

Child Care Back-to-Capacity Grants



Goal:

The goal of this project is to provide financial support to existing child care centers and school age programs to recruit individuals into the field to assist in opening closed classrooms or classrooms operating at a reduced capacity.

Eligibility Requirements:

Applicants must be a licensed group child care center or a licensed school age program within the city of La Crosse. Applicants must be in good standing with DCF (the Department of Children and Families).

Grant Amounts Based on:

Each eligible applicant will receive funding based on the following criteria:

- Classrooms that are closed due to staffing challenges
- Classrooms that are operating at a reduced capacity due to staffing challenges

Child Care Centers:

\$2,000/per closed classrooms + an additional \$1,000/per closed classroom with children under the age of 2 years.	\$1,000/per classroom operating at a reduced capacity + an additional \$500/per classroom with children under the age of 2 operating at a reduced capacity
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School Age Programs:

\$2,000/per closed group	\$1,000/per group operating at a reduced capacity
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Eligible Expenses:

The grant must be used for recruitment purposes to increase the number of child care slots within the program and must occur during the spending timeframe. Eligible expenses consist of:

- Recruitment bonuses for new staff
- Incentive bonuses (bonuses to encourage assistant teachers to move into a teacher qualified position)
- Wage increase to individuals who move from assistant teacher to a teacher qualified position
- Wages for new staff (must be hired during the spending timeframe)
- Entry level courses and required trainings needed to meet either assistant teacher or teacher qualified positions
- Benefits for new staff (must be hired during the spending timeframe)
- Background checks for new staff

Distribution Process and Award of Funds:

Applicants must include the following documents to be eligible for the grant:

- Proof of licensure/certification
- W9 for business (*document attached*)
- Application

Upon approval of awarded funds, applicants are required to sign an Acknowledgement of Grant Spending. This document must be signed prior to disbursement of funds. *A copy of this document is attached*

Required Grant Reporting:

By the end of the expenditure period or once all grant funds have been spent, applicants must submit an itemized report to The Parenting Place of all grant related expenses along with the impact the grant had on number of empty child care slots within their program. The reporting should include:

- Date of the expense
- Expense description
- Expense amount
- Number of closed classroom and number of child care slots effected
- Number of classrooms operating at a reduced capacity and number of child care slots effected
- Classrooms that are caring for children under the age of 2

A copy of these documents are attached

Grant Details:

Grant Total: \$75,000.00

The Back-to-Capacity grants will consist of two different rounds (fall and spring)

Round one timeline (fall):

- Applications available: November 6, 2023
- Application due: November 18, 2023
- Funds dispersed: December 8, 2023
- Spending and reporting deadline: March 1, 2024

Round two timeline (spring):

- Applications available: February 5, 2024
- Applications due: February 17, 2024
- Funds dispersed: March 9, 2024
- Spending and reporting deadline: May 31, 2024

**Timelines are an estimate and maybe adjusted as needed*