

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 |
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| Am I required to complete an application? | No | Yes, the child welfare agency should provide you with DCF-F-CFS2023-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> |

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| | | <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. |

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| | <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 | <p>Yes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The child welfare agency is required to make a referral to child support You 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 due to their own disability and you receive kinship care payments on their behalf at the same time.</p> | <p>Yes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The child welfare agency has discretion on whether a child support referral is made You must have homeowner's/renter's liability insurance or have this requirement waived by licensing agency You 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) | <p>The specific amount is based on three different things:</p> <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> <tbody> <tr> <td>0-4 yrs</td> <td>\$452</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5-11 yrs</td> <td>\$495</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12-14 yrs</td> <td>\$562</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | 0-4 yrs | \$452 | 5-11 yrs | \$495 | 12-14 yrs | \$562 |
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| | | | <p>15-18 yrs \$586</p> <p>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).</p> <p>3. Exceptional Rate: which are any costs as described in Uniform Foster Care Rate Setting Policy.</p> | | | | | | | | |
| 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 | <p>Yes, the amount is based on the child's age.</p> <table> <tr><td>0-4 yrs</td><td>\$225</td></tr> <tr><td>5-11yrs</td><td>\$263</td></tr> <tr><td>12-14 yrs</td><td>\$300</td></tr> <tr><td>15-18 yrs</td><td>\$300</td></tr> </table> | 0-4 yrs | \$225 | 5-11yrs | \$263 | 12-14 yrs | \$300 | 15-18 yrs | \$300 |
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| Am I required to complete any training? | <p>Yes, a 35-minute online training about the Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Standard.</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>Yes, a 35-minute online training about the Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Standard.</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>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.</p> <p>Note: If you are being licensed as a Level 3, 4, or 5 you will have more training requirements.</p> | | | | | | | | |

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| <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> | <p>No</p> | <p>No</p> | <p>Yes. The licensing agency can help you file a claim through this program.</p> |
| <p>If I apply for Wisconsin Shares (daycare assistance), whose income is utilized to determine this benefit?</p> | <p>Based on your income</p> | <p>Based on the income of the child's parents at the time of the child's removal from their home.</p> | <p>Based on the income of the child's parents at the time of the child's removal from their home.</p> |
| <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 |