



Division of Safety and Permanence

DSP Informational Memo Series 2023-05i

May 3, 2023

To: DCF/DMCPS Administrator
DCF Area Administrators
Child Placing Agency Directors
Child Welfare Agency Directors
County Departments of Community Programs Directors
County Departments of Human Services Directors
County Departments of Social Services Directors
Private Child Placing Agencies
Residential Care Center Providers
Shelter Care Providers
Tribal Chairpersons

From: Wendy Henderson
Administrator

Re: **2017 Wisconsin Act 260: Foster Parent Grants, FY 2024 Applications**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to inform county agencies, tribal agencies, and non-profit organizations of a grant opportunity, authorized by 2017 Wisconsin Act 260, to support licensed relatives, foster parents, and normalcy opportunities for children in out-of-home care.

BACKGROUND

The Wisconsin legislature passed several foster care related bills in 2017, referred to as the Foster Forward Acts. 2017 Wisconsin Act 260, one of the Foster Forward Acts, provides grant funding to support children in out-of-home care.

INFORMATION SUMMARY

2017 Wisconsin Act 260 provides \$400,000 in funding per fiscal year to the Department of Children and Families for grants to support foster parents and normalcy activities for children in out-of-home care.

Allowable Costs

The grant opportunity is open to all county agencies, tribal agencies, and non-profit organizations. Agencies may apply for up to \$60,000 in funding in one or more of the following three topic areas:





- Incentives for the retention of licensed relatives and fosterparents;
- Licensed relative and foster parent training activities; and/or
- Reimbursement to licensed relatives and foster parents for foster care related expenses that allow for normalcy opportunities for children in out-of-home care.

Costs related to the retention of relative and/or non-relative foster parents may include, but are not limited to, the following activities:

- Costs that support the licensing of relative and like-kin providers, such as purchasing smoke/carbon monoxide detectors, additional beds, child safety gates, minor home modifications, paying for pet vaccinations, etc.
- Respite for caregivers
- Caregiver support groups
- Closet or pantry for placement needs such as diapers, clothing in varying sizes, and other non-perishable items that may be utilized at the time of placement
- Appreciation events, such as a banquet, picnics, etc.
- Hosting a family day for caregivers at a waterpark, local ball game, movie theatre, etc.
- Offering a “date night” for caregivers and providing them with childcare
- Organizing and partnering with community groups to support caregivers who accept placements with little notice and/or who are newly licensed. This may include making meals and providing needed items for families (i.e., groceries, diapers, formula, clothes, etc.).

Allowable costs for reimbursement to licensed relatives and foster parents for expenses related to normalcy for children in out-of-home care are outlined in the Uniform Foster Care Rate Setting Policy, [DCF-P-5611](#). Funds shall be used to reimburse the share of the exceptional payment made by the agency with placement and care responsibility, or extraordinary payment costs requested by a private child placing agency.

Reimbursement for licensed relative and foster parent training expenses under the grant shall not be used to supplant the current foster parent training structure, which allows for reimbursement through the Title IV-E Foster Parent Training Pass-Through or the administrative rate provided to private child placing agencies. Reimbursement for foster parent training expenses shall exceed the reimbursement received through the current foster parent training structure.

Application Process

One-time licensed relative caregiver or foster parent grant funding is being awarded via a competitive grant process for the purpose of supporting counties, tribes, and non-profit organizations to implement new activities that they would not otherwise be able to accomplish without financial assistance. The Department will review grant applications and grants will be awarded to those agencies that thoroughly provide the information requested in the attached grant application. Agencies may apply for up to \$60,000 in funding to support the development of new activities.



Agencies may apply for grant funding to reimburse for qualifying expenses under more than one of the three topic areas. Agencies need not request reimbursement for each qualifying expense if the agency does not intend to participate in activities under that category. Agency activities must contribute to the ongoing improvement and success related to support of licensed relative caregivers or foster parents and normalcy opportunities for children in out-of-home care. **This is a one-time funding opportunity and grants must be spent by June 30, 2024.**

The attached Foster Parent Grant application packet specifies the grant requirements, including information on each of the three topic areas. **Applications for state fiscal year 2024 will be accepted until June 16, 2023.** In addition to a completed application and responses to the required questions, **all approved applicants shall submit an exit summary to the Department by September 1, 2024,** demonstrating the effectiveness of the use of the awarded funds.

Reimbursement provided to agencies through the grant program shall be reimbursed up to \$60,000, as funds allow, and up to \$400,000 total statewide in state fiscal year 2024. Agencies that receive the grant shall allocate the funding they receive within state fiscal year 2024 and the funds shall be spent by June 30, 2024.

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT: Program & Policy Analyst
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MEMO WEB SITE: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/policy>

Attachments [Foster Parent Grant Program Application](#)