

Payment Options in Brief

Use of form: Use of this form is for child welfare agencies to explain to relative and like-kin caregivers the differences between court-ordered placement options for children in out-of-home care and the assistance that accompanies each option.

Note: All children placed in out of home care through a court order are categorically eligible for Foster Care Medicaid (FSTMA), and free and reduced meals programs through school.

	Court-ordered placement with no subsidy	Court-ordered placement with kinship care payments	Court-ordered placement with foster care payments
Am I required to complete an application?	No	Yes, the child welfare agency should provide you with DCF-F-2483-E	Yes, the child welfare agency should provide you with DCF-F-5863-E
Am I and other people in my home required to complete background checks?	<p>Yes, prior to the child being placed in your home the child welfare agency will complete a Confirming Safe Environments assessment, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check of the Wisconsin's Sex Offender Registry utilizing the home address • Check of Wisconsin's Circuit Court Automation Programs (CCAP) records on all adults age 17+ living in the home • Check of Wisconsin's Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (eWiSACWIS) records on all adults age 17+ living in the home <p>The child welfare agency will complete this assessment every 6 months thereafter, at a minimum, while the child is placed in your home.</p>	<p>Yes, prior to the child being placed in your home the child welfare agency will complete a Confirming Safe Environments assessment, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check of the Wisconsin's Sex Offender Registry utilizing the home address • Check of Wisconsin's Circuit Court Automation Programs (CCAP) records on all adults age 17+ living in the home • Check of Wisconsin's Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (eWiSACWIS) records on all adults age 17+ living in the home <p>The child welfare agency will complete this assessment every 6 months thereafter, at a minimum, while the child is placed in your home.</p>	<p>Yes, prior to the child being placed in your home the child welfare agency will complete a Confirming Safe Environments assessment, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check of the Wisconsin's Sex Offender Registry utilizing the home address • Check of Wisconsin's Circuit Court Automation Programs (CCAP) records on all adults age 17+ living in the home • Check of Wisconsin's Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (eWiSACWIS) records on all adults age 17+ living in the home <p>The child welfare agency will complete this assessment every 6 months thereafter, at a minimum, while the child is placed in your home.</p>

		<p>In addition, to receive kinship care payments you and all adults age 18+ living in the home must complete:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background Information Disclosure Form • FBI fingerprints, only if the individual has lived outside Wisconsin within the preceding 5 years • Department of Justice criminal history records • Check of the Wisconsin's Sex Offender Registry utilizing the home address 	<p>In addition, to receive foster care payments, you and all household members age 10+ must complete:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background Information Disclosure Form • FBI fingerprints (only applies to you and any other adult who will be listed as a foster parent on the license) • Department of Justice criminal history records • Integrated Background Information System (IBIS) caregiver non-criminal records • Check of the Wisconsin's Sex Offender Registry utilizing the home address • Wisconsin's child protective services records within the preceding 5 years • If the individual has resided in any other state during the preceding 5 years, child protective services records within that state <p>All background checks besides FBI fingerprinting are redone every 2 years with renewal of your foster care license.</p>
Will the child welfare agency come to my home?	<p>Yes, prior to the child being placed in your home the child welfare agency will complete a Confirming Safe Environments assessment, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A home visit with you and the child within the first 24 hours of placement. 	<p>Yes, prior to the child being placed in your home the child welfare agency will complete a Confirming Safe Environments assessment, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A home visit with you and the child within the first 24 hours of placement. 	<p>Yes, prior to the child being placed in your home the child welfare agency will complete a Confirming Safe Environments assessment, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A home visit with you and the child within the first 24 hours of placement.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Another home visit with you and the child within 5 days of first visit. <p>The child welfare agency will have at a minimum, monthly contact with you and the child while the child is placed in your home.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Another home visit with you and the child within 5 days of first visit. <p>The child welfare agency will have at a minimum, monthly contact with you and the child while the child is placed in your home.</p> <p>In addition, to receive kinship care payments, a kinship care coordinator will complete a home visit to assess physical environment of your home.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Another home visit with you and the child within 5 days of first visit. <p>The child welfare agency will have at a minimum, monthly contact with you and the child while the child is placed in your home.</p> <p>In addition, to receive foster care payments, a foster care coordinator will complete a home visit to assess physical environment of your home.</p>						
Are there any additional requirements to receive the financial assistance?	N/A	Yes <ul style="list-style-type: none">The child welfare agency is required to make a referral to child supportYou are required to apply to become licensed as a foster parent, but if the child welfare agency makes a determination that you cannot be licensed you will continue receiving kinship care payments. <p>Note: The child placed in your home may not receive SSI payments to due their own disability and you receive kinship care payments on their behalf at the same time.</p>	Yes <ul style="list-style-type: none">The child welfare agency has discretion on whether a child support referral is madeYou must have homeowner's/renter's liability insurance or have this requirement waived by licensing agencyYou must attest that you will comply with Wisconsin's Foster Care Licensing Administrative Code (on a form that the licensing agency provides you)						
How much financial assistance will I receive?	\$0	\$384 a month per child (effective January 1, 2026)	The specific amount is based on three different things: <ol style="list-style-type: none">Basic Rate (effective January 1, 2026): which is based on the child's age (the minimum monthly amount you will receive per child)<table><tr><td>0-4 yrs</td><td>\$452</td></tr><tr><td>5-11yrs</td><td>\$495</td></tr><tr><td>12-14 yrs</td><td>\$562</td></tr></table>	0-4 yrs	\$452	5-11yrs	\$495	12-14 yrs	\$562
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			<div>15-18 yrs \$586</div> <div>2. Supplemental Rate: which is based on an assessment of the child's needs and strengths, which is completed by the child welfare agency (referred to as the CANS).</div> <div>3. Exceptional Rate: which are any costs as described in Uniform Foster Care Rate Setting Policy.</div>
Does the financial assistance I receive for caring for the child need to be reassessed?	N/A	Yes, kinship care benefits are reassessed every year.	Yes, the foster care rate is reassessed at minimum, every 6 months.
Am I eligible for an initial clothing allowance? This refers to a reimbursement for clothing you purchased for the child after they were placed with you.	No	No	Yes, the amount is based on the child's age. <div>0-4 yrs \$225</div> <div>5-11yrs \$263</div> <div>12-14 yrs \$300</div> <div>15-18 yrs \$300</div>
Am I required to complete any training?	<div>Yes, a 35-minute online training about the Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Standard.</div> <div>This is a standard that individuals caring for children in out of home care must apply when making decisions about the child participating in age and developmentally appropriate activities.</div>	<div>Yes, a 35-minute online training about the Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Standard.</div> <div>This is a standard that individuals caring for children in out of home care must apply when making decisions about the child participating in age and developmentally appropriate activities.</div>	<div>Yes, if you are being licensed as a Level 2 foster home (which is most likely) you will need to complete 6-hours of online training about caring for children in foster care. This training includes the information about the Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Standard described in the other columns.</div> <div>Note: If you are being licensed as a Level 3, 4, or 5 you will have more training requirements.</div>

<p>Am I eligible for the foster parent insurance program?</p> <p>This refers to a reimbursement for damage or loss of property that is caused by the child placed in your care that is not covered by your private insurance.</p>	No	No	Yes. The licensing agency can help you file a claim through this program.
<p>If I apply for Wisconsin Shares (daycare assistance), whose income is utilized to determine this benefit?</p>	Based on your income	Based on the income of the child's parents at the time of the child's removal from their home.	Based on the income of the child's parents at the time of the child's removal from their home.
<p>What permanency options are available for the child I am caring for?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reunification • Guardianship with no subsidy • Guardianship with voluntary kinship care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reunification • Guardianship with no subsidy • Guardianship with long-term or voluntary kinship care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reunification • Guardianship with no subsidy • Guardianship with long-term or voluntary kinship care • Subsidized guardianship • Adoption • Adoption with adoption assistance