

# Affordable Quality Child Care Takes Planning



Finding quality child care is one thing. Paying for it is another. In Wisconsin, the average annual cost of care for infants is over \$10,000. Any way you look at it, that's a huge expense. So, it's going to take some planning—or learning what financial help is available. Either way, it's never too early to get started.

## Find care that works with your budget

Before you decide on child care, think about what you can afford. Start by looking at your budget. What's your monthly income? What are all your monthly expenses? Don't forget things like gas, groceries, and other stuff. If your budget is looking a little tight, there may be ways to get help.

## Find help through DCF

Remember, everyone has the right to high-quality, affordable child care. Unfortunately, for many people in Wisconsin, the costs just don't add up. The quality care they deserve feels out of reach—but there is help. Wisconsin is working to make child care more affordable for those who need help.



Wisconsin Department of  
Children and Families

Learn how Head Start is helping improve access to quality child care services for eligible children and families at [eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/how-apply](https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/how-apply).

Learn how the Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy program is helping families do more at [dcf.wisconsin.gov/wishares](https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/wishares).

The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families is your trusted source for child care information, resources, and support!

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 by dialing 711 to contact the department.