

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: Family Treatment Court Funding Opportunity for Counties and Tribes

PURPOSE

This memo notifies counties and tribes of the availability of Family Treatment Court funding to establish two (2) new treatment courts in Wisconsin, and explains the application process.

BACKGROUND

2017 Wisconsin Act 202, <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2017/related/acts/202> authorized grants to be administered by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to counties or tribes to enable them to establish and operate Family Treatment Court programs. 2017 Wisconsin Act 261, <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2017/related/acts/261> appropriated funding for the new grant program.

INFORMATION SUMMARY

A total of \$250,000 is available to DCF to fund two (2) new Family Treatment Court programs in Wisconsin. Eligible applicants are counties and tribes seeking to establish and operate evidence-based Family Treatment Court programs. Information about how to apply is included in the attached application packet.

The anticipated contract start date is December 1, 2018 and shall continue through December 31, 2020. \$125,000 annually is available for each program; additional start-up funding in the amount of \$62,500 is available for each program to support the planning process; those funds may be utilized December 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019. Based on availability of funding, satisfactory performance, and by mutual agreement of DCF and the Contractor, the contract may be renewed for up to two (2) additional one-year periods.

Counties and tribes receiving funding will be required to develop intake and court procedures that screen, assess, and provide dispositional alternatives for parents whose children have come under the jurisdiction of the court. The program objectives should result in improved child well-being and the welfare of participants' families by meeting the comprehensive needs of participants and promoting family reunification wherever possible, as stated in 48.546, Wis. Stats., <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/48/XI/546> Family Treatment Court Grant Program.

Per 48.546, Wis. Stats., <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/48/XI/546> all Family Treatment Court programs funded through this opportunity must be designed to serve parents whose children have come under the supervision of the court; teen parents may be included. Programs funded must include the following components:

- An oversight committee to advise the county or tribe in developing, implementing, administering, and evaluating its program.
- Provision of services to program participants that are consistent with evidence-based practices in treatment services needed by those participants, including substance abuse treatment services, mental health treatment services, and intensive case management services.
- Provision of a multidisciplinary screen as described in s. 48.547 (3), [https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/statutes/48.547\(3\)](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/statutes/48.547(3)) for program participants.
- A holistic and trauma-informed approach to the treatment of program participants.
- Integration of all services provided to program participants by local government agencies and other organizations.
- Submission of data requested to DCF.

All applications must be completed and submitted to the Prevention and Diversion Policy Coordinator in the Bureau of Youth Services via dcfbys@wisconsin.gov no later than **5pm on October 26, 2018**. An optional conference call will be held on September 26, 2018 at 9:00AM to answer any questions about the grant opportunity or application process. The call-in number is 1-877-820-7831 and the access code is 166446#.

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT: Youth Services Section Manager
Bureau of Youth Services
608-422-6993
dcfbys@wisconsin.gov

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

Attachments: Family Treatment Court Grant Program Application

September 7, 2018

Dear Counties and Tribes:

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) invites applications for grant funding to establish and operate evidence-based Family Treatment Court Programs. Funding will support local efforts to develop intake and court procedures that screen, assess, and provide dispositional alternatives for parents whose children have come under the jurisdiction of the court. The anticipated contract start date is December 1, 2018 and shall continue through December 31, 2020. DCF intends to make two (2) awards of \$125,000 annually through this competitive application process; additional start-up funding in the amount of \$62,500 is available per grantee for use December 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019.

Counties and Tribes are eligible to apply for this funding. The attached application packet provides information necessary to apply for these funds, which must serve the overall Family Treatment Court goal of “improving child well-being and the welfare of participants' families by meeting the comprehensive needs of participants and promoting family reunification wherever possible” ([s. 48.546, Wis. Stats.](#)). In addition to a completed application and responses to the required questions, all applicants must also submit a letter of commitment signed by key team members, as described in the application.

All applications must be completed and submitted to the Bureau of Youth Services via dcfbys@wisconsin.gov no later than **5pm on October 26, 2018**. An optional conference call will be held on September 26, 2018 at 9:00AM to answer any questions about the grant opportunity or application process. The call-in number is 1-877-820-7831 and the access code is 166446#.

Thank you for considering this opportunity and for your commitment and efforts to support children, youth, and families in your local jurisdictions.

Sincerely,



Fredi-Ellen Bove
Administrator
Division of Safety and Permanence

cc: John Elliott
Wendy Henderson

Family Treatment Court Grant Program Information and Application Instructions

Background and Purpose

[2017 Wisconsin Act 202](#) authorized grants to be administered by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to counties or tribes to enable them to establish and operate a new Family Treatment Court programs. [2017 Wisconsin Act 261](#) appropriated funding for the new grant program. Funding is being awarded through a competitive grant application process. Counties and tribes receiving funding will be required to develop intake and court procedures that screen, assess, and provide dispositional alternatives for parents whose children have come under the jurisdiction of the court. The program objectives should result in improved child well-being and the welfare of participants' families by meeting the comprehensive needs of participants and promoting family reunification wherever possible, as stated in [48.546, Wis. Stats.](#), Family Treatment Court Grant Program.

Recent data from the federal Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) indicates that parental alcohol and other substance abuse is the second most common reason for removing children from their homes (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 2018). Family Drug Treatment Courts (FDTCS) are an evidence-based practice used to address cases of child abuse or neglect in which parental substance abuse is a contributing factor. These courts combine a justice system response with treatment resources to better address the needs of families who are involved in the child welfare system. FDTCS have a unique opportunity to improve outcomes for families experiencing parental substance use disorders. FDTCS increase the likelihood of reunifying children in out-of-home care with their parent(s) and decrease the probability that children will re-enter out-of-home care after reunification.

Another evidence-based Family Treatment Court model is the [ZERO TO THREE Safe Babies Court Team™ approach](#), which was designed to help communities start or expand their efforts to meet the needs of families whose infants and toddlers are in foster care.

Current Opportunity

A total of \$250,000 is available to fund two (2) new Family Treatment Court programs annually at \$125,000 each; additional start-up funding in the amount of \$62,500 is available for each program for use for December 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019. Because this funding is time-limited, DCF expects successful applicants to develop and implement a sustainability plan during the grant period to continue operation of the program when the grant ends.

The anticipated contract start date is December 1, 2018 and shall continue through December 31, 2020. Based on availability of funding, satisfactory performance, and by mutual agreement of DCF and the Contractor, the contract may be renewed for up to two (2) additional one-year periods.

Grant award amounts will include start-up funds for the initial contract year. Grant award amounts will be \$125,000 annually thereafter (see table below). **Start-up funds will not be available after December 31, 2019.**

Contract Term	Start-up Funds Award Amount (December 2018 – December 2019)	Award Amount (January 2019 – December 2020)	Award Total
Year 1 (2019)	\$62,500	\$125,000	\$187,500
Year 2 (2020 and each subsequent renewal)		\$125,000	\$125,000

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are counties and tribes seeking to establish and operate evidence-based Family Treatment Court programs. Community-based, nonprofit, and for-profit organizations are ineligible as applicants, but DCF encourages eligible applicants to partner with community organizations for service provision, when appropriate.

Family Treatment Court Teams

Family Treatment Court programs established through this grant opportunity shall be **integrated** models in which a specialized court docket, composed of a single, designated family treatment court judge and other team members (e.g., representatives from treatment programs, child welfare, and legal counsel) work together to monitor and support participants. This integrated, collaborative approach will contribute to the success of the program.

Due to the collaborative nature of a Family Treatment Court, a letter of commitment including signatures from three (3) of the key team members will be required:

- the Judge that will preside over the Family Treatment Court;
- the Director of the Human or Social Services Agency; and
- the District Attorney, Corporation Counsel, or the Attorney assigned to CHIPS cases.

Family Treatment Court Program Guidelines

Per [48.546, Wis. Stats.](#), all Family Treatment Court programs funded through this opportunity must be designed to serve parents whose children have come under the jurisdiction of the court; this may include teen parents.

Each Family Treatment Court Program must include these components:

- An oversight committee to advise the county or tribe in developing, implementing, administering, and evaluating its program.
- Provision of services to program participants that are consistent with evidence-based practices in treatment services needed by those participants, including substance abuse treatment services, mental health treatment services, and intensive case management services.
- Provision of a multidisciplinary screen as described in s. [48.547 \(3\)](#) for program participants. The screen shall include indicators that screen for:
 - Family dysfunction;
 - Work problems;
 - School or truancy problems (if serving teen parents);
 - Mental health problems; and
 - Delinquent or criminal behavior patterns.
- A holistic and trauma-informed approach to the treatment of program participants.
- Integration of all services provided to program participants by local government agencies and other organizations.
 - The county or tribe shall require regular communication among a participant's treatment providers, other service providers, the court and court personnel, and any person designated under the program to monitor the participant's compliance with his or her obligations under the program and under the court's order.

In 2013, Children and Family Futures created family drug court guidelines for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), which were updated and published in 2015. Applicants may refer to these [family drug court guidelines](#) when crafting their applications. The Wisconsin Association of Treatment Court Professionals (WATCP) has also drafted Wisconsin Treatment Court Standards, which can be found here: [WATCP Wisconsin Treatment Court Standards Publication Revised – 2018](#).

What will my agency be required to do if we receive a grant?

Agencies will be required to:

- Submit a program implementation plan, a timeline for program implementation, and budget within two weeks of award notification;
- Submit any data requested to evaluate the program to DCF as requested as part of the contract;
- Report on the progress of the program and use of funding to DCF as requested as part of the contract;
- Develop and implement a sustainability plan during the grant period;
- Participate in periodic site visits; and,
- Upon request, present the program to other agencies and stakeholders.

Can my agency apply in partnership with another agency?

Counties or tribes may apply in partnership with other counties or tribes by submitting one application with one or more partners listed. The lead applicant must submit the application and specify the role of each county or tribe in developing, administering, and evaluating the program.

What is the timeline for award and use of funds?

Successful applicants will be notified in mid-November 2018, with an anticipated contract start date of December 1, 2018. The Family Treatment Court program must be operational by July 1, 2019; start up and year one contract funds must be used by December 31, 2019. The contract will continue through December 31, 2020 and may be renewed up to two (2) additional 1-year periods.

Application Instructions:

- Describe your proposed Family Treatment Court program by answering the required questions (see page 6).
- Limit your response to eight (8) single-spaced pages. Use a minimum of 11 pt. font with 1-inch margins.
- Attach a letter of commitment signed by the following three (3) key Family Treatment Court team members:
(You may submit one letter with three signatures or you may submit three separate, signed letters. Letters do not count toward the 8-page maximum):
 - the Judge that will preside over the Family Treatment Court;
 - the Director of the Human or Social Services Agency; and
 - the District Attorney, Corporation Counsel, or the Attorney assigned to CHIPS cases.

Completed applications must be submitted **by 5pm on October 26, 2018**, to dcfbys@wisconsin.gov. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

An optional conference call will be held on September 26, 2018 at 9:00 AM to answer any questions. The call-in number is 1-877-820-7831, and the passcode is 166446#.

Family Treatment Court Grant Application

Lead agency:			
If applying in partnership, please list the partnering agency(ies):			
Agency mailing address:			
	<i>Street</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Zip code</i>
Contact person for this proposal:			
	<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	
Contact information for point of contact:			
	<i>Email</i>	<i>Phone</i>	

- Describe your proposed Family Treatment Court program by answering the questions below.
- Limit your response to eight (8) single-spaced pages. Use a minimum of 11 pt. font with 1-inch margins.
- Attach a letter of commitment signed by the following three (3) key Family Treatment Court team members:
 (You may submit one letter with three signatures or you may submit three separate, signed letters. Letters do not count toward the 8-page maximum):
 - the Judge that will preside over the Family Treatment Court;
 - the Director of the Human or Social Services Agency; and
 - the District Attorney, Corporation Counsel, or the Attorney assigned to CHIPS cases.

“The work of the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families is guided by the Wisconsin Child Welfare Model for Practice that continually aligns what we do with how and why we do our work, and provides a vision for quality services. The system strives to engage with children, youth, and families to expand healthy connections to supports in their community and tribes and bolster resiliency in families to help them thrive.”

Family Treatment Court Questions:

1. **Statement of Need:** Provide a detailed description of the nature and scope of the issues your Family Treatment Court will address. **Be specific** about the needs of the community and the impact on your county or tribe. Use of local data to demonstrate your county's or tribe's need for a Family Treatment Court is encouraged.

2. **Program Implementation Plan:** Describe your plan for the implementation of a Family Treatment Court, addressing each of the areas below.
(Note: Applicants should indicate which of the following areas will be addressed or explored further during the start-up/planning phase of the grant, if applicable.)
 - A list of the titles or roles of the people who are committed to being part of your Family Treatment Court oversight committee (e.g. judge, coordinator, district attorney, etc.).
 - The target population you intend to serve and the eligibility criteria for participation in the program.
 - The general structure you envision for your Family Treatment Court, including the referral, screening and assessment processes, program design/structure, and requirements for successful completion.
 - How you will provide services to program participants that are consistent with evidence-based practices in treatment services, including substance abuse treatment services, mental health treatment services, and intensive case management services.
 - How you will provide a holistic and trauma-informed approach to the treatment of program participants.
 - How you will integrate all services provided to program participants by state and local government agencies and other organizations.
 - How you will evaluate your program's outcomes and which data you will collect.
 - The timeline for your planning process, including the anticipated date your Family Treatment Court will be operational (this is a timeline for your planning process, which is separate from the timeline for program implementation that must be submitted within two weeks of award notification).

3. Attach a **Letter of Commitment** signed by three (3) of the key Family Treatment Court team members: (You may submit one letter with three signatures or you may submit three separate, signed letters. Letters do not count toward the 8-page maximum):
 - the Judge that will preside over the Family Treatment Court;
 - the Director of the Human or Social Services Agency; and
 - the District Attorney, Corporation Counsel, or the Attorney assigned to CHIPS cases.

Note: Separate letters and/or signatures demonstrating support from additional team members may be submitted. Additional team members may include: an attorney that represents the parents, an attorney or advocate that represents the interests of the child, and proposed treatment provider(s).

Eligibility for a Family Treatment Court Grant requires consent to the criteria below.

Please check each box to acknowledge your acceptance of these terms.

- I agree to commit the time of the appropriate team and other necessary staff to present to other agencies as required.
- I agree to participate in program evaluation activities.
- I have reviewed and approved the content of this application.

Please sign and date below.

Agency Authority

Date