



State Support for the First Thousand Days After Birth

State Spotlight: Wisconsin

Information current as of December 2025.

1. Care Coordination and Pregnancy Support

1.1 Pregnancy Support

Pregnancy Counseling Program

This is Wisconsin's alternatives to abortion (A2A) program. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services awards grants from their appropriations to The Medical College of Wisconsin. The Medical College of Wisconsin must distribute the funds to pregnancy counseling groups who do not perform abortions.

1.2 Care Coordination

No applicable and/or known programs.

2. Women's Health

2.1 Prenatal and Postpartum Medical Care

No applicable and/or known programs.

2.2 Prenatal and Postpartum Support

WIC Breastfeeding Support

Wisconsin's WIC program provides breastfeeding recipients with breastfeeding peer counselors and trained lactation experts.

Family Foundations Home Visiting Program

Wisconsin's home visiting program is funded with federal (Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting [MIECHV] and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families [TANF]) and state (general purpose

revenue) dollars and is for pregnant women and families with children under five years old. Nurses or social workers visit families' homes and educate parents on child development, healthy discipline methods and parent-child relationships. Home visitors also conduct screenings, help pregnant women access prenatal care, and connect families with state and community resources. Families are prioritized for this program if they have one of the following:

- History of substance use
- Low-income
- A family member(s) in the military
- Pregnant woman under the age of 21
- History of child abuse or neglect
- In-home tobacco use
- Child with developmental delays
- Low-student achievement

The state's home visiting program utilizes four home visiting models: Healthy Families America, Nurse Family Partnership, Early Head Start Home-Based Model, and Parents as Teachers. Wisconsin's home visiting program funds home visits in 40 of 72 Wisconsin counties and for six of 11 federally recognized tribes.

2.3 General Medical Care for Women

Wisconsin Well Woman Program

This program screens underinsured or uninsured women with incomes at or below 250% of the FPL for breast and cervical cancer at no cost to them. The program covers clinical breast exams, diagnostic testing for abnormal test results, HPV tests, mammograms, MS testing for high-risk patients, pap tests, and pelvic exams. There are no copays, premiums, or deductibles related to these services. Other eligibility requirements include meeting both of the following criteria:

- Be a woman between the ages of 40 and 64
- Be a Wisconsin resident

Exceptions to the 40-64 age requirement include one of the following:

- A woman who is age 65 or older and not eligible for Medicare or unable to afford Medicare Part B
- A woman ages 35 to 39 who receives Medicaid Family Planning Only Services (MFPOS) and has been referred to this program after an abnormal breast exam or mammogram
- A woman ages 35 to 39 who is not eligible for MFPOS but self-reports breast symptoms to a coordinating agency
- A woman ages 35 to 39 who is not eligible for MFPOS can receive cervical cancer screening services

BadgerCare Plus

This is a federally funded health insurance program that is specific to Wisconsin. It is funded by both federal Medicaid and CHIP dollars but replaces CHIP's coverage of services for Wisconsin

children. The coverage groups differ from the state's Medicaid coverage groups and have a less stringent income threshold than Medicaid does. A list of covered services for those in full coverage groups can be found [here](#). Whether a BadgerCare Plus member has a copay is dependent on family income. Full coverage groups under BadgerCare Plus include:

- Pregnant women - Women remain eligible for full BadgerCare Plus throughout their pregnancy and 60 days postpartum. Newborns are eligible for BadgerCare full coverage through this coverage group for one year after being born. The income limit is at or below 306% of the FPL for this eligibility group.
- Parents and caretakers- This group includes parents and caretakers of minor children and children who have been placed in foster care. The income limit is at or below 100% of the FPL.
- Childless adults (ages 19 to 64)- As a result of the [BadgerCare waiver](#), income eligibility was expanded to 100% of the FPL for this group. Its benefits package for the substance use disorder program expanded to include coverage for short-term residential services.

Limited Coverage plans under BadgerCare Plus include:

- [Family Planning Only Services](#) - This plan serves people of childbearing or reproductive age whose income is at or below 306% of the FPL.
- BadgerCare Plus Prenatal Program - This plan serves pregnant noncitizens who are ineligible for full BadgerCare coverage due to their immigration status. This limited coverage plan is also for female inmates of a public institution.
- [BadgerCare Plus Emergency Services](#) – This plan serves noncitizen children, pregnant women, parents, or caretakers who are ineligible for full BadgerCare coverage only because of their immigration status. This plan provides short-term coverage for eligible people with an emergency medical condition that would put the person's health at risk if they did not get medical care right away.
- [Tuberculosis-Related Medicaid](#) - This plan serves those with Tuberculosis who are not eligible for full coverage BadgerCare Plus or Medicaid plans. This plan covers some medical costs related to the care of Tuberculosis.

[Medicaid](#)

Wisconsin Well Woman enrollees (under the age of 65) who are diagnosed with cancer through the state's Well Woman screening program are eligible for [full coverage](#) Medicaid through the state's traditional Medicaid program.

[Wisconsin HIV Program](#)

There are two primary service-oriented subprograms provided to Wisconsin residents living with AIDS/HIV. These two subprograms include:

- [Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Drug Assistance Program](#) - This program helps qualifying Wisconsin residents pay for [medications](#) for HIV, Hepatitis C (if they also have HIV), and other health conditions. Eligibility requirements include meeting all the following requirements :
 - o Be a Wisconsin resident
 - o Have a household income at or below 300% of the FPL

- Have a physician-confirmed HIV diagnosis
- [Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Insurance Assistance Program](#) - This program covers all or part of the cost of health insurance premiums for qualifying Wisconsin residents with HIV. Other eligibility requirements include meeting all the following requirements:
 - Have a household income at or below 300% of the FPL
 - Have a physician-confirmed HIV diagnosis
 - Have or be eligible for health insurance

[Vaccines for Adults](#)

This program provides free or low-cost vaccines for uninsured or underinsured adults, ages 19 and older. The program reimburses public doctors' offices who provide these vaccines to qualifying patients. The vaccines covered by this program include Hepatitis A and B, HPV, COVID-19, flu, MMR, meningitis, pneumonia, Tdap, and varicella.

[Drug Repository Program](#)

This state-run program allows donors to bring unused medicine or medical supplies to [participating pharmacies or medical facilities](#) who then give the medication or supplies to uninsured people with cancer or chronic conditions.

[Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program](#)

This state-run and funded program for men and women has three subprograms. Program recipients must pay some copays and deductibles, but the services included in this program are at a significantly reduced cost. If a participating member makes more than 300% of the FPL, they must pay a certain amount for the services provided by this program before the program covers a portion of the services. Services covered by this program only include those related to the treatment of the covered chronic diseases. [The three diseases covered by this program include:](#)

- Chronic Renal Disease Program – This program is for those with advanced renal disease. Services covered include certain dialysis and transplant treatments, home supplies, lab and x-ray services, medicines, transplant services, and one dental exam and x-ray. Specific eligibility requirements for this program include being enrolled in Medicare Part A and paying premiums for Parts B and D if eligible.
- Hemophilia Home Care Program – This program covers blood derivatives and home care supplies for those with hemophilia. Specific eligibility requirements for this program include having a written agreement with a hemophilia treatment center for compliance with a maintenance program.
- Adult Cystic Fibrosis Program – Certain home supplies, medications, and laboratory and x-ray services are covered by this program. In- and outpatient services directly related to cystic fibrosis treatment as well as specialty physician services related to the disease are also covered.

General eligibility requirements for all three programs include meeting all the following requirements:

- Have one of the aforementioned diseases covered by the program

- Apply for Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, or SeniorCare if eligible
- Fill out a [financial needs statement](#)
- Be a Wisconsin resident
- Meet income limits

3. Finances, Work, and Education

3.1 Help Paying Bills

[Wisconsin Works \(W-2\)](#)

This is Wisconsin's TANF program. This program provides monthly cash assistance to eligible low-income families to help cover essentials like housing, food, and clothes as well as case management and employment retention services. This program gives families a monthly payment for 24 months. Participants must make a good faith effort to utilize the TANF jobs services described in section 3.2 to find employment. Other [eligibility requirements](#):

- Have an income at or below 115% of the FPL
- Must not receive SSI or SSDI
- Must not be a fugitive felon
- Be in one of these coverage groups:
 - o Teen or adult custodial parent of a minor child
 - o Adult non-custodial parent of minor children and the subject of a child support order, if the custodial parent is also participating in W-2 or the Wisconsin Shares program (see section 7.1)
 - o Pregnant adult women who are non-custodial parents
 - o Unmarried pregnant adult women in their third trimester of an at-risk pregnancy that makes them unable to work

[Emergency Assistance](#)

This program is a component of the state's W-2 TANF program. The program provides financial assistance to those in emergency situations relating to housing. Emergencies include risk of homelessness, domestic violence, natural disasters, fires, or an energy crisis. This program also helps recipients connect to other social services and programs available in the state. Non-W-2 and W-2 recipients can apply for this program. Recipients' income must be at or below 115% of FPL and they must have limited assets to qualify.

3.2 Employment Support

[FoodShare Employment and Training](#)

This is Wisconsin's SNAP (FoodShare) free and voluntary employment and training program that helps FoodShare recipients satisfy the program's work requirements. The program provides job skills training, interview prep, referral services and financial assistance for work-related expenses such as work clothes, tools, childcare, etc.

Individual Placement and Support (IPS)

This is an employment model that the state's Department of Health Services and Department of Workforce Development as well as UW-Madison help county health departments implement. These departments and the university help by assisting county health departments in partnering with private sector employers. This employment model helps those with mental health and substance use disorders find and retain jobs they are interested in and pay at least minimum wage. County health departments utilize IPS employment teams to coordinate job seekers' mental health treatment with their employers as well as ways to make the workplace more friendly to those in recovery. [The IPS model is available in 21 of Wisconsin's 72 counties.](#)

Other Employment Programs

[Transitional Jobs](#) - This is a job search program for adults who do not qualify for unemployment benefits and have been unemployed for four or more weeks. The program helps eligible applicants get a job and obtain skills in high demand fields by providing services such as job training, education, paying bills before the applicant gets their first paycheck, transportation assistance, etc. Applicants can't be TANF (Wisconsin Works) recipients, and they must have an income below 150% of the FPL. Other eligibility requirements:

- Be a U.S. citizen or qualified noncitizen
- Meet one of the following criteria:
 - o Be a parent required to pay child support
 - o Be a parent planning on having their child return home from childcare
 - o Be a parent who has been convicted of a past crime
 - o Be younger than 25 and have no children or have been in foster care at or after age 16

[Transform Milwaukee Jobs](#) - This program helps adults who live in Milwaukee County, do not qualify for unemployment benefits, and have been unemployed for four or more weeks. The program helps eligible applicants get a job and obtain skills in high demand fields by providing services such as job training, education, paying bills before the applicant gets their first paycheck, transportation assistance, etc. Applicants can't be TANF (Wisconsin Works) recipients, and they must have an income below 150% of the FPL. Other eligibility requirements:

- o Be a U.S. citizen or qualified noncitizen
- o Meet one of the following criteria:
 - Be a parent required to pay child support
 - Be a parent planning on having their child return home from child care
 - Be a parent who has been convicted of a past crime
 - Be younger than 25 and have no children or have been in foster care at or after age 16

[Job Access Loan](#) - This is a loan provided by the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families of up to \$1,600 that can be paid back over 12 months with cash and community service. There are no credit check requirements to receive this loan. The loan must go towards expenses related to

getting or keeping a job. Such expenses include car repairs, car loans, car insurance, interview clothes, job uniforms, tools and supplies, etc. Eligibility requirements:

- Be a parent with a minor child, with or without custody
- Be over age 18
- Be a U.S. citizen or qualified noncitizen
- Be a Wisconsin resident
- Cooperate with child support
- Have an income at or below 115% of the FPL and assets not over \$2,500

Wisconsin Works (TANF) Paid (Subsidized) Placement Programs

Community Service Job

This is for W-2 recipients who are not ready for unsubsidized employment through the programs listed above. This program places recipients in a community service position so they can practice work skills without the pressure of working outside of the TANF program. This program provides participants with a monthly payment of \$653 for full participation.

W-2 Transition

This is a category for W-2 recipients who are not ready for unsubsidized employment and who are unable to participate in other W-2 job programs listed below because of medical reasons or because they care for minor children or disabled household members.

Trial Employment Match Program

W-2 recipients enrolled in this subsidized employment program work at a job for at least minimum wage that is partially or fully subsidized by the W-2 program. W-2 recipients can participate in this type of work for up to nine months.

Custodial Parent of an Infant

This is a category for W-2 recipients who are not participating in other W-2 related work programs in order to take care of their newborn children (8 weeks or younger). W-2 recipients placed in this category who also meet financial and non-financial eligibility requirements can receive a monthly payment of \$673 and are not required to participate in work activities to receive cash assistance.

At Risk Pregnancy

This is a category for W-2 unmarried, pregnant women who are not participating in other W-2 related work programs because they are in the third trimester of an at-risk pregnancy. This placement group receives a monthly payment of \$653.

3.3 Education and Training

No applicable and/or known programs.

3.4 Financial Advice or Education

No applicable and/or known programs.

4. Material or Legal Support

4.1 Transportation

Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT)

This Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus benefit provides members with free rides to medical appointments if they have no other transportation option. Tuberculosis-Related Medicaid and Family Planning Only Services members also are eligible for this benefit. The benefit will also cover bus tickets or gas money as well as lodging and meals for appointments that require an overnight stay.

4.2 Food and Nutrition

WIC

This program is funded by the federal government but run by the state. It provides healthy foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education to low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women (up to six months after delivery) and their children (up to age five) who are at nutritional risk. [Participants must also](#) meet all the following requirements:

- Be a Wisconsin resident
- Meet income limit
- Be pregnant or have had a baby within the past six months, provide breastmilk to a WIC enrolled baby under one year of age, or care for a child younger than five years of age

Wisconsin residents may also be eligible for WIC benefits if they are enrolled in BadgerCare Plus, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, FoodShare, Medicaid, foster care/kinship care, and Wisconsin Works (W-2).

FoodShare

Wisconsin's SNAP program, FoodShare, provides supplemental assistance to low-income, disabled, or retired individuals or families' monthly food budgets. The amount that a family receives in assistance depends on household size and income. Households with elderly or disabled individuals are given larger payments. [Eligibility requirements](#) include meeting all the following requirements:

- Be a Wisconsin resident
- Be a U.S. citizen or qualifying immigrant
- [Meet income limits](#)

This program has a [work requirement for certain members](#). Those who are physically able to work between the ages of 18 and 64 and don't have children under age 13 living in their home must work 80 hours a month or more. Those exempt from this requirement include any of the following categories of people:

- Pregnant women

- Those unable to work because of physical or mental health concerns
- Those living with a child who is age 18 or younger, including a child who is not eligible for FoodShare
- Tribal members
- Caregivers for an individual inside or outside the home who is unable to care for themselves
- Those who have applied to or receive compensation for unemployment
- Those who are enrolled, at least half the time, in a school or training program
- Those who are enrolled in an alcohol or drug abuse treatment or rehab program

Special Nutrition Programs

National School [Breakfast](#) and [Lunch](#) Program

This federally funded program is run by the state and provides children in need with free or reduced-cost breakfasts and lunches at participating schools.

- [Afterschool Snack Program](#) - This is a component of the federal National School Lunch program and is administered at the state level. The federal government reimburses schools for providing low-income, eligible students enrolled in afterschool activities with free or reduced-cost afterschool snacks.
- [Seamless Summer Option](#) - This federally funded program is run by the state. It provides free meals to children 18 years or younger and to 19- to 21-year-olds receiving special education services. This program is a summer extension of the national school breakfast and lunch programs.

[The Summer Food Service Program](#)

This federally funded program is run by the state. It provides free meals to children 18 years or younger in participating communities and day camps.

[Summer EBT](#)

This program is new to Wisconsin as of summer 2024. It is a federally funded and income-based program that gives low-income families a \$120 benefit during the summer to buy food for their children when they are not in school. The benefits can be used in any store that accepts FoodShare EBT cards. This benefit is available to qualifying families in addition to the summer meal programs listed above. Enrollment in this program is often automatic if the child is already receiving free or reduced-cost meals at their schools through the National School Breakfast and Lunch programs. Other groups of children are eligible for this program, including school-aged children participating in FoodShare, W-2, Medicaid, or the Food Distribution program on Indian Reservations. Other pathways to eligibility can be found [here](#).

[Special Milk Program](#)

This is a federally funded program run by the state that provides milk to low-income or very low-income children in public and private schools, childcare institutions, and camps that do not participate in other federal child nutrition meal service programs.

[Wisconsin School Day Milk Program](#)

This is a state-created and funded program that reimburses participating schools for a portion of the cost of serving milk at a milk break to pre-K through fifth graders who are eligible for free or reduced-cost meals.

[Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program](#)

This is a federally funded program that provides elementary schools with a wider variety of produce than the National School Lunch Program provides.

[The Emergency Food Assistance Program \(TEFAP\)](#)

This is a federally funded program that provides states with 100% American grown foods and administrative funds to run TEFAP. The state then allocates the food to participating food banks, pantries, and soup kitchens which low-income individuals and families can visit to receive supplemental food boxes. These supplemental food boxes contain three to five days' worth of food. Monthly income limits apply. Families receiving TEFAP benefits can still receive FoodShare benefits.

[Child and Adult Care Food Program \(CACFP\)](#)

This federally funded program is run by the state and provides reimbursable meals to childcare centers who take care of children through age 18 in lower income areas. Family day care homes, at-risk afterschool meals programs, outside-of-school-hours care centers, emergency shelters, and adult day care centers are also eligible to receive reimbursement from this program.

4.3 Clothing, Household Goods, and Baby Supplies

No applicable and/or known programs.

4.4 Housing, Shelters, and Maternity Homes

[Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program \(WHEAP\)](#)

This program is funded by the federal LIHEAP program and Wisconsin's [Public Benefits Program](#) which is funded by electric and natural gas utility ratepayers. The program helps low-income families with their heating and electric bills. The program provides regular benefits and crisis assistance. The program has [income limits](#).

[Weatherization Program](#)

This program is funded by the federal LIHEAP program and Wisconsin's [Public Benefits Program](#). The program helps low-income individuals and families save money on their utility bills by weatherizing their homes to conserve energy. Examples of weatherization practices include insulation of walls/floors/attics, replacing heating systems, and sealing air leaks. The program has [income limits](#).

[HE \(Home Energy\) + HVAC Program](#)

This program aids low-income Wisconsin families in replacing their inoperable or unsafe HVAC, central air, or air source heat pump systems. To qualify for this program, families must live in an

area with a participating public benefits utility provider and be income eligible. This program does not fix or replace window or portable AC units. Eligible homes include owner-occupied single-family homes as well as some rental (mobile or manufactured) and multifamily unit properties.

HE+ Water Conservation Program

This program helps low-income Wisconsin families save money on their water bills by fixing or replacing leaky, unsafe, or inoperable water heaters, toilets, or piping. This program will not replace domestic wells. To qualify for this program, families must live in the home in an area with a participating public benefits utility provider and be income eligible. Eligible homes include owner-occupied single-family homes as well as some rental (mobile or manufactured) and multifamily unit properties.

4.5 Legal Support

No applicable and/or known programs.

5. Recovery and Mental Health

5.1 Addiction Recovery

No applicable and/or known programs.

5.2 Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Trafficking Recovery

No applicable and/or known programs.

5.3 Mental Health

Community Support Programs

Community Support Programs (CSPs) offer coordinated care for adults with severe mental illness. Programs provide services such as education about mental illness, group therapy, help with daily living tasks, social events, and work adjustment training. Those with a history of high-risk behavior are prioritized for admission to CSPs. To qualify, all applicants' mental illnesses must interfere with their daily living, and they must live in a Wisconsin county that offers CSPs. [Many Wisconsin counties offer CSPs.](#)

5.4 Abortion Recovery and Healing

No applicable and/or known programs.

6. Disability Assistance

Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ARDCs)

ARDCs are informational centers for disabled or aging Wisconsin residents and their caregivers. The centers connect aging and disabled residents with existing state-wide resources related to

housing, respite care, in-home care and nursing, transportation, Medicaid/Medicare, Social Security, etc. Centers can also help residents apply for these programs.

Disability Specific Medicaid Programs

The state's traditional Medicaid program provides full Medicaid coverage to the elderly, blind, and disabled (EBD Medicaid eligibility category). Income, residency, and citizenship requirements apply for this eligibility group. The state's Medicaid program also offers the [Katie Beckett Medicaid program](#). This program is for children under the age of 19 who live at home but have health needs that qualify them as eligible for institutional care. Recipients receive full Medicaid coverage as well as additional services that allow them to remain at home. Other eligibility requirements apply. Children who are not eligible for other Medicaid programs because their parents make too much money or who are enrolled in private health insurance can still be eligible for this program. Lastly, those who are disabled but work can receive full-coverage Medicaid through the state's [Medicaid Purchase Plan](#) which also affords them coverage for long-term care services.

Additionally, the state's traditional Medicaid program offers three applicable and adult-specific community based waiver programs:

- [Family Care](#)- This program provides full Medicaid coverage and long-term care services to elderly (65+) and disabled adults or those with a chronic illness who want to live in their home instead of a care facility. Recipients also receive additional long-term care and home-based services. Recipients work with ARCDs (see above) to receive services through this program. Additional eligibility requirements can be found [here](#). Examples of covered services include skilled nursing services and transportation services.
- [Family Care Partnership](#)- This program provides long-term care services in addition to the services covered by traditional Medicaid to disabled adults who want to live at home instead of in a care facility. Managed care organizations, a limited number of Wisconsin counties, and the Wisconsin Department of Health team up to provide these services to members at ARDCs.
- [Include, Respect, I Self-Direct \(IRIS\)](#)- This is a self-directed full coverage Medicaid program for disabled adults. The program provides members with a budget that they must manage to cover goods and services related to the care they need to live at home instead of in a care facility. A brief list of covered services includes adaptive technology, adult day care, vocational services, and daily living skills training.

The [Wisconsin Children's Long Term Support Waiver program](#), a home and community based service (HCBS) waiver program, covers a combination of full Medicaid benefits and additional long-term care services for disabled children under the age of 22 who need a hospital, nursing facility, or ICF/IID level of care. The aim of this waiver program is to allow the child to live at home instead of in a care facility. Examples of covered services include daily living skills training, counseling and therapy services, and financial management services. This program is for children with physical disabilities, serious emotional disturbances, autism, intellectual, or developmental disabilities.

Children's Community Options Program

This state-funded and run last-resort program pays for long-term support and services for disabled Wisconsin children who are not covered through other insurance options such as Medicaid.

Support and service coordinators from county health and human service agencies help enrolled families develop an individual service plan to connect them with existing resources that would benefit the child and provide goods and services needed to help the child. [Participants must also meet the following two criteria:](#)

- Be under the age of 22
- Live in a home and meet an eligible level of needed care based on the program's initial screen

[This program's services](#) are free if the family is enrolled in SSI-Related Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, SNAP, TANF or WIC. If families are not enrolled in those programs, they may have to pay depending on income, family size, and the cost of the child's individual service plan.

Birth to 3

This is an early intervention program, available in every Wisconsin county, for children under the age of three who have developmental delays or disabilities. The program is administered by the Department of Health Services and partially funded by the federal government. It utilizes county and Department of Health Services staff for referral and support services for parents. The program's services are provided by individualized family service plan teams composed of special education teachers, service coordinators, and speech/occupational/physical therapists.

7. Care for Children

7.1 Childcare

Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program

This program provides subsidies to qualifying parents to offset the costs of childcare. The program also helps participating parents take classes to advance their career and participate in work training programs. In 2024, the income limits for this program increased so more families were eligible for its assistance. Families with incomes at or below 200% of the FPL are eligible for this program.

- [Wisconsin Shares for Children in Foster or Kinship Care](#) - This subsidy is available for foster parents or kinship caregivers. Eligibility requirements for this variation of the subsidy include specific income limits and participation in work activity, a W-2 placement (see section 3.2), or educational activity.

7.2 Children's Health Care

BadgerCare Plus for Children

Wisconsin children under age 19 can qualify for full healthcare coverage through the state's BadgerCare Plus program if they meet residency, citizenship, and family income requirements. Families are not required to pay co-pays or premiums for their children's care covered by this program. Families must meet income limits. Wisconsin has a [separate CHIP component](#) within the larger BadgerCare Plus program that provides healthcare coverage to children ages one through 18 whose parents make too much money to qualify for the traditional BadgerCare Plus program but not enough to pay for private insurance. Families are income eligible up to 306% of the FPL but the income limits for this particular program are within a range depending on the child's age.

Wisconsin's Early Period Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit (otherwise known as [Health Check](#)) provides health coverage for well-child visits and diagnostic screenings for all children with actual or potential health issues, from birth to age 21 who are enrolled in Medicaid. This mandated Medicaid benefit screens children with actual or potential health problems to treat them before they become permanent disabilities. Preventive health services are also available to Medicaid-eligible children under age 21.

[Newborn Screening Program](#)

Wisconsin law requires that all babies born in the state are screened for 50 blood disorders, hearing loss, and critical congenital heart disease. The program is a partnership between the state's Department of Health Services and the UW-Madison's State Laboratory of Hygiene. The program allows religious exemptions from screening. It is important to note that while this program is required, parents pay for these services as a part of the cost to deliver their child.

[Vaccines for Children](#)

This is a federal program run at the state level, and it provides participating doctors' offices with free vaccines to administer to children whose families could otherwise not afford to vaccinate their children. To be eligible, residents must be 18 or younger and meet one of the following criteria:

- Be American Indian or Alaska Native
- Be Medicaid-eligible
- Be uninsured
- Be underinsured

[Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs \(CYSHCN\)](#)

Wisconsin's CYSHCN program is a care coordination program for children with special health care needs and their families. The program connects children with specialty services related to their condition, locates and coordinates in-home care, and fills in service gaps. A brief list of qualifying medical conditions includes childhood cancers, diabetes, Down syndrome, and heart disease.

7.3 Family and Parenting Education

No applicable and/or known programs.

7.4 Adoption

Adoption Tax Credit

Wisconsin has a \$5,000 adoption income-tax credit for full-time Wisconsin residents who are adoptive parents.

Adoption Assistance Program

There are three components of Wisconsin's Adoption Assistance Program. They include:

- Foster Care Medicaid - All adoption assistance recipients, regardless of family income, living in Wisconsin are automatically enrolled in Foster Care Medicaid. Foster Care Medicaid is a full benefit program. [Children receiving](#) Title IV-E and non-IV-E adoption assistance, subsidized guardianship assistance, or who are in foster care and are enrolled in BadgerCare Plus receive full coverage Medicaid. Former foster care youth who aged out of the foster care system while enrolled in Wisconsin Medicaid are eligible for full coverage Medicaid through their 26th birthday.
- One-time reimbursement of adoption related expenses - Families enrolled in the Adoption Assistance program can apply for a one-time \$2,000 reimbursement of reasonable and necessary adoption-related expenses within two years of the adoption finalization.
- Monthly subsidy - Adoptive parents of a special needs child are eligible for a monthly subsidy from the Department of Children and Families.

7.5 Foster, Kinship, and Short-term Care

Care4Kids

This care coordination program helps foster youth find health services in a timely manner by creating medical homes for them.

Independent Living

The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families helps provide independent living services to foster children and youth who are aged 14 to 23. Certain services are available based on age, and the details can be found [here](#). Independent living coordinators help foster children think about their future, understand their current and future medical coverage, and find housing. Coordinators also help foster care youth take advantage of federal benefits for foster care youth aging out of the system related to college tuition vouchers and rental assistance.

Brighter Star

This is Wisconsin's Education and Training Voucher program which is a federally funded but state-run program. It helps transitioning foster youth pay for college or job training programs. Eligible students include:

- Students who are at least 17.5 years old and likely to remain in foster care until they are 18 or older
- Students who were adopted at age 16 or older after being in foster care

- Students who are between ages 18 and 23 and have aged out of the foster care system

[Kinship Care Program](#)

This program provides monthly financial assistance to children living with their relatives rather than their biological parent(s). Kinship caregivers include adult siblings, first cousins, grandparents, uncles, aunts, or others related to the child by blood or marriage. Assistance can only be provided to children in the care of caregivers who have completed a criminal background check, referred the child's parents to child support, and applied for other assistance programs.

[7.6 Safe Haven and/or Baby Boxes](#)

[Safe Haven Law](#)

Wisconsin's Safe Haven law allows parents to leave their newborn infants, up to 72 hours old, at a designated facility without fear of prosecution. Parents may surrender their child to a police station, fire station, hospital, or other place where a law enforcement officer, emergency medical services practitioner, or hospital staff member is located. They may also call 911 to relinquish the infant. Wisconsin also allows infants to be safely surrendered via Baby Boxes.

[Miscellaneous](#)

[Five County Demonstration Project](#)

This is a five-county pilot project of the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families seeking to help parents who are paying for child support to find employment that will give them a steady income so that they can financially and emotionally support their child. This project is being piloted in the counties of Brown, Kenosha, Marathon, Racine, and Wood. Eligibility requirements include meeting all the following requirements:

- Be unemployed or underemployed
- Have the ability to work
- Have an active child support case in the counties listed above
- Not be current with child support payments

[Choose Life License Plate](#)

Wisconsin drivers can apply for a "Choose Life" vanity plate through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. Twenty-five dollars of the forty-dollar fee for the plate is donated to Choose Life Wisconsin which distributes the money it receives to pregnancy centers across the state.

This is a non-exhaustive list of programs, current as of January 2026, intended to make information easily accessible to moms and families. Program details are subject to change. Readers should always consult with the appropriate state agency for the most accurate and recent information. The information in this summary is for educational purposes only. CLI does not take a position on the merits of any specific program.

This document was compiled by Mia Steupert, Elyse Gaitan, and Tessa Cox.