



Wisconsin Early
Childhood Association

Wisconsin Early Childhood Association (WECA) exists to support and enrich the early childhood workforce so all early educators, children, families, and communities have the opportunity to thrive.

WHO WE ARE

WECA, the state affiliate of **National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)**, was founded in 1971 to provide the first statewide conferences for Wisconsin’s child care providers. The earliest days of the organization were led by a part-time executive director and a volunteer staff. WECA has continued to evolve and innovate to meet the growing needs of early childhood educators and early care and education in Wisconsin by administering key programs, advancing advocacy efforts, and providing professional development opportunities.

WHAT WE OFFER

Educational and Professional Development

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Wisconsin Program scholarships help make higher education more affordable – and sometimes nearly FREE! We also offer dozens of professional development credit hours each year through our annual conference, free shared service program training sessions, and other training opportunities.

Business Practices and Capacity Building

WECA’s shared services network is a national leader in helping child care programs develop strong business practices and increase efficiency so child care owners and administrators can focus more on what matters most – nurturing young children. Programs enrolled in **Wisconsin Early Education Shared Services Network** have access to thousands of business resources, including customizable templates and policies, tax guides, cost savings opportunities, coaching, and much more. WECA also helps build the capacity and sustainability of child care programs across the state through a variety of long- and short-term projects, including pre-licensing services in the northern and southeastern regions and coaching, professional development, and other regional resources.

Food Systems Resources

The **Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)** offers partial reimbursement for serving healthy meals and snacks. Wisconsin’s CACFP sponsors serve family child care businesses and centers – WECA is eligible to assist family programs in all 72 counties and all Tribal nations. WECA also offers food system supports for programs enrolled in shared services, including garden advice, recipes, food box distributions, and special garden projects.

Membership and Advocacy

As NAEYC’s state affiliate, WECA provides an important connection to the largest professional organization dedicated to the early childhood field in the United States. Become a WECA/NAEYC member to gain access to professional development and networking opportunities. You’ll also get connected with ways to become an engaged and informed advocate for early childhood with elected officials.



Wage Supplements

Paying livable wages is a challenge in the child care business model. The **REWARD Wisconsin Stipend Program** offers direct payments to providers based on their educational level. Those eligible can receive money to increase what they earn, helping child care programs stay in business and retain their staff.

WAYS TO CONNECT

Join

Learn more about membership to WECA/NAEYC on our website, where you can review membership benefits and all the opportunities they provide.

Sign Up

Receive the Advocacy Digest and Alerts e-newsletter for timely and relevant policy and advocacy updates, calls to action, and up-to-date research in early care and education from WECA and Raising Wisconsin. You also can sign up for WECA's quarterly Impact and Influence newsletter, which provides updates on WECA's wide-ranging work.

Get Social

Follow us on social media – and encourage those in your networks to do the same! Check out WECA and Raising Wisconsin's channels for insights, updates, and timely information you need to know.

Donate

WECA is a trusted steward of private and public dollars that advance its critical work. Contributions of any size help support our mission and efforts.

LEARN MORE

Scan the code with your smartphone's camera to visit the WECA website to learn more now!



“Thank you for supporting me and so many providers as we continue to navigate the ever-changing field of child care!”

– Family Child Owner

06/24