



Division of Safety and Permanence  
April 12, 2024

DSP Informational Memo Series 2024-05i

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  
 Private Child Placing Agencies  
 Residential Care Center Providers  
 Shelter Care Providers  
 Tribal Chairpersons

From: John Elliott  
 Administrator

Re: **One-Time Funding for Putting Families First: Family First Funds**

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this memo is to notify local county and tribal child welfare service agencies access to one time and time-limited Family First funds. This funding opportunity is open to county and tribal social or human service agencies and the Milwaukee County Human Services Department Youth Justice program only, excluding the Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services and private child placing agencies. Family First funds may be used to cover the costs of formal and informal supports and resources provided to children, youth and their families who are being served by local child protective service and youth justice systems prior to or to prevent the need for ongoing case management services or to expedite or stabilize a child or youth’s reunification to their family home. The funds must be used for utilizing community-based services to accomplish the following purposes:

- Protecting and promoting the welfare of all children and youth and their families.
- Preventing the neglect, abuse or exploitation of children and youth and their families.
- Supporting at-risk children, youth, and their families through services which allow families to remain intact, including relative supports.





## BACKGROUND

The federal Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) puts a new emphasis on serving more children who are in imminent risk of removal in their family homes including through the provision of one-time Family First Transition Act (FFTA) grant funding to help states prepare for and to implement systems improvements toward this goal. Since 2018, Wisconsin has been progressively working toward transitioning the child welfare system, being served for either child protective service or for youth justice reasons, to intervene and to provide these services in a child or youth's home and in a manner that is more family focused, collaborative, and trauma-informed.

Wisconsin DCF is committed to supporting local agencies' ability to provide these types of services and will be making funds consistent with the goal of [Putting Families First](#) and the FFPSA. While these funds may not be used to cover the costs of agency child welfare staff, child welfare supervisors, or the administrative overhead costs associated with these individuals Family First funds can be used flexibly and in a wide variety of ways. Some examples include using Family First funds to cover costs of providing supports and services by formal or informal providers and to address child, youth, and family resource needs, including direct assistance.

## INFORMATION SUMMARY

DSP is distributing these one-time, time-limited federal Family First funds through a contract for the July 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025, period. DCF will award approximately \$2 million to county and tribal child welfare agencies who submit a complete and timely simple application described below. Funding will be distributed to agencies using the methodology developed collaboratively between DCF and the Wisconsin County Human Services Association in August 2021 and as established for currently participating tribal agencies. This methodology is used currently to allocate Targeted Safety Support Funds (TSSF) and is based on local child poverty and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) data as indices for child and family need and vulnerability.

Family First Support funds will be awarded through a non-competitive simple Survey application process. Agencies will be asked to outline how funds are anticipated to be utilized as well as any anticipated barriers based on the categories outlined above. Allocation amount estimates for each county and tribal agency are provided in Appendix 1. **Applications are due by Monday, June 10, 2024.** Late applications will not be accepted. The link to the application is here: [Family First Support Funds Application](#)

In order to maximize funding access to local agencies, the funding used to support these contracts will rely on a rigorous de-obligation and subsequent re-obligation of these funds over the course of the contract period (please refer to [Appendix 2: Reporting Schedule](#) for reporting deadlines). As such, accurate and timely monthly cost reporting in Subrecipient Payment and Report on Contracts (SPARC) is required. It is critical that agencies have accurate and timely reporting of costs because that will impact the redistribution of funds. Due to the expiration of



the federal funding source for this short-term contract late reported costs will not be accepted. Technical assistance will be offered to support agencies throughout the contract period.

DCF will continue to evaluate program needs and adjust program guidance to strategically invest in [Putting Families First](#) to support local agencies serving children and families in their homes and support placements with like kin and relatives. We appreciate your local agencies' efforts to serve children in their family homes.

CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACT: Child Welfare Program and Policy Section  
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MEMO WEB SITE: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/policy>

ATTACHMENTS: [APPENDIX 1: Estimated Minimum Allocation Amounts](#)  
[APPENDIX 2: Reporting Schedule](#)



## APPENDIX 1

### Estimated Minimum Family First Fund Allocation Amounts

County Human/Social Service Agency	Estimated Allocation Amount*
Adams	\$10,000
Ashland	\$10,000
Barron	\$20,791
Bayfield	\$10,000
Brown	\$97,063
Buffalo	\$10,000
Burnett	\$10,000
Calumet	\$10,000
Chippewa	\$25,533
Clark	\$23,979
Columbia	\$16,396
Crawford	\$10,000
Dane	\$157,234
Dodge	\$25,064
Door	\$10,000
Douglas	\$16,513
Dunn	\$14,867
Eau Claire	\$36,344
Florence	\$10,000
Fond du Lac	\$35,196
Forest	\$10,000
Grant	\$20,840
Green	\$10,868
Green Lake	\$10,000
Iowa	\$10,000
Iron	\$10,000
Jackson	\$10,707
Jefferson	\$24,984
Juneau	\$12,860
Kenosha	\$82,525
Kewaunee	\$10,000
La Crosse	\$34,262
Lafayette	\$10,000
Langlade	\$10,454

County Human/Social Service Agency	Estimated Allocation Amount*
Bad River	\$10,000
Forest County Potawatomi	\$10,000
Ho-Chunk Nation	\$10,000
Lac Courte Oreilles	\$10,000
Lac du Flambeau	\$10,000
Menominee	\$10,000
Oneida	\$10,000
Red Cliff	\$10,000
Sokaogon	\$10,000
St. Croix	\$10,000
Stockbridge-Munsee	\$10,000

\* This reflects a Minimum Allocation; the allocation amount will increase if fewer agencies submit an application to receive funding.



Lincoln	\$10,000
Manitowoc	\$27,003
Marathon	\$42,213
Marinette	\$16,953
Marquette	\$10,000
Menominee	\$10,000
Milwaukee (Youth Justice only)	\$161,896
Monroe	\$23,469
Oconto	\$12,098
Oneida	\$11,450
Outagamie	\$54,283
Ozaukee	\$11,095
Pepin	\$10,000
Pierce	\$10,000
Polk	\$15,678
Portage	\$19,260
Price	\$10,000
Racine	\$108,599
Richland	\$10,000
Rock	\$81,425
Rusk	\$10,000
Saint Croix	\$17,250
Sauk	\$25,796
Sawyer	\$10,000
Shawano	\$17,408
Sheboygan	\$40,802
Taylor	\$10,000
Trempealeau	\$10,936
Vernon	\$18,069
Vilas	\$10,000
Walworth	\$32,885
Washburn	\$10,000
Washington	\$24,081
Waukesha	\$55,178
Waupaca	\$17,840
Waushara	\$10,150
Winnebago	\$55,799
Wood	\$31,905



## APPENDIX 2

### Reporting Schedule for Family First Funds

An agency’s total allocation amount will be split into two periods for the as noted below and will be subject to the corresponding reporting deadlines noted below.

Allocation 1	Reporting Deadline (1)	Allocation 2	Reporting Deadline (2)
July 1, 2024- March 31, 2025	May 31, 2025	April 1, 2024- September 30, 2025	November 30, 2025

Agencies will expect a re-obligated amount within 30 days following the first reporting deadline. Any re-obligated amount is subject to the same reporting deadlines as the second allocation. There will be no re-obligation or carryover opportunities after the second allocation period.