

W-2 Contract Agencies should provide high quality services using the following basic assumptions:

- **Work is the best way for parents to support their families.** Getting a job is the first step in the process of achieving economic stability. W-2 assists parents with preparing for, finding and maintaining consistent employment. W-2 also works with parents who are unable to work due to a disability by assisting these parents with navigating the Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance application process.
- **Family income should improve when parents work.** W-2's goal is to have parents get the best possible job. W-2 also helps parents access work supports (e.g. Earned Income Tax Credit [EITC], FoodShare [FS], BadgerCare [BC], Child Support [CS] and Wisconsin Shares Child Care) that will support keeping them employed.
- **Consistent work is essential for parents to achieve economic stability.** W-2 commits to working with parents before and after they find a job. W-2 supports job retention and advancement in a variety of ways because individual progress toward independence and prosperity is a process. W-2 connects interested parents to needed education and training either before or after gaining employment, in order to help them move forward to better employment.
- **W-2 participants are parents as well as job seekers.** Working parents have multiple family and work obligations. W-2 works with parents to identify strategies to enable them to balance work and family. W-2 also assists parents who are connected to other programs or supports integrate those activities with the family's service plans.
- **Eligible parents must be willing to participate in exchange for W-2 benefits.** Parents across the state have access to individualized quality services. Parents, for their part, must participate to the best of their abilities.
- **Families benefit from participating in W-2.** W-2 assists parents with identifying their goals and locating needed resources. During each interaction, W-2 works to ensure parents understand their choices and the resulting consequences. This approach empowers parents to make informed decisions that strengthen their family. W-2 works with both custodial parents in a two-parent family and extends services to non-custodial parents when appropriate.
- **W-2 matches the needs of working parents with the needs of local employers.** W-2 agencies operate cooperatively within the larger community. W-2 objectives are best achieved by understanding the needs of local employers and matching that need with the skills and interests of W-2 participants..