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### **WCCF Statement on JFC's Approval of Funding and Plan for YoungStar**

The Wisconsin Council on Children and Families (WCCF) is very pleased that the Joint Committee on Finance approved a second round of funding (\$4 million) to continue implementation of the YoungStar child care quality rating and improvement system. The Committee also approved a five-year sustainability plan, with some minor modifications.

According to the analysis by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, there are sufficient federal and state funds available through 2014-15 to support the YoungStar plan, a much improved prognosis from a few months ago. The fiscal picture has improved because of a continuing decline in Wisconsin Shares expenditures, due to strong program integrity measures, anti-fraud efforts, and the loss of jobs due to the recession.

We commend members of the committee for recognizing the importance of investing in the quality of early care and education services, and thank them for their support of this historic step forward for child care in Wisconsin.

The Joint Finance vote came on the same day that ZERO TO THREE - a national organization based in Washington, D.C –honored Wisconsin's YoungStar launch as one of the top public policy achievements in the nation for infants and toddlers in 2010. As we move on to the hard work of implementing YoungStar, we celebrate a major breakthrough in child care policy, with a clear focus on improving the learning and development of our young children.

Ken Taylor, Executive Director  
Wisconsin Council on Children and Families

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