



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

DFES 24-03

ISSUE DATE: 03/11/2024

DISPOSAL DATE: 12/31/2024

ACTION

NOTICE

PROGRAM CATEGORIES:

- W-2 - Wisconsin Works
- EA - Emergency Assistance
- RA - Refugee Assistance
- CS - Child Support
- CF - Children First
- TJ - Transitional Jobs
- TMJ - Transform Milwaukee Jobs

DATE: March 11, 2024

TO: W-2 Agency Directors

FROM: Connie M. Chesnik
Division Administrator

RE: Emergency Assistance Maximum Benefit Increase

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Administrator's Memo is to announce an increase to the maximum benefit amounts for the Emergency Assistance (EA) program, effective April 1, 2024.

BACKGROUND:

The EA program aims to alleviate a family's crisis due to a housing-related emergency. Based on application data and a cost-of-living analysis, the Bureau of Working Families (BWF) determined that current benefit amounts are not meeting the needs of Wisconsin families in crisis.

By raising the benefit amounts, BWF hopes to meet family needs more closely and better align with the current cost of living in Wisconsin.

Maximum benefits have been increased for all application types as described below.

- For impending homelessness, homelessness, fire, flood, or natural disaster:
 - \$1,200 for an EA Group with 2, 3, 4, or 5 members;
 - \$220 per group member for an EA Group with 6 or more members.

There is no longer a distinction for maximum payments between EA groups of 2-4 and 5 household members, which will all have the same maximum amount.

- For energy crisis, \$750 regardless of group size.

The current policy of paying the lesser amount between the maximum amount and the financial need of the emergency remains. See [EA Policy Manual 5.2.2](#) for more information on how to calculate the EA Group's financial need.

See Operations Memo [24-06](#) for more detailed information about this change.

ACTION NEEDED:

W-2 agencies must familiarize staff with the updated benefit amounts as described in this memo and update any relevant local agency procedures related to application processing and payment issuance.

CONTACT:

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