

Child Care Licensing Assistance Program

Overview



Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

Northern and Western regions, including tribal communities, are particularly lacking in adequate licensed child care supply to meet the needs of children, families, and communities.



Background

The Joint Committee on Finance 13.10 motion directs DCF to provide \$2,500,000 FED in 2021-22 for “a new grant program to assist unregulated child care providers to become regulated...to focus the grant program in the Western and Northern licensing regions of the state, as well as rural areas throughout the state.”

Funded by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)



Program Goals

1. Increase the number of licensed child care providers in the Northern and Western [licensing regions](#).
2. Support prospective or newly licensed child care providers' start –up and long-term sustainability and connect them to services available.
3. Increase public awareness among providers, families and community of the benefits of licensed child care.



Western and Northern BECR Regions

Northern Region

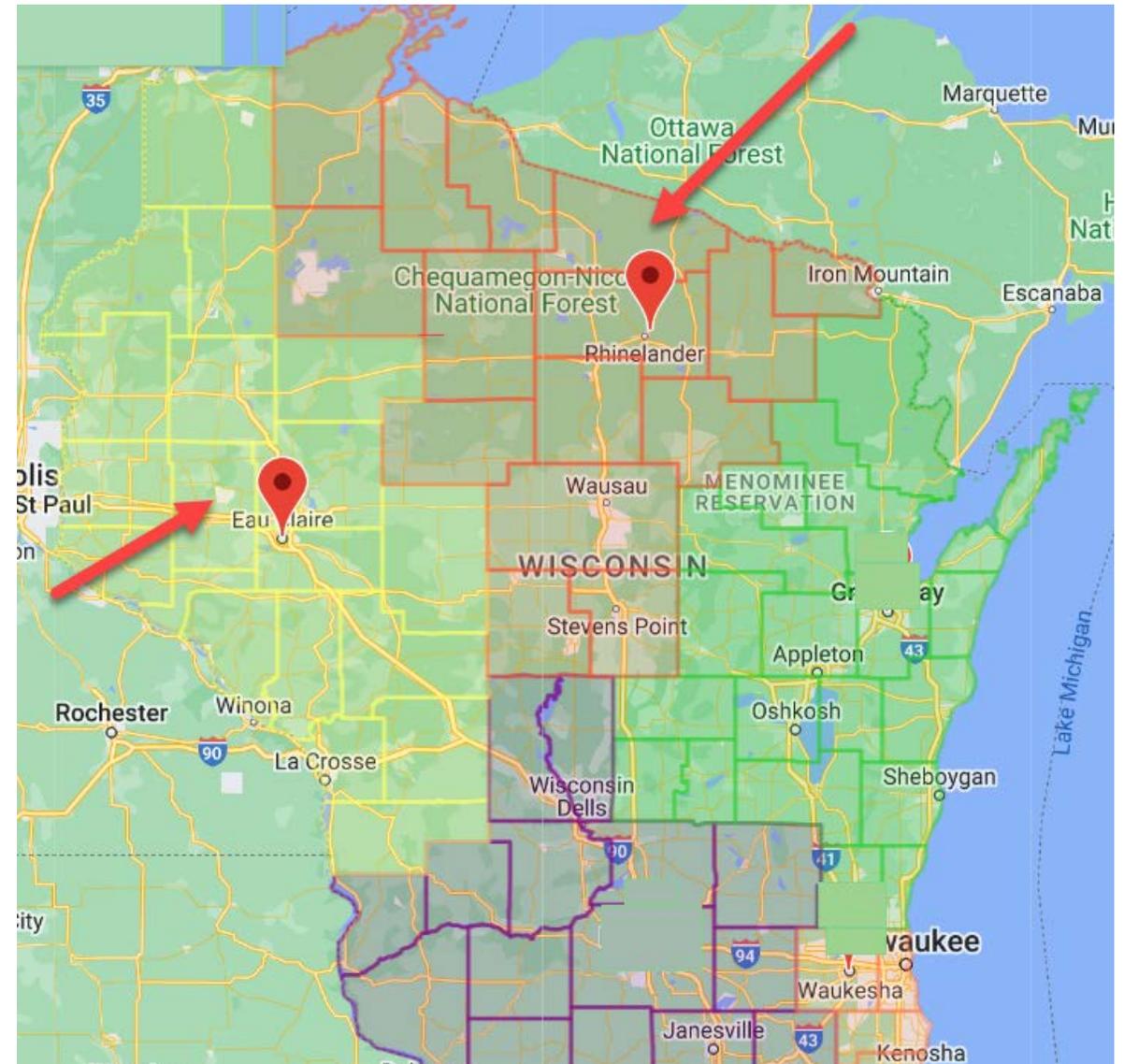
Counties: Ashland, Bayfield, Florence, Forest, Iron, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Price, Sawyer, Taylor, Vilas, and Wood

Tribes: Bad River, Forest County Potawatomi, Ho-Chunk, Lac Courte Oreille, Lac du Flambeau, Red Cliff, and Sokaogon

Western Region

Counties: Barron, Buffalo, Burnett, Chippewa, Clark, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Crawford, Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Rusk, Saint Croix, Trempealeau, Vernon, and Washburn

Tribes: Ho Chunk



Project Description

Assist unlicensed family child care providers & license-exempt group child care programs in obtaining licensure

Assistance may include, but is not limited to:

- Reimbursement of licensing and background check fees
- Training and professional development
- Increased pre-licensing supports and technical assistance
- Programming, workshops and instruction for child care business owners to help grow and sustain their operations
- Subgrants to support child care business start-up expenses and/or initial operating costs



Eligible Child Care Providers and Programs

- Unregulated family child care providers
- Certified family child care providers
- License-exempt child care programs administered by private schools
- Child care programs/providers in the pre-licensing phase
- New group centers and day camps not yet licensed
- Previously licensed child care programs/providers who are not currently licensed



Examples of Start-Up Expenses Subgrants May Support

Health & Safety	Facility/Operation	Professional Resources	Program
Safety gates & cabinet locks	Egress windows/fire exits	Workshops, training, webinars, conferences	Software or IT equipment
Fireplace screen covers	Facility improvements including fencing	Continuing education	Curriculum and materials
First-aid kits	Outdoor play equipment	Certifications	Strollers
Sleeping cots/mats/cribs	Permit fees	Association membership fees	Multicultural items and resources
Vehicle child restraint systems, vehicle alarms, inspections	Well-water testing	Fees for service (mentoring/coaching or consultation)	Furniture and children's furnishings



Maximum Subgrant Amount

Provider Type	Maximum Benefit Amount
Group Centers	\$40,000
Family Child Care	\$10,000
Day Camps	\$20,000



Historical and Projected Number of New Applications

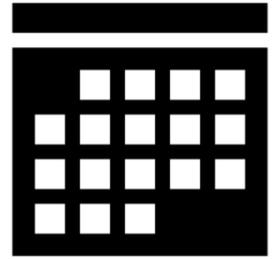
Northern		Type	2018	2019	2020	2021	5/22	Total
	Family		9	17	10	10	0	46
	Group		11	2	6	7	3	29
	Total							75

Western		Type	2018	2019	2020	2021	5/22	Total
	Family		21	23	16	17	3	80
	Group		16	16	16	18	5	71
	Total							151

18-month grant period goal
80 -100
new applications



Key Dates



Grant Application Due Date

Aug. 19, 2022

Award Date

Sept. 16, 2022

Contract Start Date

Nov. 1, 2022

Funds must be obligated by June 30, 2023 and liquidated by June 30, 2024



Thank you
for your interest!

Questions?

