

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: Wendy Henderson 
Administrator

Re: **Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI) county selection for Phases 2, 3 and 4 of Statewide Implementation**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to inform counties of the application process and timeline for participation in the second, third and fourth phases of YASI implementation.

BACKGROUND

DCF has selected an assessment tool for use statewide that considers a youth's risk to reoffend in the context of the youth's needs and strengths. The Youth Assessment & Screening Instrument (YASI) is validated for youth. Implementation for the Phase 1 counties began in early 2019. Phase 2 of implementation is expected to begin in the third quarter of 2019. Implementation for all 72 counties is anticipated to conclude in the first quarter of 2021 at which time all counties will use the YASI in their youth justice cases.

Section 938.01(2)(c) of the Wisconsin Statutes outlines the legislative intent for the youth justice system which includes "provid[ing] individualized assessment[s] of each alleged and adjudicated delinquent juvenile, in order to prevent further delinquent behavior...". The Department of Children and Families, in partnership with counties, tribes and youth justice system partners, has identified the implementation of a consistent, validated, statewide assessment tool as a top priority for strengthening the youth justice system.

The YASI looks at research-based static (historic and unchangeable) and dynamic (changeable) risk factors to estimate the likelihood that the same delinquent behaviors will continue if there is no intervention. The YASI also guides case planning by indicating which areas (dynamic risk factors) may be the best targets for intervention. The YASI provides information about responsiveness to assist with matching youth with the most effective level and type of supervision and services. Both the assessment and case-planning model are youth-centered and strengths-based. Research has found that a youth's strengths have a buffering effect on future success which supports the inclusion of strengths-based items in the assessment.

INFORMATION SUMMARY

DCF began a two-year phased implementation of the YASI in all 72 counties in January 2019. Counties that submitted letters of interest but were not selected for Phase 1 of implementation will be automatically included in Phase 2 and can expect communication from DCF to confirm interest in participating. Additional counties may be added to Phase 2 as well.

The DCF Bureau of Youth Services (BYS) will be using the following criteria for selecting counties for Phases 2,3 and 4 of implementation:

1. **Leadership Strength** – Priority given to counties with verification of stakeholder support including a letter of support from at least one judge in the county.
2. **Urban/Rural mix** – BYS will select 4-6 counties from each of the five BRO regions (Northern, Northeastern, Southeastern, Southern and Western) to participate in each phase.
3. **Mentorship** – Willingness to serve as a mentor to a county in a subsequent phase in the region.
4. **Local Implementation Committee** – Develop and list the members of your county implementation team. It should include the following (at a minimum): the county director/YJ supervisor and 1-3 YJ worker(s).
5. **Number of Staff to be Trained** – Provide the number of staff and supervisors who require training.
6. Counties not currently using an assessment tool will be prioritized.

Counties should submit a response letter that addresses the criteria outlined above. The letter should also identify the county's preference for phase enrollment by order of most to least preferred (e.g. 1st choice – Phase 4; 2nd choice – Phase 3, etc.). Response letters should be emailed to dcfyj@wisconsin.gov no later than **5:00pm Wednesday, July 31st**.

To assist counties with identifying the preferred phase and planning for implementation, the following documents can be referenced on the Youth Justice page of the DCF website (<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/yj>) within the Youth Assessments and Screening Instrument (YASI) section:

1. Wisconsin's Plan for Assessment and Case Planning
2. YASI Rollout Timeline
3. YASI County Implementation Checklist

Phase 2 counties should begin work on the Implementation Checklist as soon as possible. The first Phase 2 monthly conference call will be scheduled in August 2019.

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT: Youth Justice Policy Coordinator
Bureau of Youth Services
(608) 422-6899
dcfyj@Wisconsin.gov

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

PAGE LINK: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/yj>
Wisconsin's Plan for Assessment and Case Planning
YASI Rollout Timeline
YASI Implementation Checklist