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State of Wisconsin
Governor Scott Walker



TO: **W-2 Agencies
Training Staff**

FROM: Margaret McMahon, Director
Bureau of Working Families
Division of Family and Economic Security
Department of Children and Families

BWF OPERATIONS MEMO

No: 17-01

DATE: 02/23/2017

W-2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	EA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CF	<input type="checkbox"/>
JAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RAP	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other EP	<input type="checkbox"/> *

SUBJECT: *Disregard of Children's Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for Wisconsin Works (W-2) Financial Eligibility*

CROSS REFERENCE: W-2 Manual, [Section 3.2.8.4 Supplemental Security Income \(SSI\) and Caretaker Supplement \(CTS\) Income](#)
W-2 Manual, [Section 3.2.9.1 Disregarded Income](#)

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 3, 2017

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Operations Memo is to announce a change in Wisconsin Works (W-2) financial eligibility policy regarding children who are recipients of Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

BACKGROUND

Recent court rulings across the United States have determined that a child's income from SSI is solely for the use and benefit of the child, and should not be considered income for the parent of the child. After reviewing W-2 policy, the Bureau of Working Families has determined that Wisconsin's policy to count SSI received by a child in determining financial eligibility for the W-2 Group is outdated and not in alignment with the recent court rulings.

POLICY

Current Policy: Only earned income of a child must be disregarded in determining financial eligibility of the W-2 Group.

New Policy: Both earned income of a child and SSI payments received by the child must be disregarded in determining financial eligibility of the W-2 Group. The following manual changes are effective with the publication of this memo; new text is indicated by underline.

3.2.8.4 Supplemental Security Income and Caretaker Supplement Income

In addition to any adult's SSI payments, CTS payments must also be counted as the SSI parent's income. Children's SSI payments must not be counted in the W-2 Group's income. (See 3.2.9.1) Treat retroactive CTS payments as income in the month received and any amount remaining becomes an asset in the following month.

3.2.9.1 Disregarded Income

The agency must disregard the following income in determining the 115 percent gross income test:

No change prior to #9

9. Earned Income and SSI payments of a Dependent Child: Income earned by a dependent child in a W-2 Group, and any SSI payments the dependent child receives.

No change to the remainder of 3.2.9.1

CARES WORKER WEB (CWW)

Effective March 3, 2017, CWW will be enhanced to disregard SSI received by a dependent child in determining financial eligibility of the W-2 Group.

AGENCY ACTION

W-2 agencies must familiarize staff with this change and update any relevant local agency procedures. Training has been updated to incorporate this change. Desk Aids and training materials are available through the [PTS Learning Center](#).

CONTACTS

For W-2 Policy Questions in the Balance of State: Bureau of Regional Operations, W-2 Regional Coordinators

For W-2 Policy Questions in Milwaukee: Milwaukee Operations Section Regional Administrators

For W-2 CARES Processing Questions: W-2 Help Desk

DCF/DFES/BWF/ERR