

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
DIVISION OF FAMILY AND ECONOMIC SECURITY
ADMINISTRATOR'S MEMO SERIES

___ ACTION
 NOTICE

DFES 15-07

ISSUE DATE: 11/05/2015
DISPOSAL DATE: Ongoing

* PROGRAM CATEGORIES:

___ AS	___ FM	___ ML	___ TR
___ CC	___ FL	___ NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W-2
___ CS	___ IT	___ RA	___ WIA
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To: W-2 Contract Agency Directors

From: Kristiane Randal
Division Administrator

RE: Chapter 49 Statutory Change: Wisconsin Works Community Steering Committee Requirements

PURPOSE:

This memo provides information on statutory changes to the Wisconsin Works (W-2) Community Steering Committee (CSC) requirements at Wis. Stat. § 49.143(2)(a).

BACKGROUND:

Amendments to the CSC requirements in state statute resolve the prior conflict between the CSC provisions and the new W-2 service delivery structure implemented in 2013. W-2 agencies have been unable to comply with the provisions of the current statute regarding the formation of CSCs, and certain CSC activities in the statute were out of scope of agency responsibilities.

STATUTORY CHANGES:

Wis. Stat. § 49.143(2)(a) was amended to allow W-2 agencies discretion to create committees appropriate for the individual needs of each geographical area with respect to size, composition, and activities to support employment. The updated Wis. Stat. § 49.143(2)(a) is attached.

W-2 agencies now have the ability to establish more than one CSC. CSCs must be established within 60 days of signing the contract. Previously, the 60-day timeline was set from the date the contract was awarded.

The W-2 agency no longer recommends members to the chief executive officer of each county served to appoint to the committee. Moving forward, member appointments will be the responsibility of the W-2 agency. The total number of members on each committee may not exceed 20. The 12 member minimum has been removed from statute and the number of members no longer has to be in proportion to the county population.

Each county the agency serves must be represented on a committee by a member who is a representative of a county department responsible for economic development, of a city department responsible for economic development for a city that is in that county or of the business community in that county. Members may not represent more than one county. Although each committee must have at least one representative of business interests as a member, agencies have flexibility with respect to the composition of the committee.

Specific W-2 placements are no longer identified in statute as the target for CSC employment activities, as amendments to the language now identify all W-2 placements. Tasks related to parenting and childcare are no longer required CSC activities to promote the business and employment focus of the program. CSCs are also no longer responsible for identifying assessment and motivational training programs. The amended statute provides that the committee may foster and guide the entrepreneurial efforts of participants and provide job-related guidance; however, neither of these activities is a requirement.

The statutory changes will put CSCs in a position to increase productivity of W-2 agencies by creating and encouraging others to create employment and work experience opportunities. The link between the W-2 agency and private businesses translates into an investment in the success of the individual participants.

ACTION SUMMARY STATEMENT:

All W-2 Contractors must have one or more CSCs established within 60 days of the date they sign their 2016 W-2 contract. The membership of each CSC and a description of its activities and how meetings will be scheduled must be provided to the Bureau of Regional Operations or Milwaukee Operations W-2 coordinator for the agency no later than 90 days after the contract is signed.

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Attachment: [Wis. Stat. § 49.143\(2\)\(a\)](#)