



WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON

**children
& families**

Raising Voices to Make Every Kid Count

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WCCF Welcomes Announcement of Funding for Workforce Initiatives

(Madison)--The Wisconsin Council on Children and Families applauded Governor Doyle's announcement today of new funding for a variety of workforce development initiatives aimed at preparing workers for the jobs Wisconsin employers need to fill now and into the future. Among these initiatives are opportunity grants, which help low-skilled workers with no postsecondary education pursue the credentials required for high-demand jobs; and Skills Jump Start grants, which will help workers lacking a high school diploma complete their basic education while also receiving job training at technical colleges.

“The well-being of Wisconsin's children and families depends on parents' ability to find and keep good-paying jobs,” said Charity Eleson, executive director of the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families. “That means gaining access to the education and training those jobs and employers require. Today's announcement represents a most welcome first step toward helping low-income working parents compete effectively for the family-supporting jobs of the 21st century. We look forward to working with the Governor and legislative leaders to build on these initial steps and ultimately develop a broad new approach to skill enhancement for low-wage workers.”