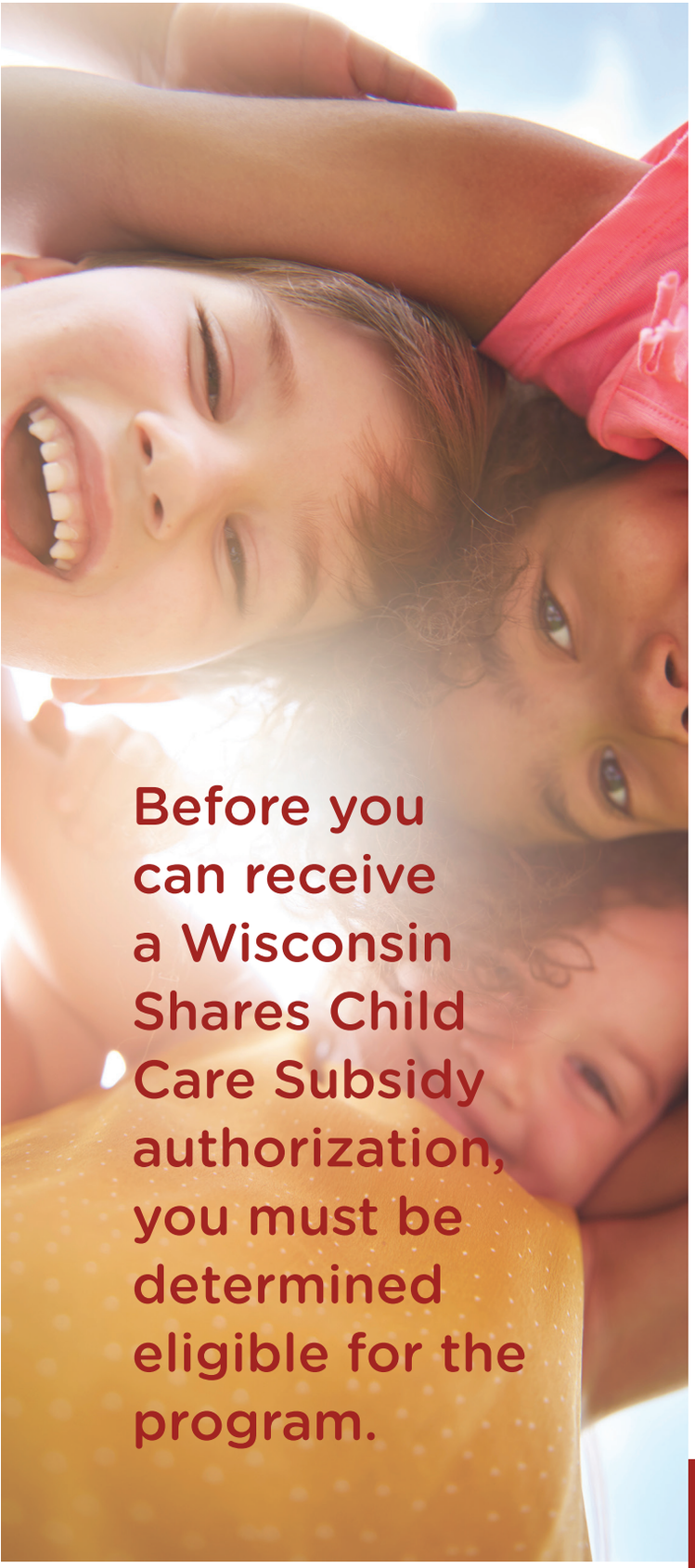


Before you can receive a Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy authorization, you must be determined eligible for the program.

View Wisconsin Shares Income Eligibility Requirements

Visit **dcf.wisconsin.gov/wishares/eligibility** or, go to **access.wisconsin.gov/** and click on "Am I Eligible" to see if you might qualify.

A new applicant's income must be equal to or less than 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for the family size.

Where to Apply

You can apply for Wisconsin Shares online, in person, or over the phone.

To apply online, go to **access.wisconsin.gov** to get started. To apply over the phone or in person, find your local agency's contact information at **dcf.wisconsin.gov/wishares/where-to-apply**

The Department of Children and Families is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. If you have a disability and need to access services, receive information in an alternate format, or need information translated to another language, please call the Division of Early Care and Education at 608-422-6002. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind or speech disabled can use the free Wisconsin Relay Service (WRS) – 711 to contact the department.

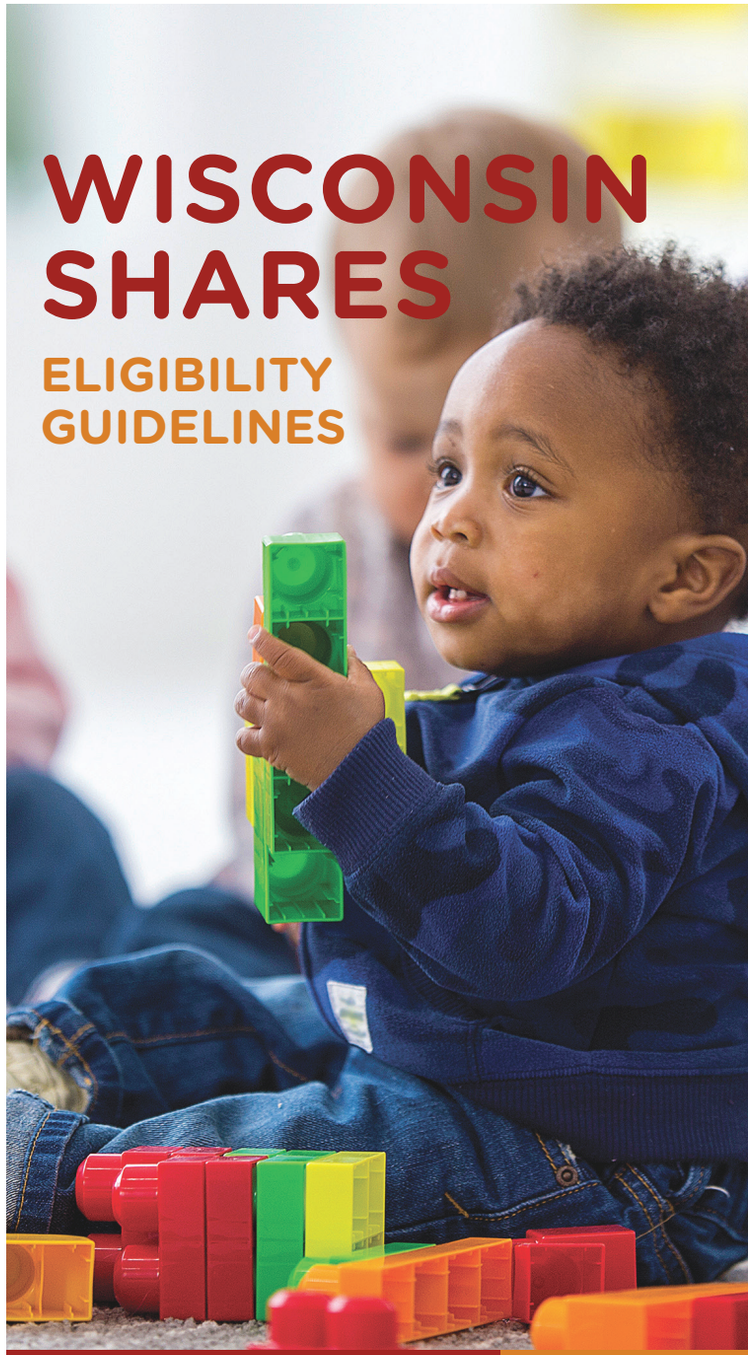
Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

dcf.wisconsin.gov/wishares

DCF-P-5186 (R. 8/2019)

WISCONSIN SHARES

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES



Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

What is the Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy program?

Wisconsin Shares helps families pay for child care so that parents or other approved caretakers may work, go to school, or participate in approved work training programs.

Who can get Wisconsin Shares?

Low-income working families with children under the age of 13. If a child has a special need, the family may remain eligible until the child's 19th birthday.

Guardians who are not biological parents, like foster parents, may have different income eligibility requirements.

Families receiving Wisconsin Shares must live in Wisconsin and their children must be United States citizens to be eligible.

Who can care for my child(ren)?

Child care programs must be certified, licensed or operated by a Wisconsin public school board.

The child care provider must participate in the YoungStar program and have a quality rating of at least 2 Stars. Parents must be working or participating in another approved activity to receive Wisconsin Shares subsidy. If there are two parents in the household, subsidy will only be issued for the time when their work or other approved activity schedules overlap.

What is an approved activity?

- Work.
- Completing high school (parents under age 20), or approved high school equivalency program.
- Activities assigned and approved by a Wisconsin Works (W-2) or FoodShare Employment and Training (FSET) agency.
- Attending basic education or college courses while working at least 20 hours per month. There is a 24-month limit to Wisconsin Shares subsidy for school attendance.

How much will Wisconsin Shares pay for child care? Will I have to pay anything?

Wisconsin Shares only pays a portion of the child care costs and helps parents pay for child care by issuing a monthly deposit on a MyWIChildCare EBT card. The amount of your Wisconsin Shares subsidy depends on your family's income and size. Parents are responsible for knowing the child care provider's prices and paying the provider any additional amount owed above the Wisconsin Shares subsidy.

What income is counted?

Wisconsin Shares counts almost all money coming into the home. This includes, but is not limited to, all income from any work or self-employment, Social Security payments, unemployment insurance, and worker's compensation.

A few things like money a teen earns at a job or child support payments under $1,250 do not count. There is no deduction for living expenses.

Your ability to participate is also based on family size. Your family includes everyone who lives in your home. This includes your husband or wife, or a live-in boyfriend or girlfriend that you have a child with. Any of your dependent children and any children living in your home without another parent are also included. If you have a teen who you claim on your taxes and their child (your grandchild) living in your home, they count too.