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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: 17-04  
Date: 02/22/2017

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

**SUBJECT: 2017 Federal Poverty Level Changes for Wisconsin Works (W-2) and Related Programs**

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** February 1, 2017

**PURPOSE**

This memo announces the 2017 Federal Poverty Level (FPL) amounts that are used to determine financial eligibility for Wisconsin Works (W-2), Job Access Loans (JALs), Emergency Assistance (EA), and Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA).

**BACKGROUND**

Each year, the United States Department of Health and Human Services updates the FPL guidelines based on the Consumer Price Index. Poverty guidelines are used to determine financial eligibility for W-2, JALs, EA, and RCA.

**POLICY**

The 2017 FPL for W-2, JAL, EA, and RCA financial eligibility is as follows:

Group Size	Monthly 115% FPL
1	\$1,156
2	\$1,556
3	\$1,957
4	\$2,358
5	\$2,758
6	\$3,159
7	\$3,559
8	\$3,960
9	\$4,360
10	\$4,761
Each Additional Person Add	\$401

The effective date of the new income limits was February 1, 2017. The new income limits apply to applications started on or after February 1, 2017. The FPL table on the [Emergency Assistance Application form \(2010\)](#), Part 2 Financial Eligibility worksheet, has been updated.

**CARES**

DCF updated the CARES income limit table (TWWS) used to determine W-2 and JAL eligibility with an effective date of February 1, 2017. A CARES mass change for W-2 eligibility ran on February 4, 2017. The CARES mass change selected all ongoing W-2 groups to compare their income to the 2017 FPL amounts for March eligibility.

**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/DA