

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  
Tribal Social Service/Indian Child Welfare Directors  
Tribal Chairpersons

From: Fredi-Ellen Bove   
Administrator

Re: Funding Opportunity: Brighter Futures Initiative Substance Use Prevention

## PURPOSE

This memo notifies eligible county and tribal agencies *outside of Milwaukee County* of the availability of Brighter Futures Initiative (BFI) funding, and the location of the Requests for Grant Proposal (RFP). The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) will be issuing a separate procurement for Milwaukee County.

## BACKGROUND

The purpose of this document is to provide interested county and tribal agencies with information to enable them to prepare and submit a proposal for the BFI program in areas of the state outside of Milwaukee County. Funding for the BFI program began in 2001 to help Wisconsin youth, families and communities achieve their maximum potential by promoting healthy and safe families, school readiness for children, and the successful navigation from childhood to adulthood. The Initiative supports evidence-based prevention strategies and a positive youth development approach, and focuses on the legislative outcomes set forth in s. 48.545, Wis. Stats., Brighter Futures Initiative. In 2017, the funding structure for BFI changed, with more funding made available for substance use prevention efforts.

## INFORMATION SUMMARY

Consistent with state statutes, the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) has initiated a competitive procurement process for BFI contracts focused on substance use prevention. The intent is to make six (6) awards in the amount of \$167,000 each to fund programs throughout the state beginning calendar year 2019. Start-up funds for the programs will be available in 2018 and can be carried over through the initial contract term (January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019).

The following agencies are eligible to apply (joint applications are permitted):

- County or tribal department of social service (s. 46.22, Wis. Stats.) <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/46/22>
- County or tribal department of human services (s. 46.23, Wis. Stats.) <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/46/23>;
- Community mental health, developmental disabilities or alcoholism and drug abuse service programs (s. 51.42, Wis. Stats.) <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/51/42> and (s. 51.437, Wis. Stats.), <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/51/437>).

The following counties and tribe currently receive BFI Substance Use Prevention funds and **are ineligible** to apply for the current grant opportunity: Washington Co., Waukesha Co., Barron Co., and Red Cliff Tribe.

**Additional Information:**

- The target population for BFI programs is youth between the ages of 12 and 21; however, programs may select a sub-set of that age range.
- Joint applications are encouraged, however the lead agency must meet the prior mentioned eligibility requirement.
- Programs that cross systems and/or county lines to promote the foundational principle of delivering the “right service at the right time” are encouraged.
- **SABG funds must be used for evidence-based substance use prevention activities only.** The Federal Government defines “prevention” as programs for individuals who do not require treatment for substance abuse. Such programs and activities may include education, mentoring, and other activities designed to reduce the risk of substance use by individuals.

The request for proposals can be found at: <https://vendornet.wi.gov/Home.aspx>, under “Bids” and the program name “Brighter Futures Initiative Program – Substance Use Prevention Efforts”.

The sole point of contact for this procurement is Beth Blanchar, Purchasing Agent Senior. She can be reached at [dcfprocurement@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dcfprocurement@wisconsin.gov).

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