

# Actions That You Can Take

Governor Evers and the Wisconsin State Legislature are currently negotiating what the budget for our state will look like for the next two years. Their decisions today will affect the availability, affordability, and quality of early care and education. Take action right now to impact the future of Wisconsin's children.



## 1. Contact your legislator and ask for the following:

- **Increase Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy payment rates.** This will allow more families to access and afford quality early education.
- **Increase funding for T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® scholarships and the REWARD Stipend program.** These programs support child care professionals by helping them to increase their education and remain in the field through increased compensation.

Visit [legis.wisconsin.gov](http://legis.wisconsin.gov) and use the "Who are my legislators?" feature to contact your representative.

WHO ARE MY LEGISLATORS?

Find Your Legislator



Find by Map

## 2. Join our Forward for Kids Advocacy Network

There are over 350,000 children under the age of 5 in Wisconsin, and a majority of them are in an early childhood education program of some type. These young children depend on their relationships with knowledgeable and nurturing teachers to support their early learning.



### IF YOU BELIEVE THAT HIGH QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION:

- Supports healthy development for our children
- Contributes to closing the achievement gap and preparing children for school
- Builds strong families and communities
- Strengthens Wisconsin's future workforce

**JOIN US!**

[wisconsinearlychildhood.org/get-involved/forward-for-kids/](http://wisconsinearlychildhood.org/get-involved/forward-for-kids/)

**weca**

Wisconsin Early  
Childhood Association  
[wisconsinearlychildhood.org](http://wisconsinearlychildhood.org)

# Business + Early Care and Education = WISCONSIN STRONG!



Child care is an essential support for Wisconsin's workers of today AND is building our next generation of skilled employees.

**54%** of Wisconsin residents live in child care deserts.<sup>1</sup>



of infant care costs more than in-state tuition in Wisconsin.<sup>2</sup>

**Early childhood educator wages are low.**

**53%** of Wisconsin's early education workforce relies on public assistance. And the turnover rate is near 40%.<sup>3</sup>



## The opportunity gap starts at birth.



of a child's brain development occurs before age 3. Quality child care is the best skill builder for the next generation!



**83%** of millennials say that they would leave their job for a more family-friendly position.<sup>4</sup>



Businesses who support family-friendly policies see increased hiring rates, loyalty, productivity and increased profits.<sup>5</sup>

## Quality child care for kids means:



more education



better health



higher future earnings<sup>6</sup>



When children and families flourish, society wins. Investing in quality child care results in a 13% return on investment.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Center on American Progress

<sup>2</sup> Birth to Three

<sup>3</sup> Center for the Study of Child Care Employment

<sup>4</sup> <http://workplace.care.com/>

<sup>5</sup> Business Week Magazine

<sup>6,7</sup> James Heckman, Heckman Institute

**weca**

Wisconsin Early  
Childhood Association

[wisconsinearlychildhood.org](http://wisconsinearlychildhood.org)