# DCF Application Form

**Use of form:** Use of this form is mandatory. If the requested information is not provided, the department will be unable to process your application. Personal information you provide may be used for secondary purposes [Privacy Law, §.15.04(1)(m), Wisconsin Statutes].

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| Application #437002-G20-0001696 | TitlePDG Community Innovation Grants |
| The Department of Children and Families is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. If you have a disability and need to access this information in an alternate format, need it translated to another language, or need other accommodations, please contact dcfprocurement@wisconsin.gov.**Request for Applications:**The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) Division of Early Care and Education (DECE) was awarded a Preschool Development Birth to Five Grant (PDG B-5) to expand Early Care and Education (ECE) initiatives throughout the state. The overall mission of this grant is to provide early care and education opportunities throughout the state that improve the well-being, health, development, and kindergarten readiness among all children ages birth to five years. By leveraging enthusiasm for systems change at the state level, and local and regional partnerships and strengths, the PDG will expedite WI’s efforts to develop an equitable B-5 system that meets the needs of families and prepares the next generation of WI children to succeed and thrive.DCF is soliciting applications from community organizations to pilot and implement new practices or programs, or scale-up existing efforts, while blending local child-centered efforts and funding streams. Proposals must incorporate a lead and co-lead representing two different organizations. Public (tribal nations, counties, cities, etc.) and private (business, non-profit, etc.) sector collaboration is strongly encouraged. Collaborative efforts across *multiple* ECE providers, K-12 systems and regional stakeholders that leverage collective impact are also encouraged. Below are ideas for use of funds to pilot or implement innovative practices aligned with the four areas of the [B-5 Strategic Plan (SP](https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/childcare/pdf/pdg/b5-strategic-plan.pdf)). This list is not exhaustive: Access* Support collaboration between child care programs, local school districts and other community partners (e.g., Head Start, Early Head Start, school-based and community approach 4K ,local business, non-profits, etc.) to ensure that birth to five early care and education, specifically infant and toddler child care slots, are maintained and expanded.
* Expand healthy eating and access to nutrition supports for Wisconsin families and early care and education programs through Farm to ECE, SNAP-Ed, and other programs.
* Fund initial startup costs of a Family Navigators program in order to build a supportive process between families, ECE programs, state and county public assistance programs, local education agencies, and other programs/services

Affordability* Develop culturally competent communication and guidance to build awareness about the existence and increase the use among families of public benefits, specifically WI Shares and SNAP-Ed;
* Expand shared services networks or other collaborations to reduce ECE program operation costs.

 Quality* Expand regional knowledge of and access to Farm to ECE to improve young children’s access to local foods; improve nutrition in early childhood; incorporate local foods and snacks in ECE-provided meals; enhance children’s learning opportunities with food (e.g. planting/gardening); and engage with families.
* Provide professional learning (i.e. training and coaching), capacity, and awareness to support trauma-informed care and social and emotional development/learning for ECE programs.
* Provide - professional learning (i.e., training and coaching) around equity and inclusion to early care and education professionals and in partnership with regional, local, or tribal stakeholders.
* Increase collaboration among ECE programs and K-12 local education agencies to ensure smooth transitions to kindergarten.

Workforce* Develop a program that offers stipends to current child care providers for recruiting new providers; additional stipends for supporting new providers in YoungStar rating process.
* Develop a loan forgiveness program for teachers who have completed educational degree programs and spend at least 3 years working in regulated programs.
* Expand the number of Family Navigators in counties/regions to further build the infrastructure between families, ECE programs, state and county public assistance programs, LEAs, etc. Family Navigators will provide direct assistance to families with underserved or vulnerable children under age 6 to help problem solve and access services across ECE, health, social services, and K-12 systems, as well as local community-based services tailored to meet family needs.
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| **Contract Term:** The anticipated contract start date is January 1, 2021 and will conclude on October 31st, 2021, subject to continued federal grant extension period. All work must be completed during this time.  |
| **Budget:** The total amount of funding for the Community Innovation Grants (CIG) is $850,000. Awards will be given for either a $50,000, $100,000 or $150,000 grant. Multiple awards will be made in amounts to be determined through applicant cost proposals and work plans. A minimum of seven (7) Community Innovation Grants will be funded, with the possibility of more depending on funding availability and quality of applications. Individual awards will be determined by the evaluation of feasibility of workplan within timeline given, quality of application, and justification of need. Submitted budgets should clearly identify the amount of grant requested and a budget narrative that describes the line item expenditures. At least one (1) award will be made to the top scoring application in each of the 5 Child Care [Regions](https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/images/full/map-dcf-wi-regions.jpg). The remaining funding will be awarded based on score across all regions.  |
| **Program Objective:** WI will award Community Innovation Grants that align with the state’s Strategic Plan. By focusing on community and local collective impact, WI aims to be responsive to unique local needs, leverage financial resources, increase local collaboration, and build ongoing sustainability at the regional level. Applicants will fund Early Care and Education (ECE) programs and evidence-based practices that are specific to the identified needs of families with children ages 0 to 5 years in their community. Applicants proposed activities may address the issues of equity, access, affordability, quality, workforce and/or kindergarten readiness and will include local collaboration. |
| **Application Requirements:**In your application, please include a plan that addresses the following (maximum 7 pages):1. **Local data (20 points)**: Utilize data to describe the needs in your community. Data should include a focus on families with children ages 0 to 5 years and any priority populations that your plan will serve. Priority populations may include families of color, multilingual families, low-income families and other families experiencing challenges (e.g. homeless, child welfare connected, children with disabilities), as well as Tribal families;
2. **Family Engagement (20 points)**: Describe how parents and caregivers will be engaged in guiding and implementing your plan, including how your plan prioritizes and partners with any priority families as listed above.
3. **Strategic Plan Areas (20 points)**: Describe how you will address at least two of the four areas of WI’s Strategic Plan -- access, affordability, quality, and the workforce.
4. **Activities (40 points):** Detail the major activities you will complete to meet your community’s needs. Activities should be written as SMARTIE (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-Scaled, Inclusive, Equitable) objectives and deliverables.
	* Specific and Measurable: Define how many families and children will be served; identify any specific populations that will be served; the impact on the children and families served; how many partners will be engaged; and number of services connected to families.
	* Achievable: Describe why you believe you can achieve each activity (consider your past experience, your relationships, other strengths and resources you bring to the implementation of the activity, etc.)
	* Relevant: All grantees will be chosen based on identified local needs and how plans address those needs; connection to access, affordability, quality, and workforce.
	* Time-Scaled: Detail how you will accomplish the activity in 10 months and a plan for how it will be sustained beyond the grant period.
	* Inclusive and Equitable: Describe how services will be targeted towards Tribal families, families of color, multilingual families, families experiencing homelessness, families connected to the child welfare system, and/or families with children with disabilities; and how these families will advise your work so programs and services respect both the cultures and languages of your community.
5. **Collaboration (20 points)**: Identify a lead and a co-lead representing two different organizations. Describehow your local plan will collaborate across industries and services (e.g. ECE, K-12, health, mental health, workforce development, transportation, child welfare, the business community, etc.); define the roles and responsibilities of partners within your collaboration.
6. **Budget Response (20 points)**: Describe how funds will be used for greatest impact and not supplant already existing funds. Include a description of current resources available for the project (across partner organizations) and how the plan will blend and combine public and private funds at the local level. Note: Detailed expenses will be included in the Budget Narrative Form and do not need to be included here.
7. **Budget Narrative (not scored):** Applications must use the provided Budget Narrative Form. Using the form, detail the budget items within your plan that the Community Innovation Grants will directly support.

All 6 sections must be answered in your application to be evaluated and considered for the CIG.Additional consideration will be given to CIG applications that have a clear and intentional focus on the following, detailed within their plan. (5 bonus points per activity listed below)1. Prioritization of families with infants and toddlers;
2. Implementation or expansion of family navigation;
3. Implementation or expansion of Farm to ECE; and/or
4. Connections to three or more industries

At the end of the contract period, applicants will be expected to report, at a minimum: * New and strengthened partnerships
* New or improved processes and procedures
* Number of children and families served
* Lessons Learned.
* How the changes will be sustained

Additional measures may be negotiated and dependent on the program. |
| **Evaluation:**Applications will be evaluated through a point scale given to the 6 individual application sections based on the Application Requirements listed. Applications will be evaluated and graded by a team of evaluators. The applicant with the highest score in each [region](https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/images/full/map-dcf-wi-regions.jpg) (Northern, Northeastern, Southeastern, Southern, and Western) will be funded first. Subsequent funding will be awarded on score alone, for all remaining applications |
| Issue Date**November 16, 2020** | Due Date**December 11, 2020 by 2:00PM**  |

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| DCF Contact NameLuke Reible | DCF Contact Phone608-422-6389 | DCF Contact Emaildcfprocurement@wisconsin.gov |
| Grantees will be expected to sign a contract. Most will be signing the DCF Standard Contract. For situations where the Standard Contract is not required, the DOA Standard Terms and Conditions will apply. Some awarded applicants may be asked to establish their financial stability. Samples of all can be found on our DCF Grant Opportunities Page. <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/doingbusinesswith/applications> |

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

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| Legal Applicant/Organization Name      | Telephone Number      |
| Applicant Contact Name      | DUNS Number      |
| Applicant/Organization Mailing Address (Street, City, State, Zip Code)      |
| Applicant Contact Email Address      |
| **We certify that everything in the application is true to the best of our knowledge and we will adhere to the requirements of the application and the resulting contract.** |
| Name of Authorized Company Representative:      | Title of Company Representative:      | Phone of Company Representative:      |
| Signature of Company Representative: | Date Signed      | Email of Company Representative:      |