

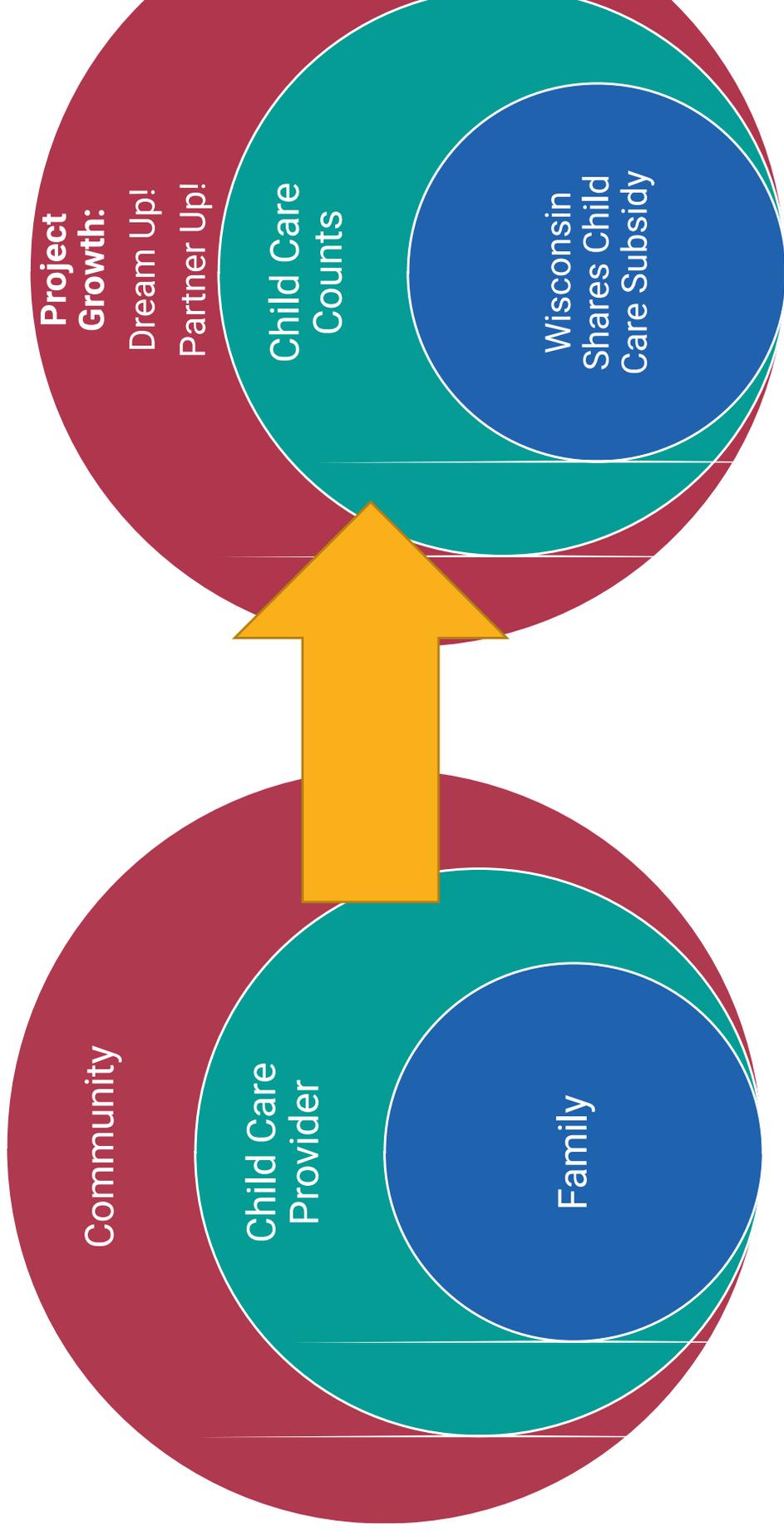
Governor's Conference on Economic Development

Priya Bhatia, Administrator
Division of Early Care and Education
February 3, 2023



Wisconsin Department of
Children and Families

Strengthening Early Care and Education A Systems Approach



Child Care Counts

Monthly Payment Program to Regulated Child Care Providers

Program A – Increasing Access to Quality Child Care

- Per child payments to providers
- Allowable uses include:
 - Covering operating expenses
 - Investing in program quality
 - Financial relief for parents

Program B – Investing in Early Childhood Educators

- Per staff payments to providers
- Allowable uses include:
 - Wages and bonuses
 - Benefits
 - Professional development

- \$460.5 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) (federal relief funding)
- Allows providers to continue to receive funding through January 2015

Project Growth Update



**PROJECT
GROWTH**
WISCONSIN FAMILIES ARE A GOOD INVESTMENT

Partner Up!

- Strengthens existing child care options
- Partner Up! grants:
 - Help your employees secure quality child care
 - Partner with local regulated child care programs
 - Support high-quality child care in your community
- Two cohorts were awarded grants in 2022
- Exploring the possibility of another cohort in 2023

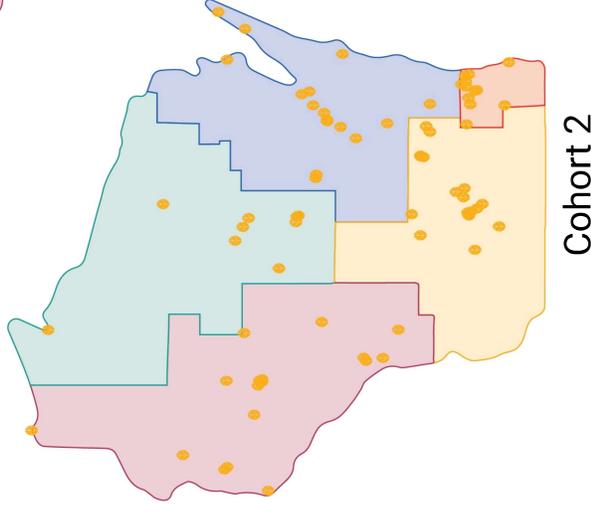
Partner Up! Awardees

- Over 220 businesses received intent to award letters
- Businesses from a number of sectors, including child care, received awards
- Funding received is based on the true cost of care, number of slots, and age group

View the full list of Partner Up! awardees at:

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/projectgrowth/partner-up/cohort-1>

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/projectgrowth/partner-up/cohort-2>



Partner Up! Impacts

Participating businesses

19

of employee participants are people of color

12%

child care slots

90

Average employee age

35.

household income below \$50k for 1/3 of participants

\$50,000

of families in the program were able to continue with their current child care program

97%



Dream Up! Child Care Supply-Buildin

- Supports innovation and growth
- Dream Up! grants:
 - Create new child care business(es) in your community
 - Enhance existing providers through:
 - Expansion opportunities
 - Free trainings
 - Business supports
 - Leadership development
 - Stipends for engaging in cohort opportunities

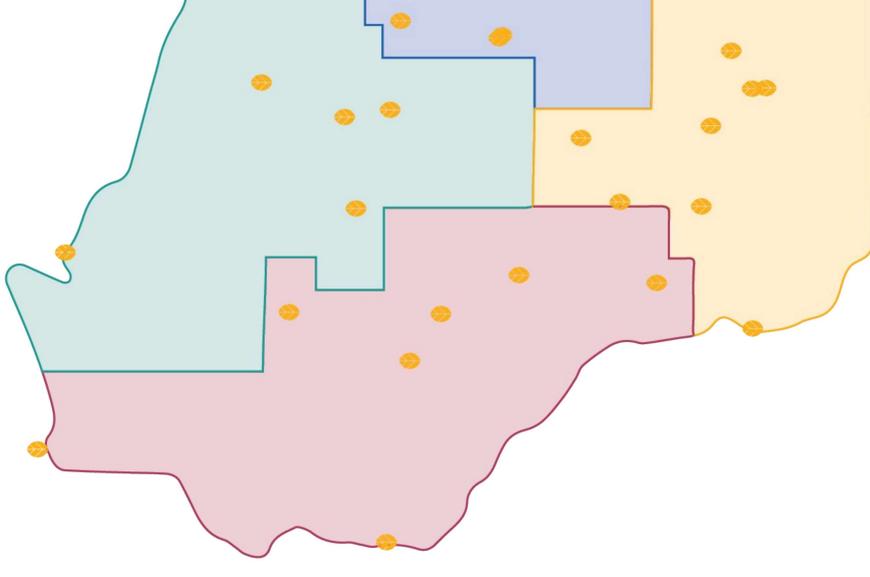
**The next round of competitive applications are open February 20 –
March 17, 2023**

Dream Up! Awardees

- **Cohort 1:** 12 communities awarded
 - Kicked off work last May
- **Cohort 2:** 16 communities awarded
 - Kicked off work last October
- **Cohort 3:** up to 9 communities
 - Applications will be accepted beginning February 20, 2023

View the full list of Dream Up! awardees at:

<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/projectgrowth/dream-up/cohorts-1-2>



Emerging Community Work

Cohort 1 & 2 Dream Up! communities are focused on...

- Planning community/employer surveys and events to learn more about local child needs
 - Building the child care workforce to re-open classrooms that are closed due to lack of staffing
 - Engaging high school students in course work to become providers
 - Supporting family (in-home) providers in enhancing and growing their programs
 - Preparing to open new child care centers through strategic community partnerships
 - Identifying potential resources and asking for support from state and local leaders
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