

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN
AND FAMILIES
Secretary Eloise Anderson
201 East Washington Avenue, Room G200
P.O. Box 8916
Madison, WI 53708-8916
Telephone: 608-422-7000
Fax: 608-266-6836
www.dcf.wisconsin.gov



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:	17-20				
DATE:	11/07/2017				
W-2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	EA	<input type="checkbox"/>	CF	<input type="checkbox"/>
JAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	RAP	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other EP	<input type="checkbox"/> *

SUBJECT: *Wisconsin Works Financial Eligibility Regarding Crowdfunding*

CROSS REFERENCE: [W-2 Manual Section 3.3.2 Asset Availability](#)
[W-2 Manual Section 3.3.3 Changing Estimated Assets](#)
[Operations Memo 16-17: Wisconsin Works Income Policy Changes and Clarifications](#)
[Food and Nutrition Service Treatment of Funds in Crowdfunding Accounts in Determining SNAP Eligibility](#)
[FoodShare Handbook Release 16-02](#)

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Operations Memo is to provide Wisconsin Works (W-2) agencies with policy clarification regarding crowdfunding.

BACKGROUND

Crowdfunding, through platforms such as GoFundMe, Kickstarter, or Indiegogo, is a popular method for people to get widespread attention and monetary donations for a project, cause, individual need, or business venture. Sometimes a specific timeline is set for when money from crowdfunding campaigns can be withdrawn, but funds can usually be accessed as soon as they are generated. Last year, the federal Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) released [policy](#) regarding crowdfunding to state agencies administering Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) programs. In Wisconsin, FoodShare published Release [16-02](#) regarding their treatment of funds from crowdfunding. This memo addresses how W-2 regards crowdfunding and how Financial and Employment Planners (FEPs) must count funds from crowdfunding campaigns.

POLICY CLARIFICATION

Crowdfunding payments must be counted as an asset in CARES Worker Web (CWW) as soon as funds are generated and available in the crowdfunding account, unless the individual can reasonably document that it cannot be accessed for 31 or more days. (See W-2 Manual section [3.3.2.](#))

Once eligible for W-2, if the W-2 Group's assets exceed \$2,500 for at least two consecutive calendar months, the W-2 Group becomes ineligible. Participants must report any change in assets within 10 calendar days of the occurrence. However, the FEP is only required to enter into CWW changes in assets over \$100 when notified. At review, the FEP must enter all changes in assets not already in CWW. (See W-2 Manual section [3.3.3.](#))

Example: Amy is participating in a Community Service Job (CSJ) placement. As part of her work activities, she is taking classes to become a childcare provider. She wants to start a childcare program in her neighborhood, but does not have the start-up money. She starts a crowdfunding campaign to raise funds. Her goal is to raise at least \$4,000. She informs her FEP on January 6, 2017 that she has started a crowdfunding account, and calls her FEP each week the account gains \$100 or more to report the amount. By February 1, she raises \$1,836. Amy's FEP counts the \$1,836 as a liquid asset in CWW for February, and Amy remains under the asset limit. The crowdfunding account continues to grow and generates \$2,743 by March 1. This puts Amy over the asset limit for March. Amy's FEP must continue to review her financial eligibility to determine if she remains under the income and asset limits. If Amy's crowdfunding account has the same amount or more by April 1, Amy would be ineligible for W-2 in May because she would be over the asset limit for two consecutive calendar months (March and April). If the FEP determines that she is over the asset limit, Amy's case would close on April 30.

CARES WORKER WEB

There are no changes to CWW.

AGENCY ACTION

W-2 agencies must ensure that FEPs are aware of these policy updates. Training has been evaluated and determined to be current with these updates. To view current trainings available on counting income, FEPs should visit the [PTT 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