

Funding Opportunities for Early Care & Education Providers



The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the critical role the state’s early care and education (ECE) system plays for both families and businesses alike. Now, more than ever, Wisconsin’s work to address pervasive challenges around equity, access, quality and affordability within the ECE system are imperative to helping the state move forward. In addition to the nearly \$236 million of stimulus funding the Department of Children and Families has invested on child care, several other state agencies, including the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC), are committed to working together to help build a more sustainable future for Wisconsin’s ECE providers and families. The opportunities listed below can be used to invest in worker training, move or expand existing child care centers, and cover the cost of COVID-related sick leave.

Funding / Opportunity	Lead Agency	Funding Amount	Funding Uses	Due Date	Link to Application
Child Care Counts: Stabilization Payment Program	DCF		Monthly payments are available to eligible to regulated providers. The funds can be used to increase access to high-quality care and fund workforce recruitment and retention efforts.	Monthly— view online calendar	https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/childcare/payments
Mainstreet Bounceback Grants	WEDC	\$10,000	Provides funding to new or existing businesses and non-profit organizations moving into vacant properties in Wisconsin’s downtowns and commercial corridors. Funds can be used to pay leases or mortgages, operational expenses and other business costs related to the newly opened location. The program is open to new or existing businesses opening a new location or expanding operations in a vacant commercial space as of January 1, 2021.	June 30, 2022	https://wedc.org/programs-and-resources/mainstreet-bounceback-grants/

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Project Growth: Partner Up!	DCF	Varies	<p>The Partner Up! grant program will provide \$10 million in funding to support partnerships between businesses who purchase slots at existing regulated child care providers. The funding will be awarded based on existing community child care needs throughout Wisconsin. The funding from this program can be used to increase staff compensation, pay expenses, reserve child care slots for local business employees, improve the quality of a child care program, and more.</p>	<p>Early Bird: March 14, 2022</p> <p>Extended: April 4, 2022</p>	<p>https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/projectgrowth/partner-up</p>
Project Growth: Dream Up!	DCF	<p>\$75,000 kick start stipend</p> <p>individual child care providers will each receive \$5,000 stipends</p>	<p>The Dream Up! grants focus on sustaining existing child care and expanding it in areas where there is need through a community approach. Applications should be submitted by a team of invested community members. Teams will receive free facilitation, training, and technical support in the implementation of their community strategic supply-building plans and local child care providers' business improvement plans.</p>	<p>April 4, 2022</p>	<p>https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/projectgrowth/dream-up</p>



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<p>Workforce Innovation Grants</p>	<p>WEDC</p>	<p>\$250,000 - \$10 million</p>	<p>The goal of this program is to help the regions of Wisconsin solve their most pressing workforce challenges by financially supporting collaborative, sustainable and innovative pandemic-recovery plans.</p> <p>Applications must address a region's most pressing pandemic-related workforce challenge and offer a solution specific to the region's need. These may include, but are not limited to: child care solutions or supportive services; training and/or reskilling initiatives for in-demand jobs; career counseling or coaching services; and access to transit or broadband solutions.</p>	<p>April 15, 2022</p>	<p>https://wedc.org/programs-and-resources/workforce-innovation-grant/</p>

New opportunities for funding will be available in the coming year and beyond as the state continues its work to improve Wisconsin's early childhood system. To receive up-to-date information on funding opportunities and other ECE-related news, providers can sign up for the Child Care Listserv at <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare>.