

WHO CAN GET HELP PAYING FOR CHILD CARE (WISCONSIN SHARES)?

WHAT IS WISCONSIN SHARES?

Wisconsin's Child Care Subsidy program, Wisconsin Shares, helps low-income families pay for child care. Parents can choose their own child care providers.

WHO CAN GET WISCONSIN SHARES?

You must be at least 18 years old and a parent, foster parent, kinship care relative, or a person acting in place of a parent. You must also participate in certain activities (listed below).

The **child** must be 12 or under (up to 19 for a child with special needs) and:

- A Resident of Wisconsin
- A U.S. Citizen or qualified immigrant.

Families with a gross income (before taxes) at or below 185% of the federal poverty level (FPL) may be eligible. Once found eligible, the family may continue to receive assistance until income reaches 85% of State Median Income. Child support of \$ 1250 or less per month is not counted.

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>Monthly Income Limit (185% FPL)</u>	<u>Family Size</u>	<u>Monthly Income Limit (185% FPL)</u>
2	\$2,658	6	\$5,421
3	\$3,349	7	\$6,111
4	\$4,039	8	\$6,802
5	\$4,730	9	\$7,493
		10	\$8,183

PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES

A parent, a foster parent, relative, or person acting in place of a parent must participate in one of the following activities to be eligible for a child care subsidy:

- Attend high-school (if a teen parent under 20 years of age)
- A W-2 employment program
- Unsubsidized work
- Up-front job search, training, or orientation activities as a W-2 applicant.
- Food Stamp Employment and Training work search or work experience programs.

TYPE OF CHILD CARE

If the parent is approved for child care financial assistance, the child must be 12 years old or under (or under 19 if special needs) and enrolled in a regulated care setting:

- a licensed child care center
- a licensed family child care home
- a certified family child care home
- a child care program run by a public school

*State law does not allow payments to a child care provider who lives with the child.

CO-PAYMENTS

The parent's share of the cost for child care is based on a sliding scale depending on the family's income, family's size, number of children in subsidized care, and the type of child care service chosen.

HOW TO APPLY:

1. Apply with your local county/Human Services Department, W-2 agency, or tribal agency by telephone, mail, in person or online at www.access.wisconsin.gov
2. Everyone who applies for Wisconsin Shares must have an interview. The interview will be by telephone, unless you want your interview in person.
3. You may be asked to verify certain eligibility information. Any request for verification should be in writing. (Examples of verifications – documents that prove: your relationship to the child, your age, immigration status, age of the child and Wisconsin residency). If you are unable to obtain requested verification after making reasonable efforts to do so, the Wisconsin Shares agency should help you obtain the verification.

YOUR RIGHT TO APPLY FOR WISCONSIN SHARES AND APPEAL DECISIONS

You have the right to:

- Get a written eligibility decision 30 days or less from the date you submit your application.
- Decisions denying you Wisconsin Shares benefits can be wrong and can be appealed, but only if you apply and get a written decision.
- Ask for a fair hearing if you do not agree with any action of the agency.

LEGAL ACTION'S LAWYERS ARE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST WITH CHILD CARE CASES

www.legalaction.org

855-947-2529

The above is intended to provide general information only and is not a substitute for thorough and specific advice on an individual case. Depending on the complexity of your legal problem you may need to consult an attorney for advice or representation.

This was prepared by the staff of Legal Action of Wisconsin, Inc. on behalf of low-income clients and was funded by the Legal Services Corporation, Washington, D.C. 20005. Any opinions contained herein are those of the authors and should not be construed as those of the Legal Services Corporation.

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CHILD CARE February 2020

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