

To: DCF/DMCPS Administrator  
DCF Area Administrators  
Child Placing Agency Directors  
Child Welfare Agency Directors  
County Departments of Community Programs Directors  
County Departments of Human Services Directors  
County Departments of Social Services Directors  
Group Home Providers  
Tribal Social Service/Indian Child Welfare Directors  
Private Child Placing Agencies  
Residential Care Center Providers  
Shelter Care Providers  
Tribal Chairpersons

From: Fredi-Ellen Bove   
Administrator

Re: **CY 2016 Youth Aids Emergency Funds** – Allocations

## PURPOSE

This memo provides notification of the allocation amounts for CY 2016 Youth Aids Emergency Funds and explains the eligibility criteria for receiving these funds.

**Counties receiving 2016 Emergency Funds are:** Burnett, Crawford, Door, Florence, Forest, Green, Iowa, Langlade, Lincoln, Marinette, Marquette, Oconto, Polk, Richland, Shawano, Trempealeau, and Waushara. Award amounts are in the attached “2016 Emergency Fund Calculations & Allocations.”

## BACKGROUND

Authority for allocation of Youth Aids emergency funds is found in Wis. Stat. s. 48.526(7)(e). By statute, eligibility for emergency funds is limited to counties with a total general population of no more than 45,000 people. Eligible counties were determined by the January 2016 population estimates of the Wisconsin Demographic Services Center. A total of \$250,000 is available to be allocated among eligible counties.

## INFORMATION SUMMARY

### 1. *Criteria for Emergency Funds Awards*

As in previous years, Youth Aids emergency funds may be used to reimburse eligible counties for the cost of placement of youth placed under Wis. Stat. s. 938.34 (delinquent) and s. 938.345 (JIPS) in residential care centers (RCCs) and juvenile correctional institutions (JCI). However, not all placement costs are considered emergency costs, as it is expected that most counties will have some placement-related expenses during the year.

In order to determine whether placements are considered emergencies and calculate the portion of available funds that will be paid to each eligible county, DCF compares historic expenses for RCC and JCI

placements to expenses for CY 2016. Counties are eligible for reimbursement if CY 2016 placement expenses exceed the county's annual average RCC and JCI placement expenses over the past three years.

This method has been established because it is expected that counties will generally budget for placement costs based on historical expenses.

## 2. Allocation Process

In prior years, counties eligible for Emergency Funds were required to submit applications with information about each county's RCC expenditures.

As in prior years, the JCI expenditure data comes from the Department of Corrections (DOC), and RCC expenditure data was requested from the counties through an application process.

DCF initially attempted to lessen the burden on counties to report RCC expenditures by pulling that data out of eWiSACWIS. In DSP Informational Memo 2017-05i on January 31, 2017, DCF provided counties with notification of RCC expenditure data pulled from eWiSACWIS and provided a 10-day window for counties to provide differing data, information, or calculations. In an email on February 15, DCF explained that the data from eWiSACWIS do not accurately reflect which youth are in RCCs for a ch. 938 placement versus a ch. 48 placement and could not be used for the purpose of determining allocations for 2016 Emergency Funds. DCF explained that information included in the original memo regarding RCC costs and estimated awards should be disregarded as inaccurate. Counties were required to apply for funds, in the same way as applications were processed by DOC, by February 24 if they wanted those expenditures factored in to the Emergency Fund calculations.

Based on the JCI expenditure data from DOC, and the applications received by DCF with RCC expenditure data, the final emergency funds allocations are in the attached "2016 Emergency Fund Calculations & Allocations."

The following process was used to determine estimated allocations:

- DCF calculated each county's average annual RCC and JCI expenditures for the last three calendar years (2013, 2014, and 2015). The attachment includes each county's average JCI and RCC expenditures for this period.
- Each county's average annual RCC and JCI expenditures for the three-year period were compared to the county's total RCC and JCI expenditures for CY 2016.
  - Counties with RCC and JCI expenditures for CY 2016 *equal to or lower than* the annual average of their last three years *will not* receive any emergency funds.
- Counties with RCC and JCI expenditures for CY 2016 *greater than* the annual average of their last three years *may* receive emergency funds.
  - The amount of emergency funds a county will receive will be based upon the difference between the annual average of its last three years of RCC and JCI expenditures and the expenditures for CY 2016.
  - The differences between the 2013-2015 average expenditures and 2016 expenditures for all the counties receiving emergency funds will be added together.
  - Each county will receive a pro-rated share of the total emergency funding available by multiplying each county's percentage of the total difference described in the bullet above by \$250,000 to determine the amount of emergency funds that the county is eligible to receive.

### 3. Awards for CY 2017

Those counties receiving awards will have their award amount added to their Youth Aids (COrE code 3413) funding in the CY 2016 State-County Child Welfare contract. The counties receiving awards should be ready to promptly sign an amendment to the state-county contract for the amount of their emergency funds award.

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT:           Juvenile Justice Policy Coordinator  
  Bureau of Youth Services  
  (608) 422-6897

MEMO WEB SITE:           <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/policy>

Attachments:               2016 Emergency Fund Calculations & Allocations  
  <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/yj/pdf/yjallocations.pdf>