

Transforming systems in pursuit of equitable outcomes

Learning insights from the Cradle to Career Network

WISCONSIN PARTNERSHIP

OUTCOMES



Kindergarten readiness; employment

SYSTEMS INDICATOR

Access to affordable child care



RESULTS

- \$29 million increase in funding for the Wisconsin Shares subsidy program in the 2021-23 state budget.
- 9 parents recruited and trained in the Parents Advocating for Child Care (PACC) Fellowship to engage parents in advocating for child care.
- \$587 million to support 3,600 child care programs across the state in Child Care Counts: COVID-19 Stabilization Payment Program.

Four Cradle to Career Network members are leading systems change work to build an accessible and equitable system of child care in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Partnership was established in 2019 through a StriveTogether Strategic Initiatives Fund grant to create a state policy environment that enables each community to accelerate progress for improving access to high-quality early childhood supports and systems for all children.

Through this partnership, Achieve Brown County, Building Our Future, Higher Expectations for Racine County and Milwaukee Succeeds led the first cohort of the Parents Advocating for Child Care (PACC) Fellowship from November 2020 to June 2021 to build capacity and capability among 19 parents for child care advocacy efforts. Parents successfully advocated to elected officials about child care, while showing an increase in knowledge and skills related to advocacy, child care, government and data.

Local communities were able to build long-term relationships with their fellows, which included adding fellows to advisory committees and leadership tables.

These four network members have contributed to huge gains in supporting expansion of access to high-quality child care for Wisconsin families and to stabilizing child care programs across the state in the midst of the pandemic. This includes partnering with advocates across the state to secure a \$29 million increase in funding for the Wisconsin Shares subsidy program in the 2021-23 state budget. Additionally, the Wisconsin Partnership helped inform and successfully advocate for the state's allocation of ARPA funds, including the Child Care Counts Program which to date has brought \$587 million to 3,600 early child care and education programs across the state to stay open, keep staff employed and safely serve children throughout the pandemic.