

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
Workforce Equity Training Grant (Kenosha, Racine, Walworth & Milwaukee Counties only)	DWD	\$5,000 - \$400,000	The Workforce Equity Grant program will provide education, skills training, and placement in high-demand occupations to underserved populations in southeastern Wisconsin to reduce racial disparities and to narrow the education gap in the State's workforce, as well as to place trained individuals in well-paying, family-supporting jobs.	October 4, 2021, at 3 p.m. CST	https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/det/
Wisconsin Fast Forward (WFF) Industry Sectors Worker Training Grants	DWD	\$5,000 - \$400,000	The Wisconsin Fast Forward (WFF) standard grant program will award funds to businesses from all Wisconsin industry sectors that reimburse the costs of customized occupational training for unemployed, underemployed, and incumbent workers. The customized, business-driven training will qualify workers for full-time employment, higher level employment, or increased wages.	October 18, 2021, at 3 p.m. CST	http://wisconsinfastforward.com/wff_standard.htm

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Mainstreet Bounceback Grants	WEDC	\$10,000	<p>The Mainstreet Bounceback Grants provide 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.</p>		https://wedc.org/programs-and-resources/mainstreet-bounceback-grants/
Workforce Innovation Grants	WEDC	\$250,000 - \$10 million	<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>October 25, 2021, at 5 p.m. CST</p> <p>A second round of funding will be announced in 2022.</p>	https://wedc.org/programs-and-resources/workforce-innovation-grant/

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IRS American Rescue Plan (ARP) Tax Credit for Reimbursement of Paid Sick & Family Leave for Employees due to COVID-19 Including COVID-19 Vaccinations	IRS		The ARP tax credits are available to eligible employers that pay sick and family leave for leave from April 1, 2021, through September 30, 2021.		https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/employer-tax-credits-for-employee-paid-leave-due-to-covid-19?fbclid=IwAR11fSA-jJiNmSYkZDpp0Et-LAtiONhW50jyb39CWFHtwL-NNjMQ4ja2FZpQ

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>.

