



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

FROM: Patara Horn, Director
Bureau of Working Families
Division of Family and Economic Security
Department of Children and Families

BWF OPERATIONS MEMO					
No:	25-09				
DATE:	10/03/2025				
W-2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	EA	<input type="checkbox"/>	CF	<input type="checkbox"/>
JAL	<input type="checkbox"/>				
RAP	<input type="checkbox"/>	TMJ	<input type="checkbox"/>	TJ	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other EP	<input type="checkbox"/>				

SUBJECT: Family Stabilization Payment Expansion

CROSS REFERENCE: [W-2 Manual Section 9.3.2 Payment Eligibility and Uses](#)
[BWF Operations Memo 24-10](#)

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 20, 2025

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to announce updates to Wisconsin Works (W-2) policy for family stabilization payments.

BACKGROUND

In 2024, the Bureau of Working Families (BWF) implemented updated policy which rebranded emergency payments as family stabilization payments and clarified the purpose and appropriate use of these payments. BWF encourages using family stabilization payments for participants with short-term financial needs in the timeframe before their first scheduled W-2 payment as part of a whole family approach.

POLICY

W-2 policy updates are summarized below. The relevant policy manual section is attached to this memo and will be incorporated into the W-2 Manual. Policy that was removed is highlighted light grey, and policy that is added is highlighted yellow.

CURRENT POLICY

Eligibility for family stabilization payments is limited to Community Service Job, Custodial Parent of an Infant, and W-2 Transition placements.

NEW POLICY

Eligibility for family stabilization payments is expanded to include the At Risk Pregnancy and Trial Employment Match Program placements.

TRAINING

The Partner Training Team will update any relevant trainings based on this policy update.

AGENCY ACTION

W-2 agencies must familiarize staff with the policy changes as described in this memo and update any relevant local agency procedures.

ATTACHMENTS

[Policy Attachment](#)

CONTACTS

For W-2 Policy Questions: [BWF Policy Question SharePoint](#)

For W-2, CARES and WWP Functionality Questions: BWF Work Programs Help Desk
BWFworkprogramsHD@wisconsin.gov

DCF/DFES/BWF/MP