



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

GRANDPARENTS/RELATIVES

RAISING

AND

NURTURING

DEPENDENT CHILDREN

Milwaukee County Resource Guide



Financial Assistance



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Financial Assistance



The resource section at the end of this chapter gives you the locations, phone numbers, and/or Web sites of agencies where you can find help. For access to computers and assistance in reaching the information available on Web sites, contact your local public libraries, senior centers, community centers, or family resource centers.



I. Public Support and Assistance Programs

Children and relative caregivers may be able to get help from several public support and assistance programs. A grandparent or other relative who is caring for a dependent child can apply for most of these programs or get information on how to apply for these programs at their county or tribal human or social services agency. Only the most common public support programs are listed below. Relatives should call their local human or social services agency to learn about any other support programs from which they or the children they care for might be able to get help.

To fill out an application for financial help, you will probably need to bring the Social Security number of each person who will benefit from the services, and household income and asset information. Each program's requirements may be different.

Read through the information about the following assistance programs to help you decide what help may be available for you in caring for your grandchild.

Kinship Care (and Long-Term Kinship Care)

1. What is the Wisconsin Kinship Care Program?

Kinship Care is a state-funded and county/tribal-administered program that gives financial support to adult relatives caring for minor children.

(a) Which relatives are eligible to get Kinship Care?

The following adult relatives may get Kinship Care benefits for a minor child: grandparent or great-grandparent or great-great-grandparent, a stepparent, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, first cousin, nephew, niece, aunt, or uncle. The relative may be related to the child by blood, adoption, or marriage to any person listed above, even if that marriage ended in death or divorce.

(b) What ages of children does Kinship Care cover?

Children up to age 18 are covered by Kinship Care. Kinship Care also is available to eighteen-year-olds who are still in school, have good grades, and most likely will graduate.

(c) What is the amount of help I can expect to get from Kinship Care?

The Kinship Care benefit is \$215 per child per month.

(d) What are the requirements for getting Kinship Care?

The child's and relative's eligibility are determined by the county or tribal Kinship Care agency and must be reassessed each year. *All* of the following must be met to receive Kinship Care:

- The Kinship Care agency must find that the child's needs are better met if he or she lives with the relative than if the child lives with his or her parent(s).
- The child must be in need of protection or services, or the child must be at risk of needing protection or services.
- All adults living or employed in the relative's household must agree to a criminal background check. Kinship Care will not be given if any adult is found to have a criminal record that could place the child in a bad situation or affect the relative's ability to care for the child.
- The relative caretaker must also cooperate with the Kinship Care agency in referring the child's parents to child support unless there is a good reason for the relative's not helping with a referral for the parents, and the Kinship Care agency agrees.
- Children who are already getting Supplemental Security Income (SSI) cannot get help from Kinship Care.

Additional information can be found on the Kinship Care Web site:

<http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/Children/Kinship/prgserv/eligreq.HTM>

2. Where can grandparents or other relative caregivers apply for Kinship Care?

Adult caretakers should apply with their county or tribal human or social services department.

(a) What is the Long-Term Kinship Care Program?

Long-Term Kinship Care is a lot like Kinship Care. It gives \$215 a month for the care of each minor child by an adult relative. Long-Term Kinship Care is available only to relatives who have legal guardianship for a child under s. 48.977 Wisc. Stats. Courts can only order guardianship under section 48.977 if a child has been placed in out-of-home care under the child protective services system. Grandparents or other relatives who have been given guardianships under other Wisconsin statutes cannot apply for Long-Term

Kinship Care. Since this guardianship is required for Long-Term Kinship Care, there are fewer requirements that need to be met.

(b) Are there time limits for Kinship Care?

No, there are no time limits for receiving Kinship Care or Long-Term Kinship Care.

(c) Are there work requirements for Kinship Care?

No, there are no work requirements for Kinship Care or Long-Term Kinship Care.

Foster Care

1. What is Foster Care?

Foster Care benefits are a monthly payment for the care of children living in the home of foster parents. The payment is meant to cover the cost of providing food, shelter, and other daily needs for the child in foster care.

2. How do I know if my grandchildren can get foster care?

Foster care can be paid only for children who have been taken from their own homes by an order of the Children's Court and placed with a licensed foster family. The Children's Court will order a child removed from his or her home only if the child has been found in need of protection or services. Generally, the child must have been abused or neglected or is unsafe in the home. A teenager may be placed in foster care if he or she is found to be out of control and in need of services.

3. Who may be paid foster care?

Adults must be licensed as foster parents in order to be paid foster care benefits. Also, the child must have been placed with the foster parent by the county's or tribe's child protective services or child welfare agency.

4. Where may a person apply for a foster care license?

County and some tribal human services departments and private child-placing agencies have the right to license foster parents.

5. May grandparents or other relatives be licensed as foster parents to care for children?

Any adult may be licensed as a foster parent as long as he or she meets the requirements to be licensed. Each county or tribe decides whether to place a child in foster care with a relative. In order for the county or tribe to pay foster care, the relative must be licensed and the county must place the child by a Children's

Court order. Counties do have the choice of placing a child under the Kinship Care program rather than under foster care.

Medicaid

1. What is Medicaid?

Medicaid is a program to pay for health care services. The purpose of the Medicaid program is to help pay for medical bills and to make sure people who are able to get Medicaid receive the correct medical care.

2. What are the requirements for getting Medicaid?

In order to get Medicaid, a person's income and assets must not go over the limits set for Medicaid, and the person must meet *one* of the following:

- Is under age 19
- Is 65 years and older
- Is disabled or blind
- Is the caretaker of a deprived child
- Is pregnant

3. Who is a “caretaker of a deprived child” for Medicaid purposes?

A grandparent or other relative is a “caretaker of a deprived child” if one or both of the child's parents is not living in the home, or if both parents are in the home and one parent is incapacitated, unemployed, or an offender working without pay.

4. Will my income and assets affect whether or not my grandchild is eligible for Medicaid?

The income and assets of a child's relative are not considered when deciding if a child can get Medicaid. Child support from a child's parents who are absent from the home is counted.

5. Where can I apply for Medicaid?

In Wisconsin, county and tribal human or social services departments and W-2 agencies decide who can get Medicaid. Recipient Services at (800) 362-3002 (TTY and translation services available) can give you more information about where to apply for Wisconsin Medicaid.

6. What services does Wisconsin Medicaid cover?

The services that Wisconsin Medicaid covers include:

- doctor's visits, including prenatal care

- well-child and HealthCheck visits, including immunizations (shots)
- hospital care
- vision care, including eye glasses
- prescription drugs
- family planning services and supplies
- occupational, physical and speech language therapy
- mental health and substance abuse therapy services
- medical equipment
- hearing services, including hearing aids; lab and X-ray services
- dental services
- transportation to Medicaid services
- home care services.

BadgerCare

It is a federal law requirement that before you can receive BadgerCare, the state must first decide if you qualify to receive Medicaid. In many situations, your grandchild or other minor relative you're caring for will be able to get Medicaid, not BadgerCare.

1. What is BadgerCare?

BadgerCare is a state program to provide health insurance for uninsured working families.

2. Who can apply for BadgerCare? My 16-year-old daughter has had a child. I will be responsible for both my daughter and the child at least until my daughter is 18. May I apply for BadgerCare to cover the needs of my grandchild?

Either you or your daughter may apply for BadgerCare for your granddaughter.

3. I am a grandparent who is raising my daughter's children, ages 2 and 5. I have no other children under age 19 in the home. Will BadgerCare cover my grandchildren?

Children living with relatives may be eligible for BadgerCare as long as they:

- Are under age 19
- Have an income of less than \$1,287 a month
- Are not covered by major medical health insurance

There is no limit on the amount of assets children can hold in order to be eligible for BadgerCare.

4. Can relatives who are raising their relative's children informally (no legal custody or guardianship) apply for and receive the benefits of BadgerCare to cover the health care needs of the children?

Relatives raising children may apply for BadgerCare for the children. Legal custody is not a requirement. They will be asked to cooperate with the local Child Support office in obtaining financial and medical support from the parents of the children they are raising.

5. If BadgerCare is not available to relatives who are raising their relative's children, can they apply for and receive Medicaid? Please explain.

BadgerCare was created by the state legislature to cover only minor children and their parents living with them. If the only children the relatives are taking care of are not their own, the relatives do not qualify for BadgerCare. If the relatives have their own minor son or daughter living with them along with these other children, then they could qualify for BadgerCare.

However, grandparents or other relative caregivers who are not eligible for BadgerCare could be eligible for Medicaid if they have assets (not including the home) of less than \$1,000 and a monthly income of around \$300 or less. In cases where the relatives have been determined to be disabled or are 65 or older, they may qualify for Medicaid if their assets are under \$2,000.

6. How does BadgerCare differ from the new Children's Health Insurance Program? Is the CHIP program available in Wisconsin?

BadgerCare is Wisconsin's CHIP program.

Food Stamps

1. What is the Food Stamp Program?

Food stamps are vouchers for food. Food stamps may be used to purchase food or seeds and plants for home food gardens. Food stamps may not be used to buy soap, paper products, pet food, or any other non-food items. They are no longer issued as coupons, but are issued on a debit card called the "Quest" card. This is similar to a credit card and almost all major grocers in Wisconsin accept them.

2. How do I know if I'm eligible for food stamps?

The financial requirements for the Food Stamp Program vary depending on who eats with you, your rent and utility costs, your income, and your assets. The only real way to find out if you're eligible is to apply at your county or tribal human or social services agency.

3. Where can I apply for food stamps?

You can apply at your county or tribal human or social services agency. However, if you are taking part in or applying for W-2, you may apply for food stamps at the W-2 agency.

4. My son's three children have come to live with me, and I am receiving food stamps for them. Are there other programs that would help me with the cost of feeding them?

If the children qualify for food stamps, they can also get free meals that may be offered at their school. If you are not sent an application from the school for this benefit when the children start a new school year or are enrolled in a new school, you can pick up one from the school office. Fill it out and return it to the school. Most schools take part in the National School Lunch Program, which would give the children a free lunch. Many schools also offer the School Breakfast Program, After-School Snacks, and milk programs.

Even if you do not qualify for any of the above programs, which would provide the school meals at no charge, there are other benefits available in the School Nutrition Programs. If you fill out and return the household income application for the school meals programs, you may still qualify for free or reduced prices for school nutrition programs. It is important to fill out this application as soon as possible to get benefits from this program.

For children up to age 5, the Women, Infants and Children program (WIC) can help with nutrition needs. To find the WIC office nearest you, call 1-800-222-2189. The American Dietetic Association (ADA) can help you find a dietician in your area with the expertise you need. To request a referral, call ADA at 312-366-1655.

CHILD CARE

1. What is Wisconsin's Subsidized Child Care Program?

Wisconsin's child care program, Wisconsin Shares, provides child care subsidies for low-income working families. Payments are made to the child care provider the parent chooses. For information, call the Wisconsin Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Network at 1-888-713-KIDS (5437) or go to the Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program's Web site:

<http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dws/programs/childcare/wishares/>

2. How can I know if I'm eligible for subsidized child care (Wisconsin Shares)?

If your children are under the age of 13 and you meet the financial qualifications (see question #3), chances are you are eligible for subsidized child care through

Wisconsin Shares. For further information, you can call CCR&R at 1-888-713-KIDS (5437), your local Wisconsin Job Center, W-2 agency, or tribal agency. Or you can check out the Wisconsin Shares Web site at:
<http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dws/programs/childcare/wishares/>

3. Are there income requirements for receiving subsidized child care?

There is an income eligibility requirement for child care. The requirements are different, depending on whether a child has been placed with a relative by a court order, or whether the child was placed voluntarily by the family.

If the child is placed with a grandparent or other relative under Child in Need of Protection or Services (CHIPS) or a Juvenile in Need of Protection or Services (JIPS) court order, the income eligibility standards apply to the parents' income, not the relative's income. If the child is not currently under a CHIPS or a JIPS order, the relative's income must be taken into account. Call CCR&R at 1-888-713-KIDS (5437) if you have questions about your eligibility.

4. Are there work requirements for subsidized child care?

Yes, the grandparent or other relative care giver must be working in order to get child care subsidies.

5. How long will I be able to get subsidized child care?

A grandparent or other relative caregiver may get subsidized child care as long as he or she meets the eligibility requirements.

6. At what age will my grandchild no longer qualify for subsidized child care?

Subsidized child care is available for children under 13 years of age.

7. What types of child care can be subsidized?

Wisconsin provides subsidies for licensed day care centers and licensed family day care homes. Other more informal arrangements such as neighbors and relatives also can be subsidized, as long as they meet the basic health and safety standards.

8. Will the relative caretaker need to pay for any part of the child care?

Caretakers generally are required to make a co-payment. The amount of the co-payment is set on a sliding scale according to the caregiver's income. However, if the child is placed with a relative by a child welfare agency under a court order, the agency may make the co-payment.

9. Where can I apply for subsidized child care?

You can contact your county or tribal human or social services agency.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

1. What is SSI?

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a monthly cash benefit paid by the federal Social Security Administration (SSA) and the state Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) to people in financial need who are 65 or older or to people of any age who are blind or disabled and residents of Wisconsin. You can receive the state SSI payment only if you qualify for a federal SSI payment.

2. What are the income requirements for receiving SSI?

You may be eligible for SSI payments if you have little or no income and if your assets are \$2,000 or less for a single person or \$3,000 or less for a married couple. Certain assets do not count, such as your home or car.

3. What is the definition of disabled according to SSI?

Disabled means having a physical or mental condition that keeps someone from working. The condition is one that is expected to last at least a year or that will result in death. Children as well as adults can get benefits because of a disability. When deciding if a child is disabled, Social Security looks at how the disability affects the child's everyday life. For more information about benefits for children, contact any Social Security office to ask for the booklet "Benefits for Children With Disabilities" (Publication No. 05-10026).

If receiving SSI is based on a disability, persons applying for SSI cannot be working at the time they apply unless they are earning less than the substantial gainful activity (SGA) level. Once a person with a disability receives SSI, he or she is eligible until having recovered from the mental or physical condition or no longer meeting a disability-related requirement.

4. What is the definition of blind according to SSI?

Blind means you are either totally blind or have very poor eyesight. Children as well as adults may receive benefits because of blindness. Sometimes a person whose sight is not poor enough to qualify for benefits as a blind person may be able to receive benefits as a person with a disability if the condition keeps them from working.

5. Must I be a U.S. citizen to get SSI?

Yes, you must be a U.S. citizen or meet the requirements for non-citizens in order to receive SSI benefits.

6. What is the benefit amount I would receive?

The combined federal and state benefit ranges from about \$400 to \$900 a month, depending on whether you are living on your own or in someone else's household, and whether you are single or part of a couple.

7. Where can I apply for SSI?

You can apply for SSI at your nearest Social Security office. You can get more information about federal SSI and how to apply by calling Social Security's toll-free number (800) 772-1213. A service representative is available between the hours of 7 A.M. to 7 P.M. on business days. If you have a touch-tone phone, recorded information is available after 7 P.M., seven days a week. Social Security also has an Internet address: <http://www.ssa.gov/> People with a hearing impairment may call the toll-free TTY number (800) 325-0778 between 7 A.M. and 7 P.M. on business days.

You do not have to apply separately for the state SSI payment. You will automatically receive the state SSI payment as long as you qualify for the federal SSI payment.

Wisconsin Works (W-2)

Wisconsin Works (W-2) is the welfare replacement program for Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) based on work participation. In order to be eligible for W-2 services, adults must have children under age 18. Grandparents or other relative caregivers cannot qualify for W-2 by caring for a relative's child; rather these relatives must have their own dependent children.

A parent's child does not have to be living with him or her in order for the parent to be eligible for W-2 or other employment and training programs. The parent can be receiving job training and placement services while a relative receives Kinship Care benefits for the care of a child.

1. What types of services are available to parents?

Parents may receive job readiness training, take community college classes, receive work-site mentoring, work-related transportation assistance, or emergency housing assistance. The W-2 agency serving the parent decides which services will be made available.

2. Where should parents go to request employment and training services?

Parents should go to the local W-2 agency or County or Tribal Economic Support office.

TANF

1. What is TANF?

TANF stands for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families. TANF is a federal program that replaced Aid to Families with Dependent Children. States can decide how to spend federal TANF funds. Wisconsin uses TANF funding for both the W-2 program and the Kinship Care program.

Low Income Home Heating Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

1. My bills for home heating are more than I can afford, especially now that I'm taking care of my grandchild. Is there any help?

The Low Income Home Heating Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps you pay for the cost of heating your home. County departments of social/human services operate the program agencies under the direction of the State Department of Administration, Division of Energy.

The Housing chapter of this resource guide has additional information about housing options, requirements, and assistance for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren.

2. How do I know if I am eligible for help?

Many households with low to moderate incomes are eligible. More information on where to apply and the income guidelines can be located at the following Web site: www.heat.state.wi.us

3. How do I apply for home heating assistance?

You must fill out an energy Services Program Application form with your local LIHEAP agency. You will need to provide information on your household's income and heating costs. Only one member of any household may apply for assistance, but the benefit is for the entire household.

II. Other Types of Assistance

1. I need to get a job to support my grandchild. Where can I get help finding employment?

You can get help finding a job at your local job center. The Wisconsin Job Net is an on-line resource you may use to find employment at the following Web site address:

<http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/jobnet/mapWI.htm>

2. Are there any funds to help me if I have an emergency?

You can get money for help in an emergency through your local county or tribal agency if you are the victim of a natural disaster, are homeless, or may become homeless. You do not have to be eligible for another program to get help in an emergency. You can receive payments of up to \$150 for each person who is eligible to receive emergency help.

3. What is Earned Income Tax Credit and where can I learn more about EIC?

University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension has a Web site that will give you information about three kinds of tax credits: the federal earned income credit, the Wisconsin earned income credit, and the Wisconsin Homestead credit. You can access the Web site at: *<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/econ>*



The information in this chapter has been adapted for use in Wisconsin from the state of Delaware's *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Resource Guide* by Robin Ryan, former staff member, Child Welfare Service Section, Division of Children and Family Services and Mark S. Mitchell, Manager, Child Welfare Services Section, Division of Children and Family Services, with additional contributions by Stephen M. Dow, Supervisor, Bureau of Work Support Programs; Janet Bodnar, Child Nutrition Program Coordinator, Department of Public Instruction; Rosie Fiscus and Steve Tryon, Energy Assistance, Department of Administration; Susan Nitzke, Professor, Nutritional Sciences, University of Wisconsin Extension; John LaPhillip, Medicaid Policy Analyst, Department of Health and Family Services; and Dave Hippler, Policy Analyst, Office of Food Stamps and Medicaid, Department of Workforce Development.

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This chapter is one of eight chapters included in the *Grandparents/Relatives Raising And Nurturing Dependent Children (GRAND) Resource Guide*. Other topics addressed in the resource guide include Child Care, Education, Legal, Housing, Counseling, Parenting, and Health issues. They can be found on the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Web site at:
<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/flp/grandparent/grand.pdf>

The University of Wisconsin-Extension presents the information in the *Grandparents/Relative Raising And Nurturing Grandchildren (GRAND) Resource Guide* as a service to those who are raising grandchildren or other kin or to those who are working with them. Although every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and reliability, UW-Extension and contributors to this resource guide make no warranty or guarantee concerning the accuracy or reliability of the content in the resource guide.



Financial Assistance Resources



The Access Website

ACCESS

The Wisconsin Access Website

<https://access.wisconsin.gov/access/>

Recipient Services hotline at 1-800-362-3002.

ACCESS is a quick and easy way for people in Wisconsin to get answers to questions about health and nutrition programs. It can help people to determine what benefits they are eligible for such as BadgerCare, Medicaid, FoodShare, Seniorcare, Caretaker Supplement, and other programs. Participants can, check their eligibility, review their current benefits or get information and answers to their questions about programs in Wisconsin.

BadgerCare

BadgerCare Information

BadgerCare web site

<http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/badgercare/>

BadgerCare Fact Sheets in English, Hmong, Russian & Spanish

<http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/badgercare/factsheets/factsheet.htm>

BadgerCare Application Sites

- Statewide

BadgerCare Eligibility Outstation Locations

1-800-362-3002

<http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/badgercare/html/application.htm>

BadgerCare Application Sites

- Tribal

Badger Care Certifying Tribal Agencies

1-800-362-3002

<http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/em/imagencies/index.htm>

Note: Not all tribal agencies certify for Medicaid. Please call your county social/human service agency if you belong to a tribe that currently does not certify for Medicaid.

BadgerCare Application Sites

BadgerCare Application Sites

<http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/em/imagencies/index.htm>

BadgerCare and Other State Program Eligibility

<https://access.wisconsin.gov/access/>

Medicaid

Medicaid

Wisconsin Medicaid web site

<http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/MEDICAID/>

Medicaid Application Sites **• Statewide**

Wisconsin Medicaid Eligibility Outstation Locations

1-800-362-3002

<http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/em/imagencies/index.htm>

Medicaid Application Sites **• Tribal**

Wisconsin Medicaid Certifying Tribal Agencies

1-800-362-3002

<http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/em/imagencies/index.htm>

Note: Not all tribal agencies certify for Medicaid. Please call your county social/human service agency if you belong to a tribe that currently does not certify for Medicaid.

Medicaid Application Sites **• Milwaukee County**

Community Information Line

773-0211

Medicaid Payment Assistance

Medicaid - Wisconsin - Medicaid Purchase Plan

Madison, WI 53702

(800) 362-3002

Medicaid and Other Eligibility

Medicaid and Other Program Eligibility in Wisconsin

<https://access.wisconsin.gov/access/>

The Medicaid Purchase Plan 1-800-362-3002

The Medicaid Purchase Plan offers people with disabilities who are working or interested in working the opportunity to buy health care coverage through the Wisconsin Medicaid Program. Depending on an individual's income, a premium payment may be required for this health care coverage. To qualify for the Medicaid Purchase Plan, the following requirements must be met. The participant must: Be at least 18 years old, Reside in Wisconsin, Have individual countable assets of less than \$15,000. (A home or one vehicle does not count). Have an adjusted family income of less than 250% of the

federal poverty level, based on family size. Those who qualify receive the same health benefits offered through the Wisconsin Medicaid Plan

Medicare

Medicare **The Official Medicare Website**
1-800-Medicare (63342273)
<http://www.medicare.gov>

Provides a list of FAQ's, Medicare Billing information, Medicare Appeals, Long Term Care, Medicare Part D plan comparisons.

Medicare Information **Southeast Area Agency on Aging**
125 N Executive Dr Suite 102
Brookfield, WI 53005
(262) 821-4444

A toll-free telephone number offering unbiased referral/help for callers, and educational classes for seniors, caregivers and professionals about Medicare options.

Medicare Information **Medigap Hotline Board On Aging**
214 N Hamilton St
Madison, WI 53703
(800) 242-1060

The Medigap Helpline (State Health Insurance Assistance Program) can help you with questions about health insurance; primarily Medicare Supplements, Long Term Care Insurance, and other health care plans available to Medicare beneficiaries. The Medigap Helpline is provided by the State of Wisconsin Board on Aging and Long Term Care at no cost to you. There is no connection with any insurance company. Medigap counselors provide information, education, and counseling on the following topics: Medigap insurance, Medicare, Managed Care plans, Long Term Care Insurance, Medicaid / QMB, Consumer protection issues, Open enrollment, Guaranteed issue provisions, Employer group insurance, COBRA, HIRSP

Social Security

Social Security Administration Offices **Milwaukee (North)** 6300 W Fond du Lac Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53218 463-2621

Milwaukee (South) 6251 W Forest Home Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53220 546-1402

Milwaukee (Mitchell Street) 1710 S 7th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53204 649-4760

Milwaukee (Downtown) 310 W Wisconsin Ave
#260
Milwaukee, WI 53203 297-1790

Milwaukee (West) 3716 W Wisconsin Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53208 937-7818

**Social Security
(continued)**

(800) 772-1213 – toll Free for Anywhere
<http://www.ssa.gov/>

For information and assistance for Retirement, Survivors, Disability or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits

General Assistance Medical Program – Milwaukee County only (current August 2006)

<http://www.co.milwaukee.wi.us/display/router.asp?docid=7865>
257-7200

This program is for Milwaukee County residents only. The General Assistance Medical Program (GAMP) is a county- and state-funded program that buys health care for qualified individuals. Because the program has limited funds, certain guidelines have been set for people to qualify to get GAMP (see “Eligibility” below). These include limits on how much income can be earned, residency requirements, being ineligible for other public or private programs, and needing for medical services.

A system of providers, including several community-based clinics, has been set up to keep track of all of the services the client requires. Some of these clinics have more than one location. Some of these services are inpatient hospitalization, pharmacist, specialty care, and diagnostic and lab work.

Unlike regular insurance programs, clients do not enroll ahead of time for coverage. Instead, the client must be looking for help because of a medical need. All Milwaukee County hospital emergency departments and any of the contracted community clinics can fill out an application that will be sent on to the GAMP office. A decision is made within fifteen days after GAMP receives the application.

GAMP ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

As the program has limited funds, a set of Qualification Criteria has been established.

- You must have been a Milwaukee County resident for the last 180 days.
- You cannot be eligible for or on any other entitlement program (T-19 or T-18) or any third party public or private insurance.
- Social Security Number must be verifiable.
- You must meet the following income guidelines:

Family Size	Monthly Income Limitations
1.....	902
2.....	1166
3	1429
4.....	1697
5.....	1966
6.....	2218
7.....	2484
8.....	2758
9.....	3033
10.....	3306

For an application site at a clinic in your area call:

GAMP Administration Office 802 N 94th St..... 257-7200
 257-7376
 (Spanish)
Community Information Line..... 773-0211

Two Milwaukee area clinics can process applications and determine eligibility at the time of application:

Mik Heritage Health Center 2555 N Martin
 (GAMP-53212) Luther King, Jr Dr..... 562-0051
Southside Health Center 1639 S 23rd St..... 286-6617

GAMP Applications can also be processed at any hospital in Milwaukee County:

Columbia Hospital 2025 E Newport Ave 961-3300
St Mary's Hospital..... 2323 N Lake Dr..... 291-1000
Sinai Samaritan Hospital 945 N 12th St..... 219-2000
Froedtert Hospital..... 9200 W Wisconsin 805-5505
St Joseph's Hospital 5000 W Chambers St..... 447-2000
St Francis Hospital 3237 S 16th St 647-5000

St Luke's Hospital 2900 W Oklahoma Ave649-6000

Food Stamps / Quest Card

**Food Stamp /
Quest Card
Information
Statewide**

For locations throughout the state, visit:
<http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/em/imagencies/index.htm>

**To check eligibility for this and other programs
online visit:**
<https://access.wisconsin.gov/access/>

**Food Stamp /
Quest Card
Application Sites–
Milwaukee County only**

Community Information Line
773-0211

Generally, individuals or families who are eligible for FoodShare benefits are employed but do not make enough money to completely support their families, or are disabled and cannot work, or have lost their jobs, or are living on small, fixed incomes. This may include:

- Low-income workers
- W-2 Participants
- Elderly and disabled persons
- Individuals with high housing and utility costs, or
- Individuals who pass both the gross income and asset test for eligibility.

Wic – Women, Infants and Children

State Information:

Wic	Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services
• Information	1-608-266-1683
• Locations of WIC Projects	1-800-722-2295 <i>http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/WIC/</i>

The purpose of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) is to promote and maintain the health and well-being of nutritionally at-risk pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants and children. WIC provides supplemental nutritious foods, nutrition and breastfeeding information, and referral to other health and nutrition services.

To be eligible for WIC benefits in Wisconsin, a person must meet the following requirements:

- be a pregnant, breastfeeding or new mother; be an infant up to age one; or be a child up to age 5; and
- be a resident of Wisconsin; and be income eligible; and have a health or nutrition need.

Eligibility Guidelines

Family Size	Weekly Income	Biweekly Income	Monthly Income	Annual Income
1	349	698	1,511	18,130
2	470	940	2,035	24,420
3	591	1,182	2,560	30,710
4	712	1,424	3,084	37,000
5	833	1,665	3,608	43,290
6	954	1,907	4,132	49,580
7	1,075	2,149	4,656	55,870
8	1,196	2,391	5,180	62,160
Additional	+121	+242	+525	+6,290

Milwaukee County WIC Project locations – always call ahead for an appointment.

Milwaukee

West Allis Health Department

7120 West National Ave
 West Allis WI 53214
 Telephone: /302-8642
 E-mail: jvaclav@ci.west-allis.wi.us

Aurora Health Care

1218 West Kilbourn Ave Suite 207
 Milwaukee WI 53233
 Telephone: /219-3210
 E-mail: jen.agnello@aurora.org

16th Street Community Health Center

1337 South Cesar Chavez Drive

Milwaukee WI 53204
Telephone: /643-7554
E-mail: kelly.young@sschc.org

Seeds of Health, Inc.

1445 South 32nd Street
Milwaukee WI 53215
Telephone: /385-5611
E-mail: cmurr@seedsofhealth.org

City of Milwaukee Health Department

Northwest Health Center
7630 West Mill Road
Milwaukee WI 53218
Telephone: /286-8820
E-mail: ncastr@milwaukee.gov

Keenan WIC Project
3200 N 36th Street
Milwaukee WI 53216
Telephone: /286-8803

Johnston Community Health Center
1230 W Grant Street
Milwaukee WI 53215
Telephone: /286-8805

MLK-Heritage Health Center WIC

2555 North Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
Milwaukee WI 53212
Telephone: /372-9029
E-mail: awilks_tate@mhsi.org

Wee Care Day Care, Inc

3882 North Teutonia Ave
Milwaukee WI 53206
Telephone: /449-8460
E-mail: mjmiche63@sbcglobal.net

5825 West Capitol Drive
Milwaukee WI 53216
Telephone: /449-8470

4630 W. North Avenue
Milwaukee WI 53208

Telephone: /837-8801

Cudahy Health Department

5050 South Lake Drive
Cudahy WI 53110-6108
Telephone: /769-2229
E-mail: zimmerh@ci.cudahy.wi.us

Greenfield Health Department

7325 West Forest Home Avenue
Greenfield WI 53220
Telephone: /329-5243
E-mail: zimmerh@ci.cudahy.wi.us

Wisconsin Shares Child Care subsidy

Shares Application Site **Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy**
• **Statewide** **Program**

1-888-713-KIDS (5437)

<http://dwd.wi.gov/dws/programs/childcare/wishes/default.htm>

**Wisconsin Child Care and Referral
Resource Network**

<http://www.wisconsinccrr.org/>

The Wisconsin Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Network is a membership organization made up of the 16 community-based CCR&R agencies serving the entire state of Wisconsin. The mission of the WI CCR&R Network is to exercise leadership in the creation of an inclusive, high-quality child care/child development system and to promote the professional growth and development of its member agencies. The Network offers training and technical assistance to its member agencies, collaborates with other agencies related to child care at the state level, and works on other projects as funding allows, including a statewide consumer education campaign and

a Hmong family child care project.

Free/Low Cost Medical Clinics in the Milwaukee Area

Angel of Hope

209 W. Orchard, (2nd floor on the left)

Milwaukee, WI

385-5394

Hours: Mon-Fri, 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. by appointment;
Saturday, first come-first served beginning at 9:00 a.m.

C.H. Mason Health Center

3500 West Mother Daniels Way

Milwaukee, WI 53209

-536-7650

Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Wed from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

City on a Hill

2224 W Kilbourn Avenue

Milwaukee, WI 53233

931-6670

Hours: Second Saturday of the month, 10:00 to 4:00 (screenings only)

Family House Clinic

Address: 3300 North 11th Street, Milwaukee, WI, 53206

374-8890

Hours: Mon-Fri, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center

1711 S. 11th St.,

Milwaukee 53204

383-9526

Hours: Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm; call for additional hours

About the Program: Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center provides comprehensive health care to persons of American Indian descent and their families.

Greater Milwaukee Free Clinic, Inc.

9330 West Lincoln Avenue,

West Allis, WI 53227

546-3733

Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Health Care For The Homeless

Address: 711 W. Capitol Dr.,

Milwaukee 53206

374-2400

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm; call for clinic sites/hours; donations of clothing & furniture accepted Monday-Friday, 10-10:30 am and 3-3:30 pm

House of Peace Community Center

1702 Walnut

Milwaukee, WI 53205

933-1300

Monday – Thursday 9:00-17:00

Staffed by nurse practitioners

Isaac Coggs Health Connection

Address: 2770 N. 5th St.,
Milwaukee 53212
Telephone: -286-8882
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 am to
5:00 pm

**Johnston Community Health
Services**

Address: 1230 W. Grant St.,
Milwaukee 53215
Telephone: -286-8892
Hours: Monday through Friday
from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm; physician
on call after hours.

Lisbon Avenue Clinic

3525 West Lisbon Avenue,
Milwaukee, WI
-935-8000
Hours: Mon-Fri, 9:00 a.m.-5:00
p.m.

**Marquette Clinic For Women
And Children, At The Guest
House**

Address: 1216 N. 13th St.,
Milwaukee, WI 53205
Telephone: -345-3250
Hours: Wednesday/Thursday, 8:00
am to 12:00 Noon

Milwaukee Health Services, Inc.

MLK–Heritage Health Center
2555 North Martin L. King, Jr. Drive
Milwaukee, WI 53212
372-8080
Hours: Mon-Fri, 9:00 a.m.-5:00
p.m.

**Packard Avenue Community
Center**

5854 S Packard Avenue
Cudahy, WI 53110
No phone
Open Tuesdays 6-8pm (no fee)

Phillipine Medical Clinic

5310 W Capitol Drive, Suite 300
Milwaukee, WI 53216
871-5310
Held on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays of
the month, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Walk-in will be served on a first-
come, first served basis.

St. Ben's Clinic

1027 North 9th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53233
765-0606
Hours: With nurse practitioner and
social worker for Walk-in Clinic and
appointments: Mon & Wed from
12:00 noon to 6pm;
Thursdays from 10am to 4pm;
Tuesdays & Fridays, appointments
only
With physician, two-four hours
weekly, appointments only

**Saturday Clinic For The
Uninsured**

1121 East North Avenue,
Milwaukee, WI
219-1000 or -291-1612
Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
First 25 people will be served on a
first-come, first served basis.

Salvation Army Clinic

Health Care for the Homeless
Medical Clinic
1730 North 7th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53205
265-6360
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 am to
4:00 pm

Sethi Medical Clinic

Address: 3510 W. Burnham Ave.,
Milwaukee 53215
Telephone: -643-6454
Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 am to
5:00 pm

Sixteenth Street Community Health Center
1032 South Cesar E. Chavez Drive
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53204

Walkers Point Community Clinic
611 West National, Suite 400
Milwaukee, WI 53204 384-1400

Many of these clinics will provide free or reduced cost services to the general public. This list was retrieved from <http://www.milwaukee-medical-society.org/default.cfm?t=33> July 26th, 2006. For the most up to date listings please visit the website.

Kinship Care

Questions relevant to Milwaukee County

Mary Kennedy
Program Coordinator
Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare
Division of Children and Family Services
Phone: 220-7035
FAX: 220-7062
E-Mail: kenneml@dhfs.state.wi.us

Kinship Site <http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/Children/Kinship/>

Online Forms <http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/Children/Kinship/forms/forms.HTM>

Kinship Care

• Application sites

MILWAUKEE COUNTY PEREZ-PENA LTD

126 South 2nd Street
Milwaukee, WI 5320
Phone: 273-1262

Region one

1730 West N. Ave
220-7700 or 220-7885

Region 2

6111 N. Teutonia Ave.
616-6100

Region 3

2745 S. 13th St.
902-5800
1205 S 70th St.
302-6100

Wisconsin pays a cash benefit called a Kinship Care payment to caretakers who are relatives (grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc.) of minor children. This is a child only payment. Caretakers who are relatives are giving a service that lets children who cannot live with their parent(s) stay with other members of their family. The Kinship Care program places children with relatives while keeping track of the placements with the relative to make sure that the children are safe and well taken care of. Relatives caring for children who are not their legal responsibility are giving a service to the child and the community and there are no work requirements for them to be in the program. The Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) administers the Kinship Care program.

Income Tax Information

Federal Income Tax Information

- **Earned Income Tax Credit**

Internal Revenue Service – Earned Income Tax Credit Information

800-829-3676 Information on Earned Income Tax Credit

800-829-1040 General Federal Tax Questions

800-829-4059 for hearing impaired

www.irs.gov

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

Federal Income Tax Information

- **Earned Income Tax Credit**

Internal Revenue Service – Earned Income Tax Credit Information

800-829-3676 Information on Earned Income Tax Credit

800-829-1040 General Federal Tax Questions
for Hearing Impaired

www.irs.gov

<http://www.irs.gov/publications/p596/index.html>

The Earned Income Tax Credit is a special credit for certain persons who work. The credit reduces the amount of tax you owe (if any) and is meant to help with some of the increases in living expenses and social security taxes. If

you meet certain conditions, you may be eligible for this special tax credit when filing your federal income taxes.

Low Income Heating Assistance Program (*Liheap*)

Energy Assistance

The Energy Assistance Bureau

1-866-HEATWIS (432-8947).

<http://www.homeenergyplus.wi.gov/>

The Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) administers the federally funded Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Public Benefits Energy Assistance Program. LIHEAP and its related services help over 100,000 Wisconsin households annually. In addition to regular heating and electric assistance, specialized services include:

- Emergency fuel assistance,
- Counseling for energy conservation and energy budgets,
- Pro-active co payment plans,
- Targeted outreach services,
- Emergency furnace repair and replacement.

Services are provided locally through:

- County social services offices,
- Tribal governments,
- Private non-profit or other government agencies.

Heating assistance is available to lower income Milwaukee County residents. To apply for assistance, you need to bring: proof of income for all household members for the previous three months, Social Security cards for all household members, and a current heating bill (gas/electric/oil) and electric bill. If you are a renter, bring a statement from your landlord that heat is included in rent. If you are a student, bring proof of financial aid and tuition cost.

To find out more about the program and where to go for help in your area call 1-866-HEATWIS (432-8947).

The Governor's Heating Assistance Program (GEAP)

Heating Assistance

The Governor's Energy Assistance Program

1-866-HEATWIS (432-8947).

<http://www.homeenergyplus.wi.gov/>

(GEAP) provides heating assistance payments to households between 150 and 175 percent of the federal poverty level. The program delivery is through the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP).

The Wisconsin Weatherization Assistance Program (WisWAP)

**Weatherization
Assistance**

Energy Assistance Bureau
Division of Energy, Department of Administration

Help Desk Phone: (608) 267-3680

<http://www.homeenergyplus.wi.gov/>

The Wisconsin Weatherization Assistance Program (WisWAP) uses energy conservation techniques to reduce the cost of home energy. Correcting health and safety hazards and potentially life-threatening conditions is the first consideration in WAP activities.

Wisconsin Lead Hazard Reduction Program (LHRP)

**Weatherization
Assistance**

Wisconsin Division of Energy
Help Desk Phone: (608) 266-6789
<http://www.homeenergyplus.wi.gov/>

This program was created to provide assistance to low-to-moderate income homeowners, with children under age six, who occupy houses with lead-based paint hazards.

Residential property owners, who have buildings with lead-based paint hazards and that are occupied by low-to-moderate income tenants with children under age 6, may also be eligible for assistance.

W-2 and Employment Assistance

Milwaukee Job Center Network

Milwaukee Job Center North
374-1800
4030 N. 29th Street
Milwaukee, WI
53212

Milwaukee Job Center Northwest
760-6060
6550 N. 76th Street
Milwaukee, WI
53223

Milwaukee Job Center South
(UMOS)
389-6600
910 W. Mitchell
Milwaukee, WI
53204

Milwaukee Job Center YWCA
374-1800
1915 N. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Milwaukee, WI
53212

Milwaukee Job Center Teutonia
438-2000
6091 N. Teutonia Avenue
Milwaukee, WI
53209

Milwaukee Job Center Southwest (Maximus)
607-0477
1304 S. 70th Street
West Allis, WI
53214

Job Center Locations Online Statewide

<http://www.wisconsinjobcenter.org/directory/wda02/1810.htm>

Job Centers are places where publicly funded employment and training services are given to employers and job seekers. Services available at the Job Center include: specific and individual job training, retraining and career guidance; the JobNet automated self-service job-matching system; complete and accessible labor market information; vocational rehabilitation; entry-level and re-entry counseling; resume-writing assistance; job search workshops and interviewing clinics; individualized skills assessment; aptitude testing; individualized job search and employment planning; job search-related financial counseling and assistance; and job-related transportation and child-care information. Service is given in three different forms: Self-Service, Lite Service and Individualized Service. Individualized Service, when needed, is given by a staff person who can approve service through an individual services plan.

Wisconsin Job Net Job Search Statewide

The Wisconsin Jobline

Wisconsin Jobline

Call: (800) -5748

Visit:

<http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/jobnet/mapWI.htm>

JobNet contains current job opportunities that employers have listed with the Wisconsin Job Center system. If you see a job opportunity that interests you, read the employer contact information at the bottom of each job page for referral instructions. Selecting an out-of-state location on JobNet will result in out-of-state job listings given to Wisconsin Job Service. Wisconsin's JobNet jobs are sent to America's Job Bank daily..

