

Chapter ER 4

GRANTS TO DAY CARE PROVIDERS

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**ER 4.01 Purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is to establish standards for the implementation of s. 230.048, Stats., which authorizes the department to make grants to day care providers in connection with day care facilities located at or near a place of employment for state employees.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1991, No. 428, eff. 9-1-91.

**ER 4.02 Definitions.** In this chapter:

(1) "Applicant" means an individual, business, corporation, partnership, nonincorporated association, cooperative or nonprofit organization applying for a grant under this chapter. "Applicant" includes a cooperative of state employees organized under ch. 185, Stats., to provide day care for their children.

(2) "Department" means the department of employment relations.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1991, No. 428, eff. 9-1-91.

**ER 4.03 Requirements for grants.** (1) The department may award a grant under s. 230.048, Stats., to an applicant that meets the requirements of sub. (2). An applicant shall apply for a grant by submitting an application to the department.

Note: Application materials may be obtained at no charge from the Department of Employment Relations, P.O. Box 7855, Madison, WI 53707-7855.

(2) No applicant may receive a grant under this chapter unless:

(a) The applicant has obtained or is in the process of applying for a license, approval or certification to operate a family day care center under ch. HSS 45 or a group day care center under ch. HSS 55.

(b) The applicant agrees to provide day care services for children of state employees and agrees to give priority in enrollment to the children of state employees.

(c) The applicant files with the department a plan for establishing or subsidizing the fees charged per child according to a state employee's ability to pay under s. ER 4.05.

(d) The applicant files with the department a financial plan demonstrating that the applicant is unable to provide day care services for children of state employees without a grant under this chapter and that the applicant will be completely self-sufficient within one year of the start of providing day care services for the children of state employees.

(e) The applicant has not received and is not scheduled to receive a grant under this chapter for day care services in connection with the same day care facility location.

(f) The applicant has designated a site at which day care services will be provided that is at or within 5 miles of a place of employment for state employes, unless waived by the department.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1991, No. 428, eff. 9-1-91.

**ER 4.04 Review of applications.** (1) In addition to the requirements under s. ER 4.03, the department shall consider the following factors in awarding grants:

(a) The extent to which the parents of enrolled children serve on the facility's governing board or advisory body.

(b) The extent to which the facility maintains flexible hours to accommodate employment schedules.

(c) The extent to which parental visitation is encouraged.

(d) The applicant's prior experience in providing day care services.

(e) The day care services to be offered and the staffing plan to be used.

(f) The proximity of other applicants which have received grants under s. 230.048, Stats., and the need for additional day care services for the children of state employes in the area.

(2) The department may visit and inspect an applicant's designated site at which day care services will or are being provided, before or after a grant is made. Advance notice of the inspection is not required.

(3) The department shall notify applicants by mail of whether an application has been approved or disapproved.

(4) The duration of a grant under this chapter is one year.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1991, No. 428, eff. 9-1-91.

**ER 4.05 Fees.** (1) A recipient of a grant under this chapter shall set or subsidize fees according to the state employe's ability to pay as measured by the financial resources and obligations of the state employe.

(2) In order to comply with sub. (1), the facility may use one or more of the following:

(a) A sliding scale fee schedule.

(b) Tuition scholarships or grants to subsidize fees, if other sources of financial assistance are not available to parents.

(c) Any other methods approved by the department.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1991, No. 428, eff. 9-1-91.

**ER 4.06 Change in plans.** A recipient of a grant under this chapter may not change the plans filed under s. ER 4.03 (2) (c) or (d) during the year in which a grant was received unless the recipient receives the prior approval of the department.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1991, No. 428, eff. 9-1-91.