

Welcome to Tuesday Talks with DECE

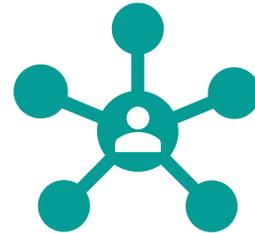
- **This webinar is being recorded.**
- **Please note:** DCF does not allow AI software (e.g., read.ai) or other AI transcription features to be used in DCF-originated meetings.
- Please submit questions through the **Q&A feature** for everyone to see. **Do not message just the host and panelists.**
- Questions will be answered in random order after the presentation concludes. This portion of the presentation is not recorded.
- También puede escuchar esta charla en español. Para acceder a la interpretación en español, haga clic en el icono Interpretación y seleccione Español.
 - El icono de interpretación es un círculo cerca de la parte inferior de la pantalla, y parece un globo terráqueo. 🌐



What are Tuesday Talks with DECE?



Monthly virtual sessions on the third Tuesday of every month



These talks will provide the opportunity for:

Increased engagement between DECE and providers

Continual conversation

Connectivity

Increased accessibility



Tuesday Talks

2025-27 State Biennial
Budget for Child Care

Presented by: Secretary Jeff Pertl
(DCF), Priya Bhatia (DCF), and
Daria Hall (DCF)



Wisconsin Department of
Children and Families



**2025-27 State
Biennial Budget
Update from
DCF Secretary
Jeff Pertl**



Child Care in the 2025-27 Wisconsin Biennial Budget



Wisconsin Department of
Children and Families

The 2025-27 Biennial Budget invests \$330 million in child care, including

Direct payments
to child care
providers

Investments to
make child care
more affordable
for families





The following slides give an overview of what's in the budget for child care

As we go through them, please note:

- There are **many implementation questions we do not yet have answers to**, such as the exact time frames, criteria, and processes for some new programs
 - **We commit to answering these questions as quickly as we can**
- 



Roadmap for Today

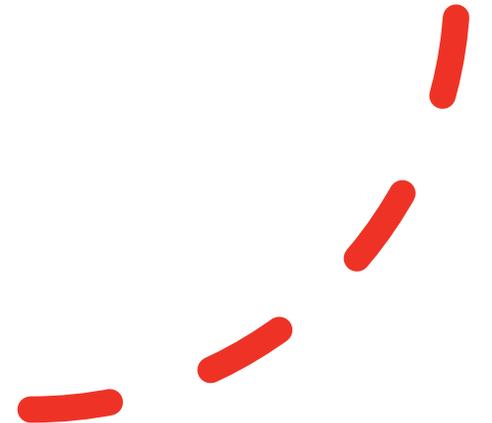
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- Family Affordability
 - Direct Provider Investment
 - Regulatory Changes

Family Affordability

- Over **\$123 million** to increase Wisconsin Shares subsidy rates
 - Currently, the maximum Wisconsin Shares rate is only enough to fully cover the price of 41% of slots statewide
 - With this increase, it will **fully cover the cost of 75% of slots**

Direct Investments in Providers

- **\$110 million** for direct payments to providers in the *first year of the budget*
- These **Child Care Bridge Payments** will ensure continued support as the Child Care Counts program winds down
- The first payment will be in **August 2025**



Direct Investments in Providers

- **\$66 million** for a new “Get Kids Ready” **elementary school readiness** initiative to support licensed or certified child care providers serving **four-year-olds**
- This will begin for the **2026-27 school year**
- Providers are eligible if they:
 - Will provide at least **437 hours** of instruction in elementary school readiness per year
 - Use a curriculum that meets the **Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards**
- Teachers in the elementary school readiness program must have an associate's or bachelor's degree

Direct Investments in Providers

- **A 2-year pilot** program to increase per-child payments to licensed providers caring for infants and toddlers with a Wisconsin Shares authorization
 - For children 0-18 months old: **\$200/month** for full-time care
 - For children 18-30 months old: **\$100/month** for full-time care
- To be eligible, providers will need to participate in **increased ratios for children 18-30 months old**

Regulation Change

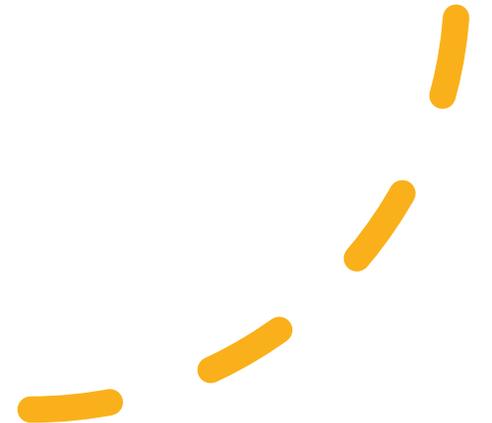
(Group Centers)

- **2-year pilot** program that changes ratios for children aged **18-30 months to 1:7**
 - These changes are optional for all **group centers**.
 - These changes sunset at the end of two years, so your feedback will be very important in shaping what happens next.

Regulation Change

(Family Care)

- **Family child care** providers with sufficient staff and space will be able to serve **up to 12 children**
 - The currently maximum for family providers is 8 children
 - This change will be reflected in DCF rules and in state building code

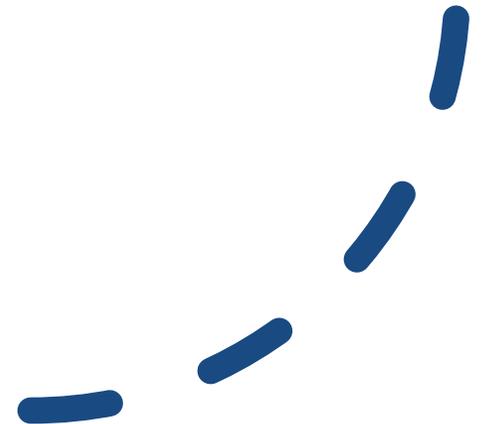


Regulation Change

- **16-year-olds** will be allowed to serve as Assistant Teachers
- Assistant Teachers must complete one of the following within 6 months of assuming the position
 - Two credits in early childhood education
 - One non-credit, DCF-approved course in early childhood education
 - An assistant child care teacher training program approved by DPI
- **To provide sole supervision in limited situations, an Assistant Teacher must be 18 years old**

A Note about Child Care Foundational Training (CCFT) Subsidies

- The biennial budget does not include funding to continue subsidies for the CCFTs
- Subsidies will end **August 31, 2025**



What's Next?

- DCF will continue to analyze the budget bill and develop implementation plans
- We will communicate key updates through
 - Weekly listserv for child care providers, counties, and tribes
 - Monthly Tuesday Talks with DECE webinars
 - DCF website





**Up Next:
Child Care Counts and
Child Care Bridge Payments**

Child Care Counts: Stabilization Payment Program Closure

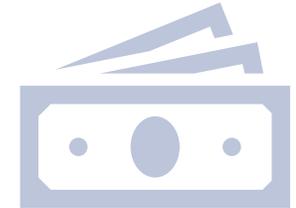
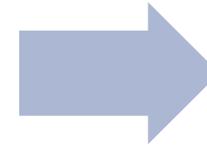
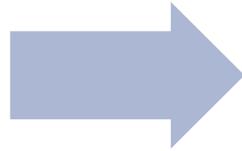
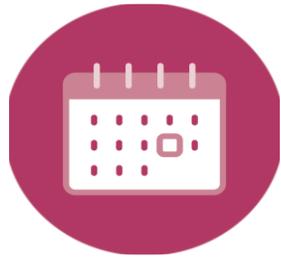
- Program is now closed
- Final payments sent 7/11/2025
- Increase for final payments

Child Care Bridge Payments

- **Funding including in Wisconsin State Budget**
 - Direct, monthly provider payments for 12 months
 - July 2025 – June 2026
- **Initial Application Open July 26-Aug 3**
 - Count Week: July 13-26
 - All providers must submit a new initial application and upload verification documents (child and staff records)
- **Monthly Updates**
 - Providers must update their applications each month in the Child Care Provider Portal to continue receiving monthly Bridge Payments



Child Care Bridge Payments: Important Dates



July 13-26

**Count Week for Bridge
Payments**

July 26 – Aug 3

**Initial Application Week for Bridge
Payments**

All providers must:

- *Submit a new initial application*
- *Upload verification documents*

August 15

**Initial Bridge Payments
sent**

Where to get more information, updates, and assistance:



Child Care Payments Webpage



Child Care Payments Support Center



Child Care Provider Listserv

We want to hear from you!

- Tuesday Talks with DECE will feature different topics monthly
- Each presentation will be recorded and available at the link below or by scanning this QR code
- Take our survey to let us know what topic you want to hear about next

Learn more at:

dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/tuesday-talks



Q&A

Please use the Q&A feature to ask questions

- If you have questions about:
 - *Child Care Counts or Child Care Bridge Payments*, contact
 - DCFDECECOVID19CCPayments@wisconsin.gov





Thank you!

