health and Well-Being of Families

- Family Foundations Home Visiting: \$5,200,000 recommended, including: \$1,200,000, SFY24 (GPR) and \$4,000,000, SFY25 (GPR and IV-E FED)
- Social emotional learning contracts: \$3,291,000 recommended, including: \$1,327,200, SFY24 (FED) and \$1,964,000, SFY25 (FED)
- Extension of Medicaid Postpartum Coverage: Extend coverage from 60 days to 12 months; \$34,413,900 recommended, including: \$16,949,900, SFY24 (GPR and PR-F) and \$17,464,000 (GPR and PR-F)

Family Support Services

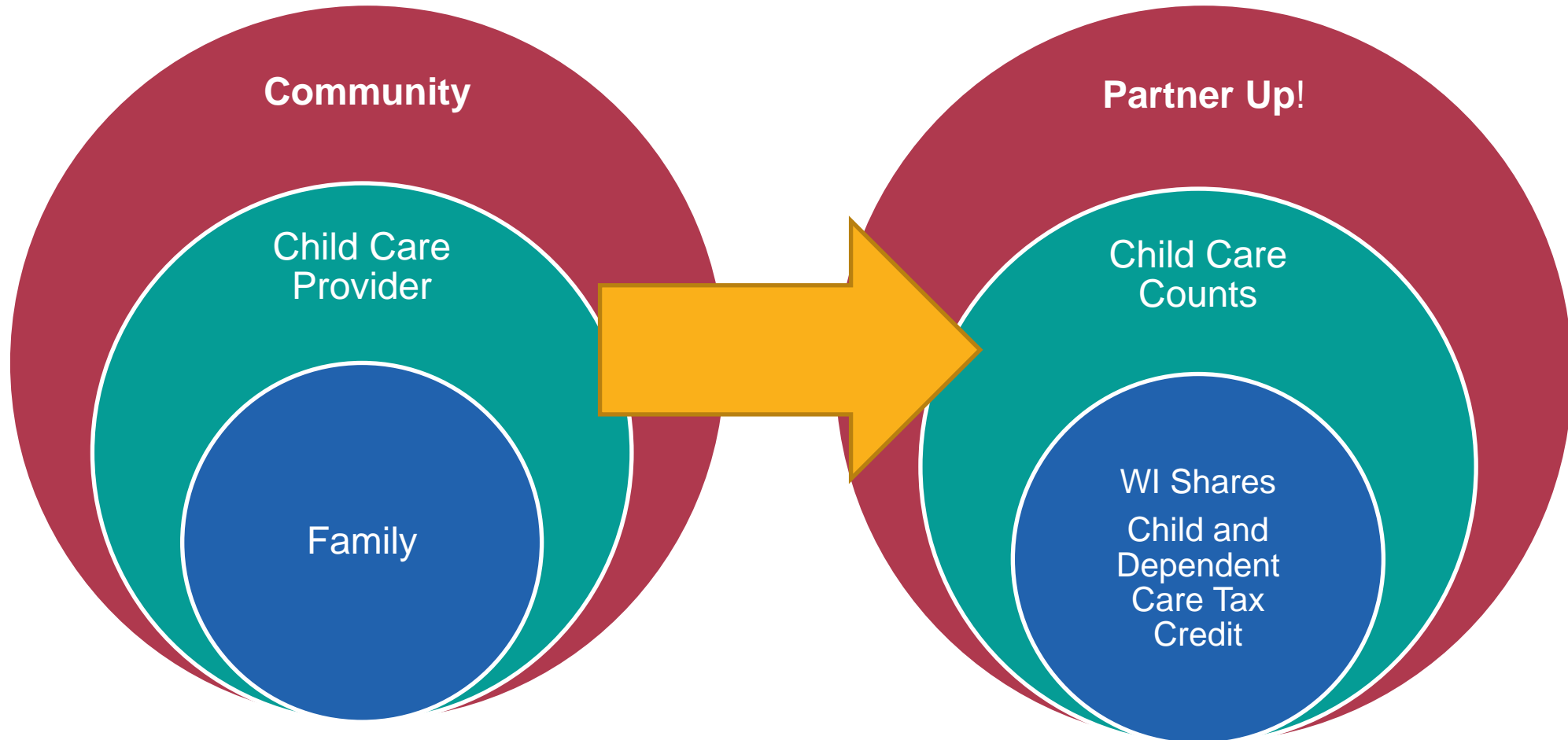
- Family Resource Centers: \$8,300,000 recommended, including: \$4,150,000, SFY24 (GPR) and \$4,150,000, SFY25 (GPR)



Additional Early Childhood Budget Highlights



Strengthening Early Care and Education: A Systems Approach



Partner Up!

\$22M Budget Investment

Partner Up!:

- Partners businesses with local regulated child care programs
- Supports businesses to recruit and retain employees
- Helps employees afford quality child care
- Provides steady revenue to high-quality child care programs in many communities



Child Care Counts

\$340M Budget Investment

\$302M GPR + \$38M CCDBG

Child Care Counts provides funding to regulated child care providers through monthly payments under the following programs:

- **Payment Program A** – Increasing Access to High-Quality Care
- **Payment Program B** – Funding Workforce Recruitment and Retention



Wisconsin Shares

- Increase of \$1.7M in SFY24 and \$19.7M in SFY25
- Intent to keep rates at **80th percentile**
- Move to part-time/full-time authorization structure
 - Aligns Shares with private market
 - More user-friendly for parents, authorization workers, and providers
 - Required by Feds



Additional ECE Budget Investments

- Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit
- Income disregard for direct care workers
- Online Licensing Application
- Increasing child care contracts with Tribal regions
- \$10M for new providers



Dire Need for Revenue Growth

Predictable, reliable revenue growth

*Revenue limit and per pupil aid growth to reflect **inflationary needs** as well as the **fiscal cliff** caused by using federal funds for operational purposes*

Increase in Special Education Funding

*Raising our special education reimbursement to end the practice of **shifting dollars** will free up funding for targeted initiatives like...READING*

Mental Health and Well-being

Supports for our educators, families, and communities

Access to universal free meals

Addressing Workforce Crisis

*Hinges on revenue growth - we have to pay our professionals a competitive wage if we want to **retain** staff*

Grow your own and other pipeline asks only take us so far



Budget: Member Updates



10-Minute Break



ECAC Executive Order Re-Grounding



Background

- The Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) was formed as a result of the Head Start Reauthorization Act of 2007 requiring the formation of an early childhood State Advisory Council (SAC).
- Executive Order #269 on October 30, 2008 by Governor Doyle officially created the Council.
- The ECAC's mission is to “help ensure that all children and families in Wisconsin have access to quality early childhood programs and services.”



Operations & Function

- Members are appointed by the Governor and the ECAC Co-Chairs include the DCF Secretary and DPI State Superintendent.
- Federal statute specifies certain required members as noted in the Executive Order and outlined in “Public Law 110-134.”



EXECUTIVE ORDER # 269

Relating to the Creation of the Governor's
State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin recognizes the importance of early childhood education and developmental programs and services for children from birth to school entry; and

WHEREAS, improving early childhood education and developmental programs will help more children arrive at kindergarten ready to succeed; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin particularly recognizes the need to promote school readiness of low-income children by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development through early childhood education and developmental programs; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin has a need for a coordinated and collaborative approach among Federal, State, and local child care and early childhood education programs; and

WHEREAS, the federal Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007 (hereinafter "Public Law 110-134") requires that the Governor establish a council to serve as the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care for children from birth to school entry;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIM DOYLE, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this State, and specifically by Section 14.019 of the Wisconsin Statutes, do hereby:

1. Create the Governor's State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care (hereinafter "Council"); and
2. Provide that the Governor shall designate an individual to coordinate the activities of the Council, as described in Public Law 110-134; and
3. Provide that the Council shall consist of members appointed in accordance with Public Law 110-134, and that the Council may include additional relevant members concerned with early childhood education and care, as the Governor may so designate; and
4. Direct that the Council shall meet the criteria and carry out the duties and functions prescribed in Public Law 110-134, in addition to any responsibilities assigned to the Council by the Governor, including the following:
 - a. Conduct a periodic statewide needs assessment concerning the quality and availability of early childhood education and development programs and services for children from birth to school entry, including an assessment of the availability of high-quality pre-kindergarten services for low-income children in the State; and
 - b. Identify opportunities for, and barriers to, collaboration and coordination among Federally-funded and State-funded child development, child care, and early childhood education programs and services, including collaboration and coordination among State agencies responsible for administering such programs; and
 - c. Develop recommendations for increasing the overall participation of children in existing Federal, State, and local child care and early



Operations & Function

Additionally, the Executive Order delineates required functions and activities such as:

- a) Conducting periodic statewide needs assessments;
- b) Identifying opportunities for collaboration and coordination among ECE programs and agencies;
- c) Developing recommendations across a range of ECE topics (e.g., increasing child care participation; data systems; professional development, etc.)
- d) Assessing the capacity and effectiveness of institutions of higher-education (IHE):
- e) Making recommendations for improvements in State early learning standards
- f) Holding public hearings and creating space for public comment
- g) Submitting strategic reports and reviewing implementation activities



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Operations & Function

Additionally, the Executive Order delineates required functions and activities such as:

- Conducting periodic statewide needs assessments:

“Conduct a periodic statewide needs assessment concerning the quality and availability of early childhood education and development programs and services for children from birth to school entry, including an assessment of availability of high-quality pre-kindergarten services for low-income children in the State.”



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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Operations & Function

Additionally, the Executive Order delineates required functions and activities such as:

- Identifying opportunities for cross-agency collaboration and coordination:

“Identify opportunities for, and barriers to, collaboration and coordination among Federally-funded and State-funded child development, child care, and early childhood education programs and services, including collaboration and coordination among State agencies responsible for administering such programs.”



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Operations & Function

Additionally, the Executive Order delineates required functions and activities such as:

- Developing recommendations across a range of topics:

“for increasing the overall participation of children in existing Federal, State, and local child care and early childhood education programs, including outreach to underrepresented and special populations;”

“regarding the establishment of a unified data collection system for public early childhood education and development programs and services throughout the State;”

“regarding statewide professional development and career advancement plans for early childhood educators in the State”



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Operations & Function

Additionally, the Executive Order delineates required functions and activities such as:

- Assessing the capacity and effectiveness of institutions of higher-education (IHE):

“Assess the capacity and effectiveness of 2- and 4-year public and private institutions of higher education in the State toward supporting the development of early childhood educators, including the extent to which such institutions have in place articulation agreements, professional development and career advancement plans, and practice or internships for students to spend time in a Head Start or pre kindergarten program;”



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Operations & Function

Additionally, the Executive Order delineates required functions and activities such as:

- Making recommendations for improvements in State early learning standards:

“Make recommendations for improvements in State early learning standards and undertake efforts to develop high-quality comprehensive early learning standards, as appropriate;”



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Operations & Function

Additionally, the Executive Order delineates required functions and activities such as:

- Holding public hearings and creating space for public comment:

“Direct that the Council shall hold public hearings and provide an opportunity for public comment on the activities described above and that the Council shall submit a statewide strategic report addressing such activities to the State Director of Head Start Collaboration and the Governor, in accordance with Public Law 110-134;”



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Operations & Function

Additionally, the Executive Order delineates required functions and activities such as:

- Submitting strategic reports and reviewing implementation activities:

“Direct that after the Council submits a statewide strategic report, the Council shall meet periodically to review any implementation of the recommendations in such report and any changes in State and local needs, in accordance with Public Law 110-134.”



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3. Provide that the Council shall consist of members appointed in accordance with Public Law 110-134, and that the Council may include additional relevant members concerned with early childhood education and care, as the Governor may so designate; and
4. Direct that the Council shall meet the criteria and carry out the duties and functions prescribed in Public Law 110-134, in addition to any responsibilities assigned to the Council by the Governor, including the following:
 - a. Conduct a periodic statewide needs assessment concerning the quality and availability of early childhood education and development programs and services for children from birth to school entry, including an assessment of the availability of high-quality pre-kindergarten services for low-income children in the State; and
 - b. Identify opportunities for, and barriers to, collaboration and coordination among Federally-funded and State-funded child development, child care, and early childhood education programs and services, including collaboration and coordination among State agencies responsible for administering such programs; and
 - c. Develop recommendations for increasing the overall participation of children in existing Federal, State, and local child care and early



ECAC Re-Grounding: Reflection

Please take 1-2 minutes to pause and reflect. Then place comments and reflections in the chat box or come off mute:

- Which functions of the Executive Order resonated?
- Which items were perhaps new to you?
- Other comments or reflections?



ECAC Feedback



Mentimeter Survey

Visit the Mentimeter website via the link below or by scanning the QR code:
www.menti.com and use code 2816 7735

Questions include:

- Which functions would you like to provide more attention to for the Council's work going forward?
- Please rank your preferences with how we engage and discuss content.



Public Comment

Please note there are two ways to make comment:

- Raise hand in Zoom and come off mute.
- Add your comment to the chat box.



Next Steps & Closing Remarks



2023 ECAC Full Council Meeting Schedule

- **June 7, 2023, 9:00a-12:00p**
- **September 27, 2023, 9:00a-12:00p**
- **December 6, 2023, 9:00a-12:00p**



Thank you!

