

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: **2017 Wisconsin (WI) Act 185 Impact on Youth Aids Funding**

PURPOSE

This memo provides notification to counties of the changes to allowable Youth Aids expenditures due to 2017 WI Act 185.

BACKGROUND

State statute (s. 48.526) describes the responsibilities of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) with respect to community youth and family aids (“Youth Aids”).

On January 1, 2016, DCF assumed responsibility for the community-based youth justice system. This change included the transfer of responsibilities and oversight for Youth Aids funds distributed under s. 48.526 to the DCF Bureau of Youth Services.

On March 31, 2018, 2017 WI Act 185 was enacted which revises the allowable costs under Youth Aids.

INFORMATION SUMMARY

1. *Act 185 Impact on Allowable Uses of Youth Aids Funds*

Effective March 31, 2018, counties may now use Youth Aids for detention and secured residential care centers for children and youth (SRCCY) costs, per the following change in statute (underlined sections represent the changes):

- 48.526(2)(c): “Funds to counties under this section may be used for reimbursement of costs of program services, including basic care and supervision costs, in juvenile detention facilities and secured residential care centers for children and youth.”

Previously the basic care and supervision costs of juvenile detention centers were not allowable under Youth Aids.

Please note that there are currently no secured residential care centers for children and youth. This is a

new facility type established under 2017 WI Act 2017, and the timeline and rules for those facilities is outlined in the Act.

2. Act 185 Impact on Youth Aids Allocations

A portion of the Youth Aids allocation, as described in s. 48.526(7)(b), now also factors in each county's proportion of the number of juveniles statewide who are placed in "a juvenile correctional facility or a secured residential care center for children and youth..." Previously, this part of the statute only referenced juvenile correctional facilities. This will not affect allocations until the SRCCY framework is specified and operational.

Under Act 185, counties operating joint SRCCYs (in cooperation with another jurisdiction) may receive a bonus allocation. Wisconsin Statute s. 48.527 was added by Act 185 and states that "the department shall allocate an amount equal to 15 percent of a county's allocation in the preceding fiscal year under s. 48.526 or \$750,000, whichever is less, in additional funds for a county that operates a joint secured residential care center for children and youth under s. 46.20 (1m) that was funded by a grant under 2017 Wisconsin Act 185, section 110 (4)." Any bonuses are contingent upon funding being allocated for this purpose in the next biennial budget.

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT: Bureau of Youth Services
(608) 422-6989
DCFYJ@wisconsin.gov

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