

Allowable Use of Dream Up! Program Funds – Cohort 3

Through the Dream Up! collaborative community approach, teams of community stakeholders will work to evaluate, plan, sustain, and expand existing child care, and potentially support new child care programs. Dream Up! awarded communities across Wisconsin will receive strategic planning support and \$75,000 in grant funding. Additionally, child care providers who participate in a Business Leadership cohort in each awarded community will receive \$5,000 **awards** once they submit updated business plans for their program(s) **to support implementation of the plans**. The lists below provide additional guidance on allowable uses and additional restrictions.

Allowable Expenditures

Dream Up! Community \$75,000 Strategic Plan implementation funds acceptable uses include, but are not limited to:

Dream Up! Grant-Related Costs:

- o Dream Up! related outreach and/or community events (may offer food and non-alcoholic refreshments at a cost of less than \$7 per person, including tips/fees)
- o Administrative costs directly related to Dream Up! grant implementation, such as a percentage of the core team lead's salary for time spent on the project (not to exceed 10% of the total grant/\$7,500)
- o Research/data collection activities to support future planning
- o Dream Up! related marketing/communications to engage the community, promote events, etc.

Child Care Program Administration-Related Costs:

- o Expansion costs of existing programs
- o Compensation, bonuses, and benefits for educators and other direct service personnel (e.g., transportation, food services)
- o Recruitment, hiring, and retention costs
- o Professional development activities
- o Staff meeting materials (excluding food and beverage)
- o Professional and community events
- o Business related insurance
- o Building peer support networks
- o Building a pipeline for training future early care and education professionals
- o Start-up of new programs and/or transitions from unregulated to regulated

Program and Facility-Related Costs:

- o Cleaning/PPE materials
- o Technology, such as tablets and computers
- o Equipment that is not technology or transportation equipment (e.g., a lawn mower, rake, tools for facility maintenance, washer and dryer)
- o Building or upgrading playgrounds
- o Furniture and furnishings
- o Utilities
- o Health and safety materials (e.g., carbon monoxide detectors, smoke detectors, radon testing, water testing, fire extinguishers, air filtration device, sprinkler fire system, door security)
- o Minor repairs or renovations (see list of examples)



Allowable Use of Dream Up! Program Funds - Continued

Minor Renovation Examples: (does not change the footprint or primary purpose of the facility)

- o Adding or replacing railings, sinks, floor coverings, or shelving units
- o Outdoor sink
- o Improve inclusive accessibility to individuals with disabilities (rails, ramps, automatic doors)
- o Update sidewalks to provide a safe pathway
- o Updating windows and doors
- o Egress window for a basement
- o Replacing or repainting walls with a non-toxic paint
- o Installing energy-absorbing playground base (wood chips, rubber)
- o Safety fence
- o Renovating bathrooms to ensure age-appropriateness and child safety
- o Kitchen updates (cabinets for proper food storage, fix plumbing issues)
- o Safety improvements (electrical outlet replacement, gates)
- o Minor roof repair
- o Updating furnace or water heater
- o Installation of a radon mitigation system
- o Removing or adding non-load-bearing walls to create additional space

Programming and Materials That Support Children and Families:

- o Removing barriers to child care success in the community, reducing operating costs, and ensuring families' access to programs
- o Diapers, formula, food, and other items for children
- o Materials for the learning environment (indoor and outdoor)
- o Curriculum materials
- o Screening and assessment tools
- o Family engagement activities
- o Classroom supplies

Dream Up! Business Leadership Cohort \$5,000 completion payments to child care providers acceptable uses include, but are not limited to:

- o Maintaining or enhancing high-quality care
- o Relief from tuition payments for families
- o Compensation/bonuses and benefits for educators and other direct service personnel (e.g., transportation, food services)
- o Recruitment and hiring costs
- o Professional development activities
- o Staff meeting materials (excluding food and beverage)
- o Diapers, formula, food, and other items for children
- o Materials for the learning environment (indoor and outdoor)
- o Curriculum materials
- o Screening and assessment tools
- o Professional and community events
- o Family engagement activities
- o Administrative expenses
- o Cleaning/PPE materials
- o Technology, such as tablets and computers
- o Minor repairs or renovations such as new railings, a new sink, adding a door, a new countertop



Prohibited Expenditures

Dream Up! funding may not be used to supplant other public funding sources, including, but not limited to, any state or federal funding. Prohibited expenses include, but are not limited to, the following:

- o Major renovations, major construction, or purchase of land (minor renovations are acceptable as previously described)
- o Purchase of vehicles or other transportation equipment
- o Purchase of gift cards or other gifts as incentives
- o Food and beverage purchases for staff meetings or grant core team meetings (up to \$7 per person is allowable for community events)
- o Travel expenses must be directly related to the implementation of the Dream Up! program
- o Purchase of items for the purpose of sectarian or religious activities
- o Bad debts, including losses arising from uncollectible accounts and any related legal costs
- o Costs of amusement or entertainment that do not benefit children
- o Cost of idle facilities
- o Costs incurred after the Contract has been terminated
- o Fundraising costs without prior approval
- o Personal or business loans, including finance charges
- o Non-sufficient funds/overdraft and ATM usage bank charges
- o Investment management costs
- o Payment of federal taxes
- o Costs of organization of a nonprofit corporation, such as incorporation fees or consultant fees
- o Public relations consultant fees
- o Purchase of alcohol, drugs, or cost of any associated use for gambling purposes
- o Costs of legal, consulting, and accounting services
- o Compensation to the members of the board of directors, if applicable
- o Dream Up! funding cannot be loaned or advanced to individuals, corporations, organizations, public agencies, or private agencies and may not be used as collateral for loans

Costs should be reasonable, necessary, and well-documented. Also refer to DCF's Allowable Cost Manual: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/finance/fias/pdf/dcfallowablecostmanual.pdf>.

If there are any questions for providers or communities on what type of expenses are allowable, please don't hesitate to reach out to DCF at DCFMBDECEProjectGrowth@wisconsin.gov.

