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Executive Summary for Request for Proposals (RFP) to Administer Wisconsin Works (W-2) and Related Programs

Department of Children and Families (DCF) Secretary Reggie Bicha announced on June 19, 2009, that DCF is soliciting Requests for Proposals (RFP) from agencies and consortia seeking to administer Wisconsin Works (W-2) and Related Programs for the next W-2 contract cycle. The new contract period shall run from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2011.

The 2010-2011 W-2 Contract builds on the strong employment focus emphasized in the 2006-2009 W-2 Contract. Major changes are listed below.

Changes for all W-2 Contract Agencies

- Updated performance standards focusing on successful outcomes for participants;
- New rating scale for performance standards which encourages agencies to meet and exceed performance benchmarks;
- The ability to use performance standards ratings obtained in the 2010-2011 Contract as additional points in the agency's 2012 W-2 proposal. This will be in place of Right of First Selection process;
- New Incentive Pool with additional program funding for any agency that exceeds or meets identified performance standards;
- Increased emphasis on efficient provision of services through the encouragement of the expansion of consortia for balance of state geographic areas with few W-2 paid and unpaid, participants;
- The ability to have balance of state consortia for the 2010-2011 Contract cross Workforce Development Areas; and
- Child Care eligibility will remain as a related program; however, there will be a separate funding allocation for Balance of State Agencies. In Milwaukee, child care eligibility funding will be contracted directly to the Department of Health Services.

Changes for Milwaukee W-2 Contract Agencies

- Increased focus on eligibility determination and assessments with the creation of one independent countywide W-2 Eligibility and Assessment Agency;
- Continued focus on employment as the goal for all W-2 participants, except those applying for SSI/SSDI, through at least three and up to five W-2 Employment Agencies;
- Continued focus on expeditiously assisting people who are likely eligible for SSI/SSDI benefits through one specialized countywide SSI/SSDI Advocacy Agency;
- Expansion of participant choice by allowing parents to choose which W-2 Employment Agency they will work with; and

- Improved continuum of individualized employment and training services to W-2 participants by requiring that the Milwaukee W-2 Employment Agencies and the SSI/SSDI Advocacy Agency create an internal Preferred Provider network of diverse and culturally sensitive community and faith based organizations that can provide a continuum of individualized employment and training services to W-2 participants.

Those eligible to submit proposals under this RFP include, but are not limited to:

- Government agencies
- Private, not-for-profit entities
- Private, for profit entities
- Tribal governing bodies
- Consortia with one of the above as the lead agency

The deadline for submitting proposals is July 31, 2009. DCF will review all proposals and enter into contracts with successful bidders.

A copy of the RFP and additional related information may be found on the DCF website <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/w2/rfp/2010/default.htm>.