

Childcare Start-Up Grants - Summer 2026

Wyoming Community Foundation

Overview

The purpose of this funding is to **increase the number of childcare slots available for Wyoming families.**

Timeline:

- The deadline is **11:59 PM on July 15th, 2026**. Notifications will go out in August or early September.

Eligibility:

- Project requests must either:
 - Offset start-up costs for new/start-up childcare businesses, **defined as operating for one year or less.**
 - Offset associated costs for established businesses whose aim is to increase enrollment capacity.
- Applicants must be licensed, working toward licensure within one year of applying, or must accept childcare subsidies.
- Applicants must work with the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) on business plans and financials. The SBDC is a free small business resource. If your organization already has a strong, customized business plan, we ask that you still reach out as they may have other resources available for you. Please reach out to Devan Costa-Cargill with SBDC at dcostaca@uwo.edu for more information.
- Applicants must not have been previously awarded Childcare Start-up funds.
- Applicants may be nonprofit or for-profit entities.

Priority:

- Applicants located in or serving high need areas of Wyoming.
- Requests that demonstrate how funding will increase access to care.
- Childcare businesses accepting or planning to accept childcare subsidies.
- Childcare businesses with business plans that consider organizational sustainability
- Other applicants considered on a case by case basis.

Funding Request:

Requests **must not exceed \$10,000.00** per applicant. Grants will be distributed until funds are expended. Requests exceeding this amount will not be considered. Partial funding may be awarded.

Scope:

Funding can support a wide array of needs. Applicants should prioritize requests essential to opening or expanding services, such as safety equipment, furniture, or facility improvements, before requesting enhancements like technology or play/educational materials. While we recognize the value of learning materials and curriculum, these items would not normally be essential for increasing care.

Example requests include but aren't limited to:

- Materials or improvements necessary to meet licensure requirements
- Push bar exits
- Replacing entry and exit doors and/or related hardware (e.g., doorknobs)
- Fencing
- Green Space
- Indoor and outdoor safety and accessibility renovations, including lighting and ventilation improvements, smoke and carbon monoxide detector installation or repair, childproofing measures, ramp installation, deck or stair repairs.
- Kitchen equipment
- Modifications to assist children and families with disabilities
- Child health and safety items, such as approved safe sleep surfaces, gates, locks for cabinets or unsafe spaces, approved covers for fireplaces, food handling and storage items

Funds may not be used for:

- Construction (other than renovations described above)
- Purchase of land, buildings, or vehicles
- Emergency purposes
- Backfilling revenue shortfalls
- Employee wages

Business and Request Information

To apply for this grant, it is required that applicants work with the [WY Small Business Development Center](#) on business plans and financial review. If you have not done so already, please reach out to Devan Costa-Cargill at dcostaca@uwyo.edu and she will direct you to your regional SBDC representative.

Business supports are also available from [The Wyoming Early Childhood Professional Learning Collaborative](#).

Have you reached out to the Small Business Development Center for business support?*

Please note that working with the SBDC is a requirement to be eligible for this grant program.

Choices

Yes

No

To be eligible, you must be one of the following. Please select all that apply to you:*

Unless exempt, there is an expectation that licensure will be obtained within one year.

Choices

My childcare business is licensed.

My childcare business is working toward licensure.

I currently accept DFS childcare subsidies.

Exempt

Name of Childcare Business:*

Character Limit: 250

Primary Contact Name*

Character Limit: 250

Childcare Business Street Address, if applicable:

Character Limit: 250

Project Name*

This can summarize your project or needs.

Character Limit: 100

Amount Requested*

Funding is available until depleted. **The maximum request amount is \$10,000.** Requests above that will not be considered.

Character Limit: 20

Please select the county in which your childcare business operates or will operate within:*

Choices

Albany
Big Horn
Campbell
Carbon
Converse
Crook
Fremont
Goshen
Hot Springs
Johnson
Laramie
Lincoln
Natrona
Niobrara
Park
Platte
Sheridan
Sublette
Sweetwater
Teton
Uinta
Washakie
Weston

High Need Areas

Applicants located in or serving high need areas of Wyoming will be prioritized in this grant program. **Please review this list of zip codes to see which areas are considered high need.** If you are not located in one of these areas, but serve families that are residing in those areas, please provide more information here (number of children served and in what capacity). If your zip code is represented in the list, no action is needed.

Character Limit: 1000

If you operate in more than one county, explain your geographic reach.

Character Limit: 500

What is your business type?*

Choices

In-home
Center-based
Other

Is this a new childcare business?*

Businesses operating for one year or less will be considered new/start-ups for the purposes of this application.

Choices

- Yes
- No

Business Type - Other

If other, describe your business type:*

If your business is not in-home or center-based, describe your business type.

Character Limit: 250

New Childcare Business

***Businesses operating for one year or less will be considered new/start-ups for the purpose of this application.**

Describe your need for funding.*

As a new/start-up childcare business, please describe the need for these funds to open or expand your new business and help ensure long-term childcare stability in your community. How would a one-time grant support your goals in a sustainable way?

Character Limit: 3000

Are you operating yet?*

Choices

- Yes
- No

New Child Care Business Children Currently Served

How many infants do you serve?*

Character Limit: 4

How many toddlers do you serve?*

Character Limit: 4

How many children (excluding infants and toddlers) do you serve?*

Character Limit: 4

Existing Childcare Business

Describe your need for funding.*

As an existing business, please describe how these funds will help increase the number of children and families you serve, and/or help ensure long-term childcare stability in your community. How would a one-time grant support your goals in a sustainable way?

Character Limit: 3000

How long has your childcare business been operating?*

Character Limit: 250

How many infants do you serve?*

Character Limit: 4

How many toddlers do you serve?*

Character Limit: 4

How many children (excluding infants and toddlers) do you serve?*

Character Limit: 4

Are you planning to expand your business in the near future?*

Choices

Yes

No

Expanding business

If funded, how many additional infants do you anticipate serving?*

Character Limit: 4

If funded, how many additional toddlers do you anticipate serving?*

Character Limit: 4

If funded, how many additional children (excluding infants and toddlers) do you anticipate serving?*

Character Limit: 4

New Childcare Business Not Operating Yet

When do you anticipate offering your services to children and families?*

Character Limit: 250

How many infants do you anticipate serving?**Character Limit: 4***How many toddlers do you anticipate serving?****Character Limit: 4***How many children (excluding infants and toddlers) do you anticipate serving?****Character Limit: 4*

Attachments and Documents

Please upload your business plan.*

Organizations must contact the Small Business Development Center for assistance with business plans. Please contact Devan Costa-Cargill at dcostaca@uwyo.edu.

*File Size Limit: 13 MB***Please upload your yearly budget. Include income and expenses.***

If you have not yet been operating for one full year, provide your monthly expenses multiplied by 12 to give an approximation of a yearly budget.

*File Size Limit: 3 MB***Please upload a list of requested items and costs.***

If this is a capital request, include an estimate(s) from a contractor. This document must include the total dollar amount for all requested items.

*File Size Limit: 3 MB***Upload a P&L statement or fiscal year end statement.***

The financial statement uploaded must represent your most recently completed fiscal year. If your business has not yet completed a full fiscal year, bank statements will suffice. If your business is not yet operating, upload a Word document stating your business is not yet open.

*File Size Limit: 3 MB***Have you applied to the Childcare Startup Grant program previously?*****Choices**

Yes

No

You have reached the end of this application.

If you have questions regarding this application or program, reach out to Micah Richardson at micah@wycf.org or 307-721-8300.

If you require technical assistance, reach out to Allison Anderson at allison@wycf.org or 307-721-8300. If you have any additional attachments that you would like to include in your application, please email these attachments to Allison.

Have you applied to the Childcare Startup Grant program previously?

Did you seek out business support services afterwards?*

Examples of support services would include the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), DFS assistance, or similar resources.

Choices

Yes

No

Describe the business support services you received.*

If you did not receive business support services please note this in the box below.

Character Limit: 250