



Tiered Reimbursement General Information

YoungStar Legislation: The YoungStar program was created under 2009 Wisconsin Act 28 and later modified under 2011 Wisconsin Act 32.

YoungStar Goal: Improve the quality of child care and reward high-quality providers by:

- Establishing a 5 Star quality rating system for all child care providers.
- Paying Wisconsin Shares quality adjustments to 4 Star and 5 Star child care providers.

Phase 1: YoungStar Rating - Effective January 1, 2011

Star Rating - Between 1 Star and 5 Star: Rating is a two-step process:

Step 1: Provider submits a YoungStar Contract to the local YoungStar office. Provider receives onsite mentoring and training, and a micro-grant, if desired.

Step 2: Provider receives a rating.

- The YoungStar Contract is valid for one year. Providers must sign a new contract each year before their *YoungStar anniversary date*.
- All providers who serve children in the Wisconsin Shares program must be rated in YoungStar. This includes certified family, licensed family, licensed group child care centers, and public schools that provide child care outside of the school day.

More than 4,900 child care providers have already signed a YoungStar contract and have earned a quality star rating.

Providers **MUST** submit a YoungStar contract before a Wisconsin Shares authorization can be created.

Phase 2: YoungStar Tiered Reimbursement - Effective July 1, 2012

Star Rating - Quality Incentive Payments: Wisconsin Shares reimbursement levels are based on the provider's star rating.

5 Star Provider – Meets highest levels of quality standards. Wisconsin Shares subsidy reimbursement was *increased by 10%*.

4 Star Provider – Meets elevated levels of quality standards. Wisconsin Shares subsidy reimbursement was *increased by 5%*.

3 Star Provider – Meets proficient levels of quality standards. Wisconsin Shares subsidy reimbursement remained *the same*.

2 Star Provider – Meets health and safety standards. Wisconsin Shares subsidy reimbursement was *reduced by 5%*.

1 Star Provider – Not eligible for Wisconsin Shares subsidy reimbursement. These providers' child care licenses or certifications have been revoked, denied or suspended, or their Wisconsin Shares payments have been ended due to fraud or suspected fraud.

Phase 3: YoungStar Tiered Reimbursement – Increase for 5 Star Providers - Effective January 1, 2013

5 Star Provider Quality Incentive Payments: Wisconsin Shares subsidy reimbursement will be increased to 25%.

- All YoungStar quality adjustments are calculated on the Wisconsin Shares reimbursement amount *after* the parental copayment is deducted. For most 5 Star providers, the YoungStar quality adjustment will be between 20% and 25%. The new YoungStar adjustment amount will be added to the provider's reimbursement payments starting on December 30, 2012.

Post Implementation: Rating New Providers

During the implementation of Tiered Reimbursement (July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013), new providers are paid at a 2 Star level until they are rated. If the provider is later rated at a 3 Star, 4 Star, or 5 Star level, the provider will receive the higher payment back to the date of the YoungStar contract.

Starting on July 1, 2013, the provider will be paid at the 2 Star level until they are rated. If the provider is later rated at a 3 Star, 4 Star or 5 Star level, the provider will receive the higher payment effective on the date that the rating is completed.

Tiered Reimbursement Outreach and Information:

The Department of Children and Families provided special outreach information to providers, parents and the public about YoungStar Rating and Tiered Reimbursement.

Providers and parents can be directed to the YoungStar website: www.youngstar.wi.gov

Providers with questions about their payments should contact their county child care coordinator or the Milwaukee Early Care Administration (MECA) child care coordinator. A list of child care coordinators can be found at: <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/wishares/pdf/coordinators.pdf>

Providers with questions about YoungStar should be directed to their local YoungStar office or the Child Care Information Center at **1-800-362-7353**. Consult the map <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/map/default.htm> to find local YoungStar offices.

Special Contracts for Certain Providers

In-Home Providers

Providers who are regulated to provide care for a child in the child's own home must submit a special *Wisconsin Shares Contract* directly to the Department of Children and Families.