



TO: **W-2 Agencies**
TJ Contractors and Subcontractors
TMJ Contractors and Subcontractors
Training Staff

| BWF OPERATIONS MEMO | | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------|
| No: | 26-02 | | | | |
| DATE: | 02/05/2026 | | | | |
| 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"/> | TMJ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | TJ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other EP | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | |

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

SUBJECT: 2026 Federal Poverty Level Changes for Wisconsin Works and Related Programs

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 1, 2026

PURPOSE

This memo announces the 2026 Federal Poverty Level (FPL) guidelines that are used to determine financial eligibility for the Wisconsin Works (W-2), Job Access Loan (JAL), Emergency Assistance (EA), Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA), Transform Milwaukee Jobs (TMJ), and Transitional Jobs (TJ) programs.

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, JAL, EA, RCA, TMJ, and TJ.

POLICY

The 2026 FPL amounts for W-2, JAL, EA, and RCA financial eligibility are as follows:

| Group Size | Monthly 115% FPL |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | \$1,530 |
| 2 | \$2,074 |
| 3 | \$2,618 |
| 4 | \$3,163 |
| 5 | \$3,707 |
| 6 | \$4,251 |
| 7 | \$4,796 |
| 8 | \$5,340 |
| 9 | \$5,884 |
| 10 | \$6,429 |
| 11 | \$6,973 |
| 12 | \$7,517 |
| 13 | \$8,062 |
| 14 | \$8,606 |
| 15 | \$9,150 |
| 16 | \$9,695 |
| 17 | \$10,239 |
| 18 | \$10,783 |
| Each Additional Person Add | \$544 |

The 2026 FPL amounts for TMJ and TJ financial eligibility are as follows:

| Group Size | Annual 150% FPL |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | \$23,940 |
| 2 | \$32,460 |
| 3 | \$40,980 |
| 4 | \$49,500 |
| 5 | \$58,020 |
| 6 | \$66,540 |
| 7 | \$75,060 |
| 8 | \$83,580 |
| 9 | \$92,100 |
| 10 | \$100,620 |
| 11 | \$109,140 |
| 12 | \$117,660 |
| 13 | \$126,180 |
| 14 | \$134,700 |
| 15 | \$143,220 |
| 16 | \$151,740 |
| 17 | \$160,260 |
| 18 | \$168,780 |
| Each Additional Person Add | \$8,520 |

The effective date of the new income limits is February 1, 2026. The new income limits apply to applications started on or after February 1, 2026.

ACCESS, CARES WORKER WEB (CWW), AND WISCONSIN WORK PROGRAMS (WWP)

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) updates the CWW and WWP income limit tables used to determine EA, W-2, JAL, TMJ, and TJ program eligibility with an effective date of February 1, 2026.

DCF will update WWP to approve TJ/TMJ eligibility for applicants whose income is below 150% FPL and deny eligibility for applicants whose income equals 150% FPL for TJ/TMJ as instructed by existing policy.

A CARES mass change for W-2 eligibility runs on February 7, 2026. The CARES mass change selects all ongoing W-2 groups to compare their income to the 2026 FPL amounts for March eligibility.

CONTACTS

For W-2, EA, and TJ/TMJ Policy Questions: [BWF Policy Question SharePoint](#)

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

For TJ/TMJ Processing Questions: DCFDfESBWFContracts@wi.gov

For RCA Policy Questions: Bureau of Refugee Programs: DCFRefugee@wisconsin.gov

DCF/DFES/BWF/AE