

Why Invest in Early Childhood?

Numerous studies continue to show that children who receive quality early care and education are more likely to:

- > do better in high school
- > be less delinquent as teenagers
- > become less dependent on social welfare programs as adults
- > become better employees, and
- > give back to the community!

In the Connections program, Parents and/or caregivers receive the financial assistance and care management needed to strive to become self-sufficient.

Child Care Providers are paid for the quality services they provide to our children and the program aids in the retention rate of child care providers.

In the end, children, families, child care professionals, and communities win!

Every child deserves the right to quality early care and education!

To refer a potential family to this program, to find out if your family qualifies, or to call with any questions, please contact:

Family Connections
2508 S. 8th Street
Sheboygan, WI 53081

920-457-1999
800-322-2046
920-451-0043 (fax)

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Family Connections is a 501c3 nonprofit, charitable organization. All donations are tax deductible. We appreciate any support you are able to offer.

Please consider donating to this program. Call to find out how you can adopt a family and support their quest towards self-sufficiency while assisting in providing quality early care and education for a child!

Please invest in early childhood education and care!



A Special thanks to our most recent funders:

Sheboygan & Plymouth Area United Way

First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, of Sheboygan

Sheboygan City Development Block Grant

Northwestern Mutual Foundation – Community Service Award in honor of Jan Voigt, Family Connections' outstanding Board Member



Connections Program

Connecting parents and caregivers to child care & community resources!



Family Connections
Child Care Resource & Referral Agency

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Sheboygan, WI 53081

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www.familyconnectionscc.org

About Connections

Family Connections, Inc., a Child Care Resource & Referral Agency, developed the **Connections** program in 1998 to help support the financial needs of low-income, qualifying families in paying for their child care costs.

With over **70% of children in care outside their homes**, many of these children are enrolled in family or group center child care programs while their parents or caregivers are at work. Covering the cost of quality child care can be very challenging on a family's budget.

Connections offers qualifying parents and caregivers:

◆ Financial Assistance

Weekly Child Care Fees

Registration/Enrollment Fees

◆ Care Management

Through both **direct financial assistance** paid to the regulated child care programs and **care management components** for the adult parent(s)/caregiver(s), families are supported in their pursuit towards self-sufficiency.

Children of the participants receive quality care from regulated providers who offer consistency to children, in a safe and healthy environment that stimulates early learning.

Does my family qualify?

Eligibility Requirements:

To qualify for Connections' Program:

1. Parent/Caregiver must consent to be part of the program in full including all care management components. (Please see opposite page for care management detail.)
2. Parent/Caregiver must reside in Sheboygan Co.
3. Children must attend a regulated (certified and/or licensed) family or group center child care program in Sheboygan Co.
4. Parent/Caregiver must first find out if they are eligible for WI Child Care Subsidy prior to applying.

>YES, I receive Child Care Subsidy

If you receive child care subsidy, we understand how difficult it is to pay your portion of the parent co-payment. **Connections** will cover 20% of your co-payment with payments directly to the child care program.

>No, I do not qualify for Child Care Subsidy

If you do not qualify for child care subsidy, but still fall under 250% of the poverty income level guidelines, using the chart created for the **Connections** program, based off of the 2010 Federal Poverty Level Guidelines (subject to change), **Connections** will cover 20% of your general payments to the child care program.

5. Referrals to the program by your County Caseworker or Child Care Provider are encouraged.

A **Wait list** is possible as the program operates on private donations, grants, & fundraisers.

Care Management

Care Management is a very important component of the **Connections Program**. Supporting families with their child care costs is simply not enough to assist families in obtaining self-sufficiency.

Understanding community resources, practical budgeting, quality child care, and child development are all elements that support the outcome of self-supporting families. A **Care Management Plan** will be individualized and based on each family's specific needs. **Family Connections** works with current community resources to help meet a family's needs.

Care Management will include at a minimum, information on:

- >Child Development
- >Quality Child Care Indicators
- >Community Resources Training
- >Budget Counseling
- >Volunteerism

- *Program is **FREE** to qualifying families
- *Program Cycle is 2 year period

