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children & families

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Governor Scott Walker
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Secretary's Office

November 30, 2012

Kent Wilcox
Chicago Regional Office
Administration for Children and Families (ACF)
233 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 400
Chicago, IL 60601-5519
FAX: 312-353-2204

Dear Mr. Wilcox:

Enclosed is Wisconsin's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant state plan for Federal Fiscal Years (FFYs) 2013 – 15 (October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2015).

The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) is the state administering agency for the TANF block grant, and as Secretary of the Department, I am authorized to make the assurances required by law. At my direction, the Deputy Secretary also may sign any documents. Correspondence regarding this Plan should be sent directly to my office.

Please contact Kristiane Randal, Administrator, Division of Family and Economic Security, Department of Children and Families, 201 East Washington Avenue, Second Floor, P.O. Box 8916, Madison, WI 53708-8916, (608) 266-8718 with any questions relating to Wisconsin's TANF State Plan.

Sincerely,



Eloise Anderson
Secretary

cc Kristiane Randal, DFES

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DCF-F-22-E (R. 04/2011)



WISCONSIN'S
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES
(TANF)
STATE PLAN

Plan Effective Date: October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2015

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References to the Wisconsin Works (W-2) Manual: Sections A and B and Attachment 1 of this Plan include references to chapters of the W-2 Manual. The W-2 Manual is in the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) website at:
<http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/w2/manual/default.htm>.

References to the Emergency Assistance (EA) Manual: Sections A and B of this Plan include references to the EA Manual. The EA Manual is in the Wisconsin DCF website at:
http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/w2/EAManual/Production/EA_Manual.htm.

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) requires the State of Wisconsin to submit this Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) State Plan to the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services to renew Wisconsin's eligibility for federal TANF funding. This Wisconsin TANF State Plan outlines how Wisconsin implements the TANF provisions in accordance with the requirements of the federal Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)/Administration for Children and Families (ACF) stated in the United States Code (USC) at 42 USC 602(a)(1) through (7), (b) and (c). This Plan shows the USC provisions in bold italics.

Wisconsin provides several types of TANF programs, including the Wisconsin Works (W-2) program. The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) administers Wisconsin's primary TANF programs. DCF works closely with the other state departments that also administer Wisconsin's TANF programs and services, including the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA), Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), Wisconsin Department of Public Instructions (DPI) and Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR).

A. TANF General Provisions

- i. Outline how the State intends to conduct a program, designed to serve all political subdivisions in the State (not necessarily in a uniform manner), that provides assistance to needy families with (or expecting) children, and provides parents with job preparation, work and support services to enable them to leave the program and become self-sufficient. (42 USC 602(a)(1)(A)(i))***

Since 1997 Wisconsin has administered W-2, a welfare-to-work program, for low income families. W-2 is based on work participation and personal responsibility. The program provides employment preparation services, case management, supportive services and cash assistance to eligible families.

Many of Wisconsin's TANF programs define need as a percentage of the federal poverty level (FPL). While each program has its own standards, all are either at or below three hundred (300) percent of FPL. The applicable program description notes when an alternate measure of need is used to determine eligibility. The program description also notes whether qualifying programs have no income limits.

W-2 Program Delivery System

To provide W-2 services across the state, Wisconsin Statutes authorize DCF to contract with:

- Government agencies, or incorporated entities created by government entities;
- Private, not-for-profit entities;
- Private, for-profit entities; and/or
- Tribal governing bodies.

W-2 Contracts for Calendar Years 2010 through 2012

Wisconsin's previous TANF State Plan addresses the W-2 contracts for calendar years 2010 through 2012. See Wisconsin's amended TANF State Plan for October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2012 at: <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/tanf/default.htm>.

W-2 Contracts for Calendar Years 2013 through 2016

Key aspects of the 2013 through 2016 W-2 Contracts include:

- Payments are structured to incentivize W-2 Contractors to prepare and place participants in sustainable, high-paying jobs.
- Larger geographical areas for W-2 Contractors achieve economies of scale in operations and more cost-effective and efficient program administration.
- Performance outcomes of participants rather than the costs incurred by the W-2 Contractors determine payment amounts for Contractors.
- Longer contracts between DCF and the W-2 Contractors create sustainable and stable long term program outcomes and strengthen contract relationships.
- Management and oversight of participant cash benefits are administered directly by DCF so W-2 Contractors can focus on job activities without the risk of liability for cash benefits.
- DCF divided the state into ten geographical areas: four geographical areas in Milwaukee County; and six geographical areas in the balance of state (BOS).

The 2013-2016 W-2 Contractors for each geographical area are:

- Ross Innovative Employment Solutions in Milwaukee Northern area;
- UMOs, Inc. in Milwaukee Southern area;
- America Works of Wisconsin, Inc. in Milwaukee East Central area;
- MAXIMUS Human Services, Inc. in Milwaukee West Central area;
- ResCare Workforce Services in BOS Southeast area;
- Forward Service Corporation in BOS Southwest area;
- Forward Service Corporation in BOS Northeast area;
- Forward Service Corporation in BOS North Central area;
- Workforce Resource, Inc. in BOS Northwest area; and
- Workforce Connections, Inc. in BOS Western area.

W-2 Program's Goals and Assumptions

The primary goal of the W-2 program is to help eligible parents prepare for, obtain and keep unsubsidized employment, and to help parents provide for their families and become self-sufficient members of the community in which they live. For eligible parents who cannot work for a long period of time due to significant disability, the W-2 program helps the parents apply for and receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) /Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI).

W-2 policies are guided by the following basic assumptions:

- Work is the best way for parents to support their families.
- Family income should improve when parents work.
- Consistent work is essential for parents to achieve economic stability.
- W-2 eligible parents are parents as well as job seekers.
- Eligible parents must be willing to participate in exchange for W-2 benefits.
- Families benefit from participating in W-2.
- W-2 matches the employment needs of parents with the needs of local employers.

The W-2 program is available to those who meet eligibility requirements and are willing to participate in program activities.

W-2 Eligibility

There are four categories of individuals who may be eligible for W-2 services. Custodial parents, who are at least eighteen (18) years old, of minor children may be eligible for all W-2 services. Non-custodial parents may be eligible for W-2 case management services, subject to a child support order and the custodial parent's participation in W-2. Pregnant women, who have no born children living with them, may be eligible for W-2 case management services, and pregnant women, who are unmarried without custody of any dependent children and provide medical verification of their third trimester at-risk pregnancy which results in their inability to work, may be eligible for a W-2 cash payment and case management services. Minor parents are eligible for W-2 case management services.

The W-2 group's income initially must be at or below one hundred fifteen (115) percent of FPL. The W-2 group's assets cannot exceed two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500), excluding the combined equity value of vehicles up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) and one home that serves as the homestead. (See W-2 Manual Chapters 2 and 3.)

Screening and Assessment

Screening and assessment include informal assessment, educational needs assessment, the Barrier Screening Tool (BST), and formal assessment. (See W-2 Manual Chapter 5.)

Employability Plan (EP)

An Employability Plan (EP) outlines employment goals developed jointly by the W-2 agency's Financial and Employment Planner (FEP) and the W-2 participant. The EP also may include goals to help the participant meet basic and immediate family needs such as food, clothing, shelter, and health care. Meeting these needs helps the family achieve and/or maintain economic stability. (See W-2 Manual Chapter 6.)

W-2 Paid and Unpaid Placements

The W-2 program has paid placements, a subsidized employment placement, and unpaid placements. The W-2 program has multiple different placements to better meet the needs of eligible parents with varying skills and circumstances.

W-2 Paid Placements

The W-2 program's paid placements are: Community Service Job (CSJ); W-2 Transition (W-2 T); Custodial Parent of an Infant (CMC); and At Risk Pregnancy (ARP).

Community Service Job (CSJ) placements are for individuals who need to develop the basic skills and work habits in a work training environment.

W-2 Transition (W-2 T) placements are for individuals who are unable to perform independent, self-sustaining work because of employment or family barriers.

Custodial Parent of an Infant (CMC) placements are for individuals who are the custodial parent of an infant who is eight weeks old or younger.

At Risk Pregnancy (ARP) placements are for unmarried women who are in a third trimester at-risk pregnancy that results in their being unable to work, and who meet all W-2 eligibility criteria except are not a custodial parent of a dependent child.

W-2 Subsidized Employment Placement

The W-2 program's subsidized employment placement is Trial Jobs.

Trial Job placements are for individuals who have some basic employment skills but still need some assistance and work experience to succeed in unsubsidized employment.

W-2 Unpaid Placements

The W-2 program's unpaid placements are: Case Management for Job Ready Individuals (CMJ); Unsubsidized Employment (CMU); Case Management Follow Up (CMF); Non-custodial Parent (CMN); Minor Parent (CMM); Pregnant Women (CMP); and Case Management Denied (CMD).

Case Management for Job Ready Individuals (CMJ) placements are for applicants who are unemployed however are ready for unsubsidized employment.

Unsubsidized Employment (CMU) placements are for employed applicants who do not have any barriers to full-time employment and meet the W-2 nonfinancial and financial eligibility requirements.

Case Management Follow Up (CMF) placements support job retention for at least twelve (12) months for on-going W-2 participants who progress from a paid placement to unsubsidized employment.

Non-custodial Parent (CMN) placements are for non-custodial parents of eligible children whose custodial parent is a W-2 participant.

Minor Parent (CMM) placements are for custodial minor parents.

Pregnant Woman (CMP) placements are for pregnant women who do not have custody of any children.

Case Management Denied (CMD) placements are for individuals who have reached their W-2 time limit and are no longer eligible for a W-2 paid placement.

(See W-2 Manual Chapter 7.)

Time Limits

Participation in a Trial Job, Community Service Job, or W-2 Transition placement is limited to twenty four (24) months for each placement and all W-2 eligible parents are limited to a maximum lifetime limit of sixty (60) months. Extensions for the twenty four (24) months or sixty (60) months limits may be available on a limited basis when barriers exist that prevent employment. (See W-2 Manual Chapter 2.)

Related Programs

In addition to the W-2 program, W-2 agencies administer the "related programs" of Contracted Child Care, Emergency Assistance (EA), Job Access Loans (JALs), and Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) to help eligible parents provide for their families.

Contracted Child Care provides short-term child care at the W-2 agency locations or through contracted slots at a regulated child care provider to ensure children are in a quality child care setting while their parents are accessing W-2 services.

Emergency Assistance (EA) provides funding to families that meet all EA eligibility requirements including experiencing a current emergency due to homelessness, impending homelessness, energy crisis, fire, flood, or natural disaster. (See EA Manual.)

Job Access Loans (JALs) are short-term, interest-free loans to meet immediate and discrete expenses related to obtaining or maintaining employment. (See W-2 Manual Chapter 17.)

Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) is a time-limited program for low income refugees who do not meet W-2 eligibility criteria. A parallel benefit is the Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) program for those who do not meet Medicaid eligibility criteria. (See W-2 Manual Chapter 20.) Note: Wisconsin funds Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) by a source other than TANF or TANF maintenance of effort (MOE).

Wisconsin's Other TANF Programs and Services

In addition to W-2 and the Related Programs described in this section, Wisconsin supports other TANF programs and services described in Attachment 1.

Wisconsin's Other Programs and Services for Needy Families

In addition to Wisconsin's other TANF programs and services, Wisconsin supports a number of programs and services, described in Attachment 2, that assist needy families and children.

- ii. Outline how the State intends to require a parent or caretaker receiving assistance under the program to engage in work (as defined by the State) once the State determines that the parent or caretaker is ready to engage in work, or once the parent or caretaker has received assistance under the program for 24 months (whether or not consecutive), whichever is earlier, consistent with section 607(e)(2). (42 USC 602(a)(1)(A)(ii))***

W-2's goal is to connect parents with appropriate work or work training as soon as possible. A W-2 participant is placed in the highest possible employment or work training level according to ability and is expected to move up to the next appropriate level at the earliest opportunity. Unsubsidized employment is the goal for most W-2 participants. The Employability Plan (EP) includes the specific program activities for the W-2 participant to achieve employment. These program activities focus on the participant's employment, family, and personal needs identified in assessments and screenings. (See W-2 Manual Chapter 6 and W-2 Manual Appendix on Activity Codes.)

On-going Case Management and Supportive Service

The W-2 Financial and Employment Planner (FEP) provides on-going case management for the W-2 participant, including periodic reassessment of the current placement based on circumstances at the time. The FEP works with the W-2 participant to assist in addressing family and work-related needs before situations result in a family crisis, nonparticipation in program activities and/or loss of employment. The FEP provides information necessary to connect applicants/participants with supportive services available within the agency as well as other resources in the community. Supportive services may include housing, child care, transportation, family health care, economic supports, household budgeting, employment support needs such as work connection and retention services, and other needs identified by the participant that impede the participant's ability to find and retain a job. (See W-2 Manual Chapter 7.)

Subsidized Employment and Work Training

The W-2 Financial and Employment Planner (FEP) may offer the W-2 applicant a subsidized placement (Trial Job) or a W-2 work training placement (CSJ or W-2 T), if the applicant's good faith attempts to obtain employment have been unsuccessful, or if the W-2 agency determines that the applicant is not prepared for unsubsidized employment. While participating in a W-2 work training placement, the W-2 participant may be required to continue appropriate ongoing employment search with the assistance of the W-2 agency.

W-2 Education and Training

W-2 emphasizes that education and training are a pathway to meaningful employment, rather than an alternative to employment. Combining work or work training activities with short-term education and training at a minimum prepares participants for entry-level employment. W-2 agencies may coordinate with the Technical College system or other educational programs to provide a variety of Adult Basic Education opportunities including literacy skills and remedial math and reading courses. (See W-2 Manual Chapter 8.)

Required Hours of Participation

Trial Job placements are generally forty (40) hours of employment per week. CSJ and W-2 T participants are required to participate in up to forty (40) hours of assigned activities per week. The number of assigned hours depends on the participant's circumstances. For CSJ participants, within the up to forty (40) hours per week of assigned activities, up to ten (10) hours per week may be in education and training activities. For W-2 T participants, within the up to forty (40) hours per week of assigned activities, up to twelve (12) hours per week may be in education and training activities.

Performance Outcomes

The performance outcomes, stated in the W-2 Contracts for the period starting January 1, 2013, reinforce that the focus of W-2 agencies is to put participants to work, find participants higher paying jobs, and assist participants in maintaining long term employment.

Work Verification Plan

Wisconsin's TANF Work Verification Plan addresses countable work activities, hours engaged in work, procedures for identifying work-eligible individuals, etc. See Wisconsin's TANF Work Verification Plan at:

http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/w2/rfp/2013/attachments/work_verification_plan.pdf.

Learnfare Case Management Services

Learnfare, a component of the W-2 program, requires W-2 participants to enroll their school age children in school. Learnfare also requires school age children who are not enrolled in school, or are dropouts, returning dropouts, habitual truants, or minor parents, to participate in case management. Learnfare case management focuses on services to maintain school enrollment, improve school attendance, and prepare children for a career. (See W-2 Manual Chapter 16.)

Employment Transportation Services

Wisconsin has made it a priority to work with job seekers, employers, and local service providers to address transportation needs for low income families. (See W-2 Manual Chapter 19.)

W-2 Two-Parent Household Participation

W-2 philosophy strongly emphasizes the responsibility both parents have to care for and support their children. (See W-2 Manual Chapter 14.)

Community Involvement

Collaboration between employers, community resources, the business community, advocate groups, and government programs creates an environment that translates into jobs and positive community involvement for low income workers statewide. Community Steering Committees are public/private partnerships established under legislation to provide ties to W-2 agencies, with strong leadership from the business sector. They serve as problem-solving boards to the local agencies and collaborate with the Children's Services Network, which provide information about community resources available to W-2 participants and their families.

iii. Outline how the State intends to ensure that parents and caretakers receiving assistance under the program engage in work activities in accordance with section 607. (42 USC 602(a)(1)(A)(iii))

Intensive Case Management

To ensure that parents eligible for W-2 are engaged in work activities, the W-2 program includes intensive case management and supportive services, such as child care, transportation, housing, and other services that address the parent's family and work-related needs. The W-2 program encourages parents to engage in work activities by providing strengths-based and family-centered services that are consistent with the parents' interests and goals. W-2 agencies include parents in the decision making process. (See W-2 Manual Chapter 1.) W-2 agencies also encourage parents to engage in work activities by tracking the eligible parents' time limits and discussing the impact of time limits with applicants and eligible parents. (See W-2 Manual Chapter 2.)

W-2 agencies meet with each eligible parent to review assigned activities and the parent's progress toward meeting the established goals. W-2 agencies also complete an Employability Plan (EP) review with each eligible parent as often as necessary based on the eligible parent's circumstances. The W-2 agencies consider the parent's progress in assigned activities in the agencies' future decisions regarding placement and activity assignment. (See W-2 Manual Chapter 6.)

W-2 agencies verify and track a parent's attendance in assigned activities based on Wisconsin's TANF Work Verification Plan. (See W-2 Manual Appendix on TANF Work Participation Requirements.) See Wisconsin's TANF Work Verification Plan at: http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/w2/rfp/2013/attachments/work_verification_plan.pdf.

Penalties/Payment Reductions

To encourage parents to engage in work activities, the W-2 program requires parents to notify their W-2 agency of the reason for the parent missing any assigned W-2 activity to prevent a W-2 payment reduction. The W-2 agency determines if a parent's reason for missing an assigned activity meets a W-2 good cause reason based on good cause policy. If the parent misses an assigned activity without good cause, the W-2 agency applies an hourly payment reduction. (See W-2 Manual Chapter 11.)

Intentional Program Violations (IPVs): The penalties for intentional program violations (IPVs) help ensure parents provide accurate information about their work activities to W-2 agencies.

2011 Wisconsin Act 202, effective November 1, 2012, creates penalties for intentional program violations (IPVs). Wisconsin Statutes section 49.001(3m) defines an intentional program violation as:

“... intentionally making a false or misleading statement, intentionally misrepresenting or withholding facts, or intentionally committing any act that constitutes a violation of state or federal law for the purpose of using, presenting, transferring, acquiring, receiving, possessing, or trafficking benefits under this chapter.”

An individual who applies for or receives benefits under W-2, Wisconsin Shares Child Care, Emergency Assistance (EA) and/or Job Access Loans (JALs) and commits an intentional program violation for the purpose of establishing eligibility, maintaining eligibility, or increasing benefits, will be denied benefits as follows:

- For six months for the first intentional program violation;
- For one year for the second intentional program violation; and
- Permanently for the third intentional program violation.

iv. Outline how the State intends to take such reasonable steps as the State deems necessary to restrict the use and disclosure of information about individuals and families receiving assistance under the program attributable to funds provided by the Federal Government. (42 USC 602(a)(1)(A)(iv))

Existing Wisconsin statutes and W-2 policy restrict the use and disclosure of information about individuals and families receiving assistance under the program. W-2 policy restrictions on the use and disclosure of information about individuals and families focus on when disclosure is necessary for administration of the W-2 program or law enforcement purposes. (See W-2 Manual Chapter 4.) In addition, DCF restricts access to data stored in CARES, Wisconsin's eligibility determination and case management system, by requiring state authorized access to the system depending upon each user's job responsibilities. See the DCF Information Technology Security Management Policy at: http://dcfweb/policy_manual/700/doc/701.doc.

v. Outline how the State intends to establish goals and take action to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies, with special emphasis on teenage pregnancies, and establish numerical goals for reducing the illegitimacy ratio of the State (as defined in section 603(a)(2)(C)(iii)). (42 USC 602(a)(1)(A)(v))

The W-2 program and the programs referenced in this section include TANF-funded services that address adolescent pregnancy prevention, adolescent parent self-sufficiency, pregnancy counseling, and adolescent parenting skills. In addition, Wisconsin provides funding for other services, which coordinate with the TANF services, to prevent unintended pregnancies.

W-2 Program's Prevention and Reduction of Non-marital and Unintended Pregnancies

Although minor parents living outside of an adult supervised living arrangement are not eligible to receive a W-2 payment, W-2 agencies are required to provide case management services to minor parents, regardless of their income, assets, or living arrangement. Case

management may include discussions of family planning, career planning, and parenting skills.

The following design of the W-2 program encourages the prevention and reduction of non-marital ("out-of-wedlock") pregnancies for the adult population served by W-2:

- 1) Flat grants: Like employment, W-2 provides payments based on participation, not family size.
- 2) Family cap: W-2 does not treat parents who have additional children while on assistance differently for W-2 time limits. Parents caring for a child who is younger than eight weeks old may be eligible to receive a monthly payment for their living expenses that does not include a work requirement. However, parents receiving such payments are exempt from the state sixty (60) months time limit only if the child is born less than ten months after the individual was first determined eligible for W-2 or if the birth was the result of sexual assault or incest.
- 3) Case management: W-2 Financial and Employment Planners (FEPs) may counsel participants to delay subsequent births or provide referrals to family planning services. FEPs assist participants in making choices about their career and family, make appropriate referrals based on the family's needs, and encourage the use of resources available to families. Each W-2 agency maintains a list of family planning referral agencies and health care providers which is available to all customers.

Boys and Girls Club

The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) provides grants to the Boys and Girls Club of America operating in Wisconsin to provide services that improve the social, academic and employment skills of low income at-risk youth. Families that meet income eligibility requirements for the free and reduced price school lunch program may participate in a full range of youth opportunities.

Brighter Futures

Under the administration of DCF, the Brighter Futures programs award state-funded grants to private nonprofit and public agencies in Milwaukee County, and county social services agencies in other counties. These grants fund programs for the prevention of youth violence, substance use and abuse, child abuse and neglect, and non-marital pregnancy, and promote adolescent self-sufficiency for pregnant adolescents and adolescents who are parents. Brighter Futures supports positive youth development and prevention programs in high-risk communities and high-poverty neighborhoods. Programs serve infants, children, youth, and families, and focus on increasing adolescent functioning by encouraging high school graduation, vocational preparedness, improved social and other interpersonal skills, and responsible decision-making.

Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 Plan

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), in coordination with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and DCF, developed the following strategies to address adolescent pregnancy prevention: encourage and promote delayed sexual activity; and provide access to confidential contraceptive and related reproductive health services. These strategies are consistent with the Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 Plan, the current State Public Health Plan.

The Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 Plan highlights the importance of: reproductive and sexual health; comprehensive sexual education; and better access to relevant clinical services to reduce the rates of adolescent and unintended pregnancies. Wisconsin established three

statewide goals to meet by 2020 to reduce rates of unplanned pregnancies, especially adolescent pregnancies:

1. Establish a norm of sexual health and reproductive justice by measuring the percentage of sexually active high school students who reported that they or their partner had used a condom during their last sexual intercourse (Youth Risk Behavior Survey [YRBS]);
2. Establish social, economic and health policies that improve equity in sexual health and reproductive justice; and
3. Reduce the disparities in reproductive and sexual health experienced among populations of different races, ethnicities, sexual identities and orientations, gender identities, and educational or economic status as measured by HIV/STD Surveillance and YRBS data.

See Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 at: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/hw2020/>.

Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Committee (APPC)

DCF and DHS co-chair the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Committee (APPC), and work in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and a broad range of public and private provider agencies and stakeholders from around the state involved in teen pregnancy prevention, abstinence education, and HIV/STD intervention. Abstinence goals include education and support of professionals and other adults involved in children's lives, and training of educators on the use of an abstinence curriculum. The APPC also advocates abstinence for youth through collaboration with the Milwaukee Health Department and STD/HIV/Family Planning workgroups. APPC also has: developed a statewide Wisconsin Adolescent Sexual Health (WASH) Listserv for adolescent reproductive health practitioners and partners; established a new Adolescent Sexual Health Coalition of Milwaukee; and hosted statewide educational teleconferences and youth listening sessions. See the APPC website at: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/teenpregnancy/appc/index.htm>.

Medicaid Family Planning Services

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) administers Family Planning Only Services, which is a Medicaid-funded program for men and women aged fifteen (15) years and older who:

- Have income that does not exceed three hundred (300) percent of the federal poverty level (FPL); and
- Are not eligible for full benefits from Medicaid or BadgerCare, Wisconsin's health services for low-income families.

The Medicaid Family Planning Services provide selected family planning services, including free contraceptive services and supplies, initial family planning office visits, tests for abnormal cervical cells (Pap tests), and tests and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases.

Illegitimacy Ratio

As defined previously in section 403(a)(2)(C)(iii) of the Social Security Act and defined currently in 45 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.), Chapter II, Part 283, section 283.2, Wisconsin's illegitimacy ratio was: 0.33 in 2005; 0.34 in 2006; 0.36 in 2007; 0.37 in 2008; 0.38 in 2009; and 0.37 in 2010. The source of this data is the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), Division of Public Health, Bureau of Health Information and Policy, Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH) data query system. The data is from the Birth Counts Module as of April 26, 2012. The Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH) data query system is at: <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/wish/>.

Scholarships for Low Income Students

The Wisconsin Higher Education Aids Board and private non-profits provide scholarships for low income students to institutions of higher learning to help reduce the incidence of unplanned pregnancies and to assist these students in avoiding future poverty. These entities base eligibility for these scholarships on eligibility for federal Pell grants.

- vi. Outline how the State intends to conduct a program, designed to reach State and local law enforcement officials, the education system, and relevant counseling services, that provides education and training on the problem of statutory rape so that teenage pregnancy prevention programs may be expanded in scope to include men. (42 USC 602(a)(1)(A)(vi))**

Wisconsin provides education, training, and services to prevent statutory rape and other sexual assault, including public relations campaigns intended to prevent sexual assault and promote healthy teen relationships led by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) in partnership with the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI), in collaboration with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ), created and posted an electronic publication that describes the circumstances under which educators are required to report sexual activity among adolescents as possible child abuse.

Wisconsin Statutes require Child Protective Services (CPS) agencies to refer all cases of suspected or threatened child sexual abuse to law enforcement. In turn, the law enforcement agency and CPS must coordinate the planning and execution of the investigation of the report. Any law enforcement agency that determines that criminal action is necessary must refer the case to the District Attorney for criminal prosecution. The DCF Child Protective Services Access and Initial Assessment Standards describe statutory requirements and practice guidelines for CPS agencies to enhance collaboration with law enforcement agencies in response to reports of sexual abuse, as well as reports of other forms of child maltreatment. See the DCF Child Protective Services Access and Initial Assessment Standards at: http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/wisacwis/knowledge_web/administration/memos-and-standards.htm.

- vii. Outline how the State intends to implement policies and procedures as necessary to prevent access to assistance provided under any electronic fund transaction in an automated teller machine or point-of-sale device located in a place described in section 408(a)(12), including a plan to ensure that recipients of the assistance have adequate access to their cash assistance. (42 USC 602(a)(1)(A)(vii))**

Wisconsin will develop and implement policies and procedures that address this new federal requirement within the required timeframe. These policies and procedures will build on existing W-2 policies and procedures regarding Electronic Funds Transfer. (See W-2 Manual Chapter 10.)

- viii. Outline how the State intends to ensure that recipients of assistance provided under the State program funded under this part have access to using or withdrawing assistance with minimal fees or charges, including an opportunity to access assistance with no fee or charges, and are provided information on applicable fees and surcharges that apply to electronic fund transactions involving the assistance, and that such information is made publicly available. (42 USC 602(a)(1)(A)(viii))**

Wisconsin will develop and implement policies and procedures that address this new federal requirement within the required timeframe. These policies and procedures will build on existing W-2 policies and procedures regarding Electronic Funds Transfer. (See W-2 Manual Chapter 10.)

B. TANF Special Provisions

- i. Indicate whether the State intends to treat families moving into the State from another State differently than other families under the program, and if so, how the State intends to treat such families under the program. (42 USC 602(a)(1)(B)(i))***

Wisconsin does not treat families moving into the state from another state differently from other families under the program.

- ii. Indicate whether the State intends to provide assistance under the program to individuals who are not citizens of the United States, and if so, include an overview of such assistance. (42 USC 602(a)(1)(B)(ii))***

Wisconsin does not provide assistance under the program to individuals who are not citizens of the United States or are not qualified non-citizens. Eligible individuals who are qualified non-citizens receive the same assistance through W-2 and EA as citizens of the United States. W-2 policy is consistent with federal and state definitions and other laws regarding qualified non-citizens. (See W-2 Manual Chapters 2 and EA Manual Chapter 4.)

- iii. The State sets forth objective criteria for the delivery of benefits and the determination of eligibility and for fair and equitable treatment, including an explanation of how the State will provide opportunities for recipients who have been adversely affected to be heard in a State administrative or appeal process. (42 USC 602(a)(1)(B)(iii))***

Wisconsin has established objective criteria for the delivery of benefits, determination of eligibility and for fair and equitable treatment. Wisconsin's objective criteria for the delivery of benefits include:

- Maximum payment amounts for W-2 program placements;
- Payment issuance;
- Electronic Funds Transfer;
- Overpayment recovery; and
- Payment reductions.

(See W-2 Manual Chapters 10 and 11 and information on Penalties/Payment Reductions within section A.iii. above.)

Wisconsin's objective criteria for the establishment of eligibility include nonfinancial and financial eligibility. (See W-2 Manual Chapters 2 and 3 and information on W-2 Eligibility within section A.i. above.)

Due to the variety and needs of each of the TANF programs in this Plan, there are different complaint resolution processes for program eligibility and participation. For TANF programs within DCF, there generally is an informal step first to resolve the issue quickly and with

cooperation. When this process does not resolve the issue, then there is a formal resolution process. (See W-2 Dispute Resolution Process below.) For TANF programs provided by other Wisconsin Departments, each Department has its own complaint resolution process.

Labor Standards

The labor standards for all W-2 employment and work training sites (for Trial Jobs, Community Service Jobs [CSJs], and W-2 Transition [W-2 Ts]) require compliance with all federal, state and local laws, ordinances, and regulations affecting W-2 participants, including requirements for safe and healthy work environments. (See W-2 Manual Chapter 9.)

W-2 Dispute Resolution Process

There are two levels of review under the W-2 Dispute Resolution process: 1) a Fact Finding Review; and 2) a Departmental Review.

The purpose of the Fact Finding Review is to resolve disputes for applicants and participants who disagree with a W-2 agency's decision. This includes decisions regarding all W-2 services including Learnfare, Job Access Loans, and Emergency Assistance. An individual or a W-2 agency may request a Departmental Review if either disagrees with a Fact Finding decision.

(See W-2 Manual Chapters 12 and 15.)

Civil Rights, Affirmative Action, and Complaint Resolution

Each W-2 agency must meet Civil Rights Compliance and Affirmative Action requirements, which include processes for resolution of complaints.

The Wisconsin Departments and/or their provider agencies administer all of the state programs included in this Plan. These Departments are DCF and the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA), Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR). All of these Departments and their provider agencies are required to meet state and federal Civil Rights Compliance (CRC) and Affirmative Action requirements. (See W-2 Manual Appendix on W-2 Agency Civil Rights Obligation.)

- iv. Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, unless the chief executive officer of the State opts out of this provision by notifying the Secretary, a State shall, consistent with the exception provided in section 607(e)(2), require a parent or caretaker receiving assistance under the program, who, after receiving such assistance for 2 months is not exempt from work requirements and is not engaged in work, as determined under section 607(c), to participate in community service employment, with minimum hours per week, and tasks to be determined by the State. (42 USC 602(a)(1)(B)(iv))***

W-2 requires W-2 participants to engage in work activities with no exemption for two months of receiving assistance. A.ii. Work Requirements above addresses Wisconsin's requirements for a parent or caretaker receiving assistance under the program to engage in work.

- v. Indicate whether the State intends to assist individuals to train for, seek, and maintain employment:***

- (I) Providing direct care in a long-term care facility (as such terms are defined under section 2011); or*
- (II) In other occupations related to elder care determined appropriate by the State for which the State identifies an unmet need for service personnel, and, if so, shall include an overview of such assistance.*

The W-2 program will continue providing assistance to eligible individuals to train for, seek and maintain employment that includes providing direct care in a long-term care facility (as terms are defined for the TANF program under section 1397j of Title IV-A of the Social Security Act). The W-2 program's job skills training, work experience and job retention services provided for Trial Job, Community Service Job (CSJ), and W-2 Transition (W-2 T) participants often include training and employment services for certified nursing assistants (CNAs), home health aides, and other personal and health care aide positions. The W-2 program's case management services provide on-going employment retention services for positions that include CNAs, home health aides, and other personal and health care aides.

DCF will coordinate with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources and the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Office of Economic Advisors to plan for and help address Wisconsin's anticipated shortage of health care workers for the increasing elder population. The goal of this coordination is to proactively identify geographic movement within Wisconsin of the elder population and the workers who provide health care services, eldercare labor shortage issues, and other eldercare issues. DCF will share this information with W-2 agencies. W-2 agencies are required to keep informed of local economic trends and provide employment services, including job skills training and job development, based on those trends.

C. TANF Certifications

Wisconsin will operate a program to provide Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives; to end dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage; to prevent and reduce the incidence of "out-of-wedlock" pregnancies and establish annual numerical goals for preventing and reducing the incidence of these pregnancies; and to encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

This program generally is known as Wisconsin Works (W-2).

The Executive Officer of the State of Wisconsin is Governor Scott Walker.

In administering and operating a program which provides Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) with minor children under Title IV-A of the social Security Act, the State will:

- i. Specify which State agency or agencies will administer and supervise the program part A in all political subdivisions of the State:

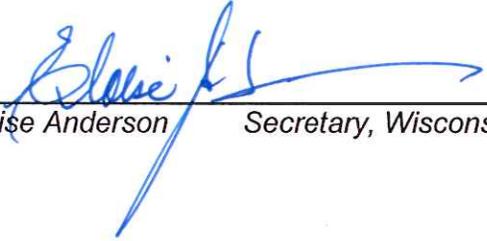
Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) is the agency responsible for administration and supervision of the program in all political subdivisions of the State;

- ii. Operate a child support enforcement program under the State plan approved under part D. (42 USC 602(a)(2));

- iii. Operate a foster care and adoption assistance program under the State plan approved under part E, and certify that the State will take all necessary actions to ensure that children receiving assistance under such part are eligible for medical assistance under the State plan under title XIX. (42 USC 602(a)(3));
- iv. Assurance that local governments and private sector organizations:
 - (A) Have been consulted regarding the plan and design of welfare services in the State so that services are provided in a manner appropriate to local populations; and
 - (B) Have had at least forty-five (45) days to submit comments on the plan and the design of such services.(42 USC 602(a)(4));
- v. Provide each member of an Indian tribe, who is domiciled in the State and is not eligible for assistance under a tribal family assistance plan approved under Section 612, with equitable access to assistance under the State program funded under this part attributable to funds provided by the Federal Government. (42 USC 602(a)(5));
- vi. Establish and enforce standards and procedures to ensure against program fraud and abuse, including standards and procedures concerning nepotism, conflicts of interest among individuals responsible for the administration and supervision of the State program, kickbacks, and the use of political patronage. (42 USC 602(a)(6));
- vii. Optional Certification
 - [x] The State has established and is enforcing standards and procedures to:
 - (i) Screen and identify individuals receiving assistance under this part with a history of domestic violence while maintaining the confidentiality of such individuals;
 - (ii) Refer such individuals to counseling and supportive services; and
 - (iii) Waive, pursuant to a determination of good cause, other program requirements such as time limits (for as long as necessary) for individuals receiving assistance, residency requirements, child support cooperation requirements, and family cap provisions, in cases where compliance with such requirements would make it more difficult for individuals receiving assistance under this part to escape domestic violence or unfairly penalize such individuals who are or have been victimized by such violence, or individuals who are at risk of further domestic violence.(42 USC 602(a)(7));
- viii. Within thirty (30) days after the State amends a plan submitted pursuant to subsection (a), the State shall notify the Secretary of the amendment. (42 USC 602(b)); and
- ix. The State shall make available to the public a summary of any plan or plan amendment section. (42 USC 602(c)).

Wisconsin's TANF State Plan, October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2015
Revised 11/28/12

Certified by the designee of the Chief Executive Officer of the State of Wisconsin:



Eloise Anderson Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families 11.28.12
Date

Attachment 1

Wisconsin's Other TANF Programs and Services

(in addition to the W-2 and the Related Programs described in sections A.i. and A.v. of this Plan)

Burial Services

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) administers the Wisconsin Funeral and Cemetery Aids Program (WFCAP) which provides funding to needy families when the estate of the deceased recipient is insufficient to pay the funeral and cemetery expenses. DHS reimburses funeral and/or cemetery expenses of a person who was eligible for TANF funding. DHS pays funeral and cemetery expenses with state funding, which Wisconsin includes in its maintenance of effort (MOE) calculation.

Child Support Pass-Through

DCF administers the Child Support program. Cooperation with the child support agency is a requirement for receipt of W-2 services. The family's income from child support does not affect financial eligibility for W-2 or W-2 payments. Some of collected child support is passed through to current and former W-2 participants. (See W-2 Manual Chapters 3 and 15.)

Child Welfare Prevention Services

DCF provides a grant to the Milwaukee Health Department to support the Empowering Families-Milwaukee Home Visiting Program. The purpose of the program is to avoid incidents of child abuse and neglect and improve maternal and child health. Services are targeted to the eleven (11) zip code areas within Milwaukee that have the lowest income levels, high rates of child abuse and neglect referrals, and poor birth outcomes. The Milwaukee Health Department uses an enhanced multi-disciplinary model to provide services with special emphasis on services to pregnant women and post-partum women. Due to the importance and nature of this program, there are no financial eligibility requirements for a family to receive these services under TANF. Therefore Wisconsin uses one hundred (100) percent TANF funds for this program (per federal requirements).

Children First

DCF administers the Children First program which provides employment and training services for eligible noncustodial parents (NCPs), and also services and support to help NCPs increase their involvement in the lives of their child(ren). An NCP who meets all of the eligibility requirements for Children First and W-2 NCP services may receive both Children First and W-2 services at the same time. (See W-2 Manual Chapter 7.)

Domestic Violence Services

DCF administers state and federal funds to provide grants for domestic violence services in each county and tribal area in Wisconsin. The goals of the grant program are to: 1) provide crisis, safety and support services for victims of domestic abuse and their children; 2) educate the community about issues related to domestic abuse; and 3) promote a coordinated community response to domestic abuse. DCF provides funding to the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence to provide training and technical assistance to domestic abuse programs and other systems. Domestic violence victims and their children who are eligible for TANF services are at or below three hundred (300) percent of the federal poverty level (FPL).

Earned Income Tax Credit

The Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) provides an earned income tax credit to low income working families. Based on the state's TANF MOE requirements, Wisconsin counts the

refundable portion of the tax credit as state maintenance-of-effort (MOE). (Note: State general purpose revenue pays for nonrefundable amounts and earned income tax credit payments made to qualified non-citizens.) This credit provides a supplement to the wages and self-employment income of lower-income parents. Persons may be eligible to receive the tax credit if they had at least one qualifying child residing with them, were a full-year resident of Wisconsin, and qualified for the federal Earned Income Credit.

Educational Support Services to Needy Students

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) provides to needy students ranging from kindergarten through grade twelve (12) students a number of services including:

- Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP)
The MPCP is Wisconsin's school voucher program for kindergarten through grade twelve (12). It reimburses low income parents for their children to attend private for-profit and non-profit schools instead of the Milwaukee Public Schools. The MPCP requires a family income at or below three hundred (300) percent of the federal poverty level (FPL). If the student is in grades nine through twelve (12) and his/her family income is over two hundred twenty (220) percent of the FPL, the private school may charge tuition and fees.
- Racine Parental Private School Choice Program (PPSCP)
The Racine PPSCP allows students to attend private for-profit and non-profit schools instead of the Racine Unified Public Schools. Except for the location in Racine, the PPSCP has the other requirements which are described above for the MPCP.
- High Poverty/High Need Kindergarten – Grade Twelve (12) Educational Programs
DPI administers a variety of categorical aids targeted to high poverty districts, to traditionally underrepresented students, and/or to students likely to end up in poverty without additional support. Each of these programs has unique qualifiers; however, DPI intends to provide additional educational support to improve academic achievement and reduce future poverty through these programs. Those included for TANF meet federal criteria for free or reduced price lunches. DPI initiated the following targeted aids after 1995:
 - Student Achievement Guarantee in Education (SAGE);
 - SAGE Debt Aid;
 - Aid to High Poverty School Districts;
 - Supplemental Aid for School Districts with a Large Area; and
 - Scarcity Aid (provided for a low rate of School District membership in a large geographic area with a high rate of the School District membership qualifying for free or reduced price lunches).

Kinship Care

DCF provides allocations to counties and tribes to manage the Kinship Care program. The program provides monthly payments to relatives who care for minor relative children who have come in contact with Child Protective Services and are unsafe residing with their biological parents. (See W-2 Manual Chapter 19.)

Energy Services

The Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) provides payments on behalf of needy families to utility companies and other energy suppliers, reconnection services, crisis intervention services (i.e. furnace replacements), and weatherization services. Eligible needy

families are families with children and income at or below two hundred twenty-five (225) percent of the federal poverty level (FPL).

Intensive In-Home Safety Services

DCF administers child welfare services in Milwaukee County through the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare (BMCW) which contracts with local service agencies to provide in-home safety services to children and families. The BMCW's goal is to keep families intact whenever possible by employing strategies and services that control for child safety, stabilize the family, and assist the family in developing community linkages and supports. Families receive services for the families' specific situation as determined by an assessment social worker and an intensive in-home safety services manager. Due to the importance and nature of this program, there are no financial eligibility requirements for a family to receive these services under TANF. Therefore Wisconsin uses one hundred (100) percent TANF funds for this program (per federal requirements).

Milwaukee County Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) contracts for the provision of alcohol and other drug abuse services to serve the TANF population in Milwaukee County at or below two hundred (200) percent of the federal poverty level (FPL). Special target populations include: pregnant women; specialized minority treatment agencies including tribal agencies; intravenous (IV) drug users; correctional clients; and child welfare related service populations. DHS awarded grants for providing new or expanded community-based alcohol and other drug abuse treatment programs that meet the special needs of TANF eligible individuals based on the program's ability to emphasize parent education, vocational and housing assistance, and coordination with other community programs and with treatment under intensive care.

SSI Caretaker Supplement (CTS)

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), which administers the state's SSI activities, also administers the SSI Caretaker Supplement (CTS) program. DHS provides an additional monthly payment to help with the support of SSI recipients' dependent children. (See W-2 Manual Chapter 19.)

Student Meal Programs

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) administers state funded breakfast and milk programs in the public and private schools for students who meet low income requirements, such as the federal free or reduced price lunch criteria.

Transitional Jobs Demonstration Project

DCF administers the Transitional Jobs Demonstration Project, a subsidized work training program intended to help the transitional jobs worker overcome employment barriers by providing a wage-paying, short-term job that combines real work, skills development, and supportive services to successfully transition the participant into the labor market. The Transitional Job agencies and employers design Transitional Jobs for individuals who have been unsuccessful in securing employment in the current labor market due to little or no work history, limited education, lack of hard and soft skills, lack of transportation, barriers from a disability, criminal history, or a personal crisis.

The Transitional Jobs Demonstration Project provides transitional jobs in Milwaukee and thirty-seven (37) other counties. Workers in the Transitional Jobs Demonstration Project are adults who: are at least twenty-one (21) however, not more than sixty-four (64) years of age; are ineligible for Wisconsin Works; have an annual household income that is below one hundred

fifty (150) percent of the poverty line; have been unemployed for at least four weeks; and are ineligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits.

DCF is scheduled to continue the Demonstration Project through June 2013. DCF recommends implementing a similar permanent program when the Demonstration Project ends.

Attachment 2

Wisconsin's Other Programs and Services for Needy Families

(in addition to the programs and services for needy families already described in other sections of this Plan)

Note: Some of these programs and services are identified as part of the state's annual determination of TANF maintenance of effort (MOE) while other programs and services may not be counted for TANF MOE based on specific requirements of TANF MOE. Programs and services supported by state funding which are not identified in other sections of this Plan are described in this Attachment.

Balance of State (Non-Milwaukee County) Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) Services

Through Wisconsin balance of state (non-Milwaukee county) county human services or community program agencies, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) provides a safety net continuum of alcohol and other drug abuse (AODA) services for individuals without other resources. These services include detoxification, medically monitored residential, transitional residential, day treatment, outpatient, intensive outpatient, narcotic treatment service programs, after care, relapse prevention, and recovery support services. Special populations served include women's treatment, tribal agencies and other specialized minority treatment agencies, intravenous (IV) drug users, correctional clients, and child welfare related service populations.

Educational Supports for Children at Risk

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) targets some low income kindergarten through grade twelve (12) programs to the TANF population although the programs may or may not meet all TANF requirements for the TANF program or Separate State Programs. These valuable programs, which promote TANF purposes, are:

- Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA)/Youth Alcohol Drug Abuse which promotes awareness of the dangers of alcohol and drugs and assists students who abuse them;
- Intra-district and Inter-district Transfer Aid which facilitates the transfer of students between schools and districts to promote cultural and racial integration in education;
- Head Start Supplement which provides funding to existing Head Start programs to reduce waiting lists and increase the number of children served by Head Start to support low income parents' work efforts; and
- Bilingual-Bicultural Aid which helps improve the comprehension, speaking, reading and writing ability of students who need additional support to be proficient in the English language and/or to adjust to a different culture.

Emergency Homeless Shelters

Wisconsin provides funding to a homeless shelter located in the Fox River Valley section of the state. The purpose of the funding is to assist families with services and shelter in order to achieve stability during severe financial hardship. Note: Wisconsin funds other family shelters in the state with federal housing funds.

Family Reunification

The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) provides Family Reunification services in Milwaukee County as part of state funding with two private agencies. A variety of reunification services prepare abused or neglected children who have been removed from their homes, and their families, for placement into long term stable and supportive living

arrangements. DCF bases these placements on the best interests of the child. Reunification services are services to the child and family when the placements plan is to reunite the child with the child's family. Such services include alcohol and other drug abuse (AODA), mental health, anger management, and family and financial counseling. DCF funds these services by different sources such as the AODA block grant and independent living, depending on the services provided. In the balance of state counties (outside Milwaukee county), family reunification services are funded through a combination of federal, state and county resources.

Home Visiting Programs

DCF, in collaboration with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) administers comprehensive home visiting programs to expand the in-home services to needy families. These services for families at risk focus on: improving birth outcomes; supporting maternal and child health; enhancing family functioning; promoting safety and development; and preventing child abuse and neglect. The home visiting programs support evidence-based home visiting models in four tribal communities and nine counties through a combination of state, federal, and local county funding.

Homestead Credit

The Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) administers the state funded Homestead Credit program to provide residential property tax relief and rent relief to individuals and families. DOR bases the credit or refund on household income amounts in relation to property tax or rent amounts. Individuals are not eligible for the Homestead Credit program for any month the individual received W-2 assistance, although individuals can receive a prorated credit or refund for the other non-W-2 months.

Tribal Programs

DCF collaborates with the eleven (11) federally-recognized tribes in Wisconsin for children and family services, including tribal TANF services. DCF conducts tribal consultation meetings twice per year for discussion of issues pertaining to tribal TANF programs.

DCF contracts with ten of the eleven (11) tribes to provide child care subsidies for low income working families and participants in TANF programs, so tribes can support tribal TANF participants in work activities. DCF also provides all eleven (11) tribes with funds to operate child care centers on the reservations which can meet short-term child care needs. When tribal members participate in the W-2 program, W-2 agencies may seek to provide culturally appropriate activities and placement in employment with tribal gaming and other tribal business operations.

Eight of the eleven (11) federally-recognized tribes in Wisconsin currently operate tribal TANF programs under federal contract. In addition, Lac Courtes Oreilles Tribe and St. Croix Tribe, two of Wisconsin's federally-recognized tribes, have submitted federal applications to operate tribal TANF programs under federal contract. DCF will work with these tribes to ensure smooth transition of participants between the W-2 program and the new tribal TANF programs.

In addition to receiving consolidated grants for alcohol and other drug abuse (AODA), pregnancy prevention, domestic violence and child welfare services, Wisconsin's tribal members are eligible for SSI Caretaker Supplement (CTS) if the parent of a child is receiving SSI and also are eligible for Kinship Care payments if a child is placed in out-of-home care with a relative.