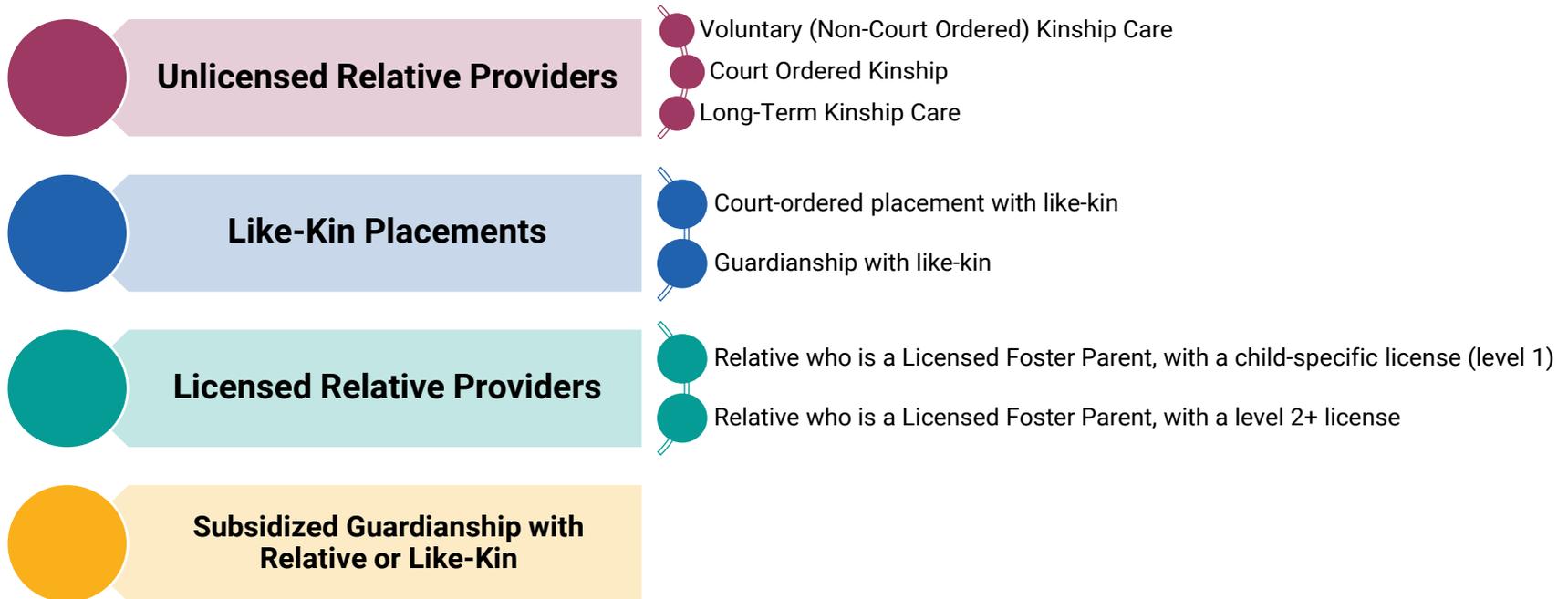


How Children are Placed with Relatives and Like-Kin

The following document outlines the various ways that children may be placed with relatives and like-kin caregivers. Additional detailed information about available benefits and resources can be found through Wisconsin's Kinship Navigator Portal: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/kinship/navigator>.



Available Benefits*

	Voluntary (Non-Court Ordered) Kinship Care	Court Ordered Kinship	Long-Term Kinship Care	Court- Ordered Placement Like-Kin	Guardianship with Like-Kin	Licensed Foster Parent Relative (L1)	Licensed Foster Parent Relative (L2+)	Subsidized Guardianship with Relative or Like-Kin
Basic Maintenance Rate	X	X	X			X	X	X
Supplemental Rate							X	X
Exceptional Rate							X	X
Initial Clothing Allowance							X	
Foster Parent Insurance Program						X	X	
Respite Care							X	
WI Shares Child Care Subsidy	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Medicaid	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Food Share	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
WIC	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

*Please see following charts for details regarding eligibility in each category.

Unlicensed Relative Providers

	Voluntary (Non-Court Ordered) Kinship Care	Court Ordered Kinship	Long-Term Kinship Care
Population	<p>Children voluntarily residing in the care of a relative without formal CPS/YJ involvement or children residing with a relative under a 48.9795 guardianship, or substantially similar tribal law.</p> <p>This option requires the kinship care agency to make a determination that this is in the best interest of the child and that the kinship family is able to safely care for the child. This does not require any formal CPS/YJ involvement.</p>	<p>Children placed in the care of a relative through a chapter 48/938 court-order, or substantially similar tribal law, due to CPS/YJ involvement and a determination that the child is not safe in the removal home.</p>	<p>Children residing with a relative under a 48.977 guardianship, or substantially similar tribal guardianship. This guardianship is ordered by the court after CPS/YJ involvement and placement of children in out-of-home care. The 48.977 guardian is awarded guardianship and applies for long term kinship care.</p>
Procedure	<p>In accordance with requirements and eligibility criteria regulated by DCF Chapter 58. Relative caregiver completes kinship application and child support referral. Parental consent must also be requested. Caregiver and all adult household members complete background checks. Home visit with kinship care agency to determine that living with the relative caregiver is in the best interests of the child. Annual redetermination process is required.</p>	<p>In accordance with requirements and eligibility criteria regulated by DCF Chapter 58. Relative caregiver completes joint kinship/foster care application and child support referral. Caregiver and all adult household members complete background checks. Must cooperate with the licensing process to become the child's foster parent, unless deemed un-licensable and a determination is made that living with the relative caregiver is in the best interests of the child (RCLD). All kinship care households are required to complete annual redetermination process. (note: tribal court-ordered kinship care applicants are not required to pursue licensing)</p>	<p>In accordance with requirements and eligibility criteria regulated by DCF Chapter 58. Relative caregiver completes kinship application and child support referral. Caregiver and all adult household members complete background checks. Home visit with kinship care agency to determine that living with the relative caregiver is in the best interests of the child. Annual redetermination process.</p>
Basic Maintenance Rate	Age 0-18: \$300	Age 0-18: \$300	Age 0-18: \$300
Supplemental Rate	N/A	N/A	N/A
Exceptional Rate	N/A	N/A	N/A
Initial Clothing Allowance	N/A	N/A	N/A
Foster Parent Insurance Program	N/A	N/A	N/A
Respite Care	N/A	N/A	N/A

Unlicensed Relative Providers

	Voluntary (Non-Court Ordered) Kinship Care	Court Ordered Kinship	Long-Term Kinship Care
WI Shares Child Care Subsidy	Financial eligibility is based on kinship caregiver's household income in relation to family size.	Financial eligibility based on child's parents' income first. Caregiver pays out-of-pocket for any cost not covered by WI Shares.	Financial eligibility based on child's parents' income first. Caregiver pays out-of-pocket for any cost not covered by WI Shares.
Medicaid	The child is not categorically eligible for Title XIX Medicaid. Caregiver must apply for BadgerCare+ for the child and financial eligibility is based on kinship caregiver's household income.	The child is categorically eligible for Title XIX Medicaid.	The child is categorically eligible for Title XIX Medicaid.
Food Share	Financial eligibility is based on kinship caregiver's household income in relation to family size.	Financial eligibility is based on kinship caregiver's household income in relation to family size.	Financial eligibility is based on kinship caregiver's household income in relation to family size.
WIC	Every child in kinship care under age 5 is eligible.	Every child in kinship care under age 5 is eligible.	Every child in kinship care under age 5 is eligible.

Like-Kin Placements

Court-ordered placement with like-kin		Guardianship with like-kin
Population	<p>Children placed through a court order with a non-relative who is not yet licensed.</p> <p>This is a time-limited allowance (30 days with one 30-day extension and a few other qualifiers about licensing history) before this person must become licensed or the child must be moved to a different location.</p>	<p>Children residing with a like-kin under a guardianship. This may be a guardianship ordered by the court through a chapter 48/938 order, or substantially similar tribal law, or a guardianship ordered under s. 48.9795 without child welfare involvement.</p>
Procedure	<p>Like-kin caregiver completes foster care application and is required to become licensed as the child's foster parent to maintain placement. This includes completing background checks, interviewing, safety assessment of the home, provides references, and 36 hours of training. Completes licensing process again every 2 years.</p>	<p>If the guardianship was ordered through a chapter 48/938 court order or substantially similar tribal law, the like-kin caregiver would have to complete the procedure under "Court-Ordered Placement with Like-Kin" prior to guardianship being established.</p> <p>If the guardianship was ordered under s. 48.9795 without child welfare involvement, the like-kin caregiver would have petitioned the court to appoint them as the guardian which includes completing required legal forms, pay costs to file the forms, notify the parents and anyone else who may have legal interests of the legal proceedings, provide testimony and attend hearings on this matter.</p>
Basic Maintenance Rate	N/A	N/A
Supplemental Rate	N/A	N/A
Exceptional Rate	N/A	N/A
Initial Clothing Allowance	N/A	N/A
Foster Parent Insurance Program	N/A	N/A
Respite Care	N/A	N/A

Like-Kin Placements

	Court-ordered placement with like-kin	Guardianship with like-kin
WI Shares Child Care Subsidy	Financial eligibility is based on caregiver's income in relation to family size.	Financial eligibility is based on guardian's income in relation to family size.
Medicaid	The child is categorically eligible for Title XIX Medicaid.	The child is not categorically eligible for Title XIX Medicaid. Caregiver must apply for BadgerCare+ for the child and financial eligibility is based on caregiver's household income.
Food Share	Financial eligibility is based on caregiver's household income in relation to family size.	Financial eligibility is based on guardian's household income in relation to family size.
WIC	Every child in court-ordered placement with like-kin under age 5 is eligible.	Caregiver may apply for WIC for the child. May automatically qualify if a member of the family receives BadgerCare+, FoodShare, or W-2 benefits.

Licensed Relative Providers

	Relative who is a Licensed Foster Parent, with a child-specific license (level 1)	Relative who is a Licensed Foster Parent, with a level 2+ license
Population	Children placed in out-of-home care through a chapter 48/938 order due to CPS/YJ involvement and a determination that the child is not safe in the removal home.	Children placed in out-of-home care through a chapter 48/938 order due to CPS/YJ involvement and a determination that the child is not safe in the removal home.
Procedure	Relative caregiver completes joint kinship/foster care application. Relative caregiver completes foster care licensing process which includes background checks, interviewing, safety assessment of the home, and 6 hours of training. Completes licensing process again every 2 years.	Relative caregiver completes joint kinship/foster care application. Relative caregiver completes foster care licensing process which includes background checks, interviewing, safety assessment of the home, references, and 36 hours of training. Completes licensing process again every 2 years.
Basic Maintenance Rate	Age 0-18: \$300	Age 0-4: \$420 Age 5-11: \$460 Age 12-14: \$522 Age 15-18: \$545
Supplemental Rate	N/A	Amount calculated through standardized Child Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) tool. Average: \$111.34
Exceptional Rate	N/A	\$100 per child, per month to support sibling group placement when placed in the same home. Additional expenses (listed below) can be claimed each month on an ongoing basis throughout the time of a placement episode of a child in a foster home. - Minor parent/minor child placement - Foster parent supervision, time, and training - Personal incidentals: care needs and normalcy activities - Transportation to school of origin - Replacement of basic wardrobe Average Relative: \$242.80 Average Non-Relative: \$485.91
Initial Clothing Allowance	N/A	Available for first placement or if 4+ months since last out-of-home care episode. Age 0-4: \$225 Age 5-11: \$263 Age 12-14: \$300 Age 15-18: \$300
Foster Parent Insurance Program	Maximum of \$60,000 for all claims per year.	Maximum of \$60,000 for all claims per year.

Licensed Relative Providers

	Relative who is a Licensed Foster Parent, with a child-specific license (level 1)	Relative who is a Licensed Foster Parent, with a level 2+ license
Respite Care	N/A	8-24 consecutive hours of respite care per month shall be funded for Level 3 & 4 providers.
WI Shares Child Care Subsidy	Financial eligibility based on child's parents' income first. Caregiver pays out-of-pocket for any cost not covered by WI Shares.	Cost not covered by WI Shares can be included in the child's exceptional foster care rate.
Medicaid	The child is categorically eligible for Title XIX Medicaid.	The child is categorically eligible for Title XIX Medicaid.
Food Share	Basic maintenance rate is intended to cover food expenses for the child; however, it may not be sufficient to cover this expense entirely. Financial eligibility for this program is based on the caregiver's household income in relation to family size.	Basic maintenance rate is intended to cover food expenses for the child; however, it may not be sufficient to cover this expense entirely. Financial eligibility for this program is based on the caregiver's household income in relation to family size.
WIC	Every child in foster care under age 5 is eligible.	Every child in foster care under age 5 is eligible.

Subsidized Guardianship with Relative or Like-Kin

Subsidized Guardianship with Relative or Like-Kin	
Population	Children residing with a relative or like-kin under a s. 48.977, or substantially similar tribal law, guardianship and the guardian receives a monthly subsidy. This is a guardianship ordered by a court after a CPS/YJ (938.13(4) only) involvement and placement of children in out-of-home care.
Procedure	Relative or like-kin caregiver must become licensed as the child's foster parent and both the prospective guardian and child must meet eligibility criteria outlined in DCF 55.03. After guardianship is established, guardian required to complete annual eligibility review.
Basic Maintenance Rate	Based on the child's age at the time of the initial agreement. Does not adjust for child's changing age: Age 0-4: \$420 Age 5-11: \$460 Age 12-14: \$522 Age 15-18: \$545
Supplemental Rate	An additional monthly payment intended to cover the costs of caring for a child whose needs exceed normal limits of care and supervision for that child's age. Only available for caregivers licensed as Level 2+ foster parents. Amount is calculated through an algorithm through the CANS tool. Caregivers can ask for this to be amended in the future if needed.
Exceptional Rate	An additional monthly payment that enables the child to be placed in a foster home instead of a more restrictive setting. Only for caregivers licensed as Level 2+ foster parents. This part of the rate does not adjust for child's changing needs/family circumstances.
Initial Clothing Allowance	N/A
Foster Parent Insurance Program	N/A
Respite Care	N/A
WI Shares Child Care Subsidy	Financial eligibility based on child's parents' income first. Guardian pays out-of-pocket for any cost not covered by WI Shares, unless included in the initial subsidized guardianship agreement (for guardians licensed as Level 2+ foster parents only).
Medicaid	The child is categorically eligible for Title XIX Medicaid until the agreement is terminated.
Food Share	Part of the subsidized guardianship monthly payment is intended to cover food expenses for the child; however, it may not be sufficient to cover this expense entirely. Financial eligibility for this program is based on the guardian's household income in relation to family size.
WIC	Caregiver may apply for WIC for the child. May automatically qualify if a member of the family receives BadgerCare+, FoodShare, or W-2 benefits

Glossary of Terms

BadgerCare+: Medicaid program that provides health care coverage to low-income Wisconsin residents aged 0-64 years old.

Basic Maintenance Rate: an age-related fixed monthly payment intended to cover food, clothing, housing, basic transportation, personal care and other expenses incurred in caring for a foster child.

CANS (Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment Tool): multi-purpose tool that assesses a child's needs and strengths in a variety of areas and uses algorithms to determine whether a child has mental health needs, to recommend a level of placement for a child, and to determine a supplemental rate to be included in the monthly foster care rate payment.

Child-Specific License (Level 1): the foster parent must be a relative of the child or have a prior relationship with the child or the child's family.

Exceptional Rate: an additional monthly payment that enables the child to be placed in a foster home instead of a more restrictive setting, enables the placement of siblings or minor parent and minor children together, or replaces a child's basic wardrobe that has been lost or destroyed.

FoodShare: nutrition assistance program that provides a subsidy to low-income Wisconsin residents to buy food.

Foster Care License (Level 2): basic foster care that provides supervision and care to children with typical needs for that child's age.

Foster Care License (Level 3): moderate treatment foster care that can provide additional supervision and care to children with higher needs than those in basic foster care.

Foster Care License (Level 4): specialized treatment foster care that is structured to meet the higher needs of children and often addresses specific population needs.

Foster Parent Insurance Program: reimbursement to foster parents for damage or loss of property that is caused by children placed in their care that is not covered by their private insurance policies.

Guardianship: transfers the legal authority to make decisions on behalf of the child to the guardian but parent's rights of the child are not terminated.

Initial Clothing Allowance: an allowance for the actual cost of clothing needed by a child upon initial entry into foster care.

Like-Kin: person who has a significant emotional relationship with the child or child's family that is similar to a familial relationship.

Respite Care: temporary childcare for more than 48 hours that provides the primary caregiver a short-break from direct caregiving.

Subsidized Guardianship: permanency option that transfers legal authority to a relative or like-kin guardian that allows the guardian to receive a monthly subsidy to offset costs incurred for caring for the child.

Supplemental Rate: an additional monthly payment intended to cover the costs of caring for a child whose needs exceed normal limits of care and supervision for that child's age. This payment amount is determined using the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) tool.

Title XIX Medicaid: full benefit, fee-for-service Medicaid coverage for children placed in out-of-home care through a court-order or voluntary placement agreement, for children with an adoption assistance agreement, and for children with a subsidized guardianship agreement.

WI Shares Child Care Subsidy: program that provides a subsidy to low-income Wisconsin residents to pay for childcare so the caregiver may work, go to school, or participate in an approved work training program.

WIC (Women, Infants, and Children Program): supplemental nutritional assistance program that provides breastfeeding support, food benefits, and nutrition education for mothers and infants and children under the age of 5.