

Tribal Family Services Program (FSP) Annual Report Summary

Report for Federal Fiscal Year 2025

Prepared by:
Wisconsin Department of Children and Families
Division of Management Services
Area Administration

Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

DCF-P-6014 (N. 09/2026)

Table of Contents

Executive Summary 2
Overview of the DCF Tribal Family Services Program 3
DCF Outcome 1: Domestic Abuse Services 6
DCF Outcome 2: Permanency for Children 7
DCF Outcome 3: Preventing Removal of Children 8
DCF Outcome 4: Self-Sufficiency Services 9
DCF Outcome 5: Youth Services 10
DCF Outcome 6: Child Care, Respite Care and Other Services 11
Technical Assistance Requests 12
Recommendations 12

Executive Summary

Fiscal Year 2025 Family Services Program At-a-Glance

- **An estimated 13,201 individuals received support services.**
  The program continues to provide necessary and relevant supports to the target population, with far-reaching impacts across all eleven federally recognized Tribal Nations in Wisconsin.

- **83% of available funding was spent in fiscal year 2025.**
  Five Tribal Nations spent 100% of the funding allocated to them. Additional support may be needed for other Tribal Nations to identify additional allowable services and achieve the DCF target of 90% utilization of available funding.

- **Every Tribal Nation selected Outcome 3: Preventing the Removal of Children.**
  In FFY2025, every Tribal Nation used funds for prevention services to support families and ensure children can remain safely in their homes

- **Every Tribal Nation individualized their plan; no two Tribal Nations selected the exact same Outcomes to address in 2025.**
  Tribal Nations are utilizing these funds for the unique needs of their communities across many areas, and the program should continue to maximize flexibility and individualize application of the funds.

- **Most participants were served through Outcome 4: Self-Sufficiency Services.**
  The program is a vital resource for supporting low-income people to become more self-sufficient, with wide-reaching services. Nine of the eleven Tribal Nations used FSP funding for these services.

- **The second-highest number of participants were served through Outcome 5: Youth Services.**
  Tribal Nations continue to focus program funds and services on providing vital resources for tribal youth.

Overview of the DCF Tribal Family Services Program

The DCF Tribal Family Services Program (FSP) is blended funding that gives individual Tribal Nations a high level of flexibility to meet the unique needs of their communities and families. Tribal Nations across the state use FSP funding to assist thousands of individuals to achieve family self-sufficiency, keep children safely in their homes, and support family functioning and positive outcomes.

Funding Sources and Allowable Services

The DCF FSP allocation includes funds from state Tribal Gaming Revenue, the federal Preserving Safe and Stable Families grant, and the federal Community Services Block Grant; Wis. Stats. s.49.32(11m) authorizes DCF to consolidate the multiple funding sources for the FSP program into a single allocation. The consolidated allocation is designed to give Tribal Nations flexibility in how FSP funds can be used within a wide range of support services. Specific activities are detailed in the FSP Program Guidelines and Service Requirements. Tribal Nations must indicate the specific services they will provide each federal fiscal year (FY) in their annual FSP application.

The DCF FSP program concentrates services into six **outcomes**, or service areas:

1. Domestic abuse services
2. Permanency for children in out-of-home care
3. Family preservation and support services
4. Assisting low-income individuals, families, and communities to be self-sufficient
5. Youth services
6. Child care, respite care, and other services to improve family functioning and outcomes for children

Due to the flexible nature of the funding, FSP guidelines encourage integration between and amongst services provided in Tribal Nation communities to address common needs in areas such as:

- Providing access to services
- Advocacy, case management, and program coordination
- Community education
- Crisis intervention and direct services
- Prevention activities
- Professional development

Progress Reporting

Tribal Nations submit an annual progress report to DCF identifying the number of persons served and outcomes achieved for the FSP program. The progress report includes the service areas defined in the FSP grant application and data using the data sources defined in the FSP grant application. The estimated total number of people served in the following charts may contain duplicate individuals or other variations as the numbers submitted in the annual progress report are not documented uniformly across all FSP activities. For example, some Tribal Nations report participant counts per event, which may mean individuals who attend multiple events are counted multiple times.

In addition, each month Tribal Nations submit their current expense reports to DCF, providing additional information and detail regarding their spending trends for FSP.

Table 1: Federal Fiscal Year 2025 (FFY2025) Services Report Summary

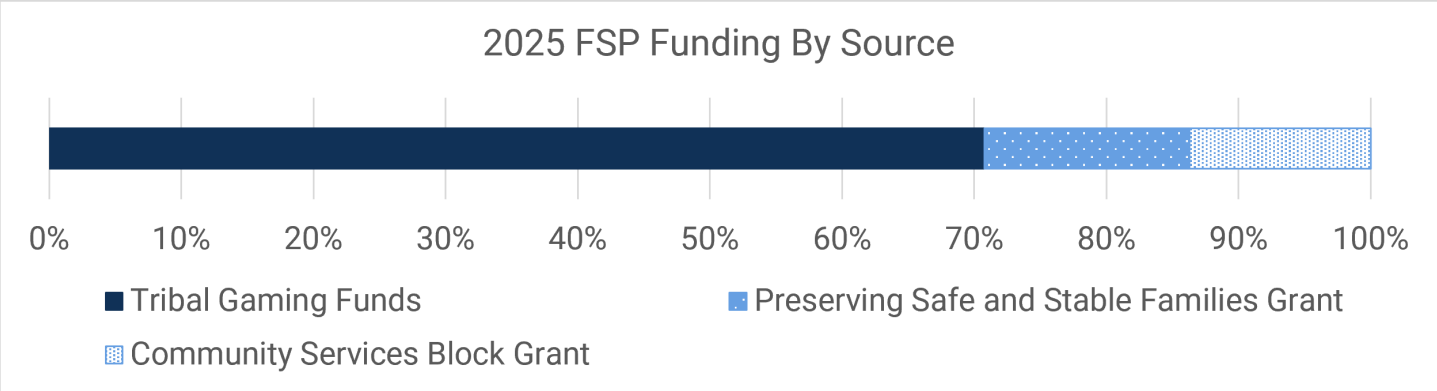
Federal Fiscal Year 2025 (FFY2025) began October 1, 2024 and ended September 30, 2025. All eleven federally recognized Tribal Nations in Wisconsin applied for, received and utilized funding in FFY2025.

DCF Outcome and Service Area	Number of Tribal Nations Selecting Outcome	Estimated Percentage of People Served Per Outcome	Estimated Total Number of People Served
DCF Outcome 1: Domestic Abuse Services	**8**	**11%**	**1,447**
DCF Outcome 2: Permanency for Children	**9**	**12%**	**1,632**
DCF Outcome 3: Preventing Removal of Children	**11**	**22%**	**2,906**
DCF Outcome 4: Self-Sufficiency Services	**9**	**29%**	**3,804**
DCF Outcome 5: Youth Services	**10**	**24%**	**3,157**
DCF Outcome 6: Child Care, Respite Care, and Other Services	**3**	**2%**	**255**
Estimated Total Number of People Served			**13,201**

Table 2: Family Service Program Allocations

The total amount allocated to the program across all Tribal Nations for FFY 2025 was $2.6 million, from a combination of Tribal Gaming Funds, federal Preserving Safe and Stable Families Grant (PSSF), and the federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG).

Funding Source	Total Amount	Percentage of Funding
Tribal Gaming Funds	$1,867,474	71%
Preserving Safe and Stable Families Grant	$408,700	15%
Community Services Block Grant	$362,374	14%



Prior to 2019, the FSP program was funded with $346,390 from CSBG, $408,700 from PSSF, and $1,271,879 from General Purpose Revenue (GPR). In 2020, GPR was removed and Tribal Gaming Funds were added to FSP. The addition of Tribal Gaming Funds also included an increase in yearly

funding of $595,595, which allowed services to continue to be provided despite the increased cost of service delivery. Since 2020, the cost of providing services has continued to increase without any corresponding funding increase.

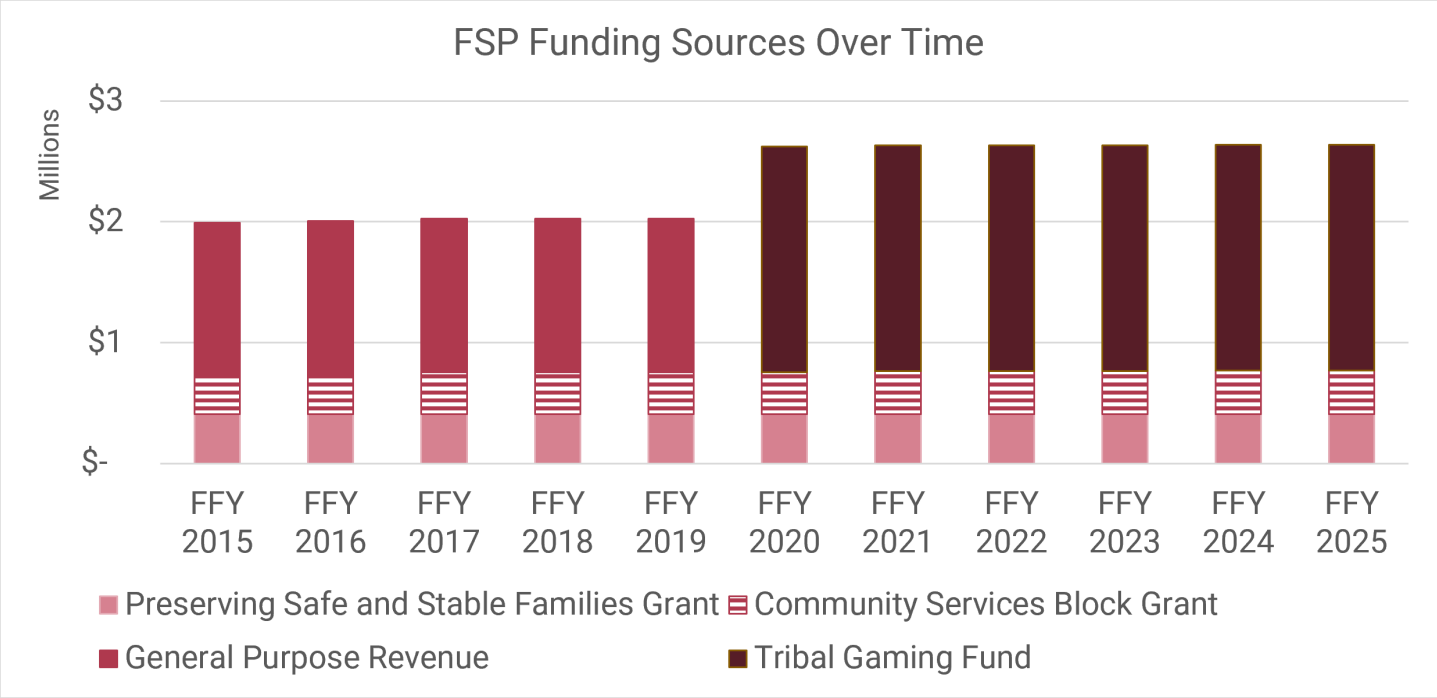
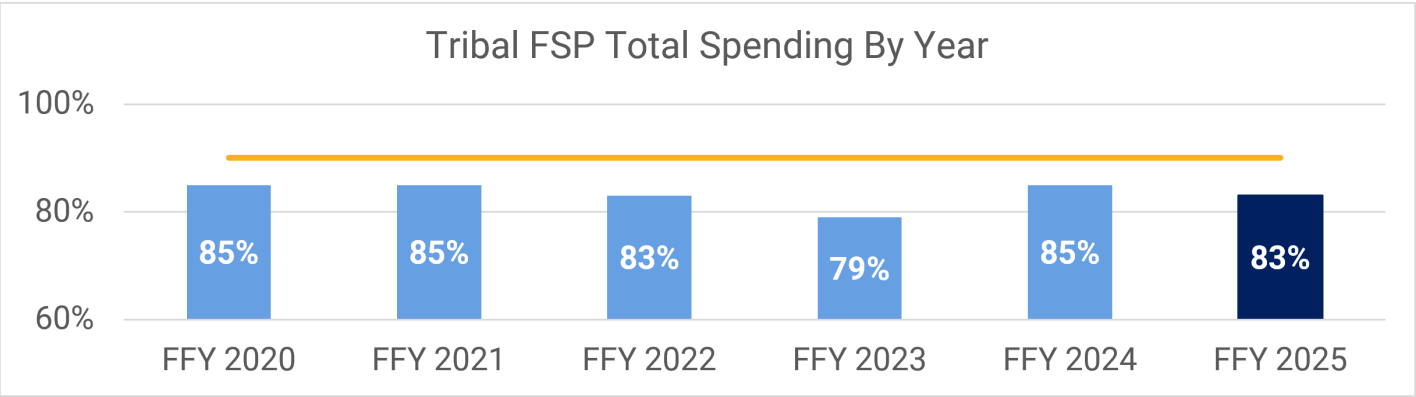


Table 3: FSP Spending Trends

In FFY 2025, Tribal Nations spent **$2.2 million**, about **83%** of the total funding. This is a decrease of 2% from FFY 2024, consistent with prior years, and slightly less than the targeted 90% spending goal. In their reports, Tribal Nations most often reported staffing vacancies as a key barrier to providing services and a main contributor to underspending.

Federal Fiscal Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Percentage of Total FSP Funding Spent	85%	85%	83%	79%	85%	83%



DCF Outcome 1: Domestic Abuse Services

Outcome Indicators	Number of Tribal Nations Selecting Outcome Indicator
1 - Victims and survivors will have strategies for enhancing their safety.	**5**
2 - Victims and survivors will have knowledge of available community resources.	**4**
3 - Victims and survivors will receive advocacy, counselling or supportive services.	**2**
4 - Victims and survivors will receive crisis intervention or shelter services.	**3**
5 - The community will be educated on the causes and impacts of domestic abuse.	**3**
Estimated Total Number of People Served	**1,447**

Services provided by Tribal Nations in FFY 2025

Community events, safety planning, Family Healing Camp, crisis line, temporary shelter, client advocacy, counseling, community education workshops, outreach, referrals to service providers, financial assistance (transportation, housing, food, household supplies, school supplies, job-related equipment).

Success Stories

The **Oneida Nation's Coordinated Community Response** meets monthly to enhance collaboration between internal and external agencies.

The Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa collaborated with service providers to provide a community healing event, **Stop the Violence, Start the Healing,** which addressed historical trauma.

Barriers

Tribal Nations identified in the annual reports the following barriers to implementing Domestic Abuse Services:

- Staffing vacancies
- Housing shortages
- Public perception/historical trauma causing mistrust of system

DCF Outcome 2: Permanency for Children

Outcome Indicators	Number of Tribal Nations Selecting Outcome Indicator
Tribal children will achieve permanency through reunification, long-term guardianship or adoption.	**9**
Estimated Total Number of People Served	**1,632**

Services provided by Tribal Nations in FFY 2025

Case management, collaboration with service providers, permanency planning, monitoring ICWA compliance, court hearings, client assessments, home and school visits, staff professional development, client advocacy, truancy monitoring, transportation, prevention booths, AODA services, parenting classes, supervised visitation, community events, outreach, financial assistance (housing, food, transportation, clothing, furniture, household supplies, utilities, child care, clothing, school and hygiene supplies)

Success Stories

The staff of **St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin** utilize a **relationship-based approach** which has increased family participation in case planning, improved follow-through with services, and reduced resistance to agency involvement.

In FFY2025, the **Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians** experienced a major shift in focus to more preventative services, moving toward **community healing with a proactive approach**.

Barriers

Tribal Nations identified in their annual reports the following barriers to implementing the supportive programing under Permanency for Children:

- Staffing vacancies
- Housing shortages
- Lack of easily accessible, appropriate mental health services

DCF Outcome 3: Preventing Removal of Children

Outcome Indicators	Number of Tribal Nations Selecting Outcome Indicator
Children at risk of being placed in out-of-home care will remain safely in their homes due to prevention services provided to the family.	**11**
Estimated Total Number of People Served	**2,906**

Services provided by Tribal Nations in FFY 2025

Safety assessments and planning, referrals to service providers, parent education workshops and classes, outreach, truancy prevention planning, case management, babysitting clinic, AODA services, culturally infused workshops, community events, support groups, mentoring, financial assistance (housing, utilities, food, transportation, household supplies, furniture, child care, clothing, athletic equipment, hygiene or school supplies),

Success Stories

The **Ho-Chunk Nation** doubled the numbers of participants at their annual **Family Healing Camp** in 2025, extending the camp to three full days of activities for families.

In 2025, the **Forest County Potawatomi Community** staff worked closely with the families of **50 children** to create a service plan that will best meet their individual needs and address their areas of risk, including collaborations with agencies in the areas of medical, behavioral health, AODA, education, community advocacy to provide a foundation of services that assisted families **to achieve safety and stability**.

Barriers

Tribal Nations identified in their annual reports various barriers to implementing the supportive programing under Preventing Removal of Children:

- Staffing vacancies
- Lack of easily accessible, appropriate mental health services
- Client perception/historical trauma causing mistrust of system

DCF Outcome 4: Self-Sufficiency Services

Outcome Indicators	Number of Tribal Nations Selecting Outcome Indicator
1 - Low-income people become more self-sufficient.	**7**
2 - The conditions in which low-income people live are improved.	**3**
3 - Low-income people own a stake in their community.	**0**
4 - Partnerships among supporters and providers of services to low-income people are achieved.	**1**
5 - Agencies increase their capacity to achieve results.	**0**
6 - Low-income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening family and other supportive environments.	**4**
Estimated Total Number of People Served	**3,804**

Services provided by Tribal Nations in FFY 2025

Financial case management, financial assistance (housing, utilities, transportation, child care, food, household or career supplies), referrals to service providers, educational workshops, culturally-infused workshops, talking circles, community events, collaboration efforts with other service providers, loan closet, appliance replacement, home improvements, appointment coordination, outreach, prevention-based services, vehicle repairs, advocacy services, employment and employability support

Success Stories

The **Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa** strengthened partnerships among service providers by working with the **Wisconsin Native Loan Fund** and **First American Capital Corporation** to host financial education opportunities such as a “Start Youth Business Journey” workshop held on August 6, 2025 for all interested community members.

Barriers

In their annual reports, Tribal Nations identified the following barriers to providing self-sufficiency services:

- Staffing vacancies
- Increased cost of goods and services
- Lack of easily accessible, appropriate mental health services

DCF Outcome 5: Youth Services

Outcome Indicators	Number of Tribal Nations Selecting Outcome Indicator
Reduce rate of non-marital pregnancy for youth and promote abstinence to prevent non-marital pregnancy.	**0**
Increase high school graduation rates for youth.	**2**
Promote positive behavior through improved social and other interpersonal skills and responsible decision-making.	**8**
Increase economic self-sufficiency through employment, vocational training and post-secondary education.	**0**
Develop independent living skills for youth.	**5**
Support youth to successfully live independently by providing transitional services after they leave home.	**0**
Estimated Total Number of People Served	**3,157**

Services provided by Tribal Nations in FFY 2025

Career exploration, mentoring, agency collaboration with other service providers, youth development classes, life skill workshops (including culturally-infused hunting, ricing, sugar-making, beading, wage, moccasin, and ribbon skirt workshops), babysitting clinics, fieldtrips, talking circles, community events, prevention booths, physical fitness activities, support groups, family visitation rooms, tutoring, before-and-after school programs, summer school programs, back-to-school backpacks, gift cards, hygiene supply kits

Success Stories

The **Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa** experienced **high youth participation** in year-round activities offered for the first time due to the Youth Center filling all available staffing positions.

The **Stockbridge-Munsee Community** provided **226 lessons to youth** on interpersonal and independent living skills such as banking, teamwork, emotional literacy, cooking, and insurance.

Barriers

In their annual reports, Tribal Nations identified the following barriers to providing youth services:

- Staffing vacancies
- Client perception/historical trauma causing mistrust of system
- Lack of easily accessible, appropriate mental health services

DCF Outcome 6: Child Care, Respite Care and Other Services

Outcome Indicators	Number of Tribal Nations Selecting the Outcome Indicator
Respite Care	**3**
Child Care	**3**
Other Services	**3**
Estimated Total Number of People Served	**255**

Services provided by Tribal Nations in FFY 2025

Respite care, facilitation of required childcare trainings, provide health and safety equipment to homes where care is provided (including fire and carbon monoxide detectors, safety gates, door locks, fire extinguishers, and first-aid kits), respite and child care at Tribal child care center, child care tuition, infant formula, family events, dental screenings, special needs services, developmental screenings and assessments for children, parent education sessions, referrals to service providers, family goal setting, family involvement opportunities, fuel gift cards

Success Stories

The **Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin** provides up to **45 hours per week** of child care services through the Tribal Day Care Center.

The **Sokaogon Chippewa Community** served 12 children in the **A-Binoojii Child Development Center** with culturally and developmentally appropriate curriculum.

Barriers

In their annual reports, Tribal Nations identified no barriers to providing child care, respite care, and other services.

Technical Assistance Requests

Tribal partners elevated suggestions for future technical assistance to help them provide best practice supportive programming with FSP, including trauma informed training to assist frontline workers.

Some requests for technical assistance were shared with more appropriate DCF bureaus for consideration.

DCF Area Administration provides technical assistance through quarterly FSP grant meetings, summaries of quarterly FSP grant expenditure reporting, direct partnership with tribal staff and individualized communication through email and ad hoc meetings. Tribal Nations can submit updated FSP plans at any time in a grant cycle to reflect new or different grant activities and expenditures.

Recommendations

The program should continue to maximize flexibility and community-specific planning and utilization of funding.

DCF will continue to collaborate with Tribal Nation partners to further develop program guidance and revise forms and publications to be more user-friendly.

DCF will continue to focus technical assistance on strategic planning and maximizing the use of these funds consistently throughout the grant period.

Technical assistance sessions will include opportunities for peer-to-peer support for sharing ideas or services which have demonstrated impact in other tribal communities.

DCF will continue to collaborate with other DCF bureaus to share requests for technical assistance.

Maintaining current funding amounts and advocacy for additional funding is critical to the program success in meeting the needs of Tribal Nations, families, and communities.



The Department of Children and Families (DCF) is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. If you have a disability and need to access services, receive information in an alternate format, or need information translated to another language, please call the DCF Office of Civil Rights at 608-800-2278. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind or speech disabled can use the free Wisconsin Relay Service (WRS) – 711 to contact the department.