

Strengthen child care quality and support working families:

Increase funding for T.E.A.C.H. scholarships & REWARD stipends

Governor Walker's proposed 2017-2019 budget falls short as an education budget for children birth to five, and as a work support for parents of young children.

In Wisconsin, over 74% of children under age 6 have all parents in the work force, which means 250,000 children are in child care.

What happens for children in these formative years matters a lot; it is the beginning of their education.

Yet, there are problems:

- » Child care programs have difficulty recruiting and retaining qualified teachers, an essential component for maintaining high quality standards.
- » Low wages fuel high teacher turnover – 30% annually. Young learners suffer when teacher turnover is high; they experience turnover as loss.

T.E.A.C.H. and REWARD help!

- » Knowledgeable and skilled child care teachers lead to great outcomes for children, including school readiness.
- » Creating affordable access to higher education is critical in this field where wages hover around \$10 per hour, where all too often child care providers work second jobs or access public benefits to offset low wages.

The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® scholarship program and the REWARD stipend program raise teacher education, enhance compensation, and reduce teacher turnover. Today both programs have a growing waiting list.

Request an additional \$4.28M per year in the 2017-2019 budget to eliminate the waiting lists and meet the growing demand for these vital programs.