

Business Stipends

Employer and Child Care Partnership Program

Goal:

The goal of this project is to engage and incentivize local employers to partner with existing child care programs. Through this partnership employers will address employee child care challenges within their workplace and existing child care programs will increase their cash flow to bring their overall income closer to the true cost of care.

Eligibility Requirements:

Employers and child care programs must be located within the City of La Crosse to be eligible (*definition of employer and child care program can be found under "Definitions"*). Child care programs must be a regulated child care program and be in good standing with DCF.

Employers and child care programs may not be owned and operated by the same entity.

Application Process:

Interested employers and child care programs will work together to determine their needs and develop a partnership that is agreed upon by both parties. Once employers and child care programs have developed a partnership they can submit an application to The Parenting Place outlining their proposed plan.

At the end of the application period, The Parenting Place will review all applications and determine the awardees.

Applications will be awarded and prioritized on the following basis:

- Amount willing to invest in the child care program
- Length of contract

Contract Requirements:

Before an employer can receive their first reimbursement, they must:

- Have a written and signed contract with the partnered child care program that outlines the agreements of the partnership
- Submit a signed copy of the *Acknowledgement of Business Stipend Program* form to The Parenting Place
- Submit a W-9 to The Parenting Place

Contracts between employers and child care programs must include the following information:

- Payment amount(s)
- Payment schedule (The Parenting Place can reimburse employers after the first 3 months or at the end of the 6 month program)
- Benefit(s) provided by the child care program. Examples include but are not limited to:
 - Contract for child care slots or a range of child care slots
 - Waitlist priority
 - Discounts for families
 - Employer financially holding child care slots
- Length of contract

The Parenting Place will not be responsible for creating or upholding contracts. Contracts must be between the employer and the child care program.

Contracts must be for a minimum of 6 months (April 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024).

**Contracts may exceed 6 months but reimbursement is not guaranteed*

Stipend Amounts Based on:

The Parenting Place will reimburse awarded employers up to 50% of their investment and no less than 25%, paying no more than \$30,000 total to a single employer.

- *Exact reimbursement percentage will be determined by the number of applications that are submitted. The Parenting Place's goal is to maximize the number of applicants utilizing the \$100,000.00 allocated for this program.*

Stipends will come in the form of a reimbursement. Employers must provide The Parenting Place with proof of payment to the child care program to receive reimbursement.

Reporting:

At the end of the 6 month program (September 30, 2024) both employer and the child care program must submit documentation that indicates the impact of the program.

Employers must complete the *Employer Reporting Form*.

Child care programs must complete the *Child Care Program Reporting Form*.

Projected Time Frame:

Program will run from April 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024

Application Period will run from February 1, 2024 – March 9, 2024

**If all available funding is not allocated, application period may remain open longer and program start date maybe adjusted if needed. Programming for all awarded applicants will end on September 31, 2024.*

Definitions:

Employer: A for-profit or non-profit entity with at least 1 non-owner employee whose business is located within The City of La Crosse.

Child Care Program: An individual or business who is regulated to care for children by the Department of Children and Families and is located within The City of La Crosse.