Questions from Parents

About Tiered Reimbursement

Q: How can I find quality child care providers in my neighborhood, close to my workplace, or close to my child's school?

A: Parents can go online to find high-quality child care providers. The *Child Care Finder* is available at the Department of Children and Families' YoungStar website http://www.youngstar.wi.gov Click on Search for YoungStar Child Care.

Parents will see the child care provider's YoungStar rating and details about the points earned through YoungStar. In addition, parents will also see any provider violations within the past two years. This will help parents make good choices about child care for their children.

Q: ***What is "tiered reimbursement" and do the YoungStar ratings change my Wisconsin Shares subsidy reimbursement?***

A: For parents who receive a Wisconsin Shares subsidy to help pay for child care, the provider's YoungStar Quality Star Rating is used to set Wisconsin Shares reimbursement amount paid to the provider. This is called Tiered Reimbursement. Effective July 1, 2012, the tiered reimbursement scale is as follows:

> ***5 Star Provider*** – Meets highest levels of quality standards. Wisconsin Shares subsidy reimbursement rates were increased by 10% effective July 1, 2012. Effective January 2013, Wisconsin Shares subsidy reimbursement will increase to 25% for 5 Star providers.
>
> ***4 Star Provider*** – Meets elevated levels of quality standards. Wisconsin Shares subsidy reimbursement is increased by 5%.
>
> ***3 Star Provider*** – Meets proficient levels of quality standards. Wisconsin Shares subsidy reimbursement remains the same.
>
> ***2 Star Provider*** – Meets health and safety standards. Wisconsin Shares subsidy reimbursement is 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 These providers' child care licenses or certifications have been revoked, denied or suspended, or their Wisconsin Shares payments have been ended due to fraud or suspected fraud.

Note: Any increase or decrease in reimbursement rates due to YoungStar rating is applied **after** the parent co-payment is taken out of the Wisconsin Shares payment.

Q: Wisconsin Shares helps pay for my child care. Does my child care provider have to participate in YoungStar?

A: Yes. All child care providers who receive Wisconsin Shares subsidy reimbursement must participate by signing a YoungStar Contract. This includes certified family, licensed family, licensed group providers, and public schools who provide care outside the normal school day.

Q. I would like to send my child to a provider who is not participating in YoungStar. Is this possible?

A: Parents can choose to send their child to any regulated child care provider. However, if you wish to utilize Wisconsin Shares, the provider must sign and submit a YoungStar Contract to their local YoungStar office before a child care authorization can be created.

Q: How do I know if a provider is participating in YoungStar?

A: You can find out if a provider has been YoungStar rated if you:

- Use the Child Care Finder at the Department of Children and Families' YoungStar website http://www.youngstar.wi.gov and click on *Search for YoungStar Child Care*.
- Call your local Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agency or your local YoungStar office:
  - CCR&R offices: https://supportingfamiliestogether.org/CCR_R.html
  - YoungStar offices: http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/map/default.htm
    OR **1-888-713-5437**

You can use the online *Child Care Finder* to help locate YoungStar providers in your area by our website http://www.youngstar.wi.gov and clicking on Search for YoungStar Child Care. Or you can contact your local Child Care Resource and Referral agency to get help finding a new provider.

Q: Is *my parent co-pay affected by Tiered Reimbursement?*

A: Your Wisconsin Shares co-payment is based on your income and family size. This is not recalculated under YoungStar. However, if you always pay your provider the difference between the Wisconsin Shares subsidy reimbursement and your provider's full private pay rate, you may be asked to pay more if your provider receives a 2 Star rating and a 5% reduction in Wisconsin Shares subsidy reimbursement. This decision is up to your provider.