

Submit an Intent to Participate by February 1

Offer Get Kids Ready at Your Program!

Making sure children have the skills to thrive in school and in life is important. Starting in 2026, Get Kids Ready is a new community-based school readiness initiative to support licensed and certified child care providers serving four-year-olds. Child care providers who meet the eligibility criteria and decide to participate will receive payments for each 4-year-old participating in their school readiness program.

Eligibility Requirements for Child Care Providers

In order to participate in Get Kids Ready, certified and licensed child care providers are eligible if they:

- Are in compliance with all legal, financial, and regulatory requirements imposed by law or by department rule
- Will provide at least 437 hours of instruction in elementary school readiness per school year
- Use a curriculum that meets the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards
- Do not have a contract with a school district to provide 4K for the school year in which the provider intends to participate in Get Kids Ready
- Have lead teachers delivering Get Kids Ready instruction with an associate degree or bachelor's degree in any field of study



**Learn more and submit an Intent
to Participate between early
January and February 1
at dcf.wisconsin.gov/getkidsready**



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Eligibility Requirements for Children

A child is eligible to participate if:

- They are 4-years-old on or before September 1 of the school year they plan to participate
- The child's parent or guardian submits an application to participate in the program, on a form prepared by DCF, to a participating provider
- A participating child care provider has accepted the child's application to attend Get Kids Ready



Process Overview

Applying to participate in the Get Kids Ready program for the 2026-27 school year involves three main steps:

- 1. Intent to Participate** – Child care providers must submit an Intent to Participate in Get Kids Ready **between January 6 - February 1, 2026.**
- 2. Program Eligibility Verification Application** – After submitting an Intent to Participate, child care providers must then submit materials to verify they meet the Get Kids Ready program eligibility requirements by **May 15, 2026.**
 - **Eligibility Notification** – DCF will notify all providers who submitted verification of their eligibility determination no later than **June 2, 2026.**
- 3. Payment Applications** – Child care providers must submit a Payment Application throughout the year for each of the four (4) service period they wish to receive payment for:
 - September (service period of July-September)
 - November (service period of October-November)
 - February (service period of December-February)
 - May (service period of March-June)

Learn more at dcf.wisconsin.gov/getkidsready