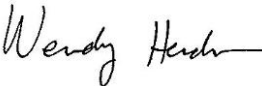


To: DCF/DMCPS Administrator  
DCF Area Administrators  
Child Placing Agency Directors  
Child Welfare Agency Directors  
County Departments of Community Programs Directors  
County Departments of Human Services Directors  
County Departments of Social Services Directors  
Group Home Providers  
Tribal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

From: Wendy Henderson   
Administrator

Re: **Independent Living Program Updates**

## **PURPOSE**

This memo provides:

- a link to a training created to assist workers with the credit check process and practice changes resulting from the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act;
- information regarding the results of the competitive procurement process for Transition Resource Agencies (TRAs) in Regions 1, 5 and 7;
- information regarding upcoming regional Youth Advisory Council (YAC) initiatives, including contact information for the councils; and,
- additional IL resources available on the DCF website.

## **BACKGROUND**

As detailed in [DSP Informational Memo Series 2019 -04i](#), the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act lowered the age that youth were to receive a copy of their credit reports from 16 to 14. This required modifications to the credit check process. In addition, a simplified way to complete credit remediation was developed by the Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services and piloted with other willing counties. The new process will now be implemented; a training was created to assist workers in understanding the changes.

In summer 2019, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) released a Request for Grant Proposal for TRAs in Youth Services Regions 1, 5, and 7. DCF recently made awards to the selected proposers and is now able to share those results.

Each TRA is required to have a regional YAC and to identify an advisor/point of contact. DCF staff will be working with regional YAC members and advisors to strengthen the councils now that they are established through a process called, "Hijack the YAC".

Finally, to further support and improve Wisconsin's independent living program, DCF's IL team has developed additional resources. The intent of these resources is to streamline processes, improve consistent information-sharing across the state, and guard against loss of knowledge in the event processes change or workforces turn over.

## INFORMATION SUMMARY

### **Credit Check**

DCF partnered with the Wisconsin Child Welfare Professional Development System (WCWPDS) to create an online training entitled "Keeping Kids Safe from Identity Theft". This training will assist caseworkers in understanding their role in protecting children's identities, supplying youth 14 and over with a copy of their credit report(s), and initiating credit remediation efforts, when necessary. The training also explains what workers can expect to receive from the Department as part of the credit check process. Workers can access the training via PDS online and DCF's Independent Living Worker Information web page <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/il> within the Resources and Training accordion.

### **TRA Awards**

The recent competitive procurement process for TRAs in Youth Services Regions 1, 5, and 7 resulted in no change in service provider in any of the regions. Each of the contracted agencies will continue their efforts to serve IL eligible youth in 2020. A summary of the active TRA contracts is provided below.

Region	Original/Renewed Contract Effective Year	Awarded Agency
1	2017 / 2020	Wood County & CW Solutions
2	2016 / 2019	Bay Area Workforce Development Board
3	2018 / N/A	SaintA
4	2019 / N/A	Kenosha Human Development Board
5	2017 / 2020	Workforce Development Board of South-Central Wisconsin
6	2016 / 2019	Family & Children's Center
7	2017 / 2020	Workforce Resource

Additional information about these agencies, their points of contact, and the services they are expected to provide is available here: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/map/il-r>.

### **Hijack the YAC**

As part of its support of the local YACs, members of the DCF IL team will visit each regional meeting this fall, during which they will review the roles of each YAC level, provide a training, and solicit direct youth input. Coined "Hijack the YAC," these visits will take place throughout September and October 2019. If you know of a youth eligible for IL services who may want to be involved, contact your regional YAC advisor for more information on when the Hijack the YAC meeting is taking place near you and other opportunities to be involved with the local YAC. Visit <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/youthservices/pdf/yac-advisors.pdf> for contact information.

### **Additional Resources**

The DCF IL team's resource development is guided by direct feedback with contracted agencies, community partners, youth advocates, and other stakeholders. Collectively, they have the expertise to best inform effective methods to inform and improve the state's IL program. The most recent resources and training materials include:

- The Roadmap to Independent Living details the state's IL requirements, based on youth input– <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/cwportal/il/pdf/il-roadmap.pdf>
- Brighter Star Funding Guidelines details funding eligibility and applicable program requirements, as well as how to apply– <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/youthservices/pdf/bs-funding-guidelines.pdf>

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACTS: Independent Living Coordinator  
608.422.6990  
[DCFILCoordinator@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DCFILCoordinator@wisconsin.gov)

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