

Satellite Family Child Care System

Why we care.

Family child care comprises nearly half of regulated child care in Wisconsin and is particularly essential in rural communities. It offers unique benefits to children and families, including small group sizes, a mixed-age model, a home-like environment, and continuity of care. Currently, only 6% of family child care programs in Wisconsin are rated as high-quality through the quality rating and improvement system. High-quality early care and education lays a foundation for long-term physical, mental, and societal health.

What we do.

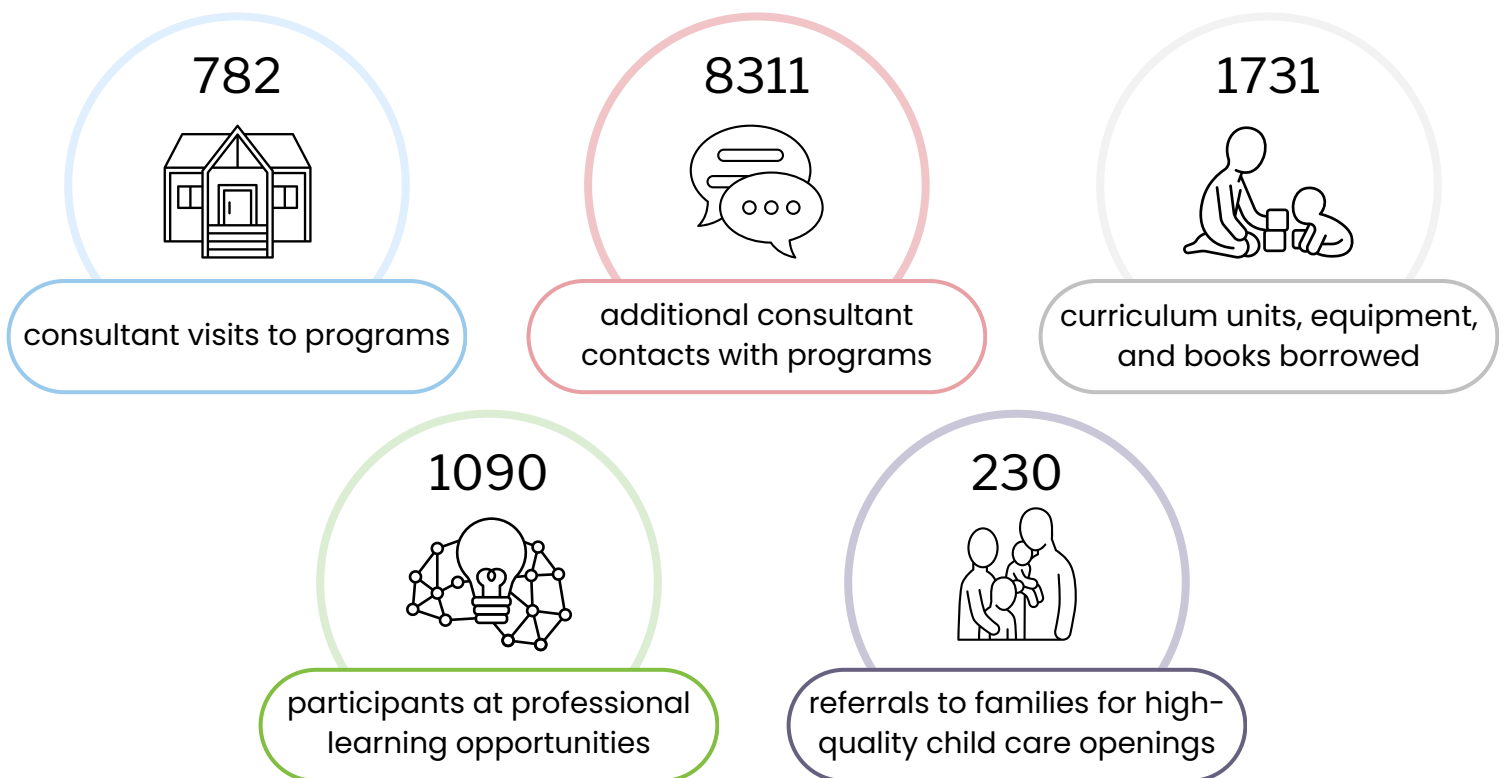
Satellite's mission is to promote high-quality care and education for children through a multi-faceted accreditation and support system for family child care programs. Programs engage with us on a journey of professional growth and quality improvement, aiming for accreditation. Family child care programs achieving accreditation are recognized as meeting the highest standards in home-based early care and education. The Satellite Accreditation Standards allow programs the flexibility to implement high quality, research-based practices through a lens honoring diversity and child-centered care.

How we impact.

Satellite offers family child care programs...

- an accreditation consultant
- equipment and curriculum unit loans
- program assessment resources
- developmental screening & assessment tools
- professional learning opportunities
- a family referral system
- regional social events
- support groups
- a mentoring program
- leadership opportunities

In 2025, Satellite accomplished...



Hear from those impacted.

The Satellite standards align with my core beliefs in how children learn and what they need in these early years. I am so excited to be able to be true to myself and have my program recognized as high-quality. As I continue to undo the years of external pressure, I will continue to provide a high-quality play-based, child-led program, while also educating parents on the benefits of play, showcasing how they are learning.

- Accredited Satellite family child care educator

Satellite accreditation has given me the opportunity to improve my program and become more knowledgeable on what a high-quality early childhood program consists of. The mentorship, support, training, and networking allow me to meet licensing requirements and gain much needed support and guidance in a career that can be very isolated.

- Accredited Satellite family child care educator

Through Satellite's guidance, training, and unwavering encouragement, we've grown stronger as a team and more intentional in our care. Your tools and resources empowered us to meet and exceed expectations, fostering a nurturing, high-quality learning environment for the children and families we serve. Thank you for believing in me, pushing me to grow, and standing alongside us every step of the way. I am proud to be part of a network that values excellence and is dedicated to the success of early childhood programs.

- Accredited Satellite family child care educator

Being accredited is a great achievement in my life, both personally and in my education. The most valuable thing for me was having my accreditation consultant's support. I didn't really know much about the Satellite Accreditation Standards. My consultant taught me a lot of things to achieve my goal. She was always there to support me because it was very difficult for me. With her support, I managed to become accredited.

- Accredited Satellite family child care educator

I am glad that my childcare provider receives both support and education for her career as my child benefits greatly from these supports. I feel safe sending my child to such a qualified provider.

- Family member of child attending an accredited program

How you can help.

It takes \$5,000 per year to support new programs and \$3,000 per year to support accredited programs.

Ready to support Satellite Family Child Care System's mission to bring high-quality family child care to children, families, and communities throughout Wisconsin?

Contact us!

(608) 381-2676

satellitefcc@reachdane.org



Why we care.

Family child care programs serve communities with limited access to resources, including families receiving Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy benefits.* Programs serving subsidy recipients may experience income instability due to uncollected fees or unstable enrollment, threatening the financial stability of the business. Children from low-income families receive the most benefits from high-quality early childhood education, so it is critical that high-quality programs remain accessible to this population. Family child care programs in Milwaukee are most likely to serve subsidy recipients and report unstable enrollment.

*48% of families in Milwaukee use Wisconsin Shares to pay for child care.

What we do.

Satellite offers stabilization funding to programs serving low-income, homeless, or special case families to avoid incurring financial losses that would undermine the stability of the program. Programs must meet the following criteria to receive stabilization funds:

- An average enrollment of **20% or more children from low-income families** receiving child care subsidy benefits or funding for special cases like Child Protective Services or Transition Education Program.
- Demonstrate financial jeopardy due to any one of the following:

Uncollected fees: fees not collected from families due to the family's stated inability to pay either for children who are currently enrolled or for children who have left with an outstanding balance due

Unstable enrollment or unanticipated enrollment loss: losses that occur as a result of children leaving abruptly, attending sporadically, or a slot was held utilizing a public funding source and that payment was delayed or never made



How you can help.

The City of Madison supports Satellite to offer this benefit to family child care programs in Madison. Stabilization funds are needed for family child care programs in Milwaukee. It would take \$150,000 to bring this benefit to Milwaukee.

Ready to support Satellite Family Child Care System's mission to bring high-quality family child care to children, families, and communities in Milwaukee?

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